

Textile-Based Heart Rate Monitors

Textile-based heart rate monitors look like “normal” garments (whether they be sports bras, tank tops or other shirts) because the high tech fiber that senses a person’s heart rate are sewn into the garment (and are therefore “hidden” in the garment), but the reality is that these are not normal garments. The heart sensing technology that changes the essential character and core function of garments so that what looks like a “normal” sports bra, tank top or other shirt is actually a heart rate monitor.

Textile-Based Heart Rate Monitors Have U.S. Components

Textile-based heart sensing technology was invented in the U.S. and the patents were secured here. The high tech fiber (heart-sensing fiber) is manufactured in the United States.

Miscellaneous Tariff Bill Proposal

The proposed legislation – which was developed in consultation with the U.S. International Trade Commission – covers the following items:

- Women’s sports bras of stretch fabric with textile or polymer-based electrodes knit into or attached to the fabric and that incorporate connectors designed to secure an electronic transmitter that transmits physiological information from the electrodes to a compatible monitor (provided for subheading 6212.10.90) – CURRENT DUTY RATE IS 16.9%
- Knit tank tops of stretch fabric with textile or polymer-based electrodes knit into or attached to the fabric and that incorporate connectors designed to secure an electronic transmitter that transmits physiological information from the electrodes to a compatible monitor (provided for in subheading 6109.90.10) – CURRENT DUTY RATE IS 32%
- Knit garments of stretch fabric with textile or polymer-based electrodes knit into or attached to the fabric and that incorporate connectors designed to secure an electronic transmitter that transmits physiological information from the electrodes to a compatible monitor (provided for in subheading) 6110.30.30 – CURRENT DUTY RATE IS 32%

Miscellaneous Tariff Bill Will Level the Playing Field

While “traditional” chest strap heart rate monitors enter the U.S. duty free under Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) Chapter 90, heart sensing garments are subject to duty rates as high as 32%, thereby putting importers of these items at a competitive disadvantage.

The Miscellaneous Tariff Bill process will allow us to level the playing field for importers of textile-based heart rate monitors while creating additional demand for the high tech fiber manufactured in the U.S.