

Tariff and Trade Affairs Directorate

Tel. (32 2) 209 92 01  
Fax (32 2) 209 94 92

08VL0029 - MK

Mr. Paul Cheung  
Director  
Statistics Division/DESA  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
Two United Nations Plaza  
DC2-1670 NEW YORK, NY 10017  
U.S.A.

Brussels, 29 April 2008.

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter dated 3 March 2008 regarding "Comments on Volume 1 of the updated 1993 SNA".

The World Customs Organization (WCO) generally is not involved with methodologies or programs involving National Accounts data. The technical work of the WCO, as an intergovernmental organisation exclusively focused on Customs matters, comprises classification (nomenclature), valuation (under the WTO Valuation Agreement) and the origin of goods.

As regards Section 2.46 (Change of ownership and the recording of transactions in goods and services); I wish to inform you that Customs duty is imposed regardless of the ownership of goods. The goods, for example, which are supplied on loan and remain the property of the exporter, are also liable to Customs duty.

As to the issue of the Valuation system in Section 3.146, it depends on each country to adopt a f.o.b. or c.i.f. basis for Customs declaration. A country, for example, may introduce a f.o.b. basis for export purposes and a c.i.f. basis for the import declaration. As for the product breakdowns mentioned in the same section, different commodities in one Customs declaration can be specified and calculated separately in one declaration form for Customs purposes; however, in case the different commodities fall under the same national tariff, it could be declared as a whole.

I hope the above information is useful to you.

Yours faithfully,

Craig CLARK  
Deputy Director  
(for the Director)