United States International Trade Commission

Office of Tariff Affairs and Trade Agreements

Harmonized Tariff Schedule System User Guide

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Contents

Introduction

This document describes how users can access the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) on the United States International Trade Commission (USITC) website. Generally, HTS users can search the HTS database, print entire (or sections of) HTS publications, view change records for each HTS publication, and export the HTS data in various consumable formats. What follows is a more detailed description of the HTS system—the information and functionality contained therein. See Appendix A for a more detailed description of the HTS itself—its purpose and content.
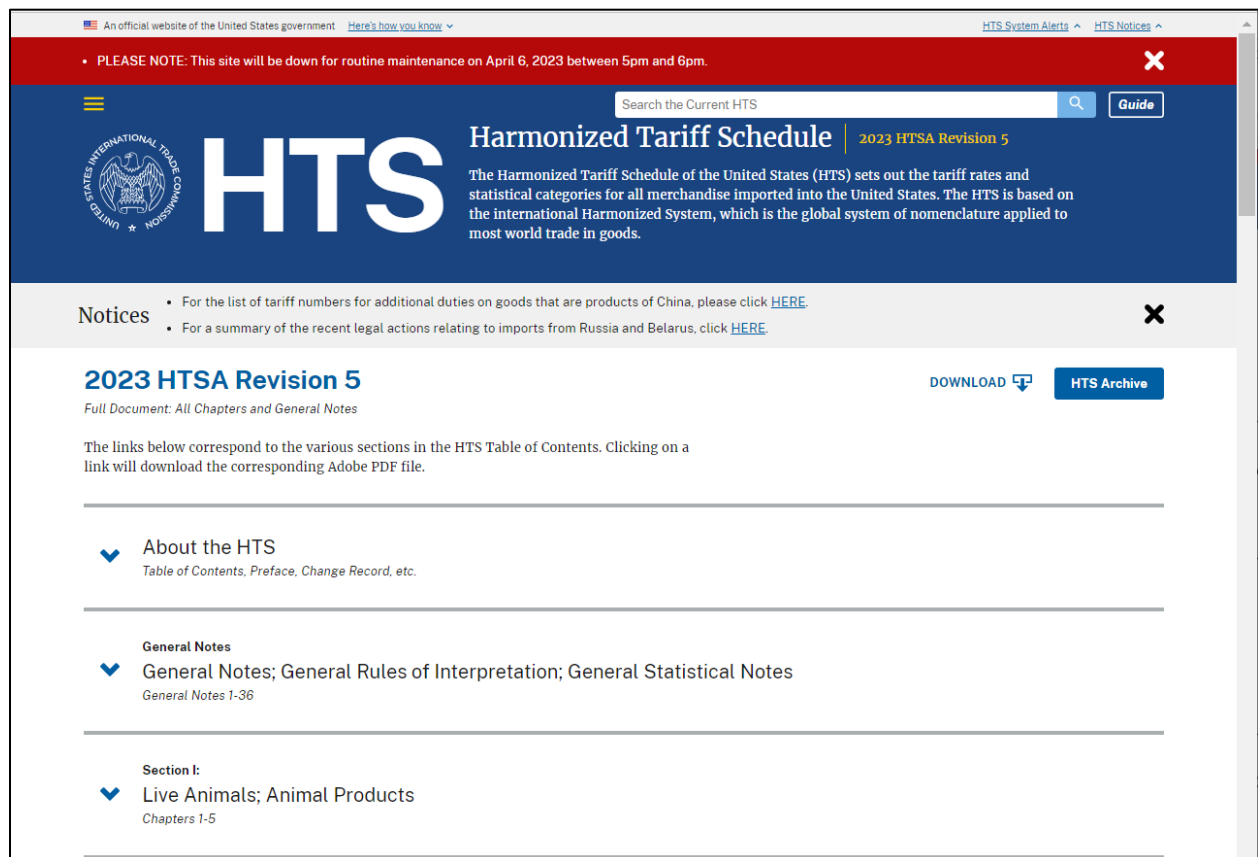
HTS Home Page

Figure 1: HTS Home Page

The **Home** page displays the current version of the HTS, separated into four main sections. **About the HTS**, **General Notes**, **Sections** that cover Chapters 1-99, and **Appendices**.   There is also a collapsible red System Alert banner at that top of the page, and a collapsible gray Notices banner. Click the X in each banner to collapse the banner.

Home Page Layout

Figure 2: About the HTS

About the HTS includes information about the HTS including the Cover, Change Record, Preface, Table of Contents, Notice to Exporters, and China Tariff information.

Figure 3: General Notes

The **General Notes** section provides general notes, general rules of interpretation, and general statistical notes.

