

Metal, Ceramic and Glass Products

1. Introduction

Base metals and articles of base metals such as iron, steel, zinc, nickel, etc. are found in Chapters 72 - 83 of the EC's Common Customs Tariff (CCT) code. Ceramic products are detailed in Chapter 69 while glass and glassware are covered in Chapter 70. As in the case of rubber and plastic products, EC legislation applies to broad product categories such as construction and packaging made from metal, ceramic or glass.

Ceramic products attract a customs tariff of 3.8 - 4% for building blocks and bricks and 8 - 9% for tiles. Ceramic tableware attracts the highest tariff of 13%. Glassware for household or office use or decoration also attracts a high tariff rate of 12%. For metal products certain types of stainless steel kitchen tableware attracts the highest rate of 17%.

2. Packaging Products

The protection of the environment has become a major concern of the EC. Legislation on packaging waste is expected in 1994. Packaging will have to be marked with EC symbols to indicate whether it is reusable or recyclable under rules to be implemented in each Member State within 5 years of the EC legislation. The EC will establish a system of identification and classification for packaging materials. Plastics shall use a number from 1 - 19, paper and cardboard from 20 - 39, metal from 40 - 49, wood from 50 - 59, textiles from 60 - 69, glass from 70 - 79.

The EC is also expected to issue European standards in packaging relating in particular to:

- ◆ dimensions and shapes of packaging for agreed products in order to facilitate their reuse
- ◆ product specifications for the use of recycled materials in the manufacturing of packaging and other products.

3. Construction Products

The EC has issued legislation stating the following essential requirements for construction products:

- ◆ chemical resistance and stability
- ◆ safety in case of fire and hygiene, health and environment
- ◆ safety in use
- ◆ protection against noise
- ◆ energy economy and heat retention.

The European Standards Bodies, CEN and CENELEC, have been given the mandate to produce suitable European standards for groups of construction products in line with this legislation. Construction products such as doors, roofs, floors, frames, beams, etc. made of metal, ceramics and glass are included in the list of products under review by the Standards bodies. Products which meet the established requirements can qualify for the "CE" mark to be affixed on the product, packaging, or company commercial document and can be sold anywhere within the EC.

For more information contact the CEN or CENELEC as detailed in Section 6.

Full details of the Construction Products Directive can be found in the EC's Official Journal OJ L040 of 11 February 1989 ref. 89/106/EEC.

For more information contact the European Commission as detailed in Part III.

4. Simple Pressure Vessels

Welded vessels made of steel or aluminium intended to contain air or nitrogen under pressure sold within the EC must comply with the following:

- ◆ meet essential safety standards
- ◆ obtain a safety clearance from an EC approved body
- ◆ qualify and carry CE mark and indicate other specified conscriptions
- ◆ be accompanied by manufacturer's instructions.

Simple pressure vessels are classified under different categories, depending on their stored energy, expressed in terms of the product of maximum working pressure in bar and its capacity in litres (PS.V.). The higher the PS.V. the more exacting the safety requirements. The European Standardisation Committee (CEN) has issued a European standard for simple pressure vessels under the title EN 286.

For more information contact CEN as detailed in Section 6.

Aside from the CE mark the following specified inscriptions must be indicated:

- ◆ maximum working pressure in bar
- ◆ maximum working temperature in °C
- ◆ minimum working temperature in °C
- ◆ capacity of the vessel in litres
- ◆ name or mark of the manufacturer or EC seller
- ◆ type and serial or batch identification of the vessel.

Specific details of the requirements of this EC legislation are to be found in the EC's Official Journal OJ L220 of 8 August 1987, Ref. 87/404/EEC.

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

5. Tableware

Materials and articles in contact with food are also regulated by the EC. There is no specific definition in the law of what constitutes a food contact material or article. It is generally considered that all types of food packaging, cookware, cutlery, tableware, work surfaces and food processing machinery and equipment are included, provided that there is scope for migration transfer of substances from the material or article into the food. The general requirement is that any material or article must not affect the food in any way that could:

- ◆ endanger human health
- ◆ bring about unacceptable changes in the nature, substance or quality of the food.

EC legislation has been issued on levels of lead and cadmium in the glazes on ceramic tableware and cookware. Discussions are currently underway between the EC Commission and the USA's Food and Drug Administration for more restrictive levels of lead. Concern regarding the migration of lead from

crystalware may bring about legislative action. Requirements for glass, metal and alloys, wood, textile products, and paraffin- and microcrystalline waxes are still under discussion.

National characteristics and preferences in tableware in Europe remain strong and are likely to remain so. Scandinavians tend to like their cutlery lightweight and streamlined, whereas French and Germans generally prefer heavier products. Continental consumers give more importance to size of dinner sets than their British counterparts. Design and colour coordination have become popular. Matching kitchen knives and chopping boards to coordinate or contrast kitchen decor have become fashionable.

