

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****International Trade Administration**

[A-801-001]

**Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet From Serbia: Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value, Postponement of Final Determination, and Extension of Provisional Measures**

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

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce (Commerce) preliminarily determines that common alloy aluminum sheet (aluminum sheet) from Serbia is being, or is likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV). The period of investigation is January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. Interested parties are invited to comment on this preliminary determination.

**DATES:** Applicable October 15, 2020.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jaron Moore or Katherine Johnson, AD/CVD Operations, Office VIII, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-3640 or (202) 482-4929, respectively.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background**

This preliminary determination is made in accordance with section 733(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act). Commerce published the notice of initiation of this investigation on April 7, 2020.<sup>1</sup> On July 29, 2020, Commerce postponed the preliminary determination of this investigation and the revised deadline is now October 6, 2020.<sup>2</sup> For a complete description of the events that followed the initiation of this investigation, see the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.<sup>3</sup> A list of topics

included in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum is included as Appendix II to this notice. 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 (ACCESS). ACCESS is available to registered users at <https://access.trade.gov>. In addition, a complete version of the Preliminary Decision Memorandum can be accessed directly at <http://enforcement.trade.gov/frn/>. The signed and the electronic versions of the Preliminary Decision Memorandum are identical in content.

**Scope of the Investigation**

The products covered by this investigation are aluminum sheet from Serbia. For a complete description of the scope of this investigation, see Appendix I.

**Scope Comments**

In accordance with the preamble to Commerce's regulations,<sup>4</sup> the *Initiation Notice* set aside a period of time for parties to raise issues regarding product coverage (*i.e.*, scope).<sup>5</sup> Certain interested parties commented on the scope of the investigation as it appeared in the *Initiation Notice*. For a summary of the product coverage comments and rebuttal responses submitted to the record for this investigation, and accompanying discussion and analysis of all comments timely received, see the Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum.<sup>6</sup> As discussed in the Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum, Commerce is preliminarily modifying the scope language as it appeared in the *Initiation Notice*. See the revised scope in Appendix I to this notice.

The deadline to submit scope case briefs is established in the Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum. There will be no further opportunity for comments on scope-related issues.

**Methodology**

Commerce is conducting this investigation in accordance with section

Aluminum Sheet from Serbia" dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice (Preliminary Decision Memorandum).

<sup>4</sup> See *Antidumping Duties; Countervailing Duties, Final Rule*, 62 FR 27296, 27323 (May 19, 1997).

<sup>5</sup> See *Initiation Notice*, 85 FR at 19445.

<sup>6</sup> See Memorandum, "Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Investigations of Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet from Bahrain, Brazil, Croatia, Egypt, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Italy, Republic of Korea, Oman, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Taiwan, and the Republic of Turkey: Postponement of Preliminary Determinations in the Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigations," dated October 6, 2020 (Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum).

731 of the Act. Commerce has calculated export prices in accordance with section 772(a) of the Act. Normal value (NV) is calculated in accordance with section 773 of the Act. Furthermore, pursuant to section 776(a) of the Act, Commerce has preliminarily relied on facts otherwise available for parts of Impol d.o.o.'s and Impol Seval, a.d.'s (collectively, Impol's) calculations. In addition, pursuant to sections 776(a) and (b) of the Act, Commerce has preliminarily relied on facts otherwise available, with adverse inferences, for Otovici Doo. For a full description of the methodology underlying the preliminary determination, see the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

**All-Others Rate**

Sections 733(d)(1)(ii) and 735(c)(5)(A) of the Act provide that in the preliminary determination Commerce shall determine an estimated all-others rate for all exporters and producers not individually examined. This rate shall be an amount equal to the weighted average of the estimated weighted-average dumping margins established for exporters and producers individually investigated, excluding any zero and *de minimis* margins, and any margins determined entirely under section 776 of the Act.