Figure 4: HTS Section

Each **Section** is comprised of HTS chapters which the user can download in PDF by clicking either the Chapter Number or **Download**. The user can also export the tariff data for each chapter by clicking **Export**.
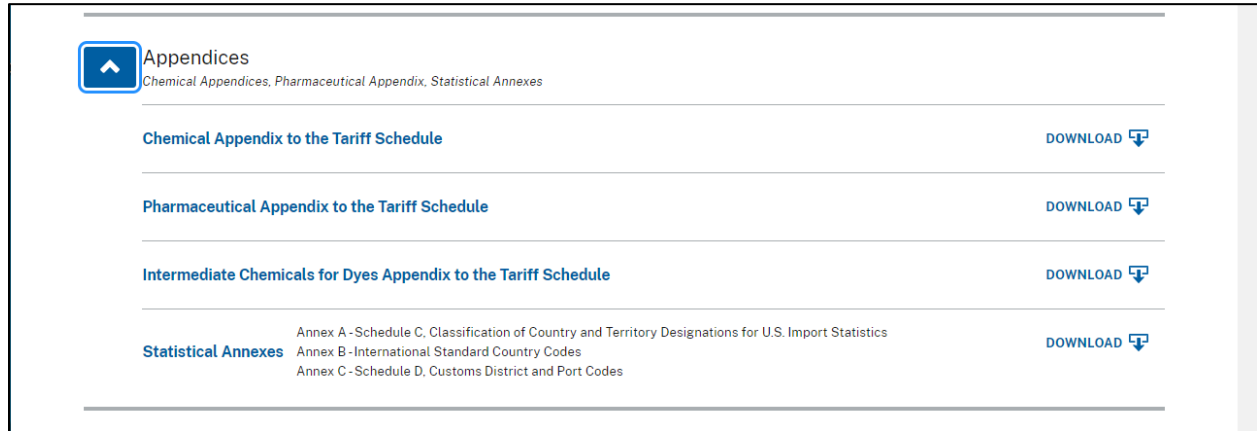
Figure 5: HTS Appendices

The **Appendices** provide access to relevant appendix information, including the Chemical Appendix, Pharmaceutical Appendix, etc.

Search HTS

The HTS search queries the database to find current information specific to certain goods or items in the HTS.

To perform a search, enter your search term(s) in the **Search the Current HTS** field. Search terms can be a text string of a word(s) or a numeric value matching an HTS heading or subheading number. Press **Enter** or click the magnifying glass icon to initiate the search.
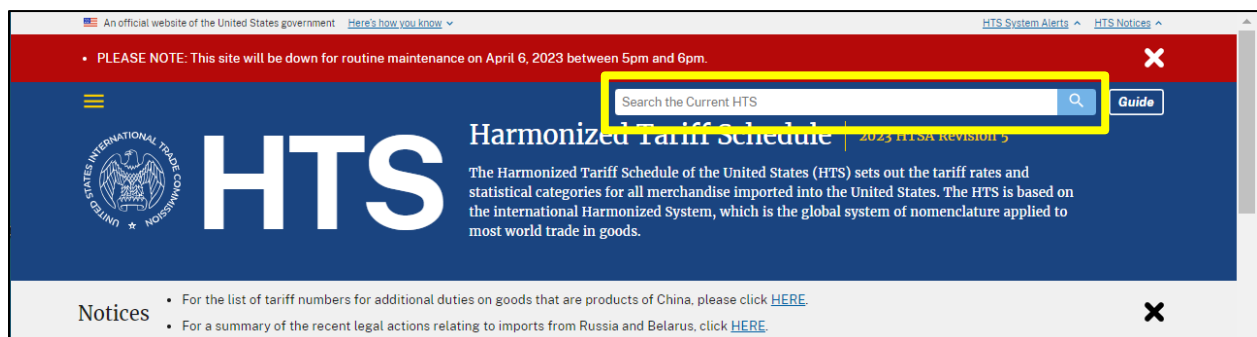
Figure 6: HTS Search Bar

Search Terms

Individual words, phrases, or HTS heading or subheading numbers can be searched. Different search terms produce different search results.

Search Term	Search Results
Single word	Returns tariff records containing the word, or a related version of the word
Phrase surrounded by double-quotes	Returns tariff records containing the exact phrase
Phrase with no quotes	Returns tariff records containing AT LEAST ONE word from the search term, or a related version of the word
Phrase with each word surrounded by double-quotes	Returns tariff records containing EVERY word from the search term; every word must be exact
HTS Heading/Subheading	Returns the specified HTS heading/subheading as well as all subordinate subheadings
Words prefixed with a hyphen sign (-)	Negates the word so that any tariffs containing that word will be excluded from the search results

Note: The HTS search will ignore common words listed in Appendix B.

Note: When searching without quotes, the HTS returns results with the same root word as the search term (i.e., stemming). For example, the same results are returned when the user searches for any of these words: sensitized, sensitizing, sensitivity.

The HTS Search feature does not support:

- Searching chapter or section notes
- Wildcards or regular expressions to search partial words or phrases

Search Results

Figure 7: Search Results Window

The **Search Results** window includes two panes – a left pane, and a right pane. The search term(s) are highlighted in the results.
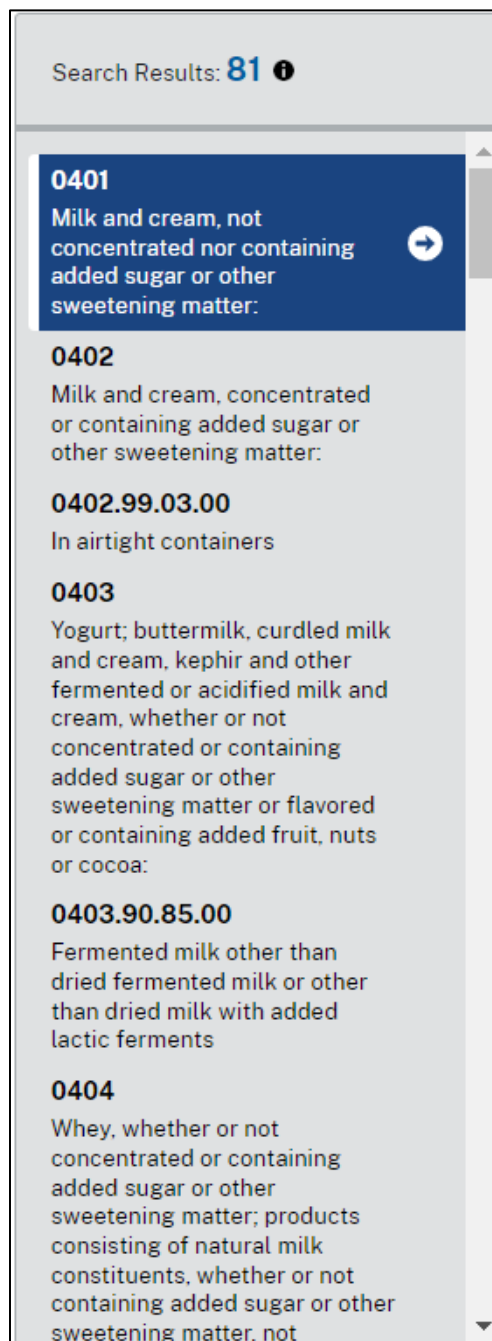
Figure 8: Left Search Results Window

