

## *Jewellery, Fashion Accessories and Footwear*

### 1. Introduction

The EC import regime for jewellery and fashion accessories is detailed in Chapter 71 of the EC's Common Customs Tariff (CCT) code. Watches are classified under instruments and devices in Chapter 91 while chapters 64-66 cover all footwear, headgear and other items such as umbrellas, walking sticks and riding crops.

Customs duties for jewellery range from 3% to 8.5% depending on the metal/material content. Leather footwear attracts duties of 8% while footwear made of rubber or plastic carries the full duty rate of 20%. Normal duty for headwear is 6%, however straw hats and similar plaited products can enter the EC free of customs duty.

Fashion and taste are important factors in this product market and EC legislation has been minimal in this area. Harmonization of product standards has been discussed but has yet to be implemented.

### 2. Jewellery, Watches and Fashion Accessories

Jewellery and watches cover a wide range of products from high value gold and gems to imitation costume jewellery. Fashion accessories of different materials have begun to gain popularity - wood, shell and plastic fun jewellery have become inexpensive alternatives for the younger generation.

#### **Precious jewellery**

All but three countries in the EC operate a statutory system for testing precious metals. Gold, silver and platinum jewellery normally must be tested and hallmarked to denote that the metal content is as stated. There is no hallmarking system in Germany which is a major EC market. Government inspection and the threat of severe fines ensure that products are of the standard claimed by the manufacturer or EC seller.

The jewellery industry recognises the need for a common marking system. The countries of the EFTA (Sweden, Austria, Finland, Norway, Switzerland) along with the EC countries of Portugal, Ireland and the United Kingdom have agreed on common marks under the "Convention on the Control of Articles of Precious Metals". Jewellery bearing certain specified marks will be accepted in any of the above countries without further assay or marking. The standards recognised by the convention are 750 (18 carat), 585 (14 carat) and 375 (9 carat) for gold; similar standards apply to silver and platinum.

#### **Watches**

The introduction of the relatively cheap technology of quartz movements has led to a change in the whole market for watches. The popularity of a fashion watch designed to complement outerwear fashions can be widely seen all over Western Europe. While the market for high-value watches is still dominated by European, particularly Swiss products, cheaper timepieces are generally imported from Hong Kong, Japan and other Asian suppliers countries.

### 3. Umbrellas, Hats and other Accessories

There are no EC regulations directly related to these products. However, if these products are made of textiles, the EC requires fibre content labelling. Fibre content may be printed on the textile product,

sewn-in label, swing ticket, gummed label, labelled on the packing or packaging itself.

Fibre content indication must be marked in one of three ways:

- ◆ by name of the main fibre with its percentage by weight
- ◆ by the name of the main fibres with the words such as “85% minimum”
- ◆ names of all fibres in declining order of their proportion by weight and percentages by weight.

The EC has also issued a common list of textile names to be used in the labelling of textile and textile products. The main list can be found in the EC Official Journal L 185 of 16 August 1971, ref. 71/307/EEC.

Headgear used for personal protection is covered by the Personal Protective Equipment Directive which can be found in the EC Official Journal OJ L399 of 30 December 1989, ref. 89/681/EC. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) standards concern various aspects according to the type of product, but all products must provide the following information:

- ◆ storage, use, cleaning, maintenance, servicing and disinfection
- ◆ performance as recorded during technical tests designed to establish the level of protection provided
- ◆ suitable accessories and the characteristics of appropriate spare parts
- ◆ the classes of protection appropriate to different levels of risk and the corresponding limits of use
- ◆ the obsolescence deadline or period of obsolescence of PPE or certain of its components
- ◆ the type of packaging suitable for transport
- ◆ the significance of any markings.

For further information contact the European Commission (DG III) as detailed in Part III.

#### **4. Footwear**

At the present moment there is no EC legislation directly related to common standards for footwear. The European Footwear Association has put forward proposals regarding the common coding and labelling of materials used in footwear, e.g. leather, fabric, synthetic and rubber.

For further information contact the European Confederation of the Footwear Association or the European Commission (DG III) as detailed in Part III.

EC legislation on personal protective equipment also covers safety footwear. Please refer to Section 2 for general information.

