

# **ITC'S NEW HTS ONLINE REFERENCE TOOL EASES USE, IMPROVES ACCESS TO COMPLEX HARMONIZED TARIFF SCHEDULE**

The U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) has released its new HTS Online Reference Tool, a comprehensive website for users of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS). The ITC's HTS Online Reference Tool can be found at: <http://hts.usitc.gov>

The new HTS Online Reference Tool provides a web-based source for HTS-related information and offers current, accurate, and user-friendly electronic access to the 3,000-page HTS.

The HTS Online Reference Tool features direct links to:

- classification rulings by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) users will be able to jump directly from a specific HTS item to the Customs Ruling Online Search System (CROSS) for determinations on product classification for that HTS item, and users will be able to access the most current ruling for any product;
- HTS Chapter 99, enabling users to move from an HTS item in chapters 1-97 to the temporary, seasonal, or special situation tariff that applies for that item as listed in chapter 99; and
- footnotes, allowing users to move from the footnote number in the text directly to the footnote itself.

In addition, users can now search the HTS by word, word combinations, or HTS number, and they can use common terminology to do so. The HTS Online Reference Tool includes an expanding thesaurus that will help users search the HTS and locate an item even if they don't know the precise classification language used in the document. For example, users will be able to search the word "cars," which does not exist in the HTS, and be directed automatically to the HTS provisions covering "motor vehicles." The thesaurus is in its early stages and will be enriched continually to reflect common terminology if a user searches on a term that is not currently included, that term will be added to the thesaurus. Over time, this regular updating will result in a rich, complex search engine that will make the HTS Online Reference Tool even more user-friendly.

The ITC's HTS Online Reference Tool can be found at: <http://hts.usitc.gov> or from a link on <http://www.usitc.gov/tata/hts/>

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Full Press release can be found at:

[http://www.usitc.gov/ext\\_relations/news\\_release/2009/er0226gg1.htm](http://www.usitc.gov/ext_relations/news_release/2009/er0226gg1.htm)