The left windowpane displays the search result count and all HTS numbers and article descriptions that match the query. Results are displayed in HTS number order, lowest to highest. Clicking an HTS number updates the content displayed on the right windowpane.

| Rates | Chapter Notes | Section Notes | | | | Download Chapter 4 ⭳ | | Export ⮫ |

Heading/ Subheading	Stat Suffix	Article Description	Unit of Quantity	RATES OF DUTY ⓘ		
				1		2
				General	Special ⓘ	
0401		Milk and cream, not concentrated nor containing added sugar or other sweetening matter:				
0401.10.00	00	Of a fat content, by weight, not exceeding 1 percent	liters and kg	0.34¢/liter 1/	Free (A+, AU, BH, CL, CO, D, E, IL, JO, KR, MA, OM, P, PA, PE, S, SG)	0.5¢/liter
0401.20		Of a fat content, by weight, exceeding 1 percent but not exceeding 6 percent:				
0401.20.20	00	For not over 11,356,236 liters entered in any calendar year	liters and kg cmsc	0.43¢/liter 1/	Free (A+, AU, BH, CL, CO, D, E, IL, JO, KR, MA, OM, P, PA, PE, S, SG)	1.7¢/liter
0401.20.40	00	Other	liters and kg cmsc	1.5¢/liter 1/	Free (AU, BH, CL, CO, IL, JO, KR, MA, OM, P, PA, PE, S, SG)	1.7¢/liter
0401.40		Of a fat content, by weight, exceeding 6 percent but not exceeding 10 percent:				
0401.40.02	00	Described in general note 15 of the tariff schedule and entered pursuant to its provisions	liters	3.2¢/liter 1/	Free (A+, AU, BH, CL, CO, D, E, JO, KR, MA, OM, P, PA, PE, S)	15¢/liter

Figure 9: Right Search Results Window

The right windowpane shows the **Rates**, **Chapter Notes**, and **Section Notes** tabs. It also provides a download and export function for the search results. If you searched for more than one keyword, the first search result is shown at the top, and the search term is highlighted in green.

The **Rates** tab is selected by default and displays the following information:

- Heading/Subheading. This is the HTS Number (4, 6, or 8 digits)

- Stat Suffix. A two-digit number that: combined with the Heading/Subheading is the 10-digit HTS Number. This column also links the two-digit number to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Customs Rulings Online Search System (CROSS) for classification rulings on the item.
- Article description
- Unit of Quantity
- Tariff Rates. Composed of three columns:
  - General Rate of Duty
  - Special Rate of Duty
  - Column 2 Rate of Duty

Figure 10: Chapter Notes Tab

The **Chapter Notes** tab displays the notes for the chapter, where the searched item is found. For example, you executed a search and selected 0401.10.00 from the left windowpane results. You will see Chapter 4's chapter notes when selecting the Chapter Notes tab.

Harmonized Schedule (HS) "chapter notes" are internationally prescribed legal language under the HS. Chapters may also contain "additional U.S. notes" applicable at the HTS 8-digit level.

