

GHANA'S TRADING HUB www.ghanastradinghub.gov.gh



USER GUIDE

Transition Helpline: 0800-266-266 Ghana's Trading Hub Helpline: 0800-111-222







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HS CLASSIFICATION TOOL



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About the Ghana Trading Hub HS Classification Tool

The Ghana Trade Hub Commodity Classification Tool ("GTH Classifier") has been designed to assist the process of Harmonized System (HS) commodity classification.

The GTH Classifier uses artificial intelligence to read and understand everyday product descriptions and automatically generates their proper numerical HS codes.

The GTH Classifier also drives the HS classification process by interacting with users in an intuitive and intelligent way - delivering expert HS classification capabilities to anyone involved in cross-border trade.

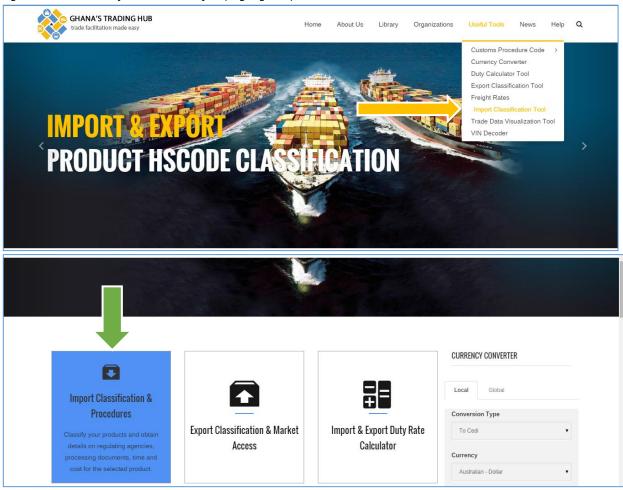
This document is designed to provide an overview of the GTH Classifier's functionality and features. It assists the users on how to navigate through the features and functionalities.



The GTH Classifier's Homepage

The GTH Classifier is accessible from two places on the Ghana Trading Hub home page - either from the lower right corner (see Figure 1), or from the Useful Tools drop down menu located in the header.

Figure 1 – Locations of the GTH Classifier (Highlighted)

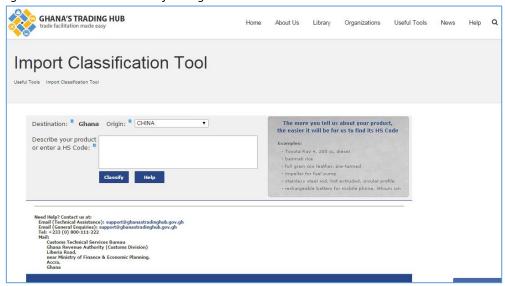


The user is invited to submit a product description directly from the Goods Description field in the lower left corner of the GTH home page, or enter it directly into the tool when launched from the Useful Tools drop-down menu.

When either of these options is chosen, the GTH home page is replaced by the GTH Classifier (see Figure 2).



Figure 2: Launched GTH Classifier Page



At the top of the GTH Classifier page are the Destination and Origin fields (see Figure 3). These mandatory fields tell the GTH Classifier which country-specific tariff schedule to display and which tariff treatments to apply. The destination field is automatically set to Ghana and cannot be changed. When the GTH Classifier is launched, the origin field is automatically set to China, but this can be changed according to the user's needs. To read more about these fields, refer to the section titled "Customs Tariff Codes and Duty Information".

In order to retrieve the national customs tariff code and related duty, tax and admissibility information, the Country of Destination and the Country of Origin must be specified (see Figure 11). The destination country in the GTH Import Classifier is set to Ghana, and the origin field is automatically set to China. The Country of Origin may be changed by opening the drop-down lists located next to origin fields and selecting a new country.

NOTE: It is important to note that the term "origin" does not simply refer to the country of export. For the purposes of determining duty rates, admissibility and other compliance matters, "origin" is determined by a very specific set of rules, which are established and enforced by the importing country. In many cases, you may also be required to present a Certificate of Origin in order to prove the eligibility of your goods for preferential tariff treatment. If you are unsure about the true origin of your goods, please consult a competent authority in the destination (importing) country.



Figure 3a – The Destination and Origin Fields (highlighted)

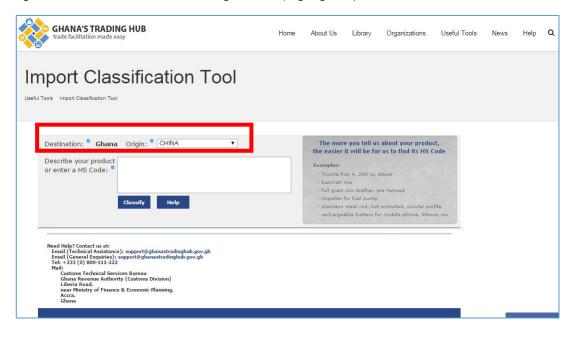
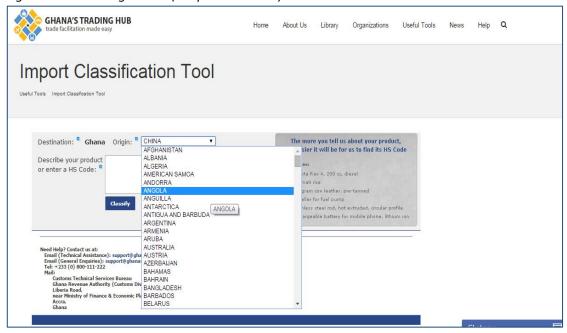


