

Chapter 50

Silk

GENERAL

The General Explanatory Note to Section XI should be taken into account in reading the Explanatory Notes to this Chapter.

For the purposes of this Chapter the term " silk " covers not only the fibrous matter secreted by the *Bombyx mori* (mulberry feeding silk-worm), but also the products of the secretion of similar insects (e.g., *Bombyx textor*) known as wild silk. Among the wild varieties, so named because the producing worm has only very rarely been domesticated, the most important is tussah silk obtained from a silk-worm that feeds on oak. Spider silk and marine or byssus silk (the filaments by which certain shellfish of the *Pinna* family cling to rocks) are also classified in this Chapter.

Generally speaking, this Chapter covers silk, including mixed textile materials classified as silk, at its various stages of manufacture, from the raw material to the woven fabric. It also includes silk-worm gut.