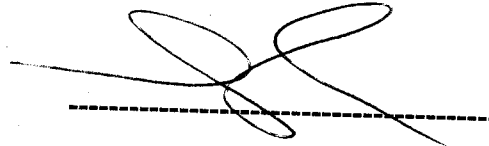


**REPORT NO. 190**

**REDUCTION IN THE RATE OF DUTY  
ON MATCH SPLINTS**

The International Trade Administration Commission herewith presents its  
Report No.190: REDUCTION IN THE RATE OF DUTY ON MATCH SPLINTS



**MR ITUMELENG MASEGE**  
**ACTING CHIEF COMMISSIONER**

**PRETORIA**

01 August-----2006

# REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION OF SOUTH AFRICA

### REPORT NO. 190

#### REDUCTION IN THE RATE OF DUTY ON MATCH SPLINTS

##### **Synopsis**

Lion Match (Pty) Ltd applied for a reduction in the rate of duty on match splints classifiable under tariff subheading 4421.90.90 at a rate of duty of 20% ad valorem.

Match splints are further processed by the applicant through a chemical dipping process to manufacture matchsticks. Matchsticks are used for lighting fires, candles, and cigarettes. As a reason for the application, the applicant stated that there is a shortage of pine timber in the SACU as a result of damage done by forest fires in the timber plantations, which forced them to import match splints.

The application was published in the Government Gazette on 26 April 2006 for interested parties to comment. No comments or objections were received following the publication.

The Commission found that the applicant is experiencing a price disadvantage against imported matches and that the current rate of duty on match splints has a cost raising effect. The cost-saving effect will contribute towards the competitiveness on industry manufacturing matches.

In the light of the foregoing, the Commission decided to recommend a reduction in the rate of duty on match splints through the creation of an additional tariff subheading at free of duty.

### **The application and the tariff position**

The Commission considered an application for a reduction in the rate of duty on match splints classifiable under tariff subheading 4421.90.90 at a rate of duty of 20% ad valorem

As reason for the application, the applicant stated that there is a shortage of pine timber in the SACU as a result of damage done by forest fires in the timber plantations, which forced them to import match splints.

Match splints are classifiable as shown in Table 1 below:

**Table 1: Existing tariff position of match splints**

Tariff Heading	Description	Rate of Duty		
		General	EU	SADC
4421	<b>Other Articles of Wood</b>			
4421.90	-Other			
4421.90.90	-Other	20 %	20%	13%

No comments or objections were received following the publication.

The Commission found that the applicant is experiencing a price disadvantage against matches imported into the SACU and that the current rate of duty on match splints has a cost raising effect on the manufacture of match splints in the SACU

### **Recommendation**

In view of the above, the Commission decided to recommend a reduction in the rate of duty on match splints through the creation of an additional 8-digit tariff subheading under tariff heading 44.21.

(47/2005)]