
Council for Trade in Goods

**INTRODUCTION OF HARMONIZED SYSTEM 1996 CHANGES
INTO WTO SCHEDULES OF TARIFF CONCESSIONS**

Panama – Schedule CXLI

Draft Waiver Decision

The General Council,

Considering that the Members of the WTO, by their Decisions of 13 December 1995, 18 July 1996, 24 April 1997, 22 October 1997, 24 April 1998, 14 October 1998, 15 June 1999, 4 November 1999, 3 May 2000, 8 December 2000, 8 May 2001 and 13 May 2002¹, acting pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 3 of Article IX of the WTO Agreement, suspended the application of the provisions of Article II of GATT 1994 until 30 April 2003, for the purpose of enabling the Members listed in the Annex to implement the recommended amendments to the Harmonized System nomenclature;

Noting that Panama has requested a waiver extension for the reasons explained in its requests²;

Considering that Panama will need more time to submit corrections corresponding to the introduction of the changes in its Harmonized System 1996 into its Harmonized System 1992 Schedule of Concessions, and vice versa, and to proceed with the consultations or possible negotiations under Article XXVIII, particularly in the light of the general reservations made by other Members;

Acting pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 3 of Article IX of the WTO Agreement;

Decides, in view of the exceptional circumstances, to suspend the application of the provisions of Article II of GATT 1994 until 30 April 2004, for the purpose of enabling Panama to implement the recommended amendments to the Harmonized System nomenclature, subject to the following conditions:

1. Panama shall, where necessary, promptly enter into negotiations and consultations with interested Members pursuant to paragraphs 1-3 of Article XXVIII of GATT 1994;
2. The negotiations and consultations mentioned above shall be completed not later than 30 April 2004;

¹ WT/L/124+Corr.1, WT/L/173, WT/L/216, WT/L/243, WT/L/268, WT/L/281, WT/L/303, WT/L/338, WT/L/351, WT/L/379, WT/L/400 and WT/L/458.

² G/L/607

3. Pending the entry into force of the results of the negotiations or consultations mentioned above, the other Members will be free to suspend concessions initially negotiated with Panama to the extent that they consider that adequate compensation is not offered by Panama for the introduction of the changes into its Harmonized System 1996 into its Harmonized System 1992 Schedule of Concessions.
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