

## Chapter 45

### **Cork and articles of cork**

#### **Note.**

1.- This Chapter does not cover :

- (a) Footwear or parts of footwear of Chapter 64;
- (b) Headgear or parts of headgear of Chapter 65; or
- (c) Articles of Chapter 95 (for example, toys, games, sports requisites).

### **GENERAL**

Cork is obtained almost exclusively from the outer bark of the cork-oak (*Quercus suber*) which is grown in Southern Europe and North Africa.

The first stripping of bark is known as "virgin" cork and is hard, brittle, inelastic, of inferior quality and low value. It has a blistered and cracked outer surface, while the inner surface is yellowish with red spots.

Subsequent yields are commercially more important. They are compact and homogeneous, and the outer surface, although to some extent fissured, is less rugged than that of virgin cork.

Cork is light, elastic, compressible, flexible, waterproof, rotproof, and a bad conductor of heat and sound.

This Chapter covers natural and agglomerated cork in all forms (including articles of cork and agglomerated cork), other than those **excluded** at the end of the Explanatory Note to heading 45.03.