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**CHANGES TO THE STATISTICAL CODES IN THE CUSTOMS TARIFF**

From 1 July 1999 there will be about 1,500 fewer statistical codes in the Customs Tariff. This reduction is the outcome of a recent review which examined the usefulness of existing statistical codes in terms of the costs to industry and Government of providing and processing the detailed information. The review was conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in consultation with users of the statistics.

The review identified and removed statistical codes with little or no reported trade, with no apparent users, or with known reporting problems. As a result, from 1 July 1999 over 2,500 Harmonized Tariff Item Statistical Codes (HTISCs) will be replaced by 1,000 new codes.

The revision is illustrated by the following example. Under tariff subheading 8450.11.00 information for washing machines is currently divided into four statistical codes as shown below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Reference Number | Statistical Code/Unit | Goods |
| 8450.11.00 |  | Fully-automatic machines |
|  |  | Top loading: |
|  | 01 No | Up to 3.5kg dry weight capacity |
|  | 02 No | Exceeding 3.5 kg but not exceeding 4.5 kg dry weight capacity |
|  | 03 No | Exceeding 4.5 kg dry weight capacity |
|  | 04 No | Front loading |

As a result of the review, the new structure for washing machines is:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Reference Number | Statistical Code/Unit | Goods |
| 8450.11.00 |  | Fully-automatic machines |
|  | 40 No | Top loading |
|  | 04 No | Front loading |

It is anticipated that the tariff reprint pages containing the new statistical codes will be despatched to users in the week commencing 14 June 1999. The attachment to this ACN lists the HTISCs which will be replaced from 1 July 1999. Users should check the attachment to determine if the goods they import, or for which they prepare Customs documentation, are affected by the changes. If so, users should refer to the new tariff reprint pages to determine the new HTISC. The replaced HTISCs will not be valid for entry processing after 30 June 1999.

If you have any queries about the review, please contact Michelle Williams at the Australian Bureau of Statistics on 02 6252 5411, or e-mail [michelle.williams@abs.gov.au](mailto:michelle.williams@abs.gov.au). Questions on tariff classification should be referred to your nearest Customs office.

Debbie Bates National Manager Tariff for Chief Executive Officer Canberra 9 June 1999

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