

New Industrial Switch Customs Declaration vs Copper Cable



Overview

Rulings collections are separated into Headquarters and New York and span the years 1989 to present.

Key Takeaways

Customs declarations for new industrial switches and copper cables differ primarily in regulatory compliance, CE marking requirements, and tariff treatment, with copper products often subject to metal-specific duties. Customs Declaration Overview

A customs declaration is an official document detailing goods imported or exported into or out of a customs territory, such as the EU or U.S., and is required to place goods under a customs procedure . Declarations must include product description, value, origin, and applicable tariff codes. In the EU, declarations are submitted online at the customs office where goods enter the territory, and the declarant can be the importer, exporter, or a representative .

Industrial Switches

- **Regulatory Compliance:** Industrial switches are considered electrical equipment and must comply with the Low Voltage Directive (LVD 2014/35/EU) in the EU. CE marking is mandatory, indicating conformity with health, safety, and energy standards .
- **Documentation:** A Declaration of Conformity (DoC) accompanies the CE marking, certifying compliance with harmonized standards. This is required for customs clearance in the EU.

- **Tariffs:** In the U.S., industrial switches may be subject to standard import duties but are generally not classified under Section 232 metal tariffs, unless they contain substantial amounts of steel, aluminum, or copper .

Copper Cables

- **Regulatory Compliance:** Copper cables for structured wiring must also be CE marked under the CPR and comply with harmonized standards such as EN50288 and EN50441 . The CE mark ensures legal market placement in the EU but does not indicate quality.

- **Customs Declaration:** Copper cables must be declared with accurate metal content and value, especially in the U.S., where Section 232 tariffs apply. For example, copper-only products are subject to a 50% ad valorem duty on the copper content, while non-copper components may be exempt .

- **Tariffs:** Section 232 tariffs in the U.S. also apply to copper derivatives and industrial equipment containing copper, with rates varying by metal content, country of origin, and exemptions for certain auto parts or U.S.-origin metals .

Key Differences

Feature	Industrial Switches	Copper Cables
CE Marking	Required under LVD	Required under CPR and harmonized standards
Declaration Focus	Electrical safety, voltage rating, DoC	Metal content, weight, value, DoC
Tariff Exposure (U.S.)	Standard import duties	Section 232 tariffs on copper content (50% for copper-only)
Documentation Complexity	Moderate	High, due to metal valuation and derivative products
Regulatory Body	EU LVD / national authorities	EU CPR / U.S. CBP for Section 232

Practical Implications

- **For EU imports:** Both products require CE marking and a Declaration of Conformity, but copper cables require additional attention to harmonized standards and metal content reporting.

- **For U.S. imports:** Copper cables are more heavily regulated under Section 232 tariffs, requiring detailed customs entries specifying copper content and value, whereas industrial switches are generally subject to standard duties unless containing significant metal components.

- **Documentation:** Accurate product classification, CE marking, and metal content valuation are critical to avoid delays, fines, or misapplied tariffs. In summary, while both industrial switches and copper cables require customs declarations and CE compliance in the EU, copper cables face additional complexity due to metal-specific tariffs and valuation rules, particularly under U.S. Section 232 regulations, making precise documentation and classification essential for import/export operations .

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