

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 Mica sheet	3904 61 00	PTFE braided	4016 93 00	Rubber seals	4009 21 00	Vulcanised rubber metal reinforced without fittings
	6815 10 10	Graphite Laminate	5607 50 00	Braided twine	3926 90 90	FFKM, FKM seals	4009 22 00	Vulcanised rubber metal reinforced with fittings
	7326 90 00	Metallic	5911 90 90	Braided Graphite	8481 40 90	Rubber metal bond	4009 31 00	Vulcanised rubber textile reinforced without fittings
	8484 10 00	Semi Metallic	6815 10 00	Graphite rings			4009 32 00	Vulcanised rubber textile reinforced with fittings
	3921 90 90	Modified PTFE Sheet					4009 41 00	Vulcanised rubber other material reinforced without fittings
	3921 19 00	Virgin PTFE sheet					4009 42 00	Vulcanised rubber other material reinforced with fittings
	6815 99 00	AF Sheet						
	6806 20 00	Vermiculite sheet						