

Online “Finding Commodity Codes” – Usage Guide

How to use the Online “Finding Commodity Codes”?

For lodging import/export declarations in Hong Kong, commodity code in full 8-digit Hong Kong Harmonized System (HKHS) code has to be used for classifying the goods. Online “Finding Commodity Codes” enables you to find suitable commodity codes for your goods by three approaches:

- (i) Search with keyword/phrase
- (ii) Search with partial (2, 4 or 6 digits) or full (8 digits) commodity code
- (iii) Browsing through Chapters, Headings and Sub-headings of HKHS

[For more efficient search, please use the latest version of modern browsers, such as Microsoft Internet Explorer (IE8), Mozilla FireFox, Apple Safari and Google Chrome.]

Search with Keyword/Phrase

You can enter a single word or a search phrase that best describes your product. Then, select the search option (including “All words”, “Any one word” or “Exact phrase”). Search results would be displayed as illustrated below. Keywords are highlighted for easy reference.

Chapter	Heading	HKHS Code	Commodity Description (Shown by Common Product Name)	Unit of Quantity
Chemical Products (Chapter 28 - 38)				
28	2836	28363000	Sodium hydrogencarbonate (sodium bicarbonate)	KGM

Input of English character, Chinese characters or both are supported. For English characters, capital letters and small letters give the same result. This search function only supports character and numeric input, but not any other symbols (e.g. “+”, “-”, “,”, “.”) for searching.

Show Search Results by Common Product Name

In case that highlighted keywords under the search are not found in some of the search results, please click the link “Shown by Common Product Name”. Relevant information in another layout can then be seen. The common product name will then replace the commodity description, as illustrated below:

Chapter	Heading	HKHS Code	Common Product Name (Shown by Commodity Description)	Unit of Quantity
Chemical Products (Chapter 28 - 38)				
28	2836	28363000	Baking soda; Sodium hydrogencarbonate	KGM

Using Proper Unit of Quantity

During the HKHS code search, the search result in 8-digit HKHS level will be shown with the unit of quantity on the right column. When the cursor moves to the abbreviations of the unit of quantity, the full description will be shown (e.g. “C62” stands for “Unit”).

The full list of units of quantity is given below:

Code	Unit of quantity
MTQ	Cubic metre
GWH	Gigawatt hour
GRM	Gram
KGM	Kilogram
K6	Kilolitre
KMT	Kilometre
LTR	Litre
MAL	Megalitre
MTR	Metre

Code	Unit of quantity
CTM	Metric carat
NMP	Number of packs
PR	Pair
SET	Set
MTK	Square metre
MIL	Thousand
TNE	Tonne (metric ton)
C62	Unit

Each 8-digit HKHS code has one specific unit of quantity. Traders are required to report the quantities of merchandises traded with the specified “Unit of Quantity” of the commodity code during lodgement of import/export trade declarations.

Searching with partial or full commodity code

The Hong Kong Harmonized System (HKHS) are based on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS) in short, established by the World Customs Organization (WCO). The HS specifies the commodity classification up to the 6-digit subheading level for international comparison; countries/territories are free to use additional digits for more refined classification to meet their specific needs. The HKHS uses an 8-digit classification system. The first two, four and six digits correspond to Chapter, Heading and Subheading respectively. The additional seventh and eighth digits are to further refine the commodity classification to meet the needs of Hong Kong. For lodging import/export declarations in Hong Kong, the full 8-digit HKHS codes must be used.

Four searching options are provided in this function allowing search by a full commodity code at 8 digit level or with a partial commodity code at 2, 4 or 6 digits:

Search Option		Level	Range of Valid Numbers	Remarks
(i)	2 digits	Chapter	01 – 98	<ul style="list-style-type: none">When partial commodity code is input, the result will direct to the specified level.One can identify suitable 8 digit HKHS code by browsing through the possible list of available codes within the same Chapter, Heading and Sub-heading.
(ii)	4 digits	Heading	0101 – 9801	
(iii)	6 digits	Subheading	010121 – 980100	
(iv)	8 digits	Item	01012100 – 98010020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Full 8-digit HKHS code together with the corresponding product description and unit of quantity will be shown.

For the same commodity traded among different countries/territories, the commodity code used should generally be the same at the first 6 digits level since it is the subheading level so specified by the WCO. As such, traders may consider to search by partial code at 6-digit level, and then select the most suitable 8-digit HKHS code from the search result for lodgement of import/export declarations in Hong Kong.

Browsing through Chapters, Headings and Sub-headings

The latest HKHS in 2013 is structured into 22 Sections, 98 Chapters (at the 2-digit level), 1 225 Headings (at the 4-digit level), 5 206 Subheadings (at the 6-digit level) and 7 308 mutually exclusive Items (at the 8-digit level). Browsing allows you to look into details of the commodity codes under different levels one by one.

