

decision memorandum that will accompany the final results in this CCR. We request that interested parties include footnotes for relevant citations in the executive summary of each issue. Note that Commerce has amended certain of its requirements pertaining to the service of documents in 19 CFR 351.303(f).<sup>14</sup>

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, filed electronically via ACCESS, within 30 days of publication of this notice. Requests should contain the following information: (1) the party's name, address, and telephone number; (2) the number of participants; and (3) a list of issues to be discussed. If a request for a hearing is made, Commerce will inform parties of the time and date for the hearing.

#### Final Results of Review

Consistent with 19 CFR 351.216(e), we intend to issue the final results of this CCR no later than 270 days after the date on which this review was initiated. If we continue to find that Garware Hi-Tech is the successor-in-interest to Garware Polyester, we will assign Garware Hi-Tech the cash deposit rate currently assigned to Garware Polyester (*i.e.*, 4.45 percent).<sup>15</sup>

#### Notification to Interested Parties

We are issuing and publishing these preliminary results in accordance with sections 751(b)(1) and 777(i)(1) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.221(b)(4).

Dated: February 20, 2024.

**Ryan Majerus,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Negotiations, performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.*

#### Appendix

##### List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum

- I. Summary
- II. Background
- III. Scope of the Order
- IV. Successor-in-Interest Determination
- V. Recommendation

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<sup>14</sup> See *APO and Final Service Rule*.

<sup>15</sup> See *Polyethylene Terephthalate Film, Sheet, and Strip from India: Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review; 2017–2018*, 85 FR 14883, 14884 (March 16, 2020), as amended by *Polyethylene Terephthalate Film, Sheet, and Strip from India: Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review; 2017–2018; Correction*, 88 FR 87751 (December 19, 2023).

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

[A-570-084, C-570-085]

#### Certain Quartz Surface Products From the People's Republic of China: Expansion of the Period of Review and Supplemental Opportunity To Request Administrative Review

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

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) is expanding the period of review (POR) for the current antidumping duty (AD) and countervailing duty (CVD) administrative reviews of certain quartz surface products (quartz surface products) from the People's Republic of China (China) to include entries suspended by the final scope ruling on Malaysian processed quartz slab prior to the current POR of the instant reviews. Additionally, Commerce is providing a supplemental opportunity for interested parties to request a review of certain companies currently ineligible for the scope certification process with suspended entries during the expanded POR solely for the purposes of examining their certification status.

**DATES:** Supplemental requests for review must be submitted no later than March 11, 2024.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ajay K. Menon, AD/CVD Operations, Office IX, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230, telephone: (202) 482-0208.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

On October 21, 2022, Commerce published in the **Federal Register** the final scope ruling on Malaysian processed quartz slab, finding that imports of quartz slab manufactured in China and processed in Malaysia are covered by the AD and CVD orders on quartz surface products from China.<sup>1</sup> As part of this determination, Commerce implemented a certification requirement for all imports of quartz surface products from Malaysia, effective November 4, 2021, and also directed U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to suspend liquidation and

<sup>1</sup> See *Certain Quartz Surface Products from the People's Republic of China: Final Scope Ruling on Malaysian Processed Quartz Slab and Recission of the Circumvention Inquiry*, 87 FR 64009, 64010 (October 21, 2022) (*Malaysia Processed Final Scope Ruling*).

require cash deposit for entries subject to the scope inquiry retroactive to this same date.<sup>2</sup>

On July 3, 2023, Commerce notified interested parties of the opportunity to request administrative reviews of the AD and CVD orders on quartz surface products from China for the periods: (1) July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023 for the AD administrative review; and (2) January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022 for the CVD administrative review.<sup>3</sup> On September 11, 2023, Commerce initiated administrative reviews of the AD and CVD orders on quartz surface products from China for these periods.<sup>4</sup>

#### Expanding the PORs of the AD and CVD Administrative Reviews

As noted above, in the *Malaysia Processed Final Scope Ruling* published on October 21, 2022, Commerce imposed a certification requirement and also directed CBP to suspend liquidation and require cash deposit for entries subject to the inquiry effective November 4, 2021.<sup>5</sup> Therefore, consistent with 19 CFR 351.213(e)(1)–(2),<sup>6</sup> to ensure that Commerce is examining all suspended entries which were not previously under review, we are expanding the ongoing AD and CVD administrative reviews to cover the following periods: (1) November 1, 2021, through June 30, 2023 for the AD administrative review; and (2) November 1, 2021, through December 31, 2022 for the CVD administrative review.

#### Supplemental Opportunity To Request Administrative Review

In the *Malaysia Processed Final Scope Ruling*, we determined that the following companies were ineligible from participating in the scope certification process because they did not fully participate in the proceeding: Bada Industries SDN BHD (Bada Industries); Ever Stone World SDN BHD (Ever Stone); Karina Stone; MSI Building Supply SDN (MSI); Principal Safwa (M) SDN (Principal Safwa); Resstone Manufacturing (Resstone);

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> See *Antidumping or Countervailing Duty Order, Finding, or Suspended Investigation; Opportunity To Request Administrative Review and Join Annual Inquiry Service List*, 88 FR 42693 (July 3, 2023).