In this investigation, Commerce calculated an individual estimated weighted-average dumping margin for Impol. Commerce also selected a rate based entirely on facts otherwise available, with adverse inferences, to Otovici Doo. Therefore, pursuant to section 735(c)(5)(A) of the Act, we preliminarily determine that it is reasonable to determine the all-others rate based on Impol's estimated weighted-average dumping margin because the only rate that is not zero, *de minimis* or based entirely on facts otherwise available is the rate calculated for Impol. Consequently, the rate calculated for Impol is also assigned as the rate for all other producers and exporters.<sup>7</sup>

**Preliminary Determination**

Commerce preliminarily determines that the following estimated weighted-average dumping margins exist:

<sup>7</sup> See, *e.g.*, *Heavy Walled Rectangular Welded Carbon Steel Pipes and Tubes from the Republic of Turkey: Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value*, 81 FR 47355 (July 21, 2016).

<sup>1</sup> See *Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet from Bahrain, Brazil, Croatia, Egypt, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Italy, Republic of Korea, Oman, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Taiwan and the Republic of Turkey: Initiation of Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigations*, 85 FR 19444 (April 7, 2020) (*Initiation Notice*).

<sup>2</sup> See *Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet from Bahrain, Brazil, Croatia, Egypt, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Italy, Republic of Korea, Oman, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Taiwan, and the Republic of Turkey: Postponement of Preliminary Determinations in the Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigations*, 85 FR 45576 (July 29, 2020).

<sup>3</sup> See Memorandum, "Decision Memorandum for the Preliminary Determination in the Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigation of Common Alloy

Exporter/producer	Estimated weighted-average dumping margin (percent)
Impol Seval, a.d./Impol d.o.o. <sup>8</sup> ..	11.24
Otovici Doo .....	** 25.84
All Others .....	11.24

\*\* Adverse Facts Available (AFA).

### Suspension of Liquidation

In accordance with section 733(d)(2) of the Act, Commerce will direct U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to suspend liquidation of entries of subject merchandise, as described in Appendix I, entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. Further, pursuant to section 733(d)(1)(B) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(d), Commerce will instruct CBP to require a cash deposit equal to the estimated weighted-average dumping margin or the estimated all-others rate, as follows: (1) The cash deposit rate for the respondents listed above will be equal to the company-specific estimated weighted-average dumping margins determined in this preliminary determination; (2) if the exporter is not a respondent identified above, but the producer is, then the cash deposit rate will be equal to the company-specific estimated weighted-average dumping margin established for that producer of the subject merchandise; and (3) the cash deposit rate for all other producers and exporters will be equal to the all-others estimated weighted-average dumping margin. These suspension of liquidation instructions will remain in effect until further notice.

### Disclosure

Commerce intends to disclose its calculations and analysis performed to interested parties in this preliminary determination within five days of any public announcement or, if there is no public announcement, within five days of the date of publication of this notice in accordance with 19 CFR 351.224(b).

### Verification

Commerce is currently unable to conduct on-site verification of the

<sup>8</sup> Impol reported that Impol Seval, the producer in Serbia is "affiliated with Impol d.o.o. {the exporter in Slovenia} by common control." This reported affiliation is supported by record evidence. See Section A Questionnaire Response dated May 26, 2020, at A-4, Exhibit A-4, and Appendix I, containing the Impol Group 2019 Annual Report, at page 15. Accordingly, the preliminary rate calculated applies to subject merchandise produced by Impol Seval and exported by either Impol Seval (Serbia) or Impol d.o.o. (Slovenia).

information relied upon in making its final determination in this investigation. Accordingly, we intend to take additional steps in lieu of on-site verification. Commerce will notify interested parties of any additional documentation or information required.

### Public Comment

Case briefs or other written comments on non-scope issues may be submitted to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance. Interested parties will be notified of the timeline for the submission of such case briefs and written comments at a later date. Rebuttal briefs, limited to issues raised in case briefs, may be submitted no later than seven days after the deadline date for case briefs.<sup>9</sup> Note that Commerce has modified certain of its requirements for serving documents containing business proprietary information until further notice.<sup>10</sup> Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2) and (d)(2), parties who submit case briefs or rebuttal briefs in this investigation are encouraged to submit with each argument: (1) A statement of the issue; (2) a brief summary of the argument; and (3) a table of authorities.

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.310(c), interested parties who wish to request a hearing, limited to issues raised in the case and rebuttal briefs, must submit a written request to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance, U.S. Department of Commerce, within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice. Requests should contain the party's name, address, and telephone number, the number of participants, whether any participant is a foreign national, and a list of the issues to be discussed. If a request for a hearing is made, Commerce intends to hold the hearing at a time and date to be determined. Parties should confirm by telephone the date, time, and location of the hearing two days before the scheduled date.