In addition, chapters may contain "heading notes" or "subheading notes" that explain the coverage of an individual 4- or 6-digit HS provision, or "U.S. subheading notes" applicable at the 8-digit level. See Appendix A, or the USITC's HTS e-Learning module for more information.
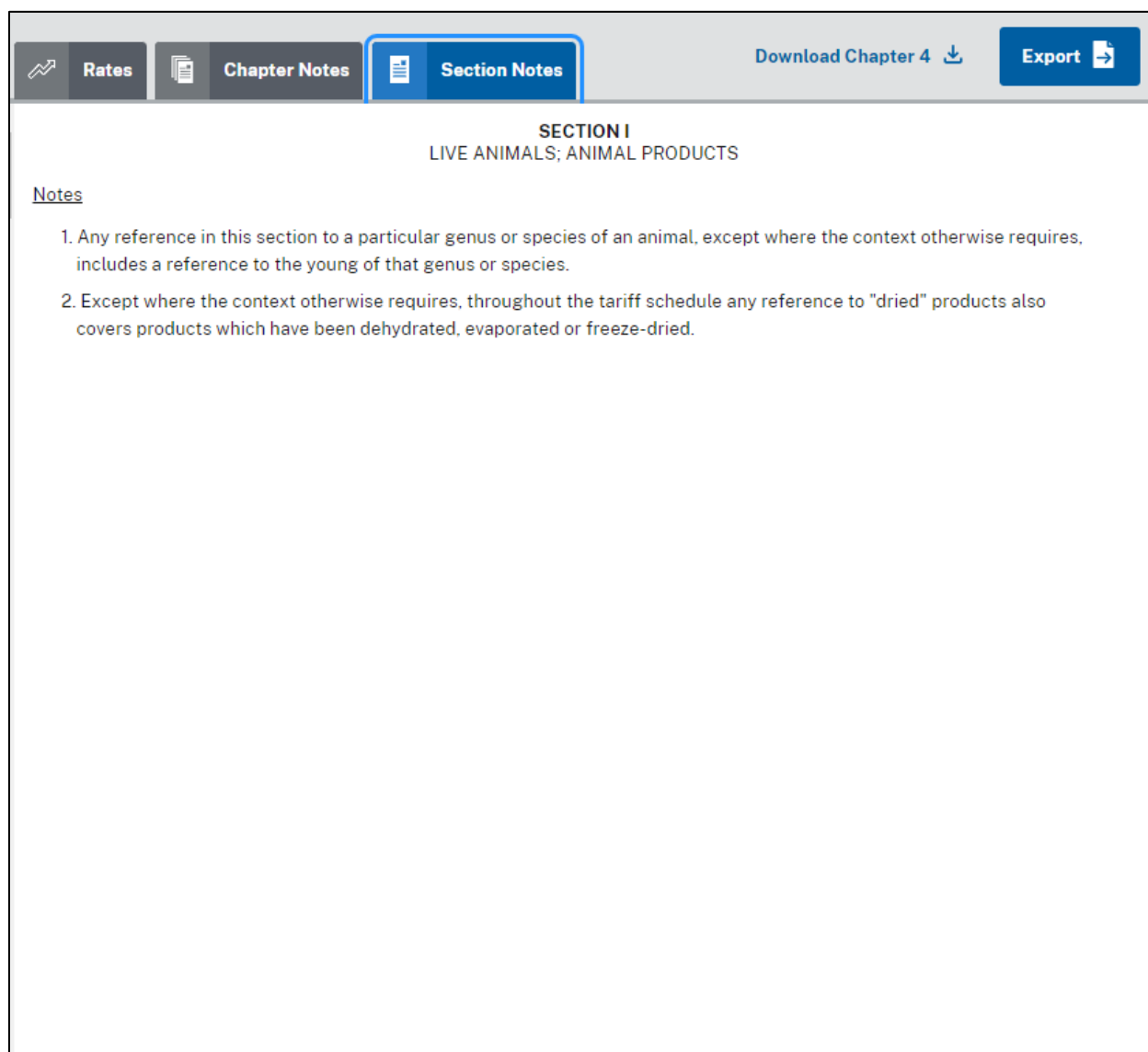
Figure 11: Section Notes Tab

The **Section Notes** tab displays the notes for the section where the searched item is found. For example, you executed a search and selected 0401.10.00 from the left windowpane results. You will see Section I's section notes when selecting the Section Notes tab.

Section notes, which are legal notes, appear at the beginning of a section. These notes may apply to all, or a stated portion of, any section. These notes may dictate the use of particular terms or the meaning of stated principles in the covered provisions, or they may state which goods are included in or excluded from the section. See Appendix A, or the USITC's HTS e-Learning module for more information.

Figure 12: Download Chapter

Download Chapter allows you to download the entire chapter for the searched item. Downloads appear as .pdf links. Click Open File to open the downloaded file and save it to your desktop.

Note: The way pdf downloads are handled are specific to your browser.

Figure 13: Export Parameters

Export allows you to export a set of data using current HTS numbers as the export criteria.   This works like the **Export** function accessible from the hamburger menu.

No Results Found
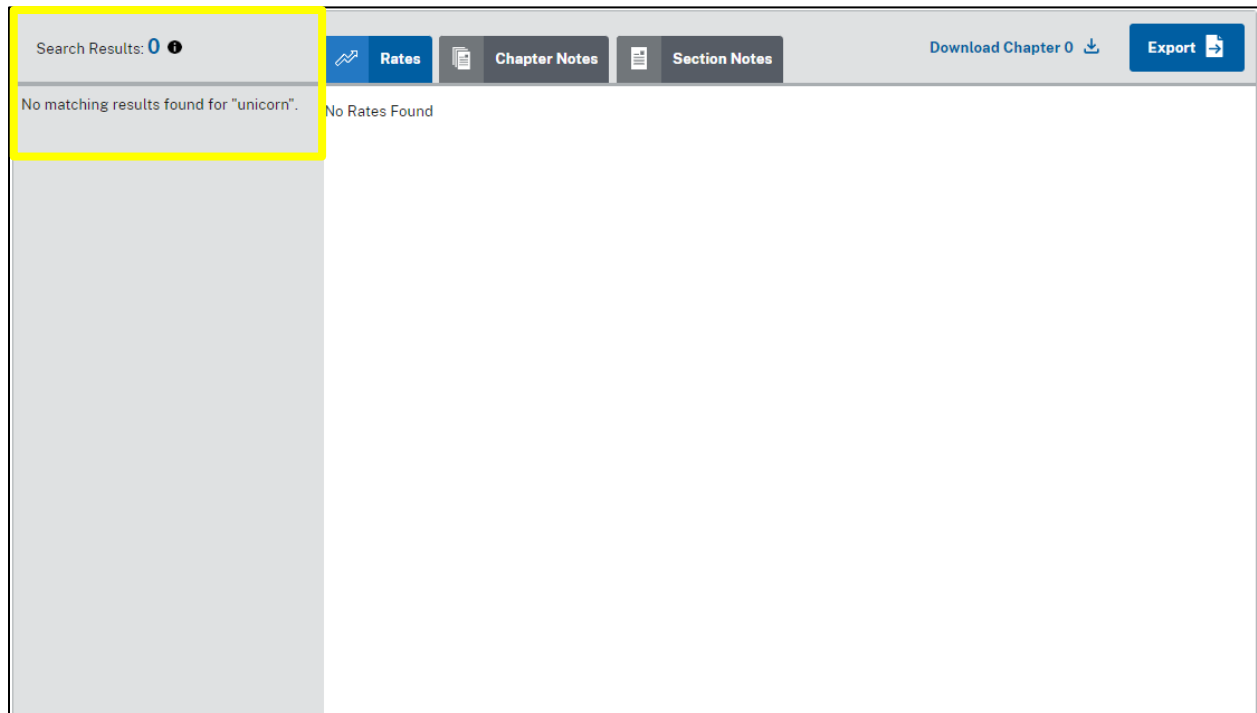
Figure 14: No Results Found

On occasion, searches may return no results. Modify the search criteria to find the correct data in HTS or contact HTS Help.

