



INTERNATIONAL
TRADE MATTERS LTD

Customs Procedure Codes and Classification June 2025

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June 2025

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- ✓ Tailored support for SMEs and micro businesses
- ✓ Highly experienced, multi-disciplinary specialists
- ✓ Regional, industry sector and export-function expertise



Customs Procedure Codes

Customs Procedure Code
are used for a range of
situations, including:

Importing goods into the
UK

Exporting goods from the
UK

Moving goods between
different customs
procedures (e.g., from a
customs warehouse to a
free zone)

Applying for customs
authorisations or
approvals

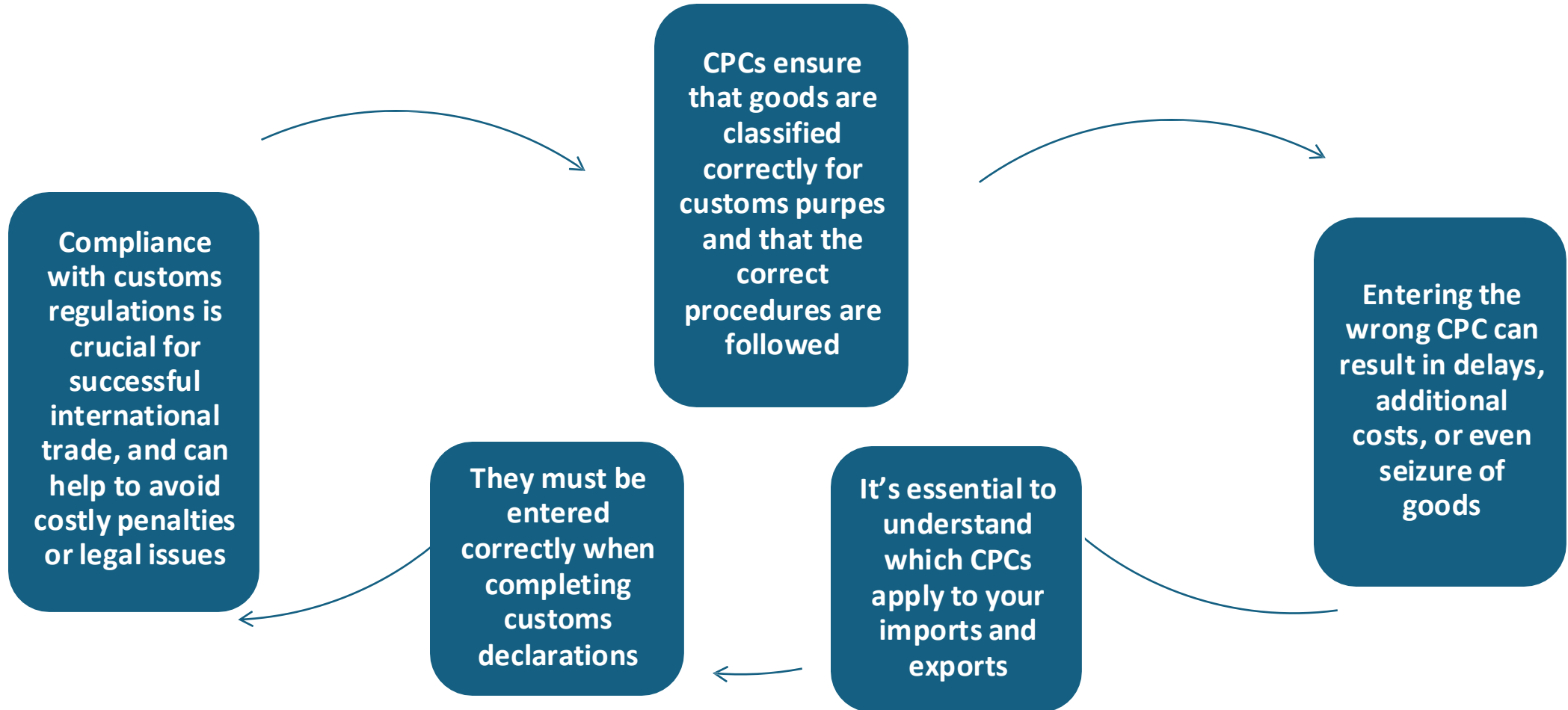
Completing customs
declarations

CPCs are used to
determine whether
goods are eligible for
duty relief and/or
suspension of import
duties

