

7226.92.8050, 7226.99.0180 of the HTSUS. Although HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the scope is dispositive.

Appendix 2

List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum

1. Scope Comments
2. Scope of the Investigation
3. Injury Test
4. Subsidies Valuation
5. Use of Facts Otherwise Available and Adverse Inferences
6. Analysis of Programs
7. Calculation of the All Others Rate
8. Disclosure and Public Comment
9. Verification

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-570-886]

Polyethylene Retail Carrier Bags From the People's Republic of China: Affirmative Final Determination of Circumvention of the Antidumping Duty Order

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, formerly Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (the Department) determines that imports of unfinished polyethylene retail carrier bags (PRCBs) from the People's Republic of China (PRC) are circumventing the antidumping duty order on PRCBs from the PRC.¹

DATES: *Effective Date:* March 25, 2014

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Schauer or Minoo Hatten, Office I, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC, 20230; telephone: (202) 482-0410, and (202) 482-1690, respectively.

Background

We published the affirmative preliminary determination on December 17, 2013, finding that imports of unfinished PRCBs from the PRC are circumventing the *Order*, pursuant to section 781(a) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.225(g).² In the *Preliminary*

Determination, we relied on the facts available with respect to certain aspects of our determination in accordance with section 776 of the Act because, apart from the petitioners, no parties came forward or submitted argument or information.³ In addition, we stated in the *Preliminary Determination* that “{i}n the interest of affording every possible opportunity to interested parties to participate, the Department continues to invite all interested parties to identify themselves and to provide information and argument that may inform the Department’s determination”⁴ as well as comment on the *Preliminary Determination*. However, no interested party such as a foreign exporter or producer or U.S. importer responded to these invitations to participate in this circumvention inquiry.

We also invited interested parties to comment on the *Preliminary Determination*. We received no comments.

Scope of the Order

The merchandise subject to the *Order* is PRCBs which may be referred to as t-shirt sacks, merchandise bags, grocery bags, or checkout bags. The subject merchandise is defined as non-sealable sacks and bags with handles (including drawstrings), without zippers or integral extruded closures, with or without gussets, with or without printing, of polyethylene film having a thickness no greater than 0.035 inch (0.889 mm) and no less than 0.00035 inch (0.00889 mm), and with no length or width shorter than 6 inches (15.24 cm) or longer than 40 inches (101.6 cm). The depth of the bag may be shorter than 6 inches but not longer than 40 inches (101.6 cm). PRCBs are typically provided without any consumer packaging and free of charge by retail establishments, e.g., grocery, drug, convenience, department, specialty retail, discount stores, and restaurants, to their customers to package and carry their purchased products. The scope of the order excludes (1) polyethylene bags that are not printed with logos or store names and that are closeable with drawstrings made of polyethylene film and (2) polyethylene bags that are packed in consumer packaging with printing that refers to specific end-uses other than packaging and carrying merchandise from retail establishments, e.g., garbage bags, lawn bags, trash-can liners.

Determination of Circumvention of the Antidumping Duty Order, 78 FR 76280 (December 17, 2013) (*Preliminary Determination*).

³ *Id.*, 78 FR at 76281.

⁴ *Id.*

Imports of the subject merchandise are currently classifiable under statistical category 3923.21.0085 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS). This subheading also covers products that are outside the scope of the order. Furthermore, although the HTSUS subheading is provided for convenience and customs purposes, our written description of the scope of the order is dispositive.

Scope of the Circumvention Inquiry

This circumvention inquiry covers merchandise from the PRC that appears to be an unfinished PRCB which is sealed on all four sides, cut to length, and which appears ready to undergo the final step in the production process, i.e., to use a die press to stamp out the opening and create the handles of a PRCB. The unfinished PRCBs subject to this inquiry may or may not have printing and may be of different dimensions as long as they meet the description of the scope of the order.

Final Determination

In the *Preliminary Determination*, we determined that imports of unfinished PRCBs from the PRC are circumventing the *Order*. Specifically, we determined that imports of unfinished PRCBs from the PRC are being completed and sold in the United States pursuant to the statutory and regulatory criteria laid out in section 781(a) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.225(g). We based our *Preliminary Determination* upon evidence which the petitioners placed on the record of the proceeding, and, in addition, we relied on the facts available with respect to certain aspects of our determination in accordance with section 776 of the Act because, apart from the petitioners, no parties came forward or submitted argument or information. For a complete discussion of the evidence which led to our preliminary determination with respect to each of these factors, see the *Preliminary Determination Memorandum*.⁵

Because no party provided any additional information or comment contradicting our *Preliminary Determination*, our final determination remains unchanged from the *Preliminary Determination*. Accordingly, we determine, pursuant to section 781(a) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.225(g), that imports of unfinished

¹ See *Antidumping Duty Order: Polyethylene Retail Carrier Bags From the People's Republic of China*, 69 FR 48201 (August 9, 2004) (*Order*).