Home Page Menu
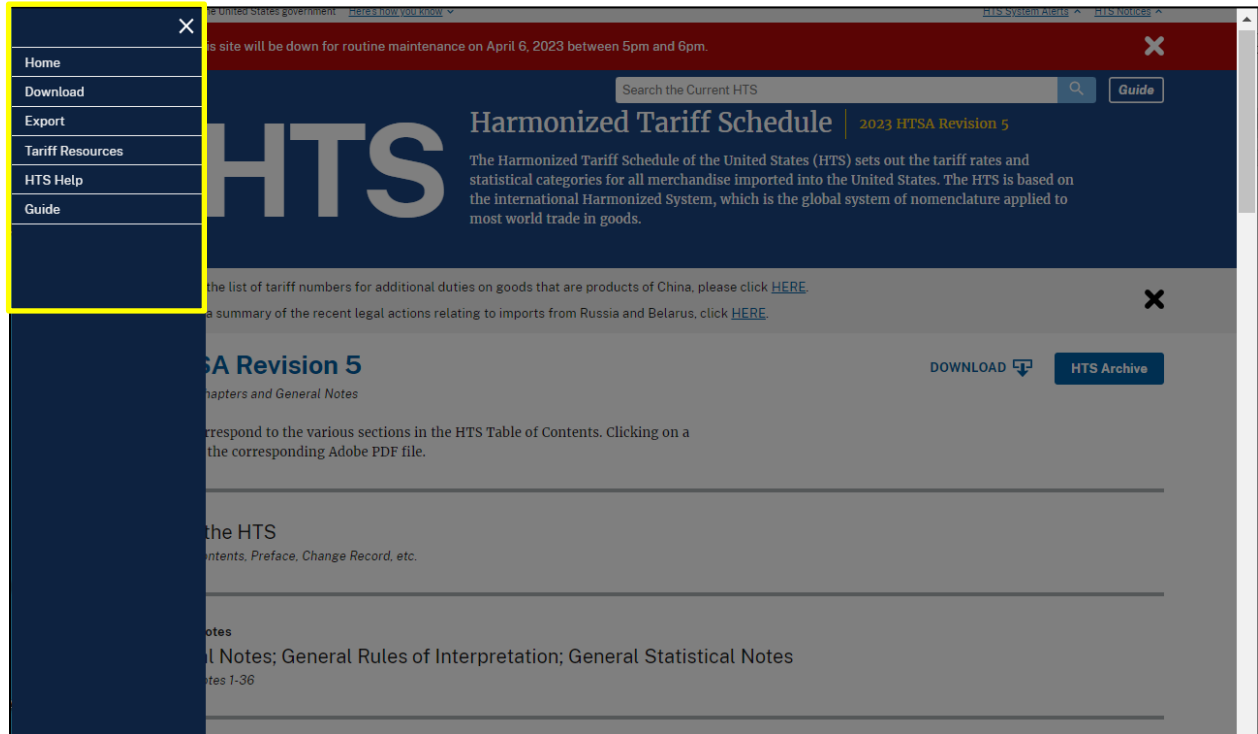
Figure 15: HTS Menu

The menu button provides quick access back to the **Home** screen, to the **Download** and **Export** functions, to Tariff **Resources**, and to **HTS Help** and the **Guide**.

Home returns you to the **Home** screen, regardless of where you are in HTS.

Download takes you to the current HTS (**About the HTS**, **Section I**, **Section II**, etc.). Clicking any section downloads the corresponding .pdf file.

Export takes you to the **Export** function where you can export current HTS data in multiple formats using HTS numbers as the export criteria.

- **Export Format** - This is the export format. The options are:
    - CSV: Comma-separated value
    - Excel: Like CSV, but formatted for immediate access to Microsoft Excel
    - JSON: JavaScript Object Notation. This is a standard format used for data object notation on the web (also mandated by data.gov)

- **HTS Number** - There are two boxes to indicate the range of HTS numbers to include in the export. The export will include the two numbers at the start and the end of the range.
- **Include styles** – If checked all style and formatting information (e.g., bold, italics, underline, superscript, subscript) is included in the exported data

The output of the export includes the main HTS tariff schedule data, including HTS Number, Article Description, Unit of Quantity, General Rate of Duty, Special Rate of Duty, and Column 2 Rate of Duty. It does not include section or chapter notes nor any end notes or other information to help with classification.

To export archive versions of the HTS go to **Tariff Resources**.

Tariff Resources takes you to the HTS trade and tariff information page Harmonized Tariff Information | United States International Trade Commission (usitc.gov).

HTS Help opens the HTS help contact form HTS Help | United States International Trade Commission (usitc.gov).

Guide opens this HTS external user guide.