They also inform HMRC
of how charges should be
collected (where
applicable)

There are many variant
codes available for use,
each representing a
specific customs
procedure or action

Why Do CPCs Matter in Cross-Border Trading



The Different Types of CPCs



Customs Procedure Codes are used to provide information about the type of action being taken with respect to the goods, such as import, export, or transit



CPC codes are also used to help determine the correct level of duty and taxes payable on the goods

The Significance of CPCs in Import & Export



Customs Procedure Codes enable the customs authorities to determine the appropriate import/export procedures, including the number of duties and taxes to be paid.



In addition, the CPC also provides information about the goods being traded, which is important for security and safety reasons



For importers, the correct CPC code will speed up the customs clearance process, which is crucial for timely delivery of goods.



Customs must be able to establish the duties and taxes which apply before the goods will be released for delivery



For exporters, CPCs are equally important – they help to ensure that the correct export procedures are followed, and that the goods reach their destination safely and on time



CPCs also provide valuable information for trade statistics.



This contributes to the tracking of trade patterns, analysis of market trends, and development of trade policies.



Data such as this helps to inform government policy, support business decision-making, and facilitate international trade negotiations

Common Customs Procedure Codes

4000 000	Standard import to home use and free circulation - duty and VAT payable
4000 C07	Low value import under £15 - duty and VAT relieved
4000 004	Low value import over £15 but under £135 - duty relieved but VAT payable
4000 002	Import with Air Worthiness Certificate - duty suspended. VAT can be suspended
4000 023	Import to End Use (ship-work). Importer must be authorised
4000 024	Import to End Use for a prescribed purpose (civil aircraft). Importer must be authorised
4000 C30	Import of samples (must be genuine samples - see Tariff rules)
4200 000	Import to Onward Supply Relief (OSR)
5100 000	Import to Inward Processing - duty and VAT suspended. Importer must be authorised
5100 001	Import to Inward Processing - Authorisation by Declaration (Simplified IP)
6121 001	Import of goods under Outward Processing after repair
6123 F01	Returned Goods Relief
7100 000	Import into a Customs Warehouse
3151 000	Export of goods Imported under IP/UKreturned goods CPC 51

CPC Example

5100 000



Inward processing:



A manufacturer imports raw materials to produce finished goods for export



They use a CPC code for inward processing, which suspends customs duty and import VAT until the finished goods are exported



This allows the manufacturer to reduce their costs and maintain competitiveness in the international market

CPC Example

7100 000

Customs warehousing:

