

HS codes for sealing devices

The FSA and ESA organisations have been active with trade representatives working on the Environmental Goods Act (EGA). This act is an attempt to help the environment, by agreeing that products which are dedicated to improving the environment, should be traded freely on a global basis.

Products are agreed by the HS code definition for the product. HS codes are used by customs and excise departments to ensure the correct import duties are attached to each product.

So for products to be added to the EGA, the HS codes needed to be investigated. This entailed a working group of FSA and ESA members who conducted an exercise to ensure each sealing device was given the correct HS code.

The basis for the research was the international codes definitions in the UN comtrade database, and in the case of gaskets, the US Customs and Borders agency definitions for gaskets. These documents enabled the group to come up with the correct definition for each product.

The only really contentious issue was for AF sheet based gaskets where we agreed these should be defined as “synthetic inorganic materials, glass, aramid and mineral fibres, charged with fillers, and bonded with elastomers”

The result of this groups work resulted in a table of sealing devices and their correct codes:

| Mechanical Seals | Flange Gaskets | Description | Packings | Description | Elastomeric and Polymeric Seals | Description | Expansion Joints | Description |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--|
| 8484 20 00 | 6814 10 00 | Laminated Polysilicates | 5911 90 99 | PTFE braided | 4016 93 00 | Rubber seals | 4009 21 00 | Vulcanised rubber metal reinforced without fittings |
| | 6815 19 00 | Graphite Laminate | 5607 50 00 | Braided twine | 3926 90 97 | PTFE seals | 4009 22 00 | Vulcanised rubber metal reinforced with fittings |
| | 7326 90 00 | Metallic | 5911 90 99 | Braided Graphite | | | 4009 31 00 | Vulcanised rubber textile reinforced without fittings |
| | 8484 10 00 | Semi Metallic | 6815 19 00 | Graphite rings | | | 4009 32 00 | Vulcanised rubber textile reinforced with fittings |
| | 3920 99 59 | PTFE Sheet | 3824 99 96 | Injectable Packings | | | 4009 41 00 | Vulcanised rubber other material reinforced without fittings |
| | 6815 90 00 | AF Sheet | | | | | 4009 42 00 | Vulcanised rubber other material reinforced with fittings |
| | | | | | | | 8484 20 00 | All Fabric Expansions Joints supplied with or without assembled metal parts and accessories. |