Gym Equipment HS Code & Import Duty: HTS 9506.91 and Duty Rates by Product (2026)

Commercial Fitness · Buyer's reference · A4 printable

A single wrong HS code can cost more than the negotiation you spent weeks on. Classify a commercial treadmill as 9506.91 and you pay one rate; classify its spare-parts box as general steel hardware and you can land in a completely different duty column, with Section 232 steel duties stacked on top. Yet most sourcing guides stop at "it's 9506.91" and never explain which product sits in which subheading, or what happens to the parts.

This guide is the classification companion to our import gym equipment from China guide →, which covers the broader customs process. Here we go one level deeper: the exact US subheadings by product, the 2026 duty stack for Chinese-origin goods, the interpretation rules CBP actually applies, and the spare-parts cases where buyers most often get it wrong. For the paperwork that has to agree with your classification, see the container loading plan guide →.

> **Printable reference — free PDF.** This guide is also available as an A4 reference with the full subheading tables and duty worked examples. Download the HS code guide PDF →.

Key Takeaways

- **One heading, three statistical suffixes.** Almost all commercial gym equipment sits in 9506.91: .0010 exercise cycles, .0020 rowing machines, .0030 everything else. There is no 9506.10 for gym equipment — that number range belongs to ski equipment.
- **The 2026 China stack is 24.6%.** 4.6% MFN + 7.5% Section 301 List 4A + 12.5% Section 301 forced-labor action. IEEPA duties were terminated in February 2026 and are no longer collected.
- **Free weights stay in 9506.91 — the rack may not.** Dumbbells and plates are 9506.91.0030, but a dedicated storage rack can be metal furniture under 9403.20 at a much higher effective rate.
- **Spare parts break out of the machine heading.** Chapter 95 Note 1(k) pushes general bolts, cables and bearings into their own chapters, some with Section 232 steel duties; electric motors go to 8501.
- **Classification is a legal determination, not a guess.** A binding ruling before import costs little and is binding at every port; getting it wrong after import means PSC, protest, or penalty exposure.

The HS Code by Product

HTS heading 9506 covers articles and equipment for general physical exercise, gymnastics or athletics. Subheading 9506.91 is the workhorse for commercial equipment. The US tariff schedule lists three ten-digit statistical suffixes under it, and knowing which one applies is the first step to a clean entry.

Product	US HTS subheading	Notes
Exercise bikes / spin bikes	9506.91.0010	CBP NY N360889 and NY 807631 confirm this suffix
Rowing machines	9506.91.0020	Distinct statistical line for rowing machines
Treadmills	9506.91.0030	Falls under "other"; belts and consoles confirmed in HQ 952852 and HQ 089891
Strength machines, racks, benches	9506.91.0030	Selectorized, plate-loaded and benches confirmed in NY 895712, NY 895722, NY f87805
Dumbbells and weight plates	9506.91.0030	Iron and rubber-coated alike — see HQ H270403 and NY N222785

Product	US HTS subheading	Notes
Ellipticals and cross trainers	9506.91.0030	No separate statistical suffix
Yoga and exercise mats (single rolled)	9506.91.0030	Confirmed in NY N260624 and NY N357738
Dedicated dumbbell / plate storage rack	Possibly 9403.20.0082	Classified as metal furniture, not as sports equipment — see NY N347322

The practical point: the machine itself almost always lands in 9506.91, but **accessories and storage can fall outside it**, and that is where the rate changes dramatically. A supplier who quotes "everything is 9506.91" has not done a classification review — they have given you a rough answer that works until a customs broker asks a harder question.

Our factory audit checklist → covers how to verify the machine you ordered is the machine built; the same unscripted discipline applies to classification, because the carton contents determine the code.

