



ALLIANCE
FOR HEALTHCARE
COMPETITIVENESS

The Alliance for Healthcare Competitiveness

*Improving lives, creating jobs and meeting the healthcare
needs of a growing global population*

December 12, 2013

Her Excellency Madame Li Bin
Minister, National Health and Family Planning Commission, People's Republic of China
Ministry of Health
1 Nan Road, Xizhimen Wai
Beijing 100044
China

Dear Minister Li,

The Alliance for Healthcare Competitiveness (AHC) is writing to express its strong support for the annexed letter, sent to you on 6 December by medical technology associations COCIR, JIRA and MITA regarding the WTO Information Technology Agreement (ITA).

AHC is a coalition representing leading healthcare employers, both for profit and non-profit, large and small. We represent the entire healthcare "ecosystem," from healthcare providers and makers of healthcare products, including pharmaceuticals and medical devices, to insurers, logistics companies delivering health goods, patient organizations, and companies designing healthcare facilities. AHC companies are active in China as investors, employers, caregivers, purchasers of Chinese products, suppliers of advanced medicines and devices, and research partners. AHC members see an opportunity to further improve health outcomes and accelerate economic growth in China and in other ITA member countries through the implementation of the Information Technology Agreement.

As a coalition representing globally-operating healthcare companies, we believe that key life-saving and life-extending technologies must be fully included in the scope of the ITA, with a tariff phase-out period of no more than five years on all products. We believe China's full participation in the ITA offers a powerful and mutually-beneficial opportunity for growth and improved healthcare. Granting zero-tariff status to the attached list of tariff line items will drive economic growth and provide patients better access to these medical technologies, both in China itself and globally.

We urge the Government of China in the strongest possible terms to accept integration of these technologies into the ITA, in order to support investment in the medical device industry and access to quality healthcare for patients, both in China and other ITA countries.

Sincerely,

Claude Fonthelm
The Alliance for Healthcare Competitiveness



Annex I – List of Tariff Line Items Supported by AHC for ITA Expansion:

- 901812 - ultrasound scanning apparatus
- 901813 - magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)
- 901814 - scintigraphic apparatus
- 901819 - laparoscopes, endoscopes, and other electro-diagnostic equipment
- 901890 - optical instruments and appliances
- 902190 - other appliances which are worn or carried, or implanted in the body, to compensate for a defect or disability
- 902150 - pacemakers for heart: n/parts
- 902212 - computed tomography apparatus (CT)
- 902221 - apparatus based on the use of alpha, beta or gamma radiation, including radiography or radiotherapy apparatus, for medical, surgical, dental or veterinary uses
- 902290 - X-ray generators other than X-ray tubes, high tension generators, control panels and desks, screens, examination or treatment tables, chairs and the like, and general parts and accessories for apparatus of heading 9022, n.e.s.
- 902750 - instruments and apparatus using optical radiations (ultraviolet, visible, infrared)
- 902780 - other instruments and apparatus for physical or chemical analysis, for measuring or checking viscosity, porosity, expansion, surface tension or the like, or for measuring or checking quantities of heat, sound or light (including exposure meters)
- 902790 - microtomes, parts and accessories



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Annex II – List of AHC Members:

Abbott
AdvaMed
Aetna
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Cardiology
BIO
Coalition of Service Industries
GE
George Washington University Center for Global Health
Intel Corporation
Johnson & Johnson
The Joint Commission
Medtronic
National Nursing Center Consortium
OMMA Healthcare, LLC
Perkins + Will
PhRMA
Society for Physician Entrepreneurs
Underwriters Laboratories
UnitedHealth Group
United States Council for International Business
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
UPS