6. Builders' Hardware

The market for builders' hardware in each EC country has its own distinctive characteristics. Material, design, size and finishing for products may vary from one country to the next. In the case of hand tools, preferences and technical requirements can be grouped into the following:

- ◆ design
- ◆ technical specification and material
- ◆ interchangeability for the interchangeable tools
- ◆ performance.

There are no EC standards, however national standards exist for most builders' hardware. Standards issued by the International Standards Organisation (ISO) are accepted in the EC.

For more information contact the ISO as detailed in Section 6.

7. Further Information and Contact Points

TRADE ASSOCIATIONS	TRADE FAIRS & EXHIBITION
1. European Association of Metals 47 rue Montoyer B-1040 Brussels Belgium Tel: +32 2 511 7273 Fax: +32 2 514 4513 2. European Federation of Associations of Locks and Builders Hardware Manufacturers Postbus 71 NL-7260 AB Ruurlo The Netherlands Tel: +31 573 5 3276 Fax: +31 573 5 2952 3. Federation of European Cutlery and Flatware Industries 58 rue du Louvre F-57002 Paris France Tel: +33 1 42 33 61 33 Fax: +33 1 40 26 29 51 4. Common Market Committee of the European Federation of Porcelain, Earthenware, Tableware and Ornamental Industries 18-24 rue des Colonies bte 17, B-1000 Brussels Belgium Tel: +32 2 511 3012 Fax: +32 2 511 5174 5. Standing Committee of the EC Glass Industries 89 Avenue Louise B-1050 Brussels Belgium Tel: +32 2 538 4446 Fax: +32 2 537 8469 6. Grouping of the Ceramic Tile Producers of the EC 18/24 rue des Colonies bte 17, B-1000 Brussels Belgium Tel: +32 2 511 7025 Fax: +32 2 511 5174	1. GLASTEC <i>International Trade Fair for Glass, Machinery, Equipment, Application and Products</i> Location: Dusseldorf, Germany Contact: DHsseldorfer Messegellschaft mbH Nowea Postfach 32 02 03 D-4000 Dusseldorf 30 Germany Tel: +49 211 456001 Fax: +49 211 4560668 Frequency: Every 2 years in September Next fair - 1994 2. PRIMIÈRE/AMBIENTE/AUTUMN FAIR Location: Frankfurt, Germany Products: Houseware, arts and crafts, home accessories Contact: Messe Frankfurt GmbH Postfach 970126 D-6000 Frankfurt 1 Germany Tel: +49 697 5750 Fax: +49 697 5756433 Frequency: Primiere - every year in January Ambiente - every year in February Autumn - every year in August 3. CONSTRUCTA International Building Trade Fair Location: Hanover, Germany Contact: Deutsche Messe AG Messegelände D-3000 Hanover 82 Germany Tel: +49 511 890 Fax: +49 511 8932626 Frequency: Every year in February 4. EMO <i>World Exhibition of Metal Working</i> Location: Hanover, Germany Contact: Verein Deutscher Werkzeugmaschinen - fabriken e.V.-VDW Corneliusstr 4 D-6000 Frankfurt, Germany Tel: +49 69 7 560810 Fax: +49 69 7 5608111 Frequency: Every 2 years in September - Next fair - 1993

- 1. European Commission**
200 Rue de la Loi
1049 Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +32 2 299 1111
- 2. European standardisation Committee (CEN)**
Rue de Stassart 36
B-1050 Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +32 2 519 6811
Fax: +32 2 519 6819
- 3. European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation (CENELEC)**
Rue de Stassart 35
B-1050 Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +32 2 519 6871
Fax: +32 2 519 6919
- 4. International Standards Office (ISO)**
Bureau Central
1 Rue de Varembe
Case Postale 56
CH-1211 Geneve 20
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 749 9011
Fax: +41 22 731 4206
+41 22 733 3430

*Hand Tools***Product Coverage**

CCT NUMBER	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION
820110	Spades and shovels
820120	Forks
820130	Mattocks, pitches, hoes and rakes
820140	Axes, bill hooks and similar hewing tools
820160	Hedge shears
820190	Other hand tools used in agricultural, horticulture or forestry
820210	Hand saws
820310	Files and rasps and similar tools
820320	Pliers
020330	Metal cutting shears and similar tools
820340	Pipe cutters, bolt choppers
820400	Hand generated spanners and wrenches
829520	Hammers and sledge hammers
820530	Planes and chisels

Customs Duties

CCT NUMBER	FULL	ACP	GSP	LDDC
820110	4.4%	0%	0%	0%
820120	4.4%	0%	0%	0%
820130	4.4%	0%	0%	0%
820140	4.4%	0%	0%	0%
820160	4.4%	0%	0%	0%
820190	4.4%	0%	0%	0%
820210	5.8%	0%	0%	0%
820320	4.9%	0%	0%*	0%
820330	4.9%	0%	0%	0%
820340	4.9%	0%	0%	0%
820400	4.9%	0%	0%	0%
820450	4.6%	0%	0%*	0%
820530	4.6%	0%	0%*	0%

* Imports of pliers, hammers, sledge hammers, chisels and planes are allowed into the EC free of customs duties within the limits of a ceiling. Imports of these products above the ceiling may be subject to the full rate of duty.

