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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-533-924]

Melamine From India: Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value and Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances, in Part

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

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) preliminarily determines that melamine from India is being, or is likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV). The period of investigation (POI) is January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. Interested parties are invited to comment on this preliminary determination.

DATES: Applicable September 24, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Myrna Lobo, AD/CVD Operations, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; (202) 482-2371.

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 March 11, 2024.¹ On June 18, 2024, Commerce postponed the preliminary determination of this investigation.² On July 22, 2024, Commerce tolled certain deadlines in this administrative proceeding by seven days.³ The deadline for the preliminary

¹ See *Melamine from Germany, India, Japan, the Netherlands, Qatar, and Trinidad and Tobago: Initiation of Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigations*, 89 FR 17413 (March 11, 2024) (*Initiation Notice*).

² See *Melamine from Germany, India, Japan, the Netherlands, Qatar, and Trinidad and Tobago: Postponement of Preliminary Determinations in the Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigations*, 89 FR 52437 (June 24, 2024).

³ See Memorandum, "Tolling of Deadlines for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings," dated July 22, 2024.

determination is now September 18, 2024.

For a complete description of the events that followed the initiation of this investigation, see the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.⁴ 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 product covered by this investigation is melamine from India. For a full description of the scope of this investigation, see Appendix I.

Scope Comments

In accordance with the *Preamble* to Commerce's regulations,⁵ we set aside a period of time, as stated in the *Initiation Notice*, for parties to raise issues regarding product coverage (*i.e.*, scope).⁶ No interested party commented on the scope of the investigation as it appeared in the *Initiation Notice*. Commerce is not modifying the scope language as it appeared in the *Initiation Notice*. See the complete description of the scope in Appendix I to this notice.

Methodology

Commerce is conducting this investigation in accordance with section 731 of the Act. Pursuant to section 776(a) of the Act, Commerce preliminarily relied upon facts otherwise available to assign an estimated weighted-average dumping margin to Gujarat State Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (GSFC), the sole mandatory respondent in this investigation. Further, Commerce preliminarily determines that GSFC failed to cooperate by not acting to the best of its ability to comply with a request for information and Commerce is using an adverse inference in selecting from among the facts otherwise available (*i.e.*, applying

⁴ See Memorandum, "Decision Memorandum for the Preliminary Determination in the Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigation of Melamine from India," dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice (Preliminary Decision Memorandum).

⁵ See *Antidumping Duties; Countervailing Duties*, 62 FR 27296, 27323 (May 19, 1997) (*Preamble*).

⁶ See *Initiation Notice*, 89 FR at 17413.

adverse facts available (AFA) to this respondent, in accordance with section 776(b) of the Act). For a full description of the methodology underlying our preliminary determination, see the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances, in Part

On June 17, 2024, the petitioner⁷ timely filed a critical circumstances allegation, pursuant to section 733(e)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.206(c)(1), alleging that critical circumstances exist with respect to imports of the subject merchandise from India.⁸ Section 733(e)(1) of the Act provides that Commerce will preliminarily determine that critical circumstances exist in an LTFV investigation if there is a reasonable basis to believe or suspect that: (A) there is a history of dumping and material injury by reason of dumped imports in the United States or elsewhere of the subject merchandise, or the person by whom, or for whose account, the merchandise was imported knew or should have known that the exporter was selling the subject merchandise at less than its fair value and that there was likely to be material injury by reason of such sales; and (B) there have been massive imports of the subject merchandise over a relatively short period.

In accordance with section 733(e) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.206, we preliminarily determine that critical circumstances exist with respect to imports of melamine produced and exported by GSFC. Furthermore, we preliminarily determine that critical circumstances do not exist with respect to imports of melamine produced and exported by all other producers and exporters from India. For a full description of Commerce's preliminary critical circumstances determination, see the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

All-Others Rate

Section 733(d)(1)(ii) of the Act provides that, in a preliminary determination, Commerce shall determine an estimated all-others rate for all exporters and producers not individually investigated in accordance with section 735(c)(5) of the Act. Section 735(c)(5)(A) of the Act states that generally the estimated rate for all others shall be an amount equal to the weighted average of the estimated weighted-average dumping margins

⁷ The petitioner is Cornerstone Chemical Company.