The Duty Stack for Chinese-Origin Goods (2026)

For 9506.91.00 of Chinese origin, the current US rate is not the 4.6% printed in the tariff schedule. It is a stack of three separate actions:

Component	Rate	Basis
MFN (Column 1 General)	4.6%	USITC HTSUS 2026, subheading 9506.91.00
Section 301 List 4A	+7.5%	USTR action on Chinese-origin goods, effective 2019, reduced to 7.5% in 2020
Section 301 forced-labor action	+12.5%	USTR determination of 28 July 2026, effective 24 July 2026
Total ad valorem duty	**24.6%**	Before customs user fees

Two things changed in 2026 that buyers should know. First, the IEEPA-based duties applied in 2025 — the fentanyl and "reciprocal" tariffs — were terminated by Executive Order 14389 in February 2026 and are no longer collected; they do not belong in a current landed-cost model. Second, note that the complete machine under 9506.91 is **not** subject to the Section 232 steel and aluminum derivative duties. Separately imported steel parts and steel storage racks can be, which is why the spare-parts section below matters.

The de minimis exemption that once let low-value parcels enter duty-free has also been suspended indefinitely. For container-scale orders this changes little, but it matters if you ship samples or small replacement-part consignments by courier: assume they are dutiable.

A worked example

Using the FY2027 customs user fee schedule (effective 1 October 2026), here is what lands on a $10,000 and a $50,000 shipment of Chinese-origin 9506.91.00 goods shipped by sea:

Line	$10,000 shipment	$50,000 shipment
Duty at 24.6%	$2,460.00	$12,300.00
Merchandise Processing Fee (0.3464%, min $34.58 / max $670.86)	$34.64	$173.20
Harbor Maintenance Fee (0.125%, sea only)	$12.50	$62.50
Total duties and fees	**$2,507.14**	**$12,535.70**
As a percentage of FOB value	**25.07%**	**25.07%**

For the cost arithmetic behind freight, Incoterms and the break-even point between FOB and DDP, see our shipping and import costs guide →. The figures above are a planning example, not a quote — confirm the current rate with your broker before you fix a contract price.

The Rules Behind the Code

Classification is not a matter of picking the description that sounds closest. CBP applies the General Rules of Interpretation (GRIs) and the notes to each chapter, and three of them recur in gym equipment cases.

- **GRI 1** — classification is determined first by the terms of the heading and the related section and chapter notes. A machine listed by name in 9506.91 goes there; you do not reach for a more general rule.
- **GRI 3(a) and 3(b)** — when a product could fit two headings, a heading that describes its use beats one that merely names a material, and composites or retail sets are classified by the material or component that gives them their **essential character**.
- **US Supplementary Rule 1(c)** — a provision for "parts" does not take priority over a specific listing for that part. This is why a bolt listed in 7318 is classified there even if it is made only for a gym machine.

The Chapter 95 notes are where most gym-equipment disputes are decided:

- **Note 1(k)** excludes "parts of general use" of base metal — the bolts, nuts, washers, pins and springs defined in Section XV Note 2 — and similar goods of plastics. They are classified in their own chapters (7318, 7320, and so on).
- **Note 1(m)** excludes electric motors (8501), transformers (8504), pumps (8413) and remote-control apparatus from Chapter 95.
- **Note 3** says that parts and accessories suitable solely or principally for a Chapter 95 article are classified with that article — but only "subject to Note 1". Note 1 wins.

What CBP has actually ruled

Real rulings show how those rules play out:

- **HQ H356461 (2026)** classified an indoor exercise platform using augmented reality, a projector and LiDAR under 9506.91.00. The presence of advanced electronics did not remove it from the sports-equipment heading.
- **HQ 966716 (2004)** classified a passive electrical abdominal-stimulus belt under 8543.89.9695, not 9506.91, because 9506 equipment involves active limb movement by the user.
- **HQ H270403 (2017)** held that a trampoline with a safety enclosure was sports equipment under 9506.91.0030, not a toy under 9503, and quoted the explanatory note listing "dumb bells and bar bells" as examples of the heading.
- **NY N261430** classified a desk sold for use with a treadmill as metal furniture under 9403.20.0030, because it was not an exercise accessory and was more than 60% metal.

The pattern is consistent: function and the chapter notes decide the code, not the marketing name and not the material in isolation.

The Spare-Parts Trap

The most expensive classification mistake in a factory-direct container is rarely the machine. It is the spare-parts kit, because the parts are visually small but legally distinct.