HTS Archive
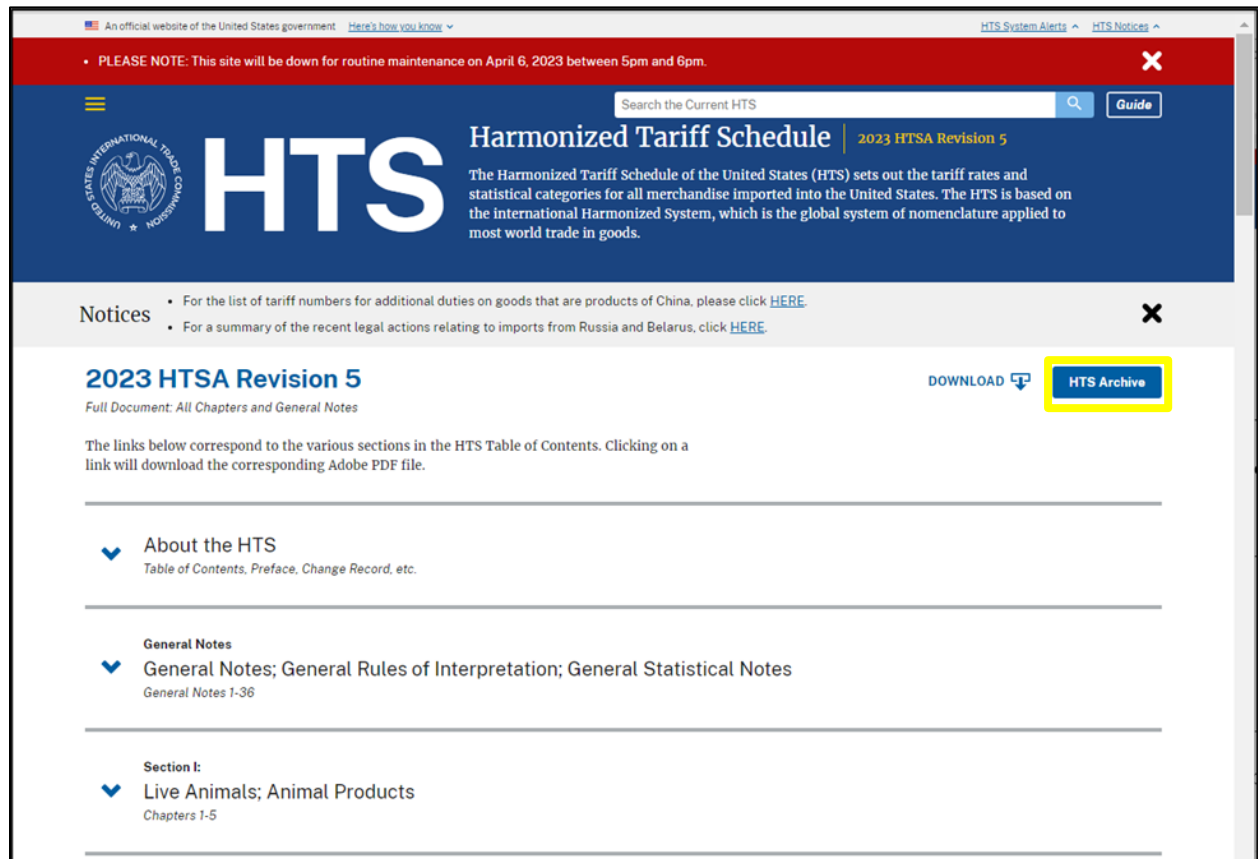
*Figure 16: HTS **Archive** button*

The Archive button opens the HTS **Download Archive**.
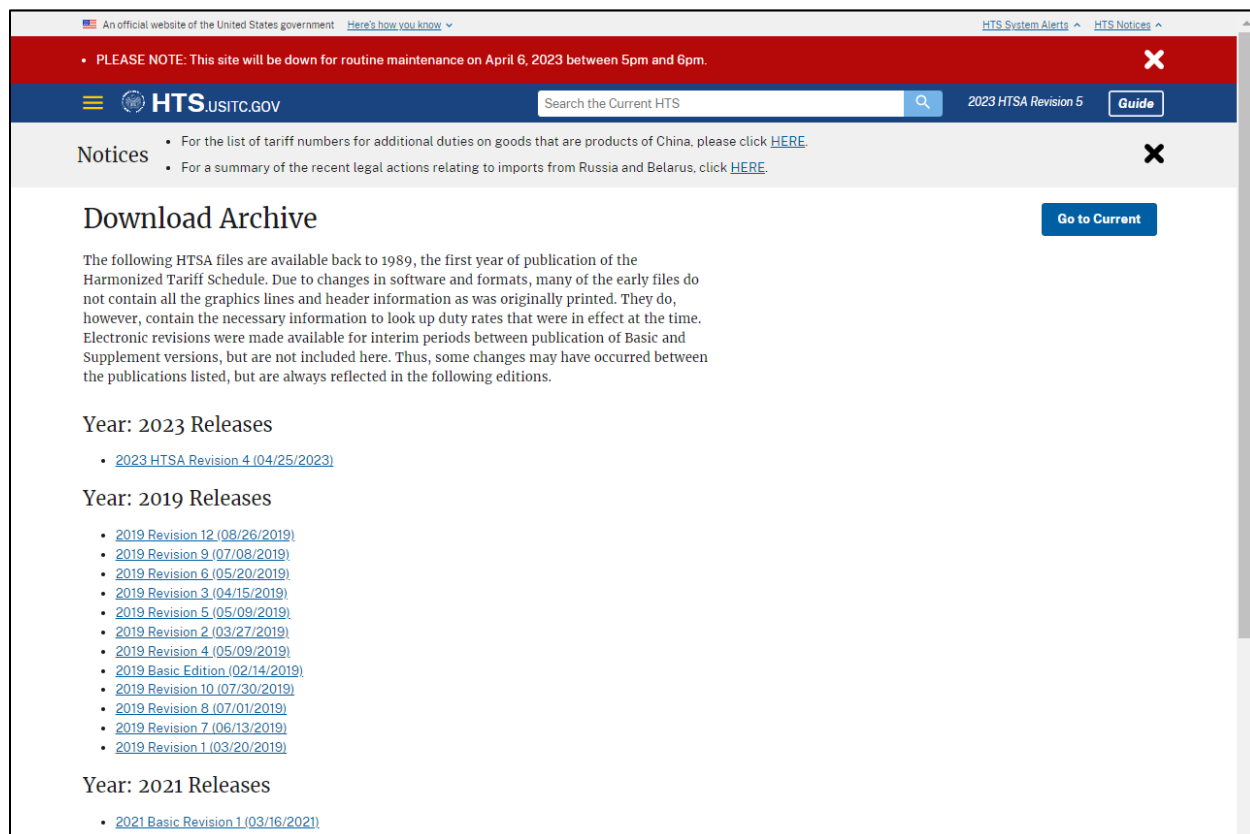
Figure 17: HTS Download Archive

