

selected companies for which a review was requested and not rescinded, we are applying an *ad valorem* subsidy rate of 11.05 percent.

Final Results of Review

We find the following net countervailable subsidy rates for the period January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020, as follows:

Producer or exporter	Subsidy rate (percent <i>ad valorem</i>)
Sumitomo Rubber (Hunan) Co., Ltd. ⁶	11.05
Review-Specific Average Rate Applicable to the Following Companies⁷	
Jiangsu Hankook Tire Co., Ltd	11.05
Kumho Tire Co., Inc	11.05
Kumho Tire (Tianjin) Co., Inc Prinx Chengshan (Shandong) Tire Company Ltd	11.05
Qingdao Nexen Tire Corporation	11.05
Shandong Haohua Tire Co., Ltd	11.05
Shandong Province Sanli Tire Manufactured Co., Ltd	11.05
Triangle Tyre Co., Ltd	11.05

Disclosure

Commerce intends to disclose calculations and analysis performed for the final results of review within five days after the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** in accordance with 19 CFR 351.224(b).

Assessment Requirements

In accordance with section 751(a)(2)(C) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.212(b)(2), Commerce shall determine, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) shall assess, countervailing duties on all appropriate entries covered by this review. Commerce intends to issue assessment instructions to CBP no earlier than 35 days after publication of the final results of this review in the **Federal Register**. If a timely summons is filed at the U.S. Court of International Trade, the assessment instructions will direct CBP not to liquidate relevant entries until the time for parties to file a request for a statutory injunction has expired (*i.e.*, within 90 days of publication).

⁶ Commerce finds the following companies to be cross-owned with Sumitomo Rubber (Hunan) Co., Ltd.: Sumitomo Rubber (China) Co., Ltd. and Sumitomo Rubber (Changshu) Co. Ltd.

⁷ This rate is based on the rate for the respondent that was selected for individual review, excluding rates that are zero, *de minimis*, or based entirely on facts available. See section 735(c)(5)(A) of the Act.

Cash Deposit Requirements

In accordance with section 751(a)(1) of the Act, Commerce also intends to instruct CBP to collect cash deposits of estimated countervailing duties in the amounts shown above for the above-listed companies with regard to shipments of subject merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the date of publication of these final results of review. For all non-reviewed firms, CBP will continue to collect cash deposits of estimated countervailing duties at the all-others rate or the most recent company-specific rate applicable to the company, as appropriate. These cash deposit requirements, effective upon publication of these final results, shall remain in effect until further notice.

Administrative Protective Order

This notice also serves as a final reminder to parties subject to an administrative protective order (APO) of their responsibility concerning the disposition of proprietary information disclosed under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305(a)(3). 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 sanctionable violation.

Notification to Interested Parties

The final results are issued and published in accordance with sections 751(a)(1) and 777(i)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.221(b)(5).

Dated: March 7, 2023.

Lisa W. Wang,

Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

Appendix—List of Topics Discussed in the Issues and Decision Memorandum

- I. Summary
- II. Background
- III. Scope of the *Order*
- IV. Non-Selected Rate
- V. Use of Facts Otherwise Available and Application of Adverse Inferences
- VI. Subsidies Valuation
- VII. Analysis of Programs
- VIII. Analysis of Comments
 - Comment 1: Whether Commerce Should Continue To Find Use of the Export Buyer's Credit (EBC) Program
 - Comment 2: Whether the Provision of Land-Use Rights for Foreign-Invested Enterprises (FIE) for Less Than Adequate Remuneration (LTAR) Is Export-Contingent and Specific
 - Comment 3: Whether Commerce Should Find That the Chinese Markets for Carbon Black and Synthetic Rubber Are Distorted

- Comment 4: Whether Commerce Should Include IHS Markit Data in Input Benchmark Calculations
- Comment 5: Whether Commerce Correctly Calculated Inland Freight Costs in the Nylon Cord Benchmark
- Comment 6: Whether the Benchmark for Electricity Includes Value-Added Tax (VAT)
- Comment 7: Whether the Provision of Inputs for LTAR Constitutes a Financial Contribution

IX. Recommendation

[FR Doc. 2023–05105 Filed 3–10–23; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A–570–145]

Certain Freight Rail Couplers and Parts Thereof From the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value and Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances

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

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (Commerce) preliminarily determines that certain freight rail couplers and parts thereof (freight rail couplers) from the People's Republic of China (China) are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV). The period of investigation (POI) is January 1, 2022, through June 30, 2022. Interested parties are invited to comment on this preliminary determination.