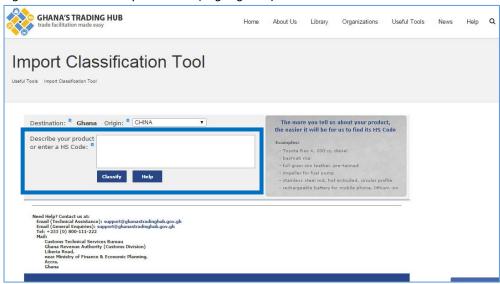
Figure 3b – The Origin Field (Drop down menu)





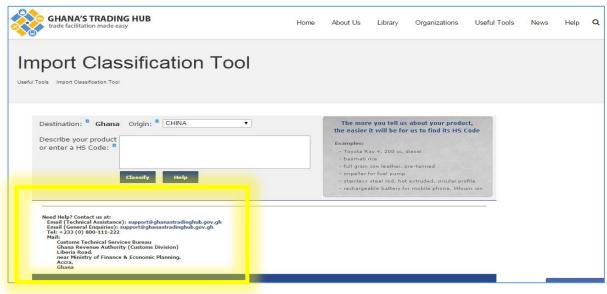
Just below the Destination and Origin fields is the Product Description field (see Figure 4). This is where the goods description (or HS code, if known) is entered.

Figure 4 –Good Description Field (Highlighted)



Technical assistance and other points of contact information are located on the lower left side of the screen (see Figure 5).

Figure 5 – Technical Assistance Points of Contact (Highlighted)





Classifying Products

Every classification begins with a narrative product description. Users are encouraged to enter a description of their product in their own words and provide as much detail as possible.

Product descriptions can be entered into the product description field on the GTH Classifier homepage by either:

- 1. Keying it in manually, or
- 2. Pasting it from copied text (see Figure 6).

Figure 6 – Submitting a Product Description

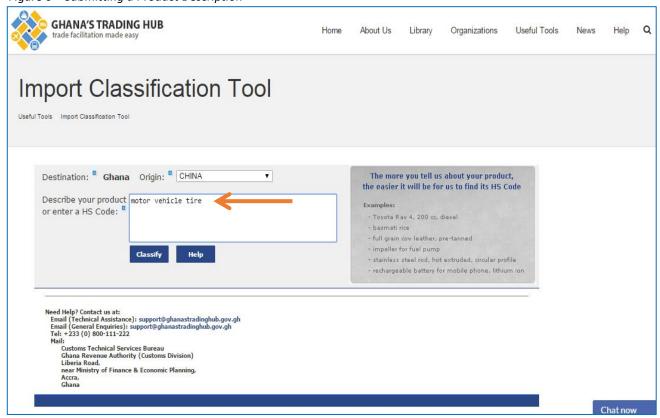
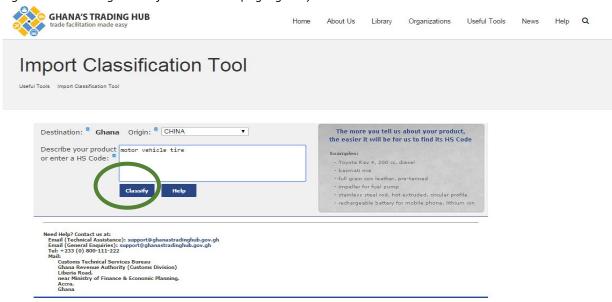




Figure 7 – Launching a Classification Search (Highlighted)



The classification process begins when either:

- 1. The "classify" button is pressed (see Figure 7), or
- 2. The 'enter/return' key on the keyboard is pressed.

When a product description has been submitted, the GTH Classifier confirms that it has understood the query with the message: "Here is what we know about your X" (see Figure 8).

Figure 8 - Confirming the Item (Highlighted) GHANA'S TRADING HUB Home About Us Library Organizations Useful Tools News Help Import Classification Tool Useful Tools Import Classification Tool Destination: Ghana Origin: CHINA The more you tell us about your product, the easier it will be for us to find its HS Code Describe your product motor vehicle tire or enter a HS Code: - Toyota Rav 4, 200 cc, diesel - basmati rice - impeller for fuel pump stainless steel rod, hot extruded, circular profile Here is what we know about your tire (change) Assumed characteristics (modify) condition other than antique; worn out (modify) magnetic property other (modify) characteristics other than gut, goldbeater's skin, bladder or tendon; inedible nut; mineral wax, (modify) constituent other vegetable or animal wax, modelling paste or stearin Chat now (modify)

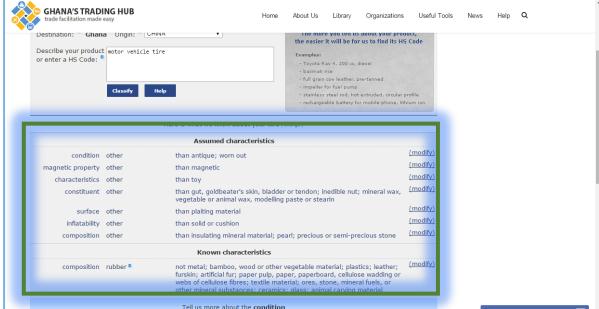


The GTH Classifier also presents a list of product details (characteristics) which are required for classification. The 'Assumed Characteristics' are comprised of product details that have not been explicitly described by the user, but are inferred automatically by the GTH Classifier. For example, if the product description does not explicitly state that the imported "orange juice" is "powdered", the GTH Classifier will assume that it is not.