## 5. Further Information and Contact Points

| TRADE ASSOCIATIONS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | TRADE FAIRS & EXHIBITION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>1. International Federation of Watches, Jewellery, Gold and Silverware Retailers of the EEC Countries</b><br/>63-65 Grandes Arcades<br/>F-67000<br/>Strasbourg, France.<br/>Tel: +33 883 24589</p> <p><b>2. European Confederation of the Footwear Industry</b><br/>Rue Francois Bossaerts 53<br/>B-1030 Brussels<br/>Belgium<br/>Tel: +32 2 736 5810<br/>Fax: +32 2 736 1276</p> | <p><b>1. PREMIERE CLASSE Fashion Accessories Show</b><br/>Location: Hippodrome d'auteuil<br/>Paris, France<br/>Contact: Premiere Classe<br/>10 rue du Louvois<br/>75002 Paris, France<br/>Tel: +33 1 42 86 94 87<br/>Fax: +33 1 42 86 895 6<br/>Frequency: Twice a year in October and March</p> <p><b>2. AMBIENTE International Trade Fair for Consumer Goods</b><br/>Location: Messegelände,<br/>Frankfurt, Germany<br/>Contact: Messe Frankfurt GmbH,<br/>Postfach 150210<br/>6000 Frankfurt, Germany<br/>Tel: +49 697 5750<br/>Fax: +49 697 5156612<br/>Frequency: Every year in February</p> <p><b>3. GDS International Shoe Fair</b><br/>Location: Messegelände<br/>Dusseldorf, Germany<br/>Contact: Dusseldorfer<br/>Messegesellschaft mbH<br/>"Nowea" Postfach 320203<br/>D-4000 Dusseldorf 30<br/>Germany<br/>Tel: +49 211 456001<br/>Fax: +49 211 4560668<br/>Frequency: Twice a year in September and March</p> |

**1. *European Commission***

200 Rue de la Loi  
1049 Brussels  
Belgium  
Tel: +32 2 299 1111

**2. *World Gold Council***

1 rue de la Rotisserie  
CH-1204 Geneva  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41 22 219666

**3. *Footwear Technology Centre  
(SATRA)***

Rockingham Road  
Kettering  
Nottingham NN16 9JH  
United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 536 516318  
Fax: +44 536 410626

### Product Coverage

| CCT NUMBER | PRODUCT DESCRIPTION                                                                                       |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6401       | Waterproof footwear of rubber and plastic                                                                 |
| 6402       | Other footwear of rubber and plastic                                                                      |
| 6403       | Footwear of outer soles of rubber, plastic, leather or composition leather and uppers of leather          |
| 6404       | Footwear of outer soles of rubber, plastic, leather or composition leather and uppers of textile material |
| 6405       | Other footwear (combination of leather, textile, rubber and plastic with other materials)                 |

### Customs Duties

| CCT NUMBER | FULL     | ACP | GSP* | LDDC |
|------------|----------|-----|------|------|
| 6401       | 20%      | 0%  | 0%   | 0%   |
| 6402       | 20%      | 0%  | 0%   | 0%   |
| 6403       | 8%       | 0%  | 0%   | 0%   |
| 6404       | 20%      | 0%  | 0%   | 0%   |
| 6405       | 4.9-5.8% | 0%  | 0%   | 0%   |

\* Imports of footwear from GSP Commonwealth countries enter the EC free of customs duties within the limits of a ceiling. Imports beyond the ceiling may be subject to the full rate of duty.

### Product and Standards

Europe is a net exporter of footwear due mainly to the predominance of the Italian footwear industry, which is the largest Community producer of footwear. Leather footwear is principally sourced from within the Community while products of rubber and synthetic material have been imported mainly from Far East sources and from Brazil.

The most important features are comfort, appearance, softness, durability and suitability. According to industry research, most purchases of footwear (particularly of women's footwear) are replacements not additions. Footwear producers are looking to market footwear so as to increase the number of shoes owned per person. At the moment France has the highest per capita shoe consumption per annum in the EC (5.5 pairs) followed by the United Kingdom (5 pairs).

There are no European standards for footwear. The European Footwear Association is pushing the EC to pass legislation regarding common coding for material used in footwear e.g. leather, fabric, synthetic and rubber. Final legislation is not expected for several years.

## Marketing and Distribution

Marketing and distribution patterns vary from one EC country to another. New suppliers would be well advised to consider contracting the services of a footwear import agent to obtain contracts with EC buyers. Orders tend to be placed 9 to 12 months before sales.