### Postponement of Final Determination and Extension of Provisional Measures

Section 735(a)(2) of the Act provides that a final determination may be postponed until not later than 135 days after the date of the publication of the preliminary determination if, in the event of an affirmative preliminary determination, a request for such postponement is made by exporters who account for a significant proportion of exports of the subject merchandise, or in

<sup>9</sup> See 19 CFR 351.309(d); see also 19 CFR 351.303 (for general filing requirements).

<sup>10</sup> See *Temporary Rule Modifying AD/CVD Service Requirements Due to COVID-10; Extension of Effective Period*, 85 FR 41363 (July 10, 2020).

the event of a negative preliminary determination, a request for such postponement is made by the petitioner. Section 351.210(e)(2) of Commerce's regulations requires that a request by exporters for postponement of the final determination be accompanied by a request for extension of provisional measures from a four-month period to a period not more than six months in duration.

On September 9, 2020, pursuant to 19 CFR 351.210(e), Impol requested that Commerce postpone the final determination and that provisional measures be extended to a period not to exceed six months.<sup>11</sup> In accordance with section 735(a)(2)(A) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.210(b)(2)(ii), because: (1) The preliminary determination is affirmative; (2) the requesting exporter accounts for a significant proportion of exports of the subject merchandise; and (3) no compelling reasons for denial exist, Commerce is postponing the final determination and extending the provisional measures from a four-month period to a period not greater than six months. Accordingly, Commerce will make its final determination no later than 135 days after the date of publication of this preliminary determination, pursuant to section 735(a)(2) of the Act.

### International Trade Commission Notification

In accordance with section 733(f) of the Act, Commerce will notify the International Trade Commission (ITC) of its affirmative preliminary determination. If the final determination is affirmative, then the ITC will determine before the later of 120 days after the date of this preliminary determination or 45 days after the final determination whether these imports are materially injuring, or threaten material injury to, the U.S. industry.

### Notification to Interested Parties

This determination is issued and published in accordance with sections 733(f) and 777(i)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(c).

Dated: October 6, 2020.

Jeffrey I. Kessler,

Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

### Appendix I—Scope of the Investigation

The products covered by this investigation are common alloy aluminum sheet, which is a flat-rolled aluminum product having a

<sup>11</sup> See Impol's Letter, "Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet from Slovenia, Croatia, and Serbia—Request Postponement of Final Determination and Extension of Provisional Measures Period," dated September 9, 2020.

thickness of 6.3 mm or less, but greater than 0.2 mm, in coils or cut-to-length, regardless of width. Common alloy sheet within the scope of this investigation includes both not clad aluminum sheet, as well as multi-alloy, clad aluminum sheet. With respect to not clad aluminum sheet, common alloy sheet is manufactured from a 1XXX-, 3XXX-, or 5XXX-series alloy as designated by the Aluminum Association. With respect to multi-alloy, clad aluminum sheet, common alloy sheet is produced from a 3XXX-series core, to which cladding layers are applied to either one or both sides of the core. The use of a proprietary alloy or non-proprietary alloy that is not specifically registered by the Aluminum Association as a discrete 1XXX-, 3XXX-, or 5XXX-series alloy, but that otherwise has a chemistry that is consistent with these designations, does not remove an otherwise in-scope product from the scope.

Common alloy sheet may be made to ASTM specification B209-14 but can also be made to other specifications. Regardless of specification, however, all common alloy sheet meeting the scope description is included in the scope. Subject merchandise includes common alloy sheet that has been further processed in a third country, including but not limited to annealing, tempering, painting, varnishing, trimming, cutting, punching, and/or slitting, or any other processing that would not otherwise remove the merchandise from the scope of this investigation if performed in the country of manufacture of the common alloy sheet.

Excluded from the scope of this investigation is aluminum can stock, which is suitable for use in the manufacture of aluminum beverage cans, lids of such cans, or tabs used to open such cans. Aluminum can stock is produced to gauges that range from 0.200 mm to 0.292 mm, and has an H-19, H-41, H-48, H-39, or H-391 temper. In addition, aluminum can stock has a lubricant applied to the flat surfaces of the can stock to facilitate its movement through machines used in the manufacture of beverage cans. Aluminum can stock is properly classified under Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) subheadings 7606.12.3045 and 7606.12.3055.