DATES: Applicable March 13, 2023.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Drew Jackson or Zachary Shaykin, AD/CVD Operations, Office IV, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482–4406 or (202) 482–2638, 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 October 25, 2022.¹ For a complete

¹ See *Certain Freight Rail Couplers and Parts Thereof from the People's Republic of China and Mexico: Initiation of Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigations*, 87 FR 64444 (October 25, 2022) (*Initiation Notice*).

description of the events that followed the initiation of this investigation, see the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.² 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 <https://access.trade.gov/public/FRNoticesListLayout.aspx>.

Scope of the Investigation

The products covered by this investigation are freight rail couplers from China. For a complete description of the scope of this investigation, see Appendix I.

Scope Comments

In accordance with the preamble to Commerce's regulations,³ the *Initiation Notice* set aside a period of time for parties to raise issues regarding product coverage (scope).⁴ We received several comments concerning the scope of the LTFV investigations of freight rail couplers from China and Mexico. We are currently evaluating the scope comments filed by interested parties. We intend to issue our preliminary decision regarding the scope of these LTFV investigations on or before the preliminary determination in the LTFV investigation of freight rail couplers from Mexico, the deadline for which is April 26, 2023.⁵ We will incorporate the scope decisions from the LTFV investigation of freight rail couplers from Mexico into the scope of the final determination for this investigation after considering any relevant comments submitted in scope case and rebuttal briefs. The deadline for interested parties to submit scope case and rebuttal briefs will be established in the

preliminary scope decision memorandum.

Methodology

Commerce is conducting this investigation in accordance with section 731 of the Act. Furthermore, pursuant to sections 776(a) and (b) of the Act, Commerce preliminarily has relied upon facts otherwise available, with adverse inferences, for the China-wide entity. For a full description of the methodology underlying Commerce's preliminary determination, see the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances

In accordance with section 733(e) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.206, Commerce preliminarily determines that critical circumstances exist with respect to imports of freight rail couplers from China for the China-wide entity. For a full description of the methodology and results of Commerce's critical circumstances analysis, see the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

Combination Rates

In the *Initiation Notice*,⁶ Commerce stated that it would calculate producer/exporter combination rates for the respondents that are eligible for a separate rate in this investigation. Policy Bulletin 05.1 describes this practice.⁷ In this case, because no respondent qualified for a separate rate, producer/exporter combination rates were not calculated. For a full description of the separate rate status of interested parties in this investigation, see the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

Preliminary Determination

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

Producer/exporter	Estimated weighted-average dumping margin (percent)
China-wide Entity	169.90

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 subject merchandise as described in the scope of the investigation entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, as discussed below. 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 weighted-average amount by which normal value exceeds U.S. price, as indicated in the chart above as follows: (1) for all combinations of Chinese producers/exporters of merchandise under consideration that have not established eligibility for their own separate rates, the cash deposit rate will be equal to the estimated weighted-average dumping margin established for the China-wide entity; and (2) for all third-country exporters of merchandise under consideration not listed in the table above, the cash deposit rate is the cash deposit rate applicable to the China-wide entity, as stated above.

Section 733(e)(2) of the Act provides that, given an affirmative determination of critical circumstances, any suspension of liquidation shall apply to unliquidated entries of merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the later of (a) the date which is 90 days before the date on which the suspension of liquidation was first ordered, or (b) the date on which notice of initiation of the investigation was published. Commerce preliminarily finds that critical circumstances exist for imports of subject merchandise from the China-wide entity. In accordance with section 733(e)(2)(A) of the Act, the suspension of liquidation shall apply to all unliquidated entries of merchandise from all producers and/or exporters of freight rail couplers from China that were entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the date which is 90 days before the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

These suspension of liquidation instructions will remain in effect until further notice.

Disclosure

Normally, Commerce discloses to interested parties the calculations performed in connection with a preliminary determination within five days of its 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). However, because Commerce preliminarily applied total adverse facts available

² See Memorandum, "Decision Memorandum for the Preliminary Determination in the Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigation of Certain Freight Rail Couplers and Parts Thereof from the People's Republic of China," dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice (Preliminary Decision Memorandum).

³ See *Antidumping Duties; Countervailing Duties, Final Rule*, 62 FR 27296, 27323 (May 19, 1997).

⁴ See *Initiation Notice*.

⁵ See *Certain Freight Rail Couplers and Parts Thereof from Mexico: Postponement of Preliminary Determination in the Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigation*, 88 FR 10092 (February 16, 2023).

⁶ See *Initiation Notice*.

⁷ See Enforcement and Compliance's Policy Bulletin No. 05.1, regarding, "Separate-Rates Practice and Application of Combination Rates in Antidumping Investigations Involving Non-Market Economy Countries," (April 5, 2005) (Policy Bulletin 05.1), available at <http://enforcement.trade.gov/policy/bull05-1.pdf>.

(AFA) to the China-wide entity in this investigation, in accordance with section 776 of the Act, and the applied AFA rate is based solely on the petition, there are no calculations to disclose.