Alternatively, 'Known Characteristics' are comprised of product details that have been explicitly described by the user (see Figure 9).

Figure 9 – Displaying the assumed and known characteristics (highlighted)

GHANA'S TRADING HUB



In all cases, the GTH Classifier will either:

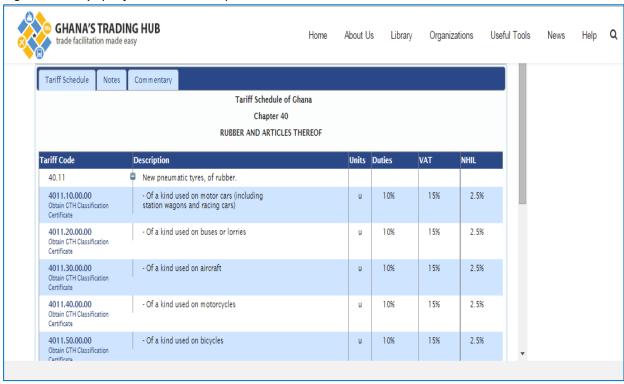
- Present the destination country tariff schedule (which includes commodity codes, commodity descriptions, units of measure, duty rates, taxes and other fees), or
- Ask one or more questions about the product being shipped



Classifying Fully-specified Product Descriptions

When product descriptions are unambiguous and include all of the required characteristics, the GTH Classifier is able to arrive at the customs commodity code automatically (see Figure 10). The user is not required to do anything further, except refer to the tariff code and related information from the destination country tariff schedule (described in the next section).

Figure 10 – Fully-specified Product Description and Result





Tariff Codes and Duty Information

In order to retrieve the national customs tariff code and related duty, tax and admissibility information, the Country of Destination and the Country of Origin must be specified (see Figure 11).

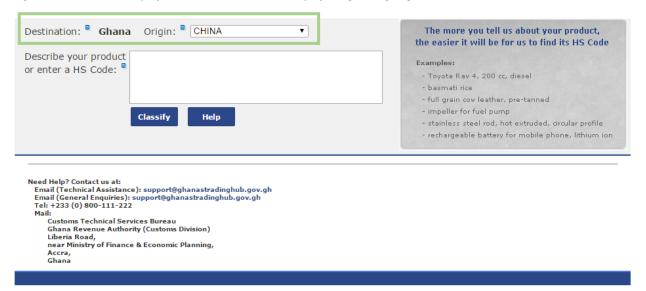
The destination country in the GTH Import Classifier is set to Nigeria, and the origin filed is automatically set to China. The Country of Origin may be changed by opening the drop-down lists located next to origin fields and selecting a new country.

NOTE: It is important to note that the term "origin" does not simply refer to the country of export. For the purposes of determining duty rates, admissibility and other compliance matters, "origin" is determined by a very specific set of rules, which are established and enforced by the importing country.

In many cases, you may also be required to present a Certificate of Origin in order to prove the eligibility of your goods for preferential tariff treatment. If you are unsure about the true origin of your goods,

please consult a competent authority in the destination (importing) country.

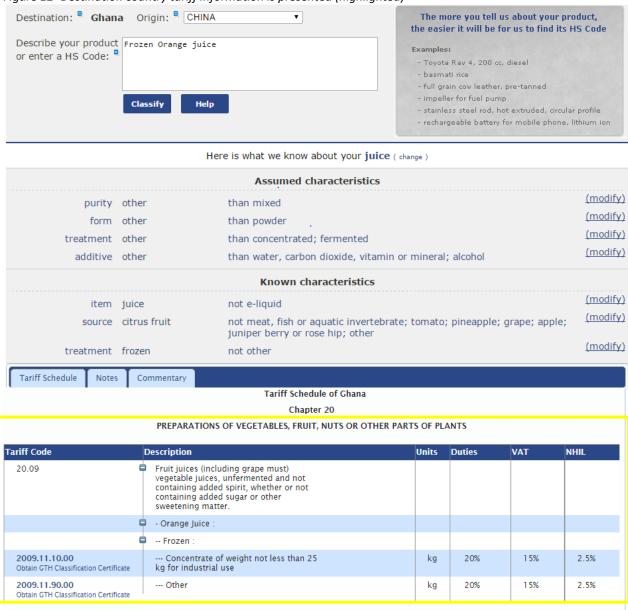
Figure 11- The Country of Destination and Country of Origin (highlighted)



When the GTH Classifier is able to determine a product's universal 6-digit HS code, the destination country tariff schedule is presented in tabular form (see Figure 12)



Figure 12- Destination country tariff information is presented (highlighted)

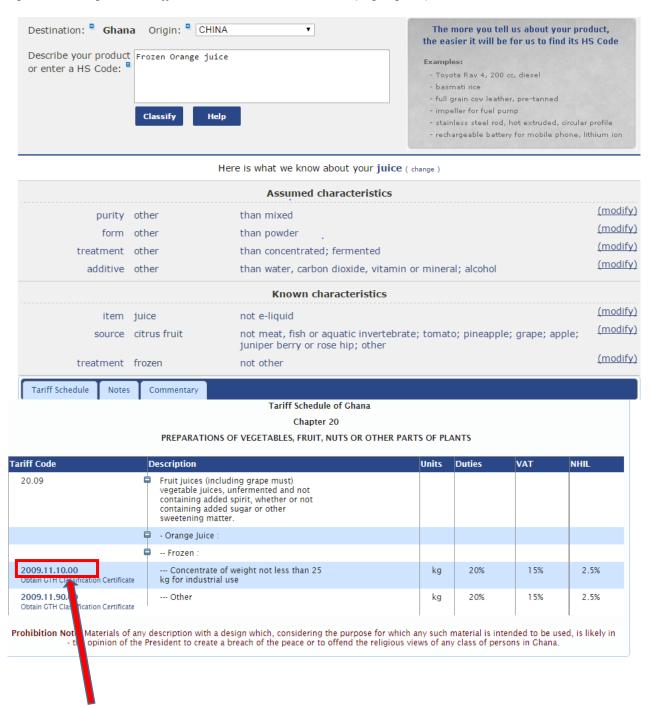


Prohibition Note: Materials of any description with a design which, considering the purpose for which any such material is intended to be used, is likely in the opinion of the President to create a breach of the peace or to offend the religious views of any class of persons in Ghana.