The **Archive** page displays a hyperlink to each available publication published through the HTS system.

Except for the last link, (**HTS Archives (2015 and older)** which takes the user to an archive that includes older HTS publications) clicking on any HTS revision number opens a page outlining the selected publication. The outline for the selected publication operates like the Home Page— click a general note, chapter, appendix, etc., to access a corresponding PDF file.

RESTful API

To support Open Government initiatives, the HTS system provides an interface to extract search and export results. HTS uses a Representational State Transfer (RESTful) web service API to provide this data.

The base URL for all calls to the HTS REST API (HRA) is: https://hts.usitc.gov/reststop

Search

Search for tariff articles containing a given word/phrase as specified by the parameter. This will provide a list of up to the first 100 tariff articles in JSON format matching the query.

GET: https://hts.usitc.gov/reststop/search

PARAMETER	TYPE	REQUIRED	DESCRIPTION
keyword	String	yes	Search phrase. For a detailed explanation on search terms please see the section "Search Terms" of this document.

Example: https://hts.usitc.gov/reststop/search?keyword=copper

Export

Export a given range of tariff articles as specified by the parameters. This will provide a list of tariff articles within the specified range and in the specified format.

GET: https://hts.usitc.gov/reststop/exportList

PARAMETER	TYPE	REQUIRED	DESCRIPTION
format	String	yes	Export format type - Supported format values are JSON, CSV or XLSX
from	String	yes	HTS Number denoting the start of the range
to	String	yes	HTS Number denoting the end of the range
styles	String	no	Value must be either "true" or "false". If value is "false" then all styling information such as underline, bold, italics, subscript, superscript is removed from the output

EXAMPLE:

https://hts.usitc.gov/reststop/exportList?from=0100&to=0200&format=JSON&styles=true

Error Codes

CODE	DESCRIPTION
500	Internal Server-side error

Appendix A: Description of the HTS

Introduction to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule

The Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, Annotated for Statistical Reporting Purposes (HTS), is published by the U.S. International Trade Commission (Commission) as directed by Congress. The HTS contains both legal (enacted or proclaimed) and nonlegal (statistical or reference) provisions specifically designated. All goods imported into the United States are subject to the provisions of the HTS, as well as to regulations of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (Customs) and laws that Customs enforces.

Section 1204(c) of the Trade Act states that the legal provisions contained in the Commission's publications of the HTS, as updated, are statutory in nature. Other resources provided by the Commission, such as the online trade Data Web or the HTS search tool, can assist in classifying goods in trade, but importers should rely primarily on the legally authoritative HTS itself in preparing Customs documents. The classification of imported goods is first the responsibility of importers, while the interpretation of the HTS regarding such goods is the responsibility of Customs. Except for goods listed in the Notice to Exporters, goods being exported from the United States can also be reported under the HTS provisions covering them; the goods listed in that Notice must instead be reported under provisions of Schedule B, administered by the United States Census Bureau (Census).

Goods are described in terms of the structured nomenclature commonly known as the Harmonized System (HS), whose numbered provisions appear in the HTS as 4-digit headings and 6-digit subheadings, together with legal rules and notes. Subordinate U.S. categories may appear as 8-digit subheadings with their rates of duty; in some cases, U.S. duty rates are in fact added to HS product categories. The 4- and 6-digit HS provisions contained in HTS chapters 1 through 97 are administered by the World Customs Organization (WCO), and their wording, numbering, and coverage are internationally agreed, subject to periodic changes (usually implemented every five years). These changes are proclaimed in the HTS by the President under section 1206 of the Trade Act, following a USITC investigation under section 1205 of that Act and the required Congressional lay-over under section 1206. In general, requests for changes in the HS notes or nomenclature must be submitted first to the Commission for appropriate review and potential submission to the WCO, while changes in HTS legal provisions or rates of duty must be enacted.

The HS General Rules of Interpretation (GRIs) and the Additional U.S. Rules of Interpretation are applied to the nomenclature in chapters 1 through 97 to determine how goods should be classified in the headings and subheadings of the HTS. Although classification is largely uniform among countries using the HS, national differences may exist due to judicial or customs rulings or national legislation and may also exist regarding newly developed types of goods. Because the HTS is a hierarchical system of product description, it is not possible to classify all goods in trade by doing an electronic search, and HTS provisions must be reviewed to locate the one that most specifically describes each shipment. Thus, the potentially applicable headings should first be compared; once a heading is chosen, its subordinate provisions at the same indentation level in the nomenclature structure should be compared. Goods are classified in the provisions of chapters 1 through 97, although many shipments may be eligible for different duty treatment under U.S. chapters 98 or 99.