The 98 Chapters can be broadly grouped as:

Chapter	Description	Chapter	Description	Chapter	Description
01 - 05	Live Animals; Animal Products	44 - 46	Wood & Articles of Wood; Manufactures of Plaiting Materials	86 - 89	Transport Equipment
06 - 14	Vegetable Products	47 - 49	Wood Pulp; Paper & Articles of Paper	90 - 92	Precision or Medical Instruments & Apparatus; Clocks & Watches; Musical Instruments
15	Animal or Vegetable Fats & Oils	50 - 63	Textiles & Textile Articles	93	Arms & Ammunition
16 - 24	Prepared Foodstuffs; Beverages, Spirits & Vinegar; Tobacco	64 - 67	Footwear & Headgear; Articles of Feather; Artificial Flowers; Articles of Human Hair	94 - 96	Furniture; Toys & Games/Sports Requisites; Miscellaneous Manufactured Articles
25 - 27	Mineral Products	68 - 70	Articles of Stone, Plaster, Cement, Asbestos or Mica; Ceramic Products & Glassware	97	Works of Art, Collectors' Pieces & Antiques
28 - 38	Chemical Products	71	Pearls, Precious or Semi-Precious Stones, Precious Metals, Metals Clad with Precious Metal, & Articles thereof; Imitation Jewellery	98	Commodities Not Classified According to Kind
39 - 40	Plastics & Articles thereof; Rubber & Articles thereof	72 - 83	Base Metals & Articles of Base Metal		
41 - 43	Hides, Skins, Leather & Furskins; Travel Goods & Handbags	84 - 85	Machinery & Mechanical Appliances; Electrical Equipment		

Note: Chapter 77 is reserved for possible future use in the HS.

By clicking on the HS Chapters (such as 06-14), a table with the selected Chapters and the corresponding commodity description for each Chapter will be shown one by one:

Chapter	Commodity Description
06	Live trees and other plants; bulbs, roots and the like; cut flowers and ornamental foliage
07	Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers
08	Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons
09	Coffee, tea, mate and spices
10	Cereals
11	Products of the milling industry; malt; starches; inulin; wheat gluten
12	Oil seeds and oleaginous fruits; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial or medicinal plants; straw and fodder
13	Lac; gums, resins and other vegetable saps and extracts
14	Vegetable plaiting materials; vegetable products not elsewhere specified or included

By clicking one specific Chapter (such as 08), it takes you to the Chapter level together with its Headings covered in that specific Chapter:

Chapter	Heading	Commodity Description
08		Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons
08	0801	Coconuts, Brazil nuts and cashew nuts, fresh or dried, whether or not shelled or peeled
08	0802	Other nuts, fresh or dried, whether or not shelled or peeled
08	0803	Bananas, including plantains, fresh or dried
08	0804	Dates, figs, pineapples, avocados, guavas, mangoes and mangosteens, fresh or dried
08	0805	Citrus fruit, fresh or dried
08	0806	Grapes, fresh or dried
08	0807	Melons (including watermelons) and papaws (papayas), fresh
08	0808	Apples, pears and quinces, fresh
08	0809	Apricots, cherries, peaches (including nectarines), plums and sloes, fresh
08	0810	Other fruit, fresh
08	0811	Fruit and nuts, uncooked or cooked by steaming or boiling in water, frozen, whether or not containing added sugar or other sweetening matter
08	0812	Fruit and nuts, provisionally preserved (for example, by sulphur dioxide gas, in brine, in sulphur water or in other preservative solutions), but unsuitable in that state for immediate consumption
08	0813	Fruit, dried, other than that of headings 0801 to 0806; mixtures of nuts or dried fruits of this Chapter
08	0814	Peel of citrus fruit or melons (including watermelons), fresh, frozen, dried or provisionally preserved in brine, in sulphur water or in other preservative solutions

By clicking the 4-digit Heading (such as 0804), it takes you to the Heading together with all the 8-digit HKHS codes related to that specific Heading:

Chapter	Heading	HKHS Code	Commodity Description (Shown by Common Product Name)	Unit of Quantity
08			Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons	
08	0804		Dates, figs, pineapples, avocados, guavas, mangoes and mangosteens, fresh or dried	
08	0804	08041000	Dates, fresh or dried	KGM
08	0804	08042000	Figs, fresh or dried	KGM
08	0804	08043000	Pineapples, fresh or dried	KGM
08	0804	08044000	Avocados, fresh or dried	KGM
08	0804	08045010	Guavas, fresh or dried	KGM
08	0804	08045020	Mangoes, fresh or dried	KGM
08	0804	08045030	Mangosteens, fresh or dried	KGM

By clicking the 8-digit Item (such as 08044000), it takes you to the Item together with the commodity description and common product name for the item concerned:

Chapter	Heading	HKHS Code	Commodity Description / <i>Common Product Name</i>	Unit of Quantity
08			Edible fruit and nuts; peel of citrus fruit or melons	
08	0804		Dates, figs, pineapples, avocados, guavas, mangoes and mangosteens, fresh or dried	
08	0804	08044000	Avocados, fresh or dried	KGM
			<i>Avocados, fresh or dried</i>	KGM
			<i>Alligator pears, fresh</i>	KGM