⁸ See Petitioner's Letter, "Petitioner's Allegation of Critical Circumstances," dated June 17, 2024 (Critical Circumstances Allegation).

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. The estimated weighted-average dumping margin in this preliminary determination was determined entirely under section 776 of the Act. In cases where no weighted-average dumping margins other than zero, *de minimis*, or those determined entirely under section 776 of the Act have been established for individually examined entities, in accordance with section 735(c)(5)(B) of the Act, Commerce typically calculates a simple average of the margins alleged in the petition and applies the results to all other entities not individually examined.⁹

In the Petition,¹⁰ the petitioner alleged two estimated dumping margins for India, 393.82 and 632.74 percent.¹¹ Therefore, consistent with our practice, for the all-others rate in this investigation, we preliminarily assign a simple average of the dumping margins alleged in the Petition, which is 513.28 percent.

Preliminary Determination

Commerce preliminarily determines that the following estimated weighted-average dumping margins exist during the period January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023:

Exporter/producer	Weighted-average dumping margin (percent)	Adjusted cash deposit rate (percent) ¹²
Gujarat State Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited	* 632.74	630.69
All Others	513.28	511.23

* Rate is based on AFA.

⁹ See, e.g., *Thermal Paper from Spain: Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value*, 86 FR 54162, 54163 (September 30, 2021), and accompanying Issues and Decision Memorandum.

¹⁰ See Petitioner's Letter, "Melamine from Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Qatar, and Trinidad and Tobago: Petition for the Imposition of Antidumping Duties," dated February 14, 2024 (Petition).

¹¹ See also *Initiation Notice*, 89 FR at 17416.

¹² Adjusted for export subsidies of 2.05 percent (comprised of 0.80 percent for the RoDTEP program and 1.25 percent for the DDB program) for GSFC and All Others. See *Melamine from India: Preliminary Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination, Preliminary Affirmative Critical Circumstances Determination, and Alignment of Final Determination with the Final Antidumping Duty Determination*, 89 FR 59055 (July 22, 2024), and accompanying Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

Suspension of Liquidation

In accordance with section 733(e)(2) of the Act, Commerce will direct U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to suspend liquidation of all entries of melamine, as described in the "Scope of the Investigation" in Appendix I, from GSFC that are entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after 90 days prior to the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. In accordance with section 733(d)(2) of the Act, Commerce will direct U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to suspend liquidation of all other entries of melamine from India, as described in the "Scope of the Investigation" in Appendix I, entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. We will also instruct CBP, pursuant to section 733(d)(1)(B) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(d), 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.

Commerce normally adjusts cash deposits for estimated antidumping duties by the amount of export subsidies countervailed in a companion countervailing duty (CVD) investigation, when CVD provisional measures are in effect. Accordingly, where Commerce preliminarily made an affirmative determination for countervailable export subsidies, Commerce has offset the estimated weighted-average dumping margin by the appropriate export subsidy rate. Any adjusted cash deposit rate may be found in the "Preliminary Determination" section above.

Should provisional measures in the companion CVD investigation expire prior to the expiration of provisional measures in this LTFV investigation, Commerce will direct CBP to begin collecting estimated antidumping duty cash deposits unadjusted for countervailed export subsidies at the time that the provisional CVD measures expire.

Disclosure

Normally, Commerce discloses to interested parties the calculations performed in connection with a 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 the notice of preliminary determination in the **Federal Register**, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.224(b). However, because Commerce preliminarily applied AFA to the mandatory respondent in this investigation and applied an AFA rate based on the Petition, there are no calculations to disclose.

Consistent with 19 CFR 351.224(e), Commerce will analyze and, if appropriate, correct any timely allegations of significant ministerial errors by amending the preliminary determination. However, consistent with 19 CFR 351.224(d), Commerce will not consider incomplete allegations that do not address the significance standard under 19 CFR 351.224(g) following the preliminary determination. Instead, Commerce will address such allegations in the final determination together with issues raised in the case briefs or other written comments.

Verification

Because the mandatory respondent in this investigation did not act to the best of its ability to provide information requested by Commerce, and Commerce preliminarily determines the mandatory respondent has been uncooperative, we will not conduct verification.