It is possible to view all of the relevant trade details (including Duties, Levies, VAT, Import, Conditions/Prohibitions, and Documentary Requirements) associated to a specific code by clicking on the tariff code directly (see Figures 13)



Figure 13 Clicking on the Tariff Code to see all trade data details (hi ghli ghted)





Navigating the Hierarchical Tariff Structure

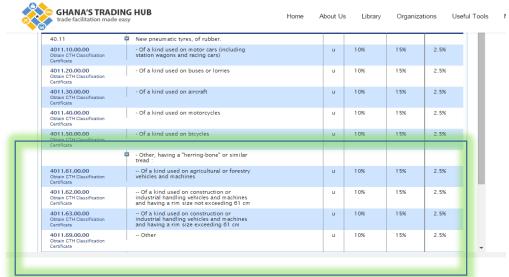
Since the Customs Tariff schedule is organized hierarchically, sometimes a tariff code is hidden beneath a symbol. This is done in order to allow users to compare goods descriptions at the same level in accordance with HS classification rules. In such cases where a papears, it must be opened in order to reach the tariff code below (see Figure 11). To collapse a level, the user must click on the symbol.

Figure 14–Expanding the level in order to reach the tariff code below (highlighted)



Once expanded, the relevant tariff information is presented (see Figure 15).

Figure 15- Level is expanded and tariff info is presented (highlighted)





In addition to the tariff codes (see Figure 16) and commodity descriptions (see Figure 16), the GTH Classifier also presents Units of Measure, import duty rates, Levy and VAT information (see Figure 17).

Figure 16- Tariff Codes are presented (highlighted)

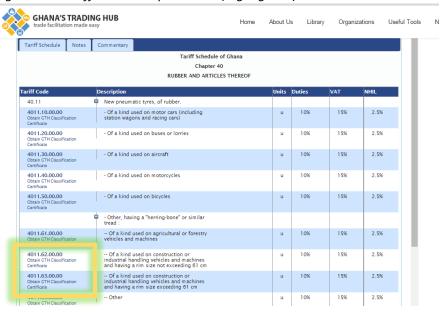


Figure 17- Tariff Commodity Description are presented (Highlighted)

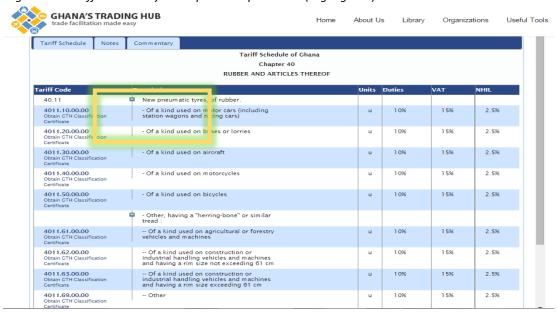
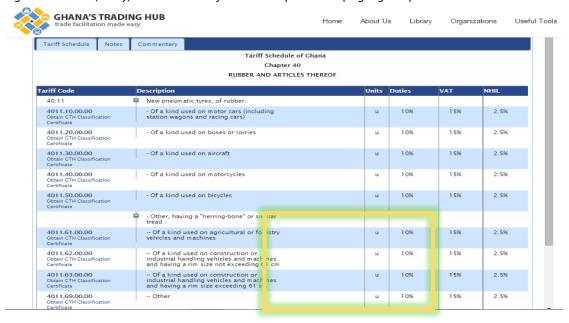




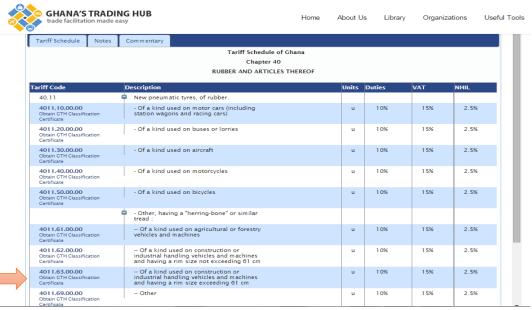
Figure 18 – Units, Duty, Excise & VAT Information is presented (Highlighted)



Generating a Classification Certificate

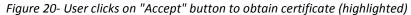
In addition to the referential information shown on screen, the GTH Classifier also records the details of each classification transaction and presents it in the form of a Classification Certificate. The Certificate records the original goods description, inferences and assumptions made by the GTH Classifier, product attributes specified by the user, and classification rationale applied by the GTH Classifier. To obtain an GTH Classification Certificate, click on the words "Obtain GTH Classification Certificate, which appears just below the Tariff Code (see Figure 19).