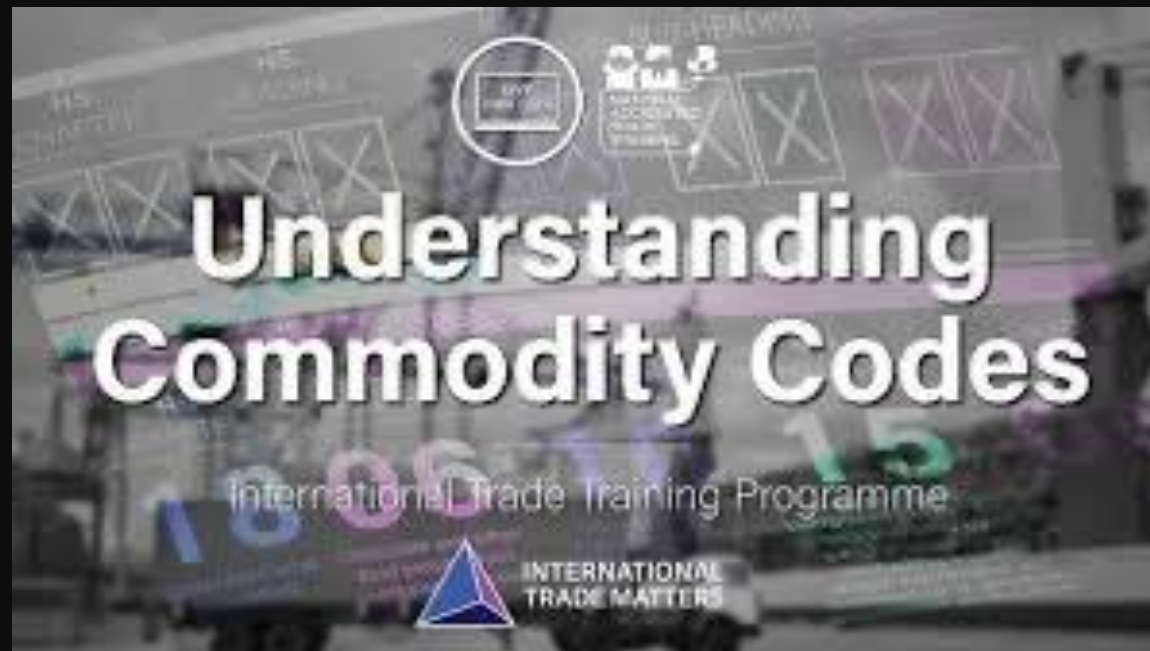
A company imports goods but is not yet ready to pay customs duty and import VAT or release the goods into free circulation

They use a CPC code for customs warehousing, which allows them to store the goods in a customs warehouse without paying duty and VAT

The goods can be held in the warehouse for up to 90 days, giving the company time to arrange payment or arrange for the goods to be exported

In all these cases, using the correct CPC code can result in significant cost savings and reduced administrative burdens

It is essential to understand which CPC code to use for each specific situation (in some cases, authorisations may be required) – this is the best way to ensure smooth customs clearance and avoid any unnecessary delays or additional costs



What are commodity codes used for?

To determine the correct amount of duty and VAT has been paid

Whether any preferential duty rates can be applied

Whether an import or export licence is required

If you classify your goods incorrectly then.....

You could be asked to pay any outstanding duty or VAT

You may have to pay any arrears plus interest, of duties and VAT which have occurred as a result, over at least the previous 3 years

Your goods may be delayed and/or seized

Section	Chapters	Title
I	1 – 5	Live animals; animal products
II	6 – 14	Vegetable products
III	15	Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their cleavage products; prepared edible fats; animal or vegetable waxes
IV	16 – 24	Prepared foodstuffs; beverages; spirits, vinegar, tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes
V	25 – 27	Mineral Products
VI	28 – 38	Products of the Chemical or Allied industries
VII	39 – 40	Plastics and articles thereof; rubber and articles thereof
VIII	41 – 43	Raw hides and skins, leather, furskins and articles thereof; saddlery and harness; travel goods, handbags and similar containers; articles of animal gut (other than silkworm gut)

