

UK Harmonised System Codes Guide

The Harmonised System (HS) is an internationally standardised method for classifying goods in international trade.

Structure of HS Codes

Maintained by the World Customs Organization (WCO), HS codes are used by customs authorities worldwide to identify and categorise goods, calculate import/export duties and taxes, and compile official trade statistics.

Each additional set of digits adds more detail to the classification. The first 6 digits are harmonised globally, while any additional digits are country-specific.

For example: a UK export may use 9703.9000.00 while the corresponding US import might show 9703.00.00.90. Both are valid and represent the same product category under local extensions.

Level	Description	Digits	Example
Chapter	Broad product group	2	97 = Works of art
Heading	Specific type	4	9703 = Sculptures and statuary
Subheading	Harmonised globally	6	9703.00 = Sculptures (global 6-digit code)
National Extension	Country-specific	8-14	9703.9000.00 (UK) = Sculptures less than 100 years old (UK-specific extension)

UK Exports: typically 8 digits | **UK Imports:** 10 digits (sometimes up to 14) | **US:** same 6-digit structure + US-specific extension

Why HS Codes Matter

- Avoid customs delays
- Prevent unexpected duties or storage fees
- Reduce risk of seizure or rejection
- Misclassification can lead to fines or legal penalties

Where to Find HS Codes

- [UK Integrated Online Tariff](#) (official)
- [WCO HS Nomenclature 2022](#) (international)
- [HTS Search – US](#) (for US imports)

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Category	Age	Description	UK HS Code
Art	200+ years	Paintings, drawings and pastels	9701 2100 10
	100-200 years	Paintings, drawings and pastels	9701 2100 90
	< 100 years	Paintings, drawings and pastels	9701 9100 00
	200+ years	Mosaics	9701 2200 10
	100-200 years	Mosaics	9701 2200 90
	< 100 years	Mosaics	9701 9200 00
	200+ years	Other flatworks executed entirely by hand	9701 2900 10
	100-200 years	Other flatworks executed entirely by hand	9701 2900 90
	< 100 years	Other flatworks executed entirely by hand	9701 9900 00
	200+ years	Original engravings, prints and lithographs	9702 1000 80
	100-200 years	Original engravings, prints and lithographs	9702 1000 90
	< 100 years	Original engravings, prints and lithographs	9702 9000 85
	200+ years	Original sculpture and statuary, in any material	9703 1000 10
	100-200 years	Original sculpture and statuary, in any material	9703 1000 90
	< 100 years	Original sculpture and statuary, in any material	9703 9000 00
Antiques	250+ years	Antiquities, such as inscriptions, coins and engraved seals	9706 1000 16
	250+ years	Antiques, Other	9706 1000 90
	200-250 years	Antiquities, such as inscriptions, coins and engraved seals	9706 9000 16
	< 200 years	Antiquities, such as inscriptions, coins and engraved seals	9706 9000 18
	100-250 years	Antiques, Other	9706 9000 90
Archives	Not applicable	Archives, including sound, photographic and cinematographic archives	9705 1000 66
	100+ years	Antiques, Archives, including sound, photographic and cinematographic archives	9706 9000 28
Books & Manuscripts	200+ years	Rare manuscripts	9702 1000 10
	100-200 years	Rare manuscripts	9702 1000 15
	< 100 years	Rare manuscripts	9702 9000 80

Category	Age	Description	UK HS Code
Books & Manuscripts	200+ years	Old books, documents and publications of special interest (historical, artistic, scientific, literary, etc.), singly or in collections	9705 1000 62
	< 200 years	Old books, documents and publications of special interest (historical, artistic, scientific, literary, etc.), singly or in collections	9705 1000 64
	250+ years	Antiques, rare manuscripts and incunabula	9706 1000 20
	250+ years	Antiques, old books, documents and publications of special interest (historical, artistic, scientific, literary, etc.), singly or in collections	9706 1000 24
	200–250 years	Antiques, rare manuscripts	9706 9000 20
	100–200 years	Antiques, rare manuscripts	9706 9000 22
	200–250 years	Antiques, old books, documents and publications of special interest (historical, artistic, scientific, literary, etc.), singly or in collections (same as 9705100062)	9706 9000 24
	100–200 years	Antiques, old books, documents and publications of special interest (historical, artistic, scientific, literary, etc.), singly or in collections Other (same as 9705100064)	9706 9000 26
Ethnological Objects	200+ years	Objects of ethnological interest, collectors' pieces of wood	9705 1000 50
	200+ years	Objects of ethnological interest, items of animal origin	9705 1000 52
	200+ years	Objects of ethnological interest, other	9705 1000 54
	< 200 years	Objects of ethnological interest, collectors' pieces of wood	9705 1000 56
	< 200 years	Objects of ethnological interest, items of animal origin	9705 1000 58
	< 200 years	Objects of ethnological interest, other	9705 1000 60
Furniture & Instruments	100+ years	Articles of furniture and old musical instruments	9705 1000 68
	250+ years	Antiques, articles of furniture and old musical instruments	9706 1000 28
	100–250 years	Antiques, articles of furniture and old musical instruments	9706 9000 30
Historical & Archaeological	250+ years	Collections and collectors' pieces of archaeological, ethnographic or historical interest, archaeological finds from excavations (regular or clandestine) or discoveries on land or underwater, collectors' pieces of wood	9705 1000 12
	250+ years	Collections and collectors' pieces of archaeological, ethnographic or historical interest, archaeological finds from excavations (regular or clandestine) or discoveries on land or underwater, items of animal origin	9705 1000 14
	250+ years	Collections and collectors' pieces of archaeological, ethnographic or historical interest, archaeological finds from excavations (regular or clandestine) or discoveries on land or underwater, other	9705 1000 16
	< 250 years	Collections and collectors' pieces of archaeological, ethnographic or historical interest, archaeological finds from excavations (regular or clandestine) or discoveries on land or underwater, collectors' pieces of wood	9705 1000 18

