

**Economic Commission for Europe**

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

**Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards**

**Specialized Section on Standardization of Meat**

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**Alignment of the ECE cut codes with the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS codes).**

**Alignment of ECE cut codes  
with HS codes – comments from UN/CEFACT**

The following document was received from the secretariat of the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT):

- The HS 6-digit code may not be the appropriate way to address the desired need of global harmonization. This code is of course the base for national nomenclatures; but it is also used by traders for multiple processes. The impact of making such a change at the 6-digit level may have unexpected negative effects (for example, cost of logistics or commercial processes could increase as the HS 6-digit is the base for tariffication of electronic data transfer to count how many lines are in commercial or logistics data exchange).
- Also keep in mind the cycle of revisions of the WCO HS. Negotiations have apparently closed for the next revision; it will be necessary to wait four to five years before such changes could be implemented within the WCO HS convention.
- As previously suggested, it may be more pertinent to propose a recommendation on the extensions used beyond the first 6-digits for national implementation. Here there could be an opportunity as most countries will update their nomenclatures as soon as the new WCO HS codes are released; so if this group makes a proposal quickly, it may be able to be implemented as soon as one year from now. However if the project takes much more time, it may be difficult to suggest changes in the extensions after they have been implemented...
- In order to propose such extensions, I believe that it would be necessary to do a comparative table of the current national nomenclatures concerning these products, to see if all the major trading countries (exporters and importers) are making the same types of differentiations. I believe, for example, that the US approach is based more on the quality of meat (processed or not; high-quality or not) instead of the type of cuts... If it is an isolated case, then perhaps such voluntary recommendations could be pertinent; however, if there are many differences across countries, then it may require more negotiations before being able to make such a recommendation.

For your consideration:

- US HTS (on imports):
  - 0201200200 = cuts with bone, processed, high-quality beef cuts
  - 0201200400 = cuts with bone, processed, other
  - 0201200600 = cuts with bone, other
- US Schedule B (on exports):
  - 0201203550 = cuts with bone, processed
  - 0201206000 = cuts with bone, other
- European Union:
  - 02012020 = cuts with bone, 'compensated' quarters
  - 02012030 = cuts with bone, unseparated or separated forequarters
  - 02012050 = cuts with bone, unseparated or separated hindquarters

- 02012090 = cuts with bone, other
  - Japan:
    - 020120000 = Other cuts (not carcasses or half-carcasses in 020110) with bone in (no distinctions on cuts)
  - Australia:
    - 02012035 = cuts with bone, beef cuts
    - 02012090 = cuts with bone, bovine animals
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