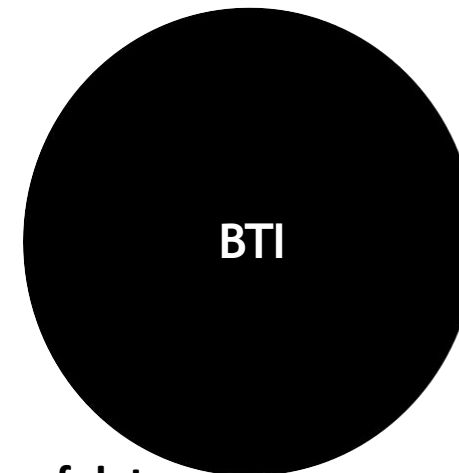
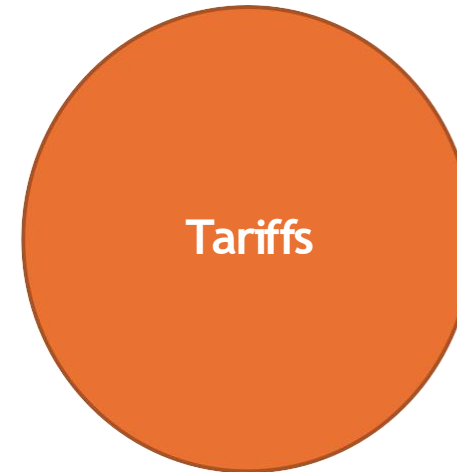
Section	Chapters	Title
IX	44 – 46	Wood and articles of wood; wood charcoal; cork and articles of cork; manufactures of straw, of esparto or of other plaiting materials; basket-ware and wickerwork
X	47 – 49	Pulp of wood or of other fibrous cellulosic material; recovered (waste and scrap) paper or paperboard; paper and paperboard and articles thereof
XI	50 – 63	Textiles and textile articles
XII	64 – 67	Footwear, headgear, umbrellas, sun umbrellas, walking-sticks, seat-sticks, whips, riding-crops and parts thereof; prepared feathers and articles made therewith; artificial flowers; articles of human hair
XIII	68 – 70	Articles of stone, plaster, cement, asbestos, mica or similar materials; ceramic products; glass and glassware
XIV	71	Natural or cultured pearls, precious or semi-precious stones, precious metals, metals clad with precious metal and articles thereof; imitation jewellery; coins

Section	Chapters	Title
XV	72 – 83	Base metals and articles of base metal
XVI	84 – 85	Machinery and mechanical appliances; electrical equipment; parts thereof, sound recorders and reproducers, television image and sound recorders and reproducers, and parts and accessories of such articles
XVII	86 – 89	Vehicles, aircraft, vessels and associated transport equipment
XVIII	90 – 92	Optical, photographic, cinematographic, measuring, checking, precision, medical or surgical instruments and apparatus; clocks and watches; musical instruments; parts and accessories thereof
XIX	93	Arms and ammunition; parts and accessories thereof
XX	94 – 96	Miscellaneous manufactured articles
XXI	97 – 98	Works of art, collectors' pieces and antiques

Classification

Structure of the Harmonized System

01	04	20	G0	00	10
Chapter HS					
	Heading HS			National Internal	National Internal
		Subheading HS			
			Subheading National Statistic (Combined Nomenclature, TARIC)		



The commodity code is one of the most crucial pieces of data in a customs declaration. It is essential to get it right

Mis-typing Commodity Codes



07123900 is for mushrooms, close to diamonds which is **71023900**.



39069090 is for articles of plastics, by transposing the first two digits and entering **93069090** we are declaring weapons such as bombs, grenades and torpedoes.