Public Comment

Case briefs or other written comments may be submitted to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance no later than 14 days after the date of publication of the preliminary determination. Rebuttal briefs, limited to issues raised in the case briefs, may be filed not later than five days after the date for filing case briefs.¹³ Interested parties who submit case briefs or rebuttal briefs in this proceeding must submit: (1) a table of contents listing each issue; and (2) a table of authorities.¹⁴

As provided under 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2) and (d)(2), in prior proceedings we have encouraged interested parties to provide an executive summary of their brief that

¹³ See 19 CFR 351.309(d); see also *Administrative Protective Order, Service, and Other Procedures in Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings*, 88 FR 67069, 67077 (September 29, 2023) (*APO and Service Final Rule*).

¹⁴ See 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2) and (d)(2).

should be limited to five pages total, including footnotes. In this investigation, we instead request that interested parties provide at the beginning of their briefs a public, executive summary for each issue raised in their briefs.¹⁵ Further, we request that interested parties limit their public executive summary of each issue to no more than 450 words, not including citations. We intend to use the public executive summaries as the basis of the comment summaries included in the issues and decision memorandum that will accompany the final determination. We request that interested parties include footnotes for relevant citations in the public 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).¹⁶

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.310(c), interested parties who wish to request a hearing must submit a written request to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance, U.S. Department of Commerce, filed electronically via ACCESS. Requests should contain: (1) the party's name, address, and telephone number; (2) the number of participants and whether any participant is a foreign national; and (3) a list of the issues to be discussed. Issues raised in the hearing will be limited to those raised in the respective case briefs. An electronically filed hearing request must be received successfully in its entirety via ACCESS by 5 p.m. Eastern Time within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice.

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.

U.S. International Trade Commission Notification

In accordance with section 733(f) of the Act, Commerce will notify the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) of our affirmative preliminary determination. If our final determination is affirmative, the ITC will determine before the later of 120 days after the date of this preliminary

¹⁵ We use the term "issue" here to describe an argument that Commerce would normally address in a comment of the Issues and Decision Memorandum.

¹⁶ See APO and Service Final Rule.

determination or 45 days after our 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: September 18, 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 I

Scope of the Investigation

The merchandise subject to this investigation is melamine (Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) registry number 108–78–01, molecular formula C₃H₆N₆). Melamine is also known as 2,4,6-triamino-1,3,5-Triazine-2,4,6- triamine; Cyanurotriamide; Cyanurotriamine; Cyanuramide; and by various brand names. Melamine is a crystalline powder or granule. All melamine is covered by the scope of this investigation irrespective of purity, particle size, or physical form. Melamine that has been blended with other products is included within this scope when such blends include constituent parts that have been intermingled, but that have not been chemically reacted with each other to produce a different product. For such blends, only the melamine component of the mixture is covered by the scope of this investigation. Melamine that is otherwise subject to this investigation is not excluded when commingled with melamine from sources not subject to this investigation. Only the subject component of such commingled products is covered by the scope of this investigation.

The subject merchandise is provided for in subheading 2933.61.0000 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS). Although the HTSUS subheading and CAS registry number are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the scope is dispositive.

Appendix II

List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum

- I. Summary
- II. Background
- III. Period of Investigation
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP) Information Collection System

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Commerce.
ACTION: Notice of information collection, request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. The purpose of this notice is to allow for 60 days of public comment preceding submission of the collection to OMB.

DATES: To ensure consideration, comments regarding this proposed information collection must be received on or before November 25, 2024.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are invited to submit written comments by mail to Maureen O'Reilly, Management Analyst, NIST by email to PRANIST@nist.gov. Please reference OMB Control Number 0693–0003 in the subject line of your comments. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or specific questions related to collection activities should be directed to Bethany Hackett, National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 2140, Gaithersburg, MD 20899–2140; phone: (301) 975–6113; email: bethany.hackett@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This is a request to extend this currently approved information collection. This information is collected from all testing or calibration laboratories that apply for NVLAP accreditation. Applicants provide the minimum information necessary for NVLAP to evaluate the competency of laboratories to carry out specific tests or