What are HTS subheadings 9801.00.10 and 9802.00.20?

Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) subheadings 9801.00.10 and 9802.00.20 are special provisions that allow certain goods to be re-imported into the U.S. with reduced or no duty. The key difference between them depends on whether the product was altered or advanced in value while it was abroad.

HTS 9801.00.10: U.S. and foreign goods returned without being altered

This subheading covers goods that are returned to the U.S. in the same condition they were in when they were originally exported.

•**U.S.-origin products:** For goods that were originally manufactured in the United States, there is no time limit for them to be returned and re-enter duty-free, as long as they have not been improved or advanced in value.

•**Foreign-origin products:** This provision was expanded in 2021 to also include goods of foreign origin that were exported from the U.S. and are being returned within three years. Like U.S.-origin products, they must not have been advanced in value or improved in condition while abroad.

•**Documentation:** For formal entries (typically valued over $2,500), the importer must provide proof of the claim. This includes declarations from the importer and foreign shipper, and evidence of the original export.

HTS 9802.00.20

: U.S. goods returned after alteration or repair

This subheading applies to products that were originally manufactured in the U.S. but were exported for repair or alteration and are now being returned.

•**Duty calculation:** Unlike 9801.00.10, which is duty-free, 9802.00.20 levies duty only on the value of the repairs or alterations performed abroad, not on the original value of the product.

•**Documentation:** The importer must file specific documentation to claim this special duty status, though U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has the discretion to waive these requirements if other evidence is sufficient.

•**Excluded uses:** The regulations specify certain conditions where this provision is not applicable. For example, certain commercial uses of films and other articles may not qualify for this duty reduction.

Key differences summarized

Feature	HTS 9801.00.10	HTS 9802.00.20
Eligibility	U.S. or foreign-origin products	U.S.-origin products only
Condition	Must not be altered or improved in any way while abroad	Must have been repaired or altered while abroad
Duty treatment	Duty-free	Duty paid only on the value of repairs or alterations
Time limit	None for U.S. goods; 3 years for foreign goods	No time limit specified