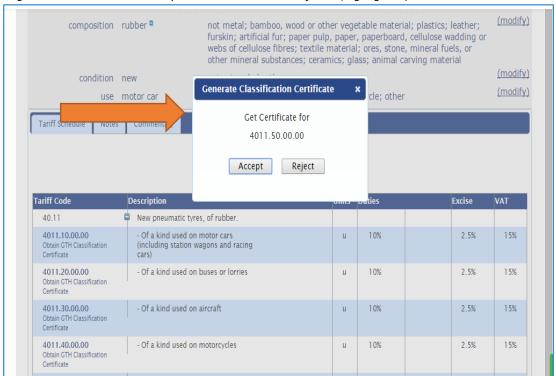
Figure 19- Obtaining the GTH Classification Certificate (highlighted)





Since there will be a charge to obtain an GTH Classification Certificate, the user must click on "accept" if they wish to proceed (See Figure 20).







The GTH Classification certificate is generated in a PDF file, which may be downloaded and saved or printed for future reference (See Figure 21).

Figure 21- The GTH Classification Certificate

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF GHANA GHANA TRADE HUB COMMODITY CLASSIFICATION CERTIFICATE



Client Name: Sample Company
User ID: Sample User

Transaction ID: bb0d15f7a1ad40c1b9f9d16bfd8238f9

Creation Date: August 25, 2015 Creation Time: 16:31:45 (GMT)

Country of Destination: GHANA
Country of Origin: CHINA
Goods Description: tire

Transaction Details: The condition of the tire: other than antique, worn out (assumed)

The magnetic_property of the tire: other than magnetic (assumed)

The characteristics of the tire: other than toy (assumed)

The constituent of the tire: other than gut, goldbeater's skin, bladder or tendon, inedible nut,

mineral wax, vegetable or animal wax, modelling paste or stearin (assumed)

The surface of the tire: other than plaiting material (assumed)
The inflatability of the tire: other than solid or cushion (assumed)

The composition of the tire: other than insulating mineral material, pearl, precious or semi-

precious stone (assumed)

The composition of the tire: rubber (specified by user)
The condition of the tire: new (specified by user)
The use of the tire: motor car (specified by user)

Rationale:

HS Code: 4011.50

Destination Tariff Code: 4011.50.00.00 (selected by user)

Tariff Schedule Version: April 12, 2013

This document provided recorded proof of a specific interacation between a system user and the Ghana Trade Hub Commodity Classifier.

The GTH Classifler is an expert system designed to assist users in classifying their products. In order to perform this task, it attempts to understand users' narrative product descriptions, and interacts with users to overcome query deficiencies and misinterpretations. GTH users is best effort to obtain and publish stiff and trade data from authoritative government sources. Accordingly, GTH cannot and does not warrant the accuracy of the tariff and trade data presentee in the GTH classifier. Furthermore, GTH shall not be liable towards its users in any way whatsoever for damages of any kind arising out of or relating to the use of the GTH Classifier.

For additional assistence with Customs commodity classification, please contact:

Technical Assistance: support@ghanastradinghub.gov.gh General Enquiries: support@ghanastradinghub.gov.gh Tel: +233 (0) 800-111-222





Classifying Underspecified Product Descriptions

When a product description does not contain enough detail to generate an HS Code automatically, the GTH Classifier will guide the user through the classification process by asking for additional characteristics via multiple choice questions (see Figures 22 and 23).

Figure 22- The GTH Classifier asks for additional product information (highlighted)

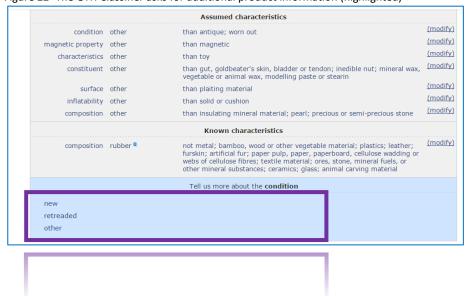


Figure 23- Selecting a product characteristic (highlighted)



The number and type of questions posed by the GTH Classifier will vary, depending on how items are described by the user. Tips on how to reduce the number of questions and formulate the most effective product descriptions can be found in "Tips for Describing Products".



In some cases, users may be asked to specify the composition of items. In such cases, numerical values must be entered. The GTH Classifier always expects the answers to such questions to add up to 100%. When a product attribute is chosen, it automatically becomes a "known characteristic" and, if necessary, a new question is asked (see Figure 24). The GTH Classifier stops asking questions when the product has been sufficiently described, and presents the destination country tariff schedule.

Figure 24 The selected attribute becomes a known characteristic (highlighted)

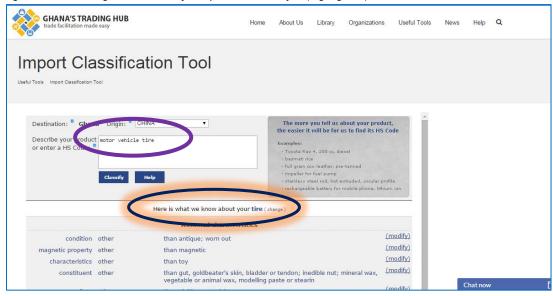




Changing the Item

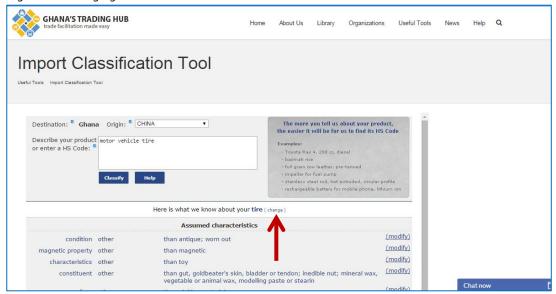
Sometimes, the GTH Classifier may identify the item incorrectly. This could lead to a classification error. Therefore, it is very important to verify that the GTH Classifier has understood the submitted product description by reviewing the phrase: "Here is what we know about your X" (see Figure 25).