Category	Age	Description	UK HS Code
Historical & Archaeological	< 250 years	Collections and collectors' pieces of archaeological, ethnographic or historical interest, archaeological finds from excavations (regular or clandestine) or discoveries on land or underwater, items of animal origin	9705 1000 20
	< 250 years	Collections and collectors' pieces of archaeological, ethnographic or historical interest, archaeological finds from excavations (regular or clandestine) or discoveries on land or underwater, other	9705 1000 22
	250+ years	Elements of artistic or historical monuments or archaeological sites which have been dismembered (fragments), pieces of wood	9705 1000 24
	250+ years	Elements of artistic or historical monuments or archaeological sites which have been dismembered (fragments), items of animal origin	9705 1000 26
	250+ years	Elements of artistic or historical monuments or archaeological sites which have been dismembered (fragments), other	9705 1000 28
	< 250 years	Elements of artistic or historical monuments or archaeological sites which have been dismembered (fragments), pieces of wood	9705 1000 32
	< 250 years	Elements of artistic or historical monuments or archaeological sites which have been dismembered (fragments), items of animal origin	9705 1000 34
	< 250 years	Elements of artistic or historical monuments or archaeological sites which have been dismembered (fragments), other	9705 1000 36
	Not applicable	Historical, collectors' pieces of wood (not Archaeological finds)	9705 1000 70
	Not applicable	Historical, collectors Items of animal origin (not Archaeological finds)	9705 1000 72
	Not applicable	Historical, collectors Items, other (not Archaeological finds)	9705 1000 74
	250+ years	Antiques, products of archaeological excavations (including regular and clandestine) or of archaeological discoveries on land or underwater	9706 1000 12
	250+ years	Antiques, elements of artistic or historical monuments or archaeological sites which have been dismembered (Fragments)	9706 1000 14
	< 250 years	Antiques, products of archaeological excavations (including regular and clandestine) or of archaeological discoveries on land or underwater	9706 9000 10
	< 250 years	Antiques, elements of artistic or historical monuments or archaeological sites which have been dismembered (Fragments)	9706 9000 12
Historical Property (Persons of national importance)	200+ years	Property relating to history, including the history of science and technology and military and social history, to the life of national leaders, thinkers, scientists and artists and to events of national importance, collectors' pieces of wood	9705 1000 38
	200+ years	Property relating to history, including the history of science and technology and military and social history, to the life of national leaders, thinkers, scientists and artists and to events of national importance, items of animal origin	9705 1000 40
	200+ years	Property relating to history, including the history of science and technology and military and social history, to the life of national leaders, thinkers, scientists and artists and to events of national importance, other	9705 1000 42
	< 200 years	Property relating to history, including the history of science and technology and military and social history, to the life of national leaders, thinkers, scientists and artists and to events of national importance, collectors' pieces of wood	9705 1000 44

Category	Age	Description	UK HS Code
Historical Property (Persons of national importance)	< 200 years	Property relating to history, including the history of science and technology and military and social history, to the life of national leaders, thinkers, scientists and artists and to events of national importance, items of animal origin	9705 1000 46
	< 200 years	Property relating to history, including the history of science and technology and military and social history, to the life of national leaders, thinkers, scientists and artists and to events of national importance, other	9705 1000 48
Numismatics	100+ years	Collections and collectors' pieces of numismatic interest	9705 3100 00
	< 100 years	Collections and collectors' pieces of numismatic interest	9705 3900 00
Philately	Not applicable	Postage or revenue stamps	9704 0000 00
Scientific Collections	200+ years	Collections and collectors' pieces of zoological, botanical, mineralogical, anatomical or paleontological interest, human specimens and parts thereof	9705 2100 12
	< 200 years	Collections and collectors' pieces of zoological, botanical, mineralogical, anatomical or paleontological interest, human specimens and parts thereof	9705 2100 90
	200+ years	Collections and collectors' pieces of zoological, botanical, mineralogical, anatomical or paleontological interest, extinct or endangered species and parts thereof, collections and collectors' items of animal origin	9705 2200 12
	200+ years	Collections and collectors' pieces of zoological, botanical, mineralogical, anatomical or paleontological interest, extinct or endangered species and parts thereof, other	9705 2200 14
	< 200 years	Collections and collectors' pieces of zoological, botanical, mineralogical, anatomical or paleontological interest, extinct or endangered species and parts thereof, collections and collectors' items of animal origin	9705 2200 16
	< 200 years	Collections and collectors' pieces of zoological, botanical, mineralogical, anatomical or paleontological interest, extinct or endangered species and parts thereof, other	9705 2200 80
	200+ years	Collections and collectors' items of animal origin	9705 2900 12
	200+ years	Collections and collectors' pieces of zoological, botanical, mineralogical, anatomical or paleontological interest, other	9705 2900 14
	< 200 years	Collections and collectors' items of animal origin	9705 2900 16
	< 200 years	Collections and collectors' pieces of zoological, botanical, mineralogical, anatomical or paleontological interest, other	9705 2900 80