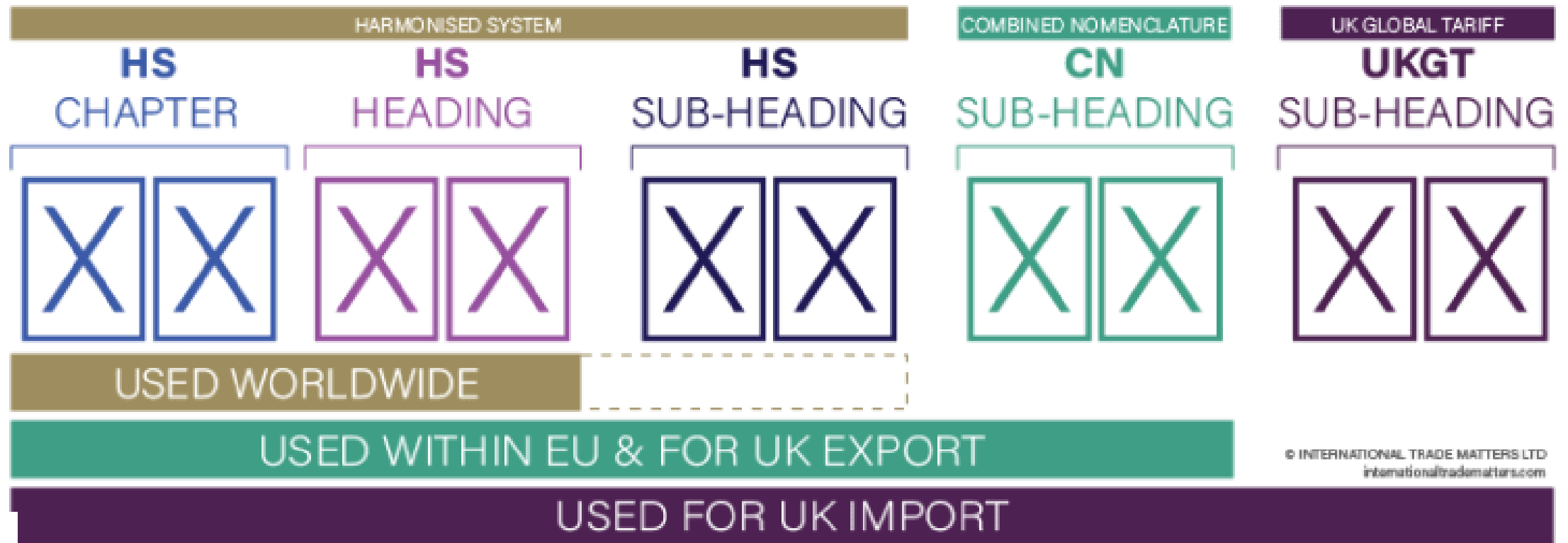


09019090 for coffee substitute attracts duty of 11.5%, whereas **89019090** is for cruise ships, which attract 0% duty. If the commodity for coffee substitute was used, this would be a huge duty bill, based on the value of the cruise ship



How import and export codes are derived

- The HS commodity code comprises a series of numbers
- The First four are recognised worldwide with the first two representing the chapter to which the goods apply. An additional two digits, making 6 in all, provide more details



Working example

HS CHAPTER	HS HEADING	HS SUB-HEADING	CN SUB-HEADING	UKGT SUB-HEADING
18	06	10	15	00
Cocoa and Cocoa Preparations	Chocolate and other food preparations containing cocoa	Cocoa powder, containing added sugar or other sweetening matter	Containing no sucrose or containing less than 5% by weight of sucrose (including invert sugar expressed as sucrose) or is glucose expressed as sucrose	

Industrial Goods Classification

- Industrial goods can be classified in terms of their relative cost and how they enter the production process: materials and parts, capital items, and supplies and business services
- Materials and parts are goods that enter the manufacturer's product completely



Classification of Industrial Goods

What is “General Rules of Interpretation (GRIs)”



Things to remember.

GRI Rule 1 Terms of the Headings, Section/Chapter Notes.

Rule 2 (a) Incomplete or unfinished; Unassembled or disassembled. ...

Rule 2 (b) Mixtures or combinations.

Rule 3 2 or more headings. ...

Rule 4 Most akin.

Rule 5 Containers. ...

Rule 6 Subheading rule.