Figure 25 - Reviewing the item identified by the GTH Classifier (highlighted)



If the GTH Classifier has misidentified the item, click on the word "change", which appears next to the phrase "Here is what we know about your X". A dialog box will open automatically. Inside, will be a list of other potential items to choose from (see Figure 26).

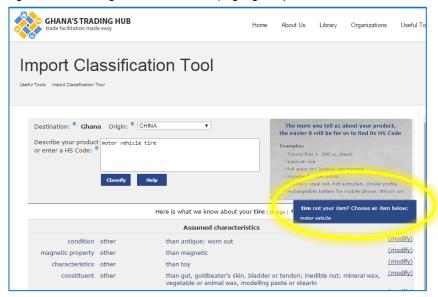
Figure 26- Changing the Item





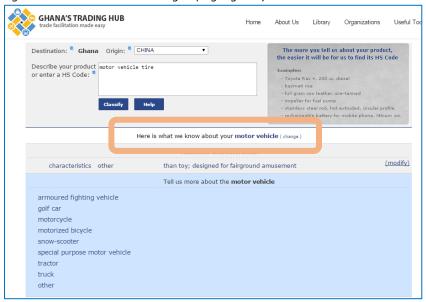
To change the item that was originally selected by the GTH Classifier, select a new item from the list presented in the blue dialog box by clicking on it (see Figure 27).

Figure 27- Selecting an Alternate Item (Highlighted)



Once another item has been selected, the GTH Classifier automatically begins classifying the new product (see Figure 28).

Figure 28 – Item has been Changed (Highlighted)



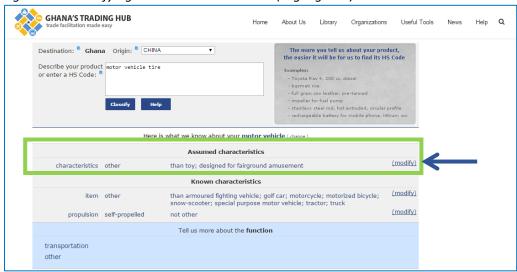


Changing Product Characteristics

In some cases, it might be necessary to change an "Assumed" or "Known" characteristic. For example, if a user makes a mistake in selecting a multiple choice answer to a GTH Classifier question, they will have to change their answer in order to get the correct code.

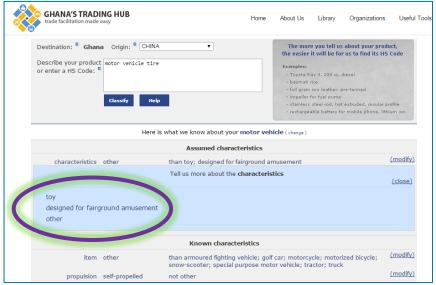
To change an Assumed or Known characteristic, click on the text marked "modify" located in brackets on the right side of the screen opposite the Assumed or Known characteristic (see Figure 29).

Figure 29 – Modifying Product Characteristics (Highlighted)



When "modify" is selected, the GTH Classifier opens a dialog box containing a list of potential characteristics. Modification is done by selecting one of the characteristics presented (see Figure 30)

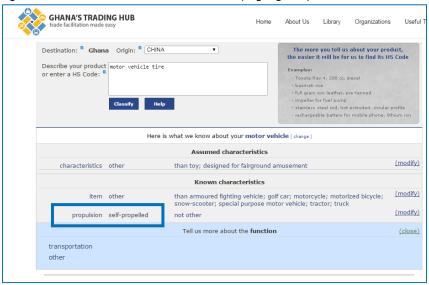
Figure 30- Showing Other Characteristics (Highlighted)





When a new characteristic is selected, the GTH Classifier automatically closes the window and amends the list of known or assumed characteristics (see Figure 31).

Figure 31- Product Characteristics is revised (Highlighted)



NOTE: Assumed or Known characteristics can be changed at any point during the classification process. Any change to a product's characteristics will likely result in a change to the products ultimate commodity code.



Legal Notes and Commentaries

In addition to presenting the destination country tariff schedule, the GTH Classifier also presents the Harmonized System Section and Chapter Notes (collectively known as "Legal Notes"). These notes form part of the legal structures of the customs tariff schedule and should be taken into consideration when classifying goods. Generally, the Legal Notes are comprised of exclusions, definitions and rules.

The Legal Notes become available when the GTH Classifier arrives at the universal 6-digit HS code, and are accessible by clicking on the tab labeled "Notes" (see Figure 32).

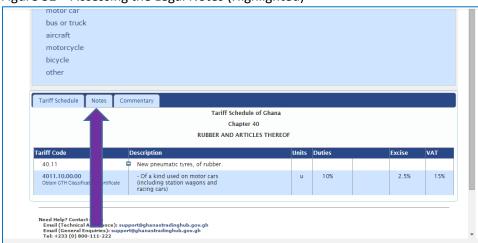
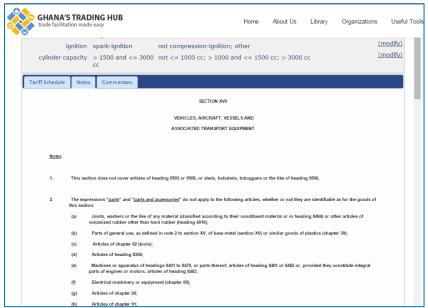


Figure 32 – Accessing the Legal Notes (Highlighted)



The GTH Classifier only shows Legal Notes from the Section and Chapter of the product being classified (see Figure 30).

