

# BEARINGS, BUSHINGS AND SPECIAL DUTIES

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Industry term use does not always correspond to duty tariff descriptions found in the HTSUS. The words, 'Bearing' and 'Bushing' are examples of the confusion that could result from differences between common usage of words and tariff descriptions. The result of which can mean misclassification of imported articles. Because Bearings may have high special duty assessments, proper classification is necessary to protect the revenue of the Federal government. United States Customs has placed the responsibility on the Importer for correct classification. We believe that the concept of Reasonable Care as used by Customs obliges every importer to examine their inventory of imported Bearings and Bushings. As always, M.E.Dey stands ready to assist you in any way possible in this effort.

The function of a Bearing is to reduce friction AND wear between moving and fixed parts, permitting easier and faster motion. If an article does both, you probably have a bearing. If the imported article has the functions of a bearing, it should be classified as a bearing unless the Importer can show otherwise.

An article described as a Bushing could be many different things. A bushing is best classified as a Bearing if the function of the article meets the Bearing function noted above. A bushing is generally meant to insulate a hole in a material so the hole edge does not abrade wires, rope or string going through the hole; a removable lining or sleeve inserted into an opening to limit its size, resist wear or erosion; or to serve as a guide or an internally or externally threaded plug for connecting a pipe or fitting with another of a different size. Bushings are not currently subject to special duties.

A typical bearing consists of four major components:

- (1) outer ring or outer race
- (2) inner ring or inner race
- (3) a series of balls or roller elements which fit into openings in the separator or cage
- (4) a separator or cage that keeps the balls or rollers equally distributed around the races.

The following are bearings that do not fit this general description:<sup>1</sup>

- Many times, needle roller bearings are made without an inner race.
- Spherical plain bearings have an inner and outer race but they do not have rollers or balls between the races. Spherical ball bearings are also called ball bushings. These types of bearings are generally used in hydraulic cylinders and construction equipment.

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<sup>1</sup> NOTE: Generally, bearings meant for Aircraft use may be classified under 8803.

**SOME DESCRIPTIVE TERMS THAT IMPLY A BEARING:**

Cam Follower	Rod end	Ball or Bronze Bushing	Clutch Actuators and Collars	Transmission shaft support	Disk harrow assemblies
Clutch Hubs, Releasers	Shift Block Assemblies	Throw out Assemblies	Spherical bushing	Sleeve Bushing	Mast guide and Tack rollers

Some common Bushing functions are:

- used to reduce transmission of high frequency vibration or noise
- acts as a spacer
- shock and vibration attenuation
- used to cover a latch or lock
- used to mount machine components onto shafts for the transmission of power

**GENERIC DESCRIPTIONS OF BEARINGS SUBJECT TO DUMPING<sup>2</sup>:**

BALL	RADIAL	THRUST	TAPERED ROLLER
CYLINDRICAL ROLLER	NEEDLE <sup>3</sup>	SPHERICAL PLAIN	ROD END
INTEGRATED SHAFT	COMBINATION	WHEEL HUB	RAILROAD JOURNAL

**GENERIC DESCRIPTIONS OF BEARINGS NOT SUBJECT TO DUMPING:**

Spherical Roller	Slewing Rings	Housings w/o Bearings <sup>4</sup>
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<sup>2</sup> The Country of Manufacture assesses dumping Special duties.

<sup>3</sup> Ratio of Length to Diameter of roller must be equal to or than greater than 4:1.

<sup>4</sup> Housings with Bearings are subject to Dumping.