Customs Definition of Set

- Customs refers to the explanatory notes to the GRI 3, Which provide a **three-part** test to determine what constitutes a “set”
- Consists of at least two different articles which are classifiable in different headings....; consists of products or articles put up together to meet a particular need or carry out a specific activity; and are put up in a manner suitable for sale directly to users without repackaging (e.g., in boxes or cases or on boards)
- Similarly, Gift Pack meets customs’ three-part test to determine what constitutes a “set: As such, we must now determine the essential character



Example of set

- Perfect to keep in your bag these favourites will keep hands beautifully soft and lips silky smooth with moistening organic honey to nourish and uplifting orange essential oil to help lift the spirits

- **Contains**

- Bee Lovely Hand cream 30ml
- Bee Lovely Beautiful Lips 15g
- Nail File



<https://www.trade-tariff.service.gov.uk/trade-tariff/sections>

Example 1

Section VI: Products of the chemical or allied industries

- **33** = Essential oils and resinoids; perfumery, cosmetic or toilet preparations
- **04** = Beauty or make-up preparations and preparations for the care of the skin (other than medicaments), including sunscreen or suntan preparations; manicure or pedicure preparations
- **10 0000** = Lip make up preparation
- **20 0000** = Eye make-up preparations
- **30 0000** = Manicure or pedicure preparations
- Other
- **91 0000** = Powders, whether compressed
- **99 0000** = Other
- **Import:**
 - Commodity code for importing is - 3304100000 (10 digits)
 - Goods are subject to standard rate VAT @ 20%
 - Importing from outside the EU is subject to a third country duty of 0.00% unless subject to other measures

Example 1 (continued)

- **Exports:**

- The commodity code for exports from the UK is : - 33041000

Export measures and restrictions for specific countries can be found under the [export](#) tab

- For example, exports are not allowed to NK, Syria, under the Export control on luxury goods

Note 1 above, goods classifiable in heading 3004, 3005, 3006, 3212, 3303, 3304, 3305, 3306, 3307, 3506, 3707 or 3808 by reason of being put up in measured doses or for retail sale are to be classified in those headings and in no other heading of the nomenclature

Goods put up in sets

consisting of two or more separate constituents, some or all of which fall in this section and are intended to be mixed to obtain a product of Section VI or VII, are to be classified in the heading appropriate to that product, provided that the constituents are:

- (a) having regard to the way they are put up, clearly identifiable as being intended to be used together without first being repacked;
- b) presented together; and
- (c) identifiable, whether by their nature or by the relative proportions in which they are present, as being complementary one to another

The European Union: Access2Markets Tool

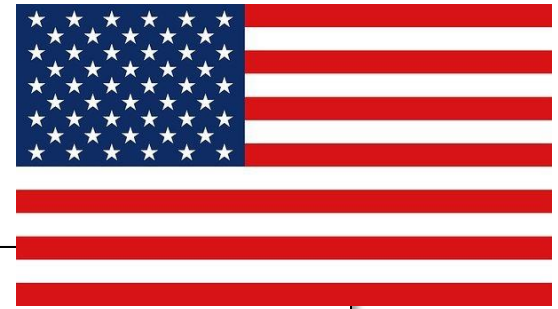


- EU tool with information about importing into the EU
 - Tariffs & taxes
 - Rules of origin
 - Product requirements
 - Customs procedures
 - Trade barriers
 - Statistics

The screenshot shows the Access2Markets website. At the top is a blue navigation bar with the 'Access2Markets' logo and links for Home, Goods, Services, Investment, Markets, Toolbox, and Contact. A yellow button labeled 'My Trade Assistant' is on the right. Below the navigation bar is a yellow section for the 'My Trade Assistant' tool, which includes a link to 'How to use this form' and a 'Disclaimer'. The main search area has three input fields: 'Product name or HS code', 'Country of origin', and 'Country of destination', each with a dropdown arrow. A blue 'Search' button with a right arrow is to the right of these fields. Below the search area, there is a section titled 'Exporting from the EU, importing into the EU - all you need to know' with an illustration of a globe and various landmarks. To the right of this is a 'Discover Access2Markets' section with a video player showing a video about product requirements.

*Enter **Access2Markets** in your web browser*

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<https://dataweb.usitc.gov/>



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