Figure 32- The Legal Notes are displayed



The GTH Classifier also presents supporting notes in the form of HS Commentaries. While not legally binding, the Commentaries, which have been compiled from a variety of authoritative sources, can provide additional clarification of concepts presented in the Nomenclature. Like the Legal Notes, the GTH Classifier is accessible by clicking on the tab labeled 'Commentary' (see Figure 33). Only the Commentaries relating to the Section, Chapter, Heading and Subheading of the product being classified are presented.



Figure 34 – The HS Commentaries are displayed

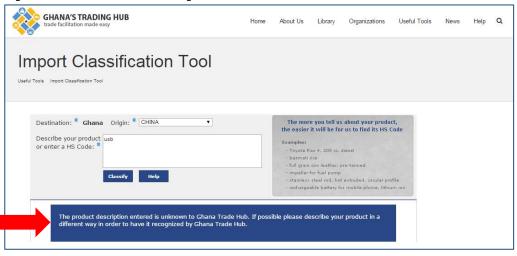




Unknown Items

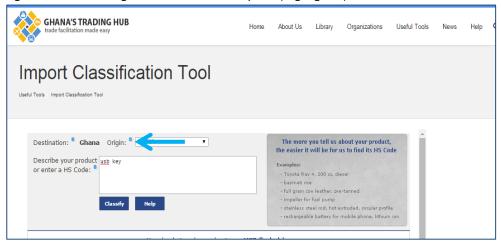
In some cases, the GTH Classifier may not recognize the item that is submitted. When this happens, the GTH Classifier asks for an alternate description of the product (see Figure 35).

Figure 35 – Unknown Item Message



When this happens, the system requires that a more generic description of the product be submitted (see Figure 36).

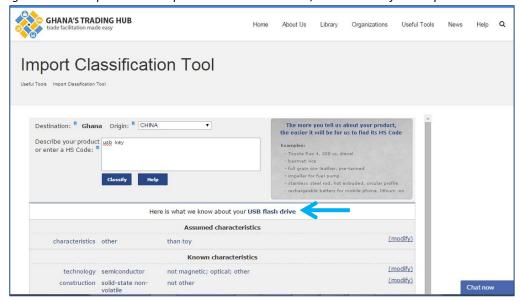
Figure 36 – Submitting A New Product Description (Highlighter)





When the new product description is submitted, the GTH Classifier's classification process continues (see Figure 37).

Figure 37- A new product description has been submitted, and the classification process resumes

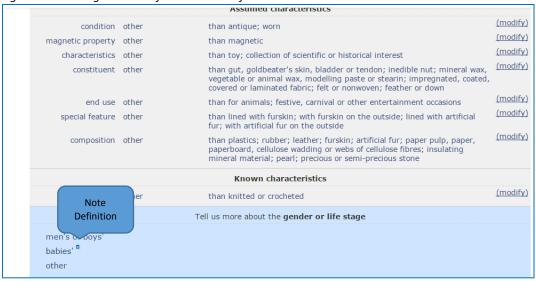




Viewing HS Definitions

Many terms in the tariff schedule have legal definitions. The GTH Classifier provides assistance in understanding these terms by linking them to HS Legal Note definitions. Terms that have Legal Note definitions are identified by a small green square (the "definitions icon") [2] (see Figure 38).

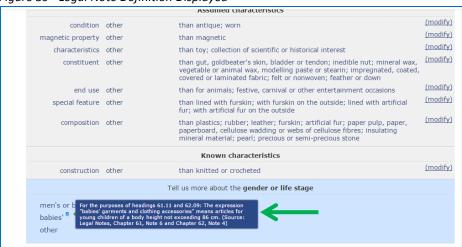
Figure 38 - HS Legal Note Definition is identified



The definitions are shown automatically when the mouse is rolled over the green definitions icon \blacksquare . A panel opens, which contains the official text and its source in the HS Legal Notes (see Figure 39).



Figure 39- Legal Note Definition Displayed



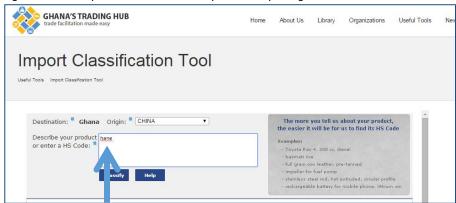
Note: The definitions associated to Country of Destination and Country of Origin are <u>not</u> HS Legal Note definitions. They are provided merely for the convenience and reference of GTH Classifier users, and have no official sanction whatsoever.

Using the Spell Checker

Spelling errors can adversely affect GTH Classifier's ability to classify properly. Accordingly, the GTH Classifier automatically detects spelling errors.

When a spelling error is detected, the GTH Classifier underlines the misspelled word in red (see Figure 40).

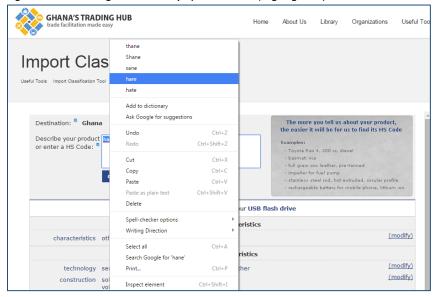
Figure 40– The Spell Checker detects a potential spelling error



A list of alternative spellings is shown when the misspelled word is selected by clicking the right mouse button. To change the misspelled word, click on the correct word from the list using the left mouse button (see Figure 41).