The nonlegal statistical elements that appear in the HTS are formulated by an interagency committee authorized under section 484(f) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1484(f)) or by the Commission. Information about the operation of this Committee and procedures for requesting statistical changes in the HTS or in the export schedule, Schedule B, are set forth later in this preface. Other statistical elements are included for the convenience of the user. For example, footnotes (which may elaborate on a provision or refer to another HTS provision) are merely informational, their presence or absence has no legal effect, and the language contained in footnotes has no effect on the legal text or its interpretation. A list of legal instruments and nonlegal actions affecting an HTS edition is set forth in the preface and, together with the change record and chapters 98 and 99, should be consulted to locate any actions that may apply to specific goods. (See changes pertaining to the current edition, below.)

Note that this edition of the HTS does not contain complete updates to the rules of origin used to determine product eligibility under U.S. free trade agreements. Updates to existing rules are negotiated to consider the changes made in the HS, which are reflected in the HTS and the national schedules of partner countries. A Compiler's Note set forth below the Additional U.S. Rules of Interpretation provides updated information on the status of each agreement's rules. Customs officials should be consulted when the rules of origin and updated headings/subheadings do not align.

A "basic edition" of the HTS is printed and posted for each year in which staged duty reductions or major legal changes must be reflected. Online electronic revisions to the printed HTS are posted to the Commission's web site (www.usitc.gov) periodically when the HTS is changed, along with links to the public laws, Presidential proclamations or Federal Register notices that

make such changes. Large-scale changes affecting many chapters may also be issued as printed supplements; however, in some years no printed supplements are issued and all changes are reflected in online revisions. The entire HTS is posted for each revision, even if changes are not made in all chapters, but the change records for revisions are not cumulative of all changes since the basic edition or printed supplement. The change record for each revision relates to that revision's preface list of documents making legal or statistical changes. The change record in any printed edition or supplement contains all changes since the previous printed document (and thus cumulates all changes from online revisions since that printing).

The HTS is a U.S. nomenclature system used to classify traded goods based on their material composition, product name, and/or intended function. The HTS is designed so that each article falls into only one category. It is divided into chapters, each of which has a 2-digit number. Each product category within the various chapters is designated by 4, 6, 8, or 10 digits. The 4-digit categories are called "headings." The 6-, 8- and 10-digit classifications are called "subheadings."

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) uses this system and its rules to classify imported goods. Nearly every good that is imported into the United States is classified in an 8-digit category. For example, the 8-digit classification for "cotton sewing thread put up for retail sale" imported into the United States is HTS subheading 5204.20.00, and the 8-digit classification for copper cathodes is subheading 7403.11.00. There are over 10,000 of these 8-digit subheadings covering goods in the HTS.

One function of the HTS is to enable CBP to determine the rate of duty applied to an imported good. Using the examples above, the general rate of duty for cotton thread is 4.4%, and for copper cathodes the general duty rate is 1%. "Duty" is often used interchangeably with the word "tariff." Rates of duty vary depending on whether a good originates in a country that benefits from a preference (Canada has completely duty-free trade under the North American Free Trade Agreement, (NAFTA)). There are columns in the HTS to denote the general, special, and maximum duty rates for each line item.

The HTS contains the nomenclature structure of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, otherwise known as the Harmonized System (HS). The HS is administered by the World Customs Organization (WCO). WCO committees are composed of member country representatives that keep the system up-to-date and make decisions about classification questions submitted by governments. The underlying idea of the Harmonized System is to use a common set of descriptive categories for goods in trade and to allow these categories to be

further subdivided in the tariff schedules of WCO member countries for more detailed duty or statistical purposes.

The United States International Trade Commission (USITC) maintains the HTS system so that the public and other agencies calculate the tariff rates for products into the United States. The primary users of the HTS are Customs and Border Protections (CBP) and USTR (United States Trade Research), who use this information for actual application of tariff rates and for data analysis.

The HTS system provides the user with the ability to search the HTS database, print entire (or sections of) HTS releases, view change records for each HTS release, and export the HTS data in various consumable formats.

Appendix B - Words Ignored by HTS Search

a	doing	i've	same	until
about	don't	if	shan't	up
above	down	in	she	very
after	during	into	she'd	was
again	each	is	she'll	wasn't
against	few	isn't	she's	we
all	for	it	should	we'd
am	from	it's	shouldn't	we'll
an	further	its	so	we're
and	had	itself	some	we've
any	hadn't	let's	such	were
are	has	me	than	weren't
aren't	hasn't	more	that	what
as	have	most	that's	what's
at	haven't	mustn't	the	when
be	having	my	their	when's
because	he	myself	theirs	where
been	he'd	no	them	where's
before	he'll	nor	themselves	which
being	he's	not	then	while
below	her	of	there	who
between	here	off	there's	who's
both	here's	on	these	whom
but	hers	once	they	why
by	herself	only	they'd	why's
can't	him	or	they'll	with
cannot	himself	other	they're	won't
could	his	ought	they've	would
couldn't	how	our	this	wouldn't
did	how's	ours	those	you
didn't	i	ourselves	through	you'd
do	i'd	out	to	you'll
does	i'll	over	too	you're
doesn't	i'm	own	under	you've

your
yours
yourself
yourselves