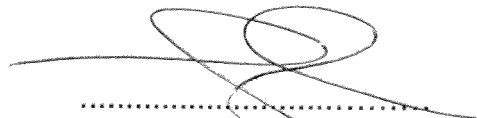


REPORT NO. 225

REDUCTION IN THE RATE OF DUTY ON  
SPARK PLUGS

The International Trade Administration Commission herewith presents its Report  
No. 225: REDUCTION IN THE RATE OF DUTY ON SPARK PLUGS.



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Itumeleng Masage  
ACTING CHIEF COMMISSIONER

PRETORIA

28/03/2007..

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA  
INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION OF SOUTH  
AFRICA

REPORT NO. 225

REDUCTION IN THE RATE OF DUTY ON  
SPARK PLUGS

Synopsis

Agaricus Trading cc applied on behalf of an Austrian firm, GE Jenbacher, for a reduction in the rate of duty from 10 per cent *ad valorem* to free of duty on spark plugs classifiable under tariff subheading 8511.10.90 which are used in spark ignition reciprocating engines for certain special applications.

The Commission rejected the application. It was found that the spark plugs could not be distinguished for customs administration purposes from other types of spark plugs including the domestically manufactured spark plugs. A reduction in the rate of duty on spark plugs would erode the protection afforded the industry manufacturing spark plugs.

**The application**

1. An application was received from Agaricus Trading cc for a reduction in the rate of duty on spark plugs used in certain spark ignition engines. The application was published in the Government Gazette for comment by interested parties.
2. The applicant argued that the specific spark plugs in question are not manufactured domestically.

### The tariff position

3. The tariff position is as follows:

Tariff heading	Description	General	EU	SADC
85.11	Electrical Ignition or Sparking Equipment of a Kind used for Spark-ignition or Compression-ignition Internal Combustion Engines (for Example, Ignition Magnetos, -dynamos, Ignition Coils, Sparking Plugs and Glow Plugs, Starter Motors); Generators(for example, Dynamos, Alternators) Cut-outs of a Kind used in Conjunction With Such Engines:			
8511.10	-Sparking plugs:			
8511.10.10	=Identifiable for use solely or principally with aircraft or tractor engines	Free	Free	Free
8511.10.90	=Other	10%	7,5%	Free

### Findings

4. Comments received were from two domestic manufacturers, Federal Mogul and Lectrolite.

These firms argued that there were only minute differences between the specifications of the spark plugs under consideration and those spark plugs used in internal combustion piston engines manufactured domestically.

The customs and excise authorities would be unable to differentiate between the different kinds of spark plugs.

5. A reduction in the rate of duty on spark plugs would erode the protection afforded the industry manufacturing spark plugs.

### Recommendation

6. The Commission recommended that the application for a reduction in the rate of duty on spark plugs for use in certain spark ignition engines be rejected.