Most EC manufacturers now concentrate on middle to up market range, servicing the higher price, higher quality segment. Some manufacturers buy in cheaper products and repackage them under their own brand name for retail or re-export. They have ceased manufacture of most rubber and plastic footwear and slippers and have sub-contracted manufacturing to other countries. This could prove to be a good opportunity for footwear manufacturers in Commonwealth countries to manufacture with guidance on style and design from EC manufacturers which have better knowledge of their market.

## Documentation

Aside from normal shipping and import documents, Certificate of Origin - Form A for GSP and LDDC countries, EUR 1 for ACP countries - must accompany consignments to benefit from reduced tariff or tariff free entry into the EC.

## Other information

Trade Association: European Footwear Federation  
Rue Francois Bossaerts 53  
B-1030 Brussels, Belgium  
Tel: +32 2 736 5810  
Fax: +32 2 736 1276

Trade Fair: International Shoe Fair  
Location: Messegelände  
Dusseldorf, Germany  
Contact: Dusseldorfer  
Messegesellschaft mbH  
"NOWEA" Postfach 320203  
4000 Dusseldorf 30  
Germany  
Tel: +49 211 456001  
Fax: +49 211 4560668  
Frequency: Twice a year in September and March

Trade Organisation: Footwear Technology Centre (SATRA )  
Rockingham Road  
Kettering. NN16 9JH  
United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 536 516318  
Fax: +44 536 410626

### Product Coverage

| CCT NUMBER | PRODUCT DESCRIPTION                                                                  |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 71131100   | Jewellery of silver, whether or not plated or clad with other precious metal         |
| 71131900   | Jewellery of other precious metal, whether or not plated or clad with precious metal |
| 71132000   | Jewellery of base metal clad with precious metal                                     |
| 71171100   | Cuff links and studs of base metal, whether or not plated with precious metal        |
| 71171900   | Other imitation jewellery                                                            |

### Customs Duties

| CCT NUMBER | FULL | ACP | GSP | LDDC |
|------------|------|-----|-----|------|
| 71131100   | 3.5% | 0%  | 0%  | 0%   |
| 71131900   | 3.5% | 0%  | 0%  | 0%   |
| 71132000   | 5.8% | 0%  | 0%  | 0%   |
| 71171100   | 7.2% | 0%  | 0%* | 0%   |
| 71171190   | 6.7% | 0%  | 0%* | 0%   |

\* Imports of imitation jewellery from GSP countries enter the EC free of customs duties within the limits of a ceiling. Imports beyond the ceiling may be subject to the full rate of duty.

### Product and Standards

The quality of gold jewellery is expressed in the carat system which states the proportion of gold to other metals in a particular alloy. Pure gold is stated as 24 carat, 22 carat gold therefore contains 22 parts gold to 2 parts of other metals. At the moment legal standards vary in different EC countries. There have been proposals from the EC jewellery sector to set common standards for European gold content. At the moment minimum accepted standards range from 8 carats in West Germany, 9 carats in the United Kingdom, 14 carats in Holland and 18 carats for both Italy and France. It is best to seek advice from EC importers on relevant standards.

Gold and silver jewellery used in most EC countries must be tested and hallmarked to denote that the metal is up to standard. The importer is responsible for submission of products for official examination. However, Germany which is a major market for jewellery, has no formal system for hallmarking. Regular government inspection ensures that the alloy content stamped on product is as stated.

In countries where hallmarking is required, products under the category of "silver products" should have at least a content of 83.5% real silver.

Limitation or costume jewellery can be made from any type of non-precious material, e.g. plastic, metal, glass, wood, etc. This type of jewellery is much more influenced by rapid changes in fashion. The consumer can easily change when a certain fashion has passed.

## Marketing and Distribution

The largest market for gold jewellery is Italy, followed by the United Kingdom, Germany and France. However, British adults buy more pieces of gold jewellery a year than any of their European counterparts, although at relatively lower prices. Germany represents the largest market in terms of volume of precious jewellery sold annually.

A generally strong demand for gold jewellery over the last few years has been attributed to the emergence of new retail outlets, growth in men's jewellery and low world gold prices. Italy has a very strong jewellery industry and imports may have difficulty competing. France and Spain are seen as growing markets.