<sup>4</sup> See *Initiation of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Administrative Reviews*, 88 FR 62322 (September 11, 2023) (*Initiation Notice*).

<sup>5</sup> See *Malaysian Processed Final Scope Ruling*, 87 FR at 64010.

<sup>6</sup> See 19 CFR 351.213(e)(1)–(2), which provides that “[w]hile AD/CVD reviews normally are limited to 12 months or the calendar year, Commerce has the discretion to determine the period under review.”

SCLM Services SDN BHD (SCLM); Unique Stone SDN BHD (Unique Stone); and Universal Quartz. We are conducting the ongoing AD and CVD administrative reviews to reconsider the eligibility of Bada Industries, Karina Stone, and Universal Quartz from the certification process.<sup>7</sup>

With this notice, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.213(b), we are affording interested parties, as defined by section 771(9) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, with a supplemental opportunity to request in writing that the Secretary conduct an administrative review to review the certification eligibility of any of the following companies: Ever Stone; MSI; Principal Safwa; Resstone; SCLM; and Unique Stone. For both the AD and CVD administrative reviews, the requestor must specify for which of these companies it is requesting a review.

The deadline for parties to file a request for review of the certification status of these entities is not later than 14 days from the date of publication of this notice. If interested parties submit a request for review of any of these companies, Commerce's review will be limited to the company's eligibility to participate in the certification process. Moreover, Commerce will only include those companies in the AD and CVD administrative reviews which have suspended entries of subject merchandise during the expanded PORs (*i.e.*, November 1, 2021, through June 30, 2023 for the AD administrative review; and November 1, 2021, through December 31, 2022 for the CVD administrative review).

All review requests must be filed electronically in Enforcement and Compliance's Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Service System (ACCESS) at <https://access.trade.gov>.<sup>8</sup> Further, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.303(f)(1)(i), a copy of each request must be served on the petitioner and each exporter or producer specified in the request. Note that Commerce has amended certain of its requirements pertaining to the service of documents in 19 CFR 351.303(f).<sup>9</sup>

Commerce intends to publish in the **Federal Register** a supplementary initiation notice for all timely filed

review requests which satisfy the requirements noted above.

### Continued Suspension of Liquidation

Commerce previously issued instructions to CBP directing the assessment of antidumping or countervailing duties on entries not currently under review at a rate equal to the cash deposit of estimated antidumping or countervailing duties required on those entries at the time of entry, or withdrawal from warehouse, for consumption. In the event that Commerce receives additional review requests for the companies listed above, Commerce intends to amend these instructions to direct CBP to continue to suspend liquidation of any unliquidated entries made by companies subsequently under review until the completion of these administrative reviews.

Dated: February 20, 2024.

**James Maeder,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Operations.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XD711]

#### Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Geophysical Surveys Related to Oil and Gas Activities in the Gulf of Mexico

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of issuance of Letter of Authorization.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), as amended, its implementing regulations, and NMFS' MMPA Regulations for Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Geophysical Surveys Related to Oil and Gas Activities in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM), notification is hereby given that a Letter of Authorization (LOA) has been issued to LLOG Exploration Company (LLOG) for the take of marine mammals incidental to geophysical survey activity in the GOM.

**DATES:** The LOA is effective from March 1, 2024 through April 19, 2026.

**ADDRESSES:** The LOA, LOA request, and supporting documentation are available

online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/incidental-take-authorization-oil-and-gas-industry-geophysical-survey-activity-gulf-mexico>. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed below (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jenna Harlacher, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background

Sections 101(a)(5)(A) and (D) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) direct the Secretary of Commerce to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional, taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and either regulations are issued or, if the taking is limited to harassment, a notice of a proposed authorization is provided to the public for review.

An authorization for incidental takings shall be granted if NMFS finds that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s), will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses (where relevant), and if the permissible methods of taking and requirements pertaining to the mitigation, monitoring and reporting of such takings are set forth. NMFS has defined "negligible impact" in 50 CFR 216.103 as an impact resulting from the specified activity that cannot be reasonably expected to, and is not reasonably likely to, adversely affect the species or stock through effects on annual rates of recruitment or survival.

Except with respect to certain activities not pertinent here, the MMPA defines "harassment" as: any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which (i) has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild (Level A harassment); or (ii) has the potential to disturb a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by causing disruption of behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, sheltering, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering (Level B harassment).

On January 19, 2021, we issued a final rule with regulations to govern the unintentional taking of marine mammals incidental to geophysical survey activities conducted by oil and gas industry operators, and those persons authorized to conduct activities on their behalf (collectively "industry

<sup>7</sup> See *Initiation Notice*, 88 FR 62322.

<sup>8</sup> See *Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings: Electronic Filing Procedures; Administrative Protective Order Procedures*, 76 FR 39263 (July 6, 2011).

<sup>9</sup> See *Administrative Protective Order, Service, and Other Procedures in Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings: Final Rule*, 88 FR 67069 (September 29, 2023).