Where the nominal and actual measurements vary, a product is within the scope if application of either the nominal or actual measurement would place it within the scope based on the definitions set for the above.

Common alloy sheet is currently classifiable under HTSUS subheadings 7606.11.3060, 7606.11.6000, 7606.12.3096, 7606.12.6000, 7606.91.3095, 7606.91.6095, 7606.92.3035, and 7606.92.6095. Further, merchandise that falls within the scope of this investigation may also be entered into the United States under HTSUS subheadings 7606.11.3030, 7606.12.3015, 7606.12.3025, 7606.12.3035, 7606.12.3091, 7606.91.3055, 7606.91.6055, 7606.92.3025, 7606.92.6055, 7607.11.9090. Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the scope of this investigation is dispositive.

## Appendix II—List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum

- I. Summary
- II. Background
- III. Period of Investigation
- IV. Scope of Investigation
- V. Scope Comments
- VI. Application of Facts Available and Use of Adverse Inference
- VII. Discussion of the Methodology
- VIII. Currency Conversion
- IX. Recommendation

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

[A-525-001]

#### Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet From Bahrain: Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value, Postponement of Final Determination, and Extension of Provisional Measures

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

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce (Commerce) preliminarily determines that common alloy aluminum sheet (aluminum sheet) from Bahrain is being, or is likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV). The period of investigation is January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. Interested parties are invited to comment on this preliminary determination.

**DATES:** Applicable October 15, 2020.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Allison Hollander, AD/CVD Operations, Office I, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-2805.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

This preliminary determination is made in accordance with section 733(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act). Commerce published the notice of initiation of this investigation on April 7, 2020.<sup>1</sup> On July 29, 2020, Commerce postponed the preliminary determination of this investigation, and

<sup>1</sup> See *Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet from Bahrain, Brazil, Croatia, Egypt, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Italy, Republic of Korea, Oman, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Taiwan and the Republic of Turkey: Initiation of Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigations*, 85 FR 19444 (April 7, 2020) (*Initiation Notice*).

the revised deadline is now October 6, 2020.<sup>2</sup> For a complete description of the events that followed the initiation of this investigation, see the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.<sup>3</sup> A list of topics included in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum is included as Appendix II to this notice. 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 (ACCESS). ACCESS is available to registered users at <https://access.trade.gov>. In addition, a complete version of the Preliminary Decision Memorandum can be accessed directly at <http://enforcement.trade.gov/frn/>. The signed and the electronic versions of the Preliminary Decision Memorandum are identical in content.

##### Scope of the Investigation

The products covered by this investigation are aluminum sheet from Bahrain. For a complete description of the scope of this investigation, see Appendix I.

##### Scope Comments

In accordance with the preamble to Commerce's regulations,<sup>4</sup> the *Initiation Notice* set aside a period of time for parties to raise issues regarding product coverage (*i.e.*, scope).<sup>5</sup> Certain interested parties commented on the scope of the investigation as it appeared in the *Initiation Notice*. For a summary of the product coverage comments and rebuttal responses submitted to the record for this investigation, and accompanying discussion and analysis of all comments timely received, see the Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum.<sup>6</sup> As discussed in the Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum, Commerce is preliminarily modifying the scope language as it appeared in the *Initiation*

<sup>2</sup> See *Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet from Bahrain, Brazil, Croatia, Egypt, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Italy, Republic of Korea, Oman, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Taiwan and the Republic of Turkey: Postponement of Preliminary Determinations in the Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigations*, 85 FR 45576 (July 29, 2020).

<sup>3</sup> See Memorandum, "Decision Memorandum for the Preliminary Determination in the Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigation of Common Alloy Aluminum Sheet from Bahrain," dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by this notice (Preliminary Decision Memorandum).

<sup>4</sup> See *Antidumping Duties; Countervailing Duties, Final Rule*, 62 FR 27296, 27323 (May 19, 1997).

<sup>5</sup> See *Initiation Notice*.

<sup>6</sup> See Memorandum, "Scope Comments Decision Memorandum for the Preliminary Determinations," dated October 6, 2020 (Preliminary Scope Comments Decision Memorandum).