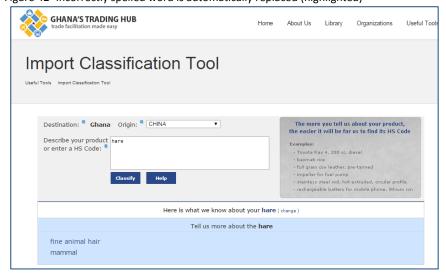


Figure 41- Choosing the correctly spelled word (highlighted)



When a new correctly-spelled word is selected, the dialog box closes and the correctly spelled word automatically replaces the incorrectly spelled word in GTH Classifier's product description field (see Figure 42).

Figure 42- Incorrectly spelled word is automatically replaced (highlighted)





Classifying Complex Items (e.g. Sets and Kits)

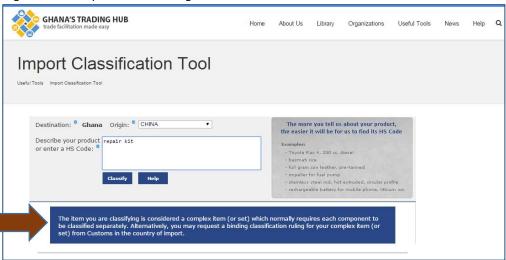
Sometimes the GTH Classifier will encounter a product description that cannot be classified automatically.

Sets and Kits pose a particular challenge for HS classification. While some sets and kits are provided for specifically in the tariff schedule, others are not.

When the GTH Classifier detects a set or kit that cannot be classified according to HS rules, it displays a message (see Figure 43) inviting the user to either;

- a) Classify each component of the set or kit separately, or
- b) Seek a customs ruling from the Customs authority in the destination country.

Figure 43 – Complex Items Message



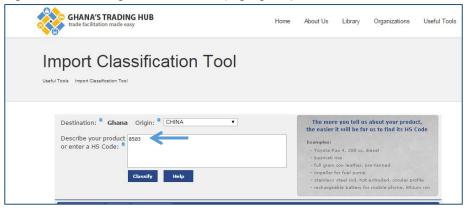


Searching by Numerical Code

If you already know all or part of your HS or national tariff code, you can submit this code to GTH Classifier directly.

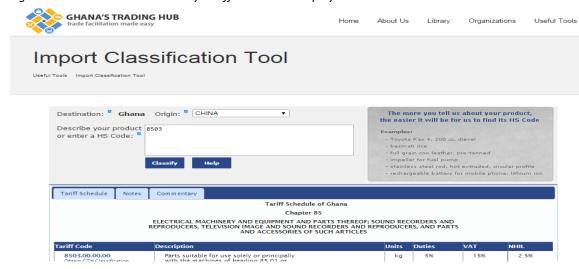
To search by numerical code, simply enter the numerical code into the Product Description field and click the "classify" button (see Figure 44).

Figure 44- Submitting a Partial HS Code (Highlighted)



If the HS code is valid, the GTH Classifier will display all of the codes which follow numerically under the hierarchical ordering structure of the Harmonized System and Destination Country tariff schedules (see Figure 45).

Figure 45- The Destination Country Tariff Schedule is displayed

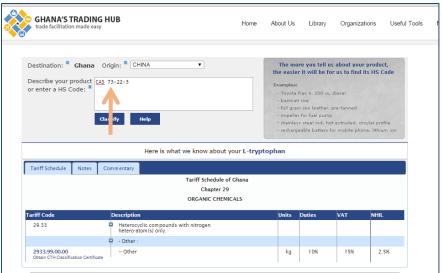


The GTH Classifier is also able to search by Chemical Abstract Service ("CAS") registry numbers. To search for an HS code for a chemical substance by its CAS number, simply enter the number preceded by the acronym "CAS" (see Figure 46).



As with the HS code search, a successful CAS number search will result in the display of the relevant Harmonized System and Destination Country tariff schedules.

Figure 46 – CAS number search and result (highlighted)



Tips for Describing Products

The following table provides suggestions on how to create more effective product descriptions, which will result in fewer questions being posed by the GTH Classifier. By following these suggestions, users should arrive at the final tariff code in fewer steps.

Suggestion	Example of a Suitable Query	Example of an Unsuitable Query
Indicate the main item first, followed by a comma. List any details after the comma.	Belt, leather	Belt leather
If it is a part, indicate the part name followed by the word "FOR" and the machine that it belongs to.	Impeller for fuel pump	Impeller, fuel pump



Each User Query should describe only one (1) item at a time	men's cotton shirt	men's cotton shirt and pants
Do not use AND and OR in queries	carded wool	carded or combed wool
Describe percentages in the following manner: "X% + Fiber"	girls raincoats, 60% nylon, 35%cotton, 5% spandex, woven	girls raincoats, 97 nylon- 3 spandex; or woven girls raincoats, nylon/spandex (97/3)
As a rule, you should not use negative expressions in queries, such as: NO, NOT, and EXCEPT	boys' shorts, woven	boys' shorts, not knitted
Generally, the negative grammatical preface UN can be used.	Woven fabric, 100% cotton, unbleached	

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Contact Information

If you need any additional assistance or information please contact our help desk either by telephone +233 800-266-266 and +233 800-111-222, or via email support@Ghanatradinghub.gov.ng

Contact information can also be found at the bottom left of the GTH Classification Tool (See Figure 53).

Figure 53-Technical and General Contact Information(highlighted)