² See *Polyethylene Retail Carrier Bags From the People's Republic of China: Affirmative Preliminary*

⁵ See Memorandum from Gary Taverman to Paul Piquado, “Preliminary Analysis Memorandum for the Circumvention Inquiry of the Antidumping Duty Order on Polyethylene Retail Carrier Bags from the People's Republic of China” (December 10, 2013) (*Preliminary Determination Memorandum*).

PRCBs from the PRC are circumventing the *Order*.

Continuation of Suspension of Liquidation

As a result of this determination, and consistent with 19 CFR 351.225(l)(3), we are continuing to direct Customs and Border Protection to suspend liquidation and to require a cash deposit of estimated duties at the applicable rate on unliquidated entries of merchandise subject to this inquiry that are entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after May 14, 2013, the date of publication of the initiation of this inquiry.⁶

Notification to Interested Parties

This notice serves as the only reminder to parties subject to the administrative protective order (APO) of their responsibility concerning the return or destruction of proprietary information disclosed under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305. Timely written notification of the return or destruction of APO materials or conversion to judicial protective order is hereby requested. Failure to comply with the regulations and terms of an APO is a violation which is subject to sanction.

This determination of circumvention is in accordance with section 781(a) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.225(g).

Dated: March 19, 2014.

Paul Piquado,

Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[C-570-997]

Non-Oriented Electrical Steel From the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination, Preliminary Affirmative Critical Circumstances Determination, and Alignment of Final Countervailing Duty Determination With Final Antidumping Duty Determination

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, formerly Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (the Department) preliminarily determines that countervailable subsidies are being provided to

producers/exporters of non-oriented electrical steel (NOES) from the People's Republic of China (PRC). The Department also preliminarily determines critical circumstances exist for imports of the subject merchandise from the PRC. The period of investigation is January 1, 2012, through December 31, 2012. Interested parties are invited to comment on this preliminary determination.

DATES: *Effective Date:* March 25, 2014.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Joshua Morris or Thomas Schauer, AD/CVD Operations, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-1779 and (202) 482-0410, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Alignment of Final Countervailing Duty (CVD) Determination With Final Antidumping Duty (AD) Determination

On the same day the Department initiated this CVD investigation, the Department also initiated AD investigations of NOES from the PRC and several other countries.¹ The CVD investigation and the AD investigations cover the same merchandise. On March 11, 2014, in accordance with section 705(a)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), alignment of the final CVD determination with the final AD determination of NOES from the PRC was requested by AK Steel Corporation (Petitioner). Therefore, in accordance with section 705(a)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.210(b)(4), we are aligning the final CVD determination with the final AD determination. Consequently, the final CVD determination will be issued on the same date as the final AD determination, which is currently scheduled to be issued no later than July 29, 2014, unless postponed.

Scope of the Investigation

The merchandise subject to this investigation consists of NOES, which includes cold-rolled, flat-rolled, alloy steel products, whether or not in coils, regardless of width, having an actual thickness of 0.20 mm or more, in which the core loss is substantially equal in any direction of magnetization in the plane of the material. For a complete description of the scope of the

investigation, see Appendix 1 to this notice.

Critical Circumstances

On February 25, 2014, Petitioner alleged that critical circumstances exist with respect to imports of NOES from the PRC. In accordance with 19 CFR 351.206(c)(2)(i), because Petitioner submitted a critical circumstances allegation more than 20 days before the scheduled date of the preliminary determination, the Department must issue a preliminary critical circumstances determination not later than the date of the preliminary determination.²

In accordance with section 703(e)(1) of the Act, we preliminarily find critical circumstances exist with respect to Baoshan Iron & Steel Co., Ltd. (Baoshan) and all other producers/exporters. For a full discussion of our preliminary critical circumstances determination, see the "Critical Circumstances" section of the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.³ The Preliminary Decision Memorandum is a public document and is on file electronically via Enforcement and Compliance's Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Service System (IA ACCESS). IA ACCESS is available to registered users at <http://iaaccess.trade.gov>, and is available to all parties in the Central Records Unit, room 7046 of the main Department of Commerce building. In addition, a complete version of the Preliminary Decision Memorandum can be accessed directly on the Internet at <http://www.trade.gov/enforcement/>. The signed Preliminary Decision Memorandum and the electronic versions of the Preliminary Decision Memorandum are identical in content.

Methodology

The Department is conducting this countervailing duty investigation in accordance with section 701 of the Act. For a full description of the methodology underlying our preliminary conclusions, see the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

For this preliminary determination, we have relied on facts available for the

² See, e.g., *Change in Policy Regarding Timing of Issuance of Critical Circumstances Determinations*, 63 FR 55364 (October 15, 1998).

³ See Memorandum from Christian Marsh, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Operations, to Paul Piquado, Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance, regarding "Decision Memorandum for the Preliminary Determination in the Countervailing Duty Investigation of Non-Oriented Electrical Steel from the People's Republic of China" dated concurrently with this notice (Preliminary Decision Memorandum).

¹ See *Non-Oriented Electrical Steel From the People's Republic of China, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, and Taiwan: Initiation of Antidumping Duty Investigations*, 78 FR 69041 (November 18, 2013).

⁶ See *Initiation Notice*.