Public Comment

Case briefs or other written comments may be submitted to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance no later than 30 days after the date of publication of the preliminary determination, unless Commerce alters the time limit. Rebuttal briefs, limited to issues raised in case briefs, may be submitted no later than seven days after the deadline date for case briefs.⁸ Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2) and (d)(2), parties who submit case 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. Note that Commerce has temporarily modified certain of its requirements for serving documents containing business proprietary information, until further notice.⁹

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.

Final Determination

Section 735(a)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.210(b)(1) provide that Commerce will issue the final determination within 75 days after the date of its preliminary determination. Accordingly, Commerce will make its final determination no later than 75 days after the signature date of this preliminary determination.

⁸ See 19 CFR 351.309; see also 19 CFR 351.303 (for general filing requirements).

⁹ See *Temporary Rule Modifying AD/CVD Service Requirements Due to COVID-19*, 85 FR 17006 (March 26, 2020); and *Temporary Rule Modifying AD/CVD Service Requirements Due to COVID-19; Extension of Effective Period*, 85 FR 41363 (July 10, 2020).

International Trade Commission Notification

In accordance with section 733(f) of the Act, Commerce will notify the International Trade Commission (ITC) of its preliminary determination of sales at LTFV. If the final determination is affirmative, 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 imports of the subject merchandise 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: March 7, 2023.

Lisa W. Wang,

Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

Appendix I

Scope of the Investigation

The scope of this investigation covers certain freight railcar couplers (also known as “fits” or “assemblies”) and parts thereof. Freight railcar couplers are composed of two main parts, namely knuckles and coupler bodies but may also include other items (e.g., coupler locks, lock lift assemblies, knuckle pins, knuckle throwers, and rotors). The parts of couplers that are covered by the investigations include: (1) E coupler bodies, (2) E/F coupler bodies, (3) F coupler bodies, (4) E knuckles, and (5) F knuckles, as set forth by the Association of American Railroads (AAR). The freight rail coupler parts (*i.e.*, knuckles and coupler bodies) are included within the scope of the investigations when imported separately. Coupler locks, lock lift assemblies, knuckle pins, knuckle throwers, and rotors are covered merchandise when imported in an assembly but are not covered by the scope when imported separately.

Subject freight railcar couplers and parts are included within the scope whether finished or unfinished, whether imported individually or with other subject or nonsubject parts, whether assembled or unassembled, whether mounted or unmounted, or if joined with nonsubject merchandise, such as other nonsubject parts or a completed railcar. Finishing includes, but is not limited to, arc washing, welding, grinding, shot blasting, heat treatment, machining, and assembly of various parts. When a subject coupler or subject parts are mounted on or to other nonsubject merchandise, such as a railcar, only the coupler or subject parts are covered by the scope.

The finished products covered by the scope of these investigations meet or exceed the AAR specifications of M-211, “Foundry and Product Approval Requirements for the Manufacture of Couplers, Coupler Yokes,

Knuckles, Follower Blocks, and Coupler Parts” and/or AAR M-215 “Coupling Systems,” or other equivalent domestic or international standards (including any revisions to the standard(s)).

The country of origin for subject couplers and parts thereof, whether fully assembled, unfinished or finished, or attached to a railcar, is the country where the subject coupler parts were cast or forged. Subject merchandise includes coupler parts as defined above that have been further processed or further assembled, including those coupler parts attached to a railcar in third countries. Further processing includes, but is not limited to, arc washing, welding, grinding, shot blasting, heat treatment, painting, coating, priming, machining, and assembly of various parts. The inclusion, attachment, joining, or assembly of nonsubject parts with subject parts or couplers either in the country of manufacture of the in-scope product or in a third country does not remove the subject parts or couplers from the scope.

The couplers that are the subject of this investigation are currently classifiable in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) statistical reporting number 8607.30.1000. Unfinished subject merchandise may also enter under HTSUS statistical reporting number 7326.90.8688. Subject merchandise attached to finished railcars may also enter under HTSUS statistical reporting numbers 8606.10.0000, 8606.30.0000, 8606.91.0000, 8606.92.0000, 8606.99.0130, 8606.99.0160, or under subheading 9803.00.5000 if imported as an Instrument of International Traffic. Subject merchandise may also be imported under HTSUS statistical reporting number 7325.99.5000. These HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes only; the written description of the scope of these investigations is dispositive.

Appendix II

List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum

- I. Summary
- II. Background
- III. Period of Investigation
- IV. Scope Comments
- V. Scope of the Investigation
- VI. Selection of Respondents
- VII. Discussion of the Methodology
- VIII. Recommendation

[FR Doc. 2023-05106 Filed 3-10-23; 8:45 am]

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