

88.01

88.01 - Balloons and dirigibles; gliders, hang gliders and other non-powered aircraft.

(I) BALLOONS AND DIRIGIBLES

This group covers lighter-than-air aircraft whatever their intended use (military, sporting, scientific, publicity, etc.). These comprise **balloons**, free or captive (i.e., moored to the ground by a cable), and mechanically driven **dirigibles**.

This group also includes balloons of the following types, used in aeronautics or meteorology :

- (1) **Sounding balloons.** These are used to carry radio-sounding instruments to high altitudes. They may weigh up to 4,500 g, but their normal weight varies between 350 and 1,500 g.
- (2) **Pilot balloons.** These are released to indicate the speed and direction of wind. Normally they weigh from 50 to 100 g.
- (3) **Ceiling balloons.** These are smaller than the balloons in (1) and (2) above and normally weigh 4 to 30 g. They are used to determine cloud height.

In most cases balloons used in meteorology are of very thin, high quality rubber allowing a high degree of expansion. Children's toy balloons are **excluded (heading 95.03)**. They may be distinguished by their inferior quality, short inflation necks and the advertisements or decorations often found on them.

(II) GLIDERS AND HANG GLIDERS

Gliders are heavier-than-air aircraft which stay airborne using atmospheric currents. However, gliders fitted with or designed to be fitted with an engine are classified in **heading 88.02**.

Hang gliders include, in particular, delta wings which enable one or two persons, suspended by a harness, to perform certain aerial manoeuvres. These wings consist of material (generally textile) stretched over a rigid structure, usually tubular and of metal, incorporating a horizontal steering bar in the centre. Other types of hang gliders may be otherwise shaped, but are similar to delta wings in their structure and aerodynamic behaviour.

(III) OTHER NON-POWERED AIRCRAFT

This group includes **kites** which are heavier-than-air aircraft without mechanical propulsion. Kites are moored to the ground by a line in the same way as captive balloons and may be used, for example, to carry meteorological instruments.

Kites clearly designed as toys are **excluded (heading 95.03)**.

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The heading also **excludes** models, whether or not built accurately to scale, used, for example, for decoration (e.g., **heading 44.20** or **83.06**), for purely demonstrational purposes (**heading 90.23**), or as toys or models for recreational purposes (**heading 95.03**).