Spare part	Correct treatment	Why
Belts, consoles, custom brackets	Stay with 9506.91	Solely or principally for the machine; Note 3 applies
Bolts, nuts, pins, washers	7318.15 / 7318.16	General-use base-metal parts excluded by Note 1(k); may carry Section 232 steel duties
Steel wire rope and cables	7312.10	General-use parts excluded from 9506.91

Spare part	Correct treatment	Why
Ball bearings	8482.10	Classified in their own heading
Electric motors	8501.31 / 8501.40	Expressly excluded from Chapter 95 by Note 1(m)

Two rules follow from this table. First, the duty on a spare can be far higher than the duty on the machine it serves — steel fasteners can attract Section 232 duties on top of Section 301. Second, free spares are still imports. US customs rules require each item to be listed on the invoice at its fair value, marked as no-charge for customs purposes only; declaring them at zero is a material omission. Our container loading plan guide → explains how to document a spare-parts box in the shipment file.

Other Markets, in Brief

- **European Union** — CN codes 9506 91 10 (adjustable resistance apparatus) and 9506 91 90 (other) carry a third-country MFN rate of 2.7%. Confirm against the current TARIC before shipping.
- **United Kingdom** — the UK Global Tariff applies its own rate; confirm the current figure on GOV.UK before you quote a landed price, rather than relying on a third-party summary.
- **Canada** — Chapter 95 of the CBSA tariff places gym equipment under 9506.91.00 with MFN free treatment. Statistical suffixes differ from the US, so do not copy a US ten-digit code onto a Canadian invoice.

These are planning references, not rulings. Rates and trade actions change several times a year, and the correct code is ultimately the one that matches the product you actually ship.

If You Get It Wrong

A wrong code is not just a rate problem. Under 19 USC 1592, a negligent misclassification can draw a penalty of up to two times the lost duty (or 20% of the dutiable value); gross negligence raises that to four times or 40%, and fraud to the full domestic value. A prior disclosure before CBP finds the error can reduce a negligence case to interest only.

You can avoid most of this exposure before the container sails:

- **Before import** — request a binding ruling through CBP's eRulings portal. NCSD rulings are normally issued within about 30 calendar days and bind all ports.
- **After entry, before liquidation** — a Post Summary Correction is available within 300 days of entry, and no later than 15 days before scheduled liquidation.
- **After liquidation** — a formal protest under 19 USC 1514 is due within 180 days of liquidation, with further review available.

For a container-scale order, a binding ruling on the exact model is a modest cost against the downside of a penalty, a hold, or a reclassification at the worst possible moment.

Sources and Verification

Regulatory references current as of November 2026. Primary sources are cited first.

- USITC Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, 2026 Revision 23 — Chapter 95 and General Rules of Interpretation: https://hts.usitc.gov/reststop/file?release=currentRelease&filename=Chapter%2095
- USTR Section 301 forced-labor action, 91 FR 47318 (28 July 2026), 12.5% on Chinese-origin goods effective 24 July 2026: https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/07/28/2026-15181/notice-of-actions-in-section-301-investigations-of-acts-policies-and-practices-of-various-economies
- Executive Order 14389, "Ending Certain Tariff Actions", 91 FR 9437 (25 February 2026): https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/02/25/2026-03832/ending-certain-tariff-actions

- FY2027 customs user fees, 91 FR 48398 (31 July 2026), MPF 0.3464% with $34.58–$670.86 limits, HMF 0.125%: https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/07/31/2026-15530/customs-user-fees-to-be-adjusted-for-inflation-in-fiscal-year-2027
- CBP interim final rule, indefinite de minimis suspension, 91 FR 37789 (24 June 2026): https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/06/24/2026-12670/indefinite-suspension-of-the-de-minimis-exemption-for-merchandise-arriving-through-all-modes-other
- CBP CROSS rulings H356461, HQ H270403, HQ 089891, HQ 966716, NY N261430 and others: https://rulings.cbp.gov/
- 19 USC 1592 penalties and 19 CFR Part 177 binding rulings (eCFR / Cornell LII).

Standards and trade actions change frequently. Confirm the current rate with your broker and the current classification with a binding ruling before it becomes a contract term.

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