Distribution at the high end of the market is usually through specialist jewellery shops. Marketing and distribution at the lower end of the market is more fragmented and diverse. Costume jewellery is found in a variety of outlets but the bulk is sold in fashion retail stores. Germany has a unique set up wherein two big coffee suppliers with hundreds of branches sell large amounts of jewellery in the very low price ranges. Trade channels will therefore vary in each EC country. Larger jewellery outlets often import directly while specialist importers would service the rest of the market.

## Documentation

Aside from normal shipping and import documents, Certificate of Origin - Form A for GSP and LDDC countries, EUR 1 for ACP countries - must accompany consignments to benefit from reduced tariff or tariff free entry into the EC.

## Other information

Trade Association: International Federation of Watches, Jewellery, Gold and Silverware Retailers of the EEC Countries  
63-65 Grandes Arcades  
F-67000  
Strasbourg, France.  
Tel: +33 88 32 45 89

Trade Exhibitions: INHORGENTA  
International Trade Fair for Watches, Clocks, Jewellery, Precious Stones  
Location: Munich, Germany  
Contact: Munchener Messe-und Ausstellungsgesellschaft GmbH  
Postfach 121009  
D-8000 Munich 12  
Germany  
Tel: +49 89 51070  
Fax: +49 89 5107506  
Frequency: Every year in February



## *ACP Commonwealth Countries*

## *ACP Commonwealth Countries*

### *Entry Conditions:*

Tariff free and quota free entry into the EC.

### *Rules of Origin:*

General rules of origin apply to most products. Special rules for footwear state that the parts of footwear e.g. uppers, soles, in-shoes, heel cushion etc. must already come from the exporting country.

Textile hats and other headgear must be made from yarn or textile fibres woven in the exporting country. Depending on the type of product special rules also apply to imitation jewellery, watches and umbrellas.

### *Documentation:*

Certificate of Origin (EUR 1) must accompany products if exporter is to benefit from tariff free entry into the EC. These forms can be obtained from the exporting country's national Customs and Excise office or Ministry of Trade.

## *GSP Commonwealth Countries*

## *GSP Commonwealth Countries*

### *Entry Conditions:*

The following products are allowed entry into the EC free of custom duties within the limits of a ceiling:

- ◆ Waterproof footwear of rubber and plastic
- ◆ Other footwear of outer soles and uppers of rubber and plastic
- ◆ Footwear with outer soles of rubber, plastic, leather or composition leather and uppers of leather
- ◆ Footwear with outer soles of rubber, plastic, leather or composition leather and uppers of textile materials
- ◆ Other footwear with outer soles of rubber, plastic, leather or composition leather
- ◆ Umbrellas and sun umbrellas
- ◆ Imitation jewellery of base metal
- ◆ Other imitation jewellery excluding those made of leather or of wood
- ◆ Wrist watches, pocket watches and other watches including stop-watches

Imports beyond the ceiling may be subject to full rate of duty. Other accessories and footwear allowed entry to the EC free of customs duties.

### *Rules of Origin:*

General rules of origin apply to most products. Special rules for footwear state that the component parts of footwear e.g. uppers, soles, in-shoes, heel cushion etc. must already come from the exporting country.

Textile hats and other headgear must be made from yarn or textile fibres woven in the exporting country. Depending on the type of product special rules also apply to imitation jewellery, watches and umbrellas.

### *Documentation:*

Certificate of Origin (Form A) must accompany products if exporter is to benefit from tariff free entry into the EC. These forms can be obtained from the exporting country's national Customs and Excise office or Ministry of Trade.

## *LDDC Commonwealth Countries*

## *LDDC Commonwealth Countries*

### *Entry Conditions:*

Tariff free and quota free entry into the EC.

### *Rules of Origin:*

General rules of origin apply to most products. Special rules for footwear state that the parts of footwear e.g. uppers, soles, in-shoes, heel cushion etc. must already come from the exporting country.

Textile hats and other headgear must be made from yarn or textile fibres woven in the exporting country. Depending on the type of product special rules also apply to imitation jewellery, watches and umbrellas.

### *Documentation:*

Certificate of Origin (Form A) must accompany products if exporter is to benefit from tariff free entry into the EC. These forms can be obtained from the exporting country's national Customs and Excise office or Ministry of Trade.