Products and Standards

Handtools cover a wide range of products and models, from spades and picks to hammers and pliers. Requirements of quality depend on the end user of the product. Tools used by technicians or professional workmen such as metal workers, electricians or carpenters require very high technical specifications. Design and quality are important aspects. Tools used in the factory workshop or manufacturing unit need not be of the highest quality standard. Price will be an important consideration, although quality and performance will rate before price. For Do-It-Yourself (D-I-Y) markets, consumers are more conscious of price and attractive finish and may not be well versed in the different degrees of quality.

Each country and each product group has its own distinctive characteristics. For example, screw driver handles come in two basic shapes in Europe:

- a) the German pattern which is somewhat bulb shaped
- b) straight sided with a flange where the shaft begins.

Tool preferences and technical requirements can be grouped under the following:

- ♦ design
- ♦ technical specification and material
- ♦ interchangeability for interchangeable tools
- ♦ performance.

Marketing and Distribution

Trade channels for tools vary considerably as well as being dependent on the type of tool and end user. Supply from developing countries appears to be handled mainly by agents. Agents may act as both importer and distributor but tend to use local wholesalers for distribution for smaller customers.

Exclusive agency agreements are rarely stipulated. Agents/importers handle products from suppliers from several companies depending on where the best price can be obtained.

Larger D-I-Y stores normally buy directly from source and smaller hardware stores have begun to set up joint buying groups in order to buy from foreign producers.

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 Associations: The European Federation of Association of Locks and Builders Hardware Manufacturers
Postbus 71
NL-7260 AB Ruurlo
The Netherlands
Tel: +31 573 5 3276
Fax: +31 573 5 2952

European Tool Committee
16 Avenue Hoche
F-75008 Paris
France
Tel: +33 1 45 63 02 00
Fax: +33 1 45 61 07 22

European Committee for Agricultural and Horticultural Tools and Instruments
Light Trades House
Melbourne Avenue
Sheffield. S10 2QJ
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 742 663084
Fax: +44 742 670910

Trade Fairs: International Hardware Fair
Location: Cologne, Germany
Contact: Messe-und Ausstellungs-ges mbH Koln
Postfact 21 07 60
Messeplatz 1
D-5000 Koln 21
Germany
Tel: +49 221 8210
Fax: +49 222 8212574
Frequency: Every year in March

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. Special rules apply to a number of products including:

- ◆ safety glass
- ◆ glass mirrors
- ◆ glass containers and lids
- ◆ semi-finished and finished products of iron and steel
- ◆ copper, nickel and aluminium products
- ◆ lead, zinc and tin products
- ◆ hand tools
- ◆ knives and cutting blades
- ◆ cutlery
- ◆ statuettes and other ornaments of base metal.

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:

Entry to the EC is generally tariff and quota free. However, to protect domestic markets tariff free entry for certain products is limited by a ceiling set by the EC. Imports in excess of this ceiling may be subject to the full amount of customs duty.

The following products are subject to tariff ceilings:

Ceramics

- ◆ glazed ceramic paving or wall tiles
- ◆ glazed ceramic mosaic tiles
- ◆ porcelain or china tableware, kitchenware and other household articles
- ◆ ceramic tableware, kitchenware and other household articles

Glass

- ◆ drawn or blown glass
- ◆ float glass and surface ground or polished glass
- ◆ glass inners for vacuum flasks
- ◆ glassware

Iron and Steel

- ◆ semi finished products
- ◆ wire
- ◆ bars and rods
- ◆ stainless steel ingots and products
- ◆ tubes and pipes
- ◆ screws, bolts, nuts, screw hooks, washers
- ◆ pliers and handtools
- ◆ padlocks and keys
- ◆ copper and aluminium bars, rods and profiles.

Rules of Origin:

General rules of origin apply. Special rules apply to a number of products including:

- ◆ safety glass
- ◆ glass mirrors
- ◆ glass containers and lids
- ◆ semi-finished and finished products of iron and steel
- ◆ copper, nickel and aluminium products
- ◆ lead, zinc and tin products
- ◆ hand tools
- ◆ knives and cutting blades
- ◆ cutlery
- ◆ statuettes and other ornaments of base metal.

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. Special rules apply to a number of products including:

- ◆ safety glass
- ◆ glass mirrors
- ◆ glass containers and lids
- ◆ semi-finished and finished products of iron and steel
- ◆ copper, nickel and aluminium products
- ◆ lead, zinc and tin products
- ◆ hand tools
- ◆ knives and cutting blades
- ◆ cutlery
- ◆ statuettes and other ornaments of base metal.

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.