



European Commission
Directorate General Taxation and Customs Union

Manuel Arnal Monreal, Director, Directorate B

Rue Montoyer 51
B-1000 Brussels

**Subject: Customs classification – Commission request to industry
Top-up solution for larger screens than 19", proposed criteria**

Brussels, October 4, 2006

Dear Mr. Monreal,

Subsequent to our joint meeting of August 4 on the above-mentioned issue, EICTA is still urgently pursuing the need for the current suspension to be prolonged and extended with a solution for larger screens (above 19").

In what concerns the definition of eligible products, EICTA would like to suggest the application of a combination of seven criteria:

Colour monitors of the LCD type

- C1) with a diagonal measurement of the screen not exceeding 76.2 cm (30 inch), and
- C2) with a pixel pitch of less than, or equal to 0.3 mm, and if the screen is larger than 22 inch, a pixel resolution of more than 2.08 mega pixels, and
- C3) with an aspect ratio of 4:3, 5:4 or 16:10, and not 16:9, and
- C4) not capable of being controlled by a remote control or having a TV program up or down button, and
- C5) not incorporating a tuner, and
- C6) not fitted with a slot for a slot-in video card, and
- C7) not capable of directly (i.e. without assistance of an ADP machine) displaying standard television or video signals, (e.g. HDTV, NTSC, SECAM, PAL etc. with connectors like HDMI, SCART, S-video etc.)¹

Through these technical criteria, EICTA is seeking to protect the duty-free import of ADP displays (as per the Information Technology Agreement), which are not currently protected by the duty suspension, and at the same time safeguard and respect the economic interests of the European consumer electronics industry.

We are ready to discuss this subject further and to provide any information you may require to undertake the next steps. In any case, industry requests that a decision be



taken in a timely manner (before the end of this year) to allow industry sufficient time to plan the logistics associated with placement of such products on the European market.

As always, we appreciate the positive cooperation with the Commission services in resolving complex classification matters.

Yours sincerely,

Mark MacGann
Director General

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¹ One EICTA member, Sun Microsystems does not agree to criterion 7, as according to them this would unduly exclude duty free import of a number of screens they manufacture for professional use.



EICTA MEMBERSHIP

About EICTA:

EICTA, founded in 1999 is the voice of the European digital technology industry, which includes large and small companies in the Information and Communications Technology and Consumer Electronics Industry sectors. It is composed of 56 major multinational companies and 37 national associations from 27 European countries. In all, EICTA represents more than 10,000 companies all over Europe with more than 2 million employees and over EUR 1,000 billion in revenues.

The membership of EICTA:

Company Members:

Accenture, Adobe, Agilent, Alcatel, Apple, Bang & Olufsen, Blaupunkt, BenQ, Brother, Bull, Canon, Cisco Systems, Corning, Dell, EADS, Elcoteq, Epson, Ericsson, Fujitsu, Hitachi, HP, IBM, Infineon, Intel, JVC, Kenwood, Kodak, Konica Minolta, Lexmark, LG Electronics, Loewe, Lucent, Microsoft, Motorola, NEC, Nokia, Nortel, Océ, Panasonic, Philips, Pioneer, Qualcomm, Samsung, Sanyo, SAP, Sharp, Siemens, Sony, Sony Ericsson, Sun Microsystems, Symantec, Texas Instruments, Thales, Thomson, Toshiba, Xerox.

National Trade Associations:

Austria: FEEL; **Belgium:** AGORIA; **Bulgaria:** BAIT; **Czech Republic:** SPIS; **Denmark:** ITEK, IT-Branchen; **Estonia:** ITL; **Finland:** TIF, FFII; **France:** ALLIANCE TICS, SIMAVELEC; **Germany:** BITKOM, ZVEI; **Greece:** SEPE; **Hungary:** IVSZ; **Ireland:** ICT Ireland; **Italy:** ANIE, AITech-ASSINFORM; **Latvia:** LIKTA; **Lithuania:** INFOBALT; **Malta:** ITTS; **Netherlands:** ICT-Office; **Norway:** ABELIA, IKT Norge; **Poland:** KIGEiT, PIIT; **Slovakia:** ITAS; **Slovenia:** GZS; **Spain:** AETIC, Asimelec; **Sweden:** IT Företagen; **Switzerland:** SWICO, SWISSMEM; **Turkey:** ECID, TESID; **Ukraine:** IT Ukraine; **United Kingdom:** INTELLECT.
