

comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Sheleen Dumas,

Departmental PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.

[FR Doc. 2025–00270 Filed 1–8–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–07–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[C–555–006]

Paper File Folders from the Kingdom of Cambodia: Postponement of Preliminary Determination in the Countervailing Duty Investigation

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

DATES: Applicable January 10, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Shane Subler or Brandon James, 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) 482–6241 and (202) 482–7472, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On November 12, 2024, the U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) initiated the countervailing duty (CVD) investigation of imports of paper file folders from the Kingdom of Cambodia (Cambodia).¹ Currently, the preliminary determination is due no later than January 16, 2025.

Postponement of Preliminary Determination

Section 703(b)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), requires Commerce to issue the preliminary determination in a CVD investigation within 65 days after the date on which Commerce initiated the investigation. However, section 703(c)(1) of the Act permits Commerce to postpone the preliminary determination until no later than 130 days after the date on which

Commerce initiated the investigation if: (A) the petitioner² makes a timely request for a postponement; or (B) Commerce concludes that the parties concerned are cooperating, that the investigation is extraordinarily complicated, and that additional time is necessary to make a preliminary determination. Under 19 CFR 351.205(e), the petitioner must submit a request for postponement 25 days or more before the scheduled date of the preliminary determination and must state the reasons for the request. Commerce will grant the request unless it finds compelling reasons to deny the request.

On December 19, 2024, the petitioner submitted a timely request that Commerce postpone the preliminary CVD determination.³ The petitioner stated that it requests postponement for Commerce to analyze initial responses and to issue supplemental questionnaires prior to making its preliminary CVD determination.⁴

In accordance with 19 CFR 351.205(e), the petitioner submitted its request for postponement of the preliminary determination in this investigation 25 days or more before the scheduled date of the preliminary determination and has stated the reasons for requesting a postponement of the preliminary determination, and Commerce finds no compelling reason to deny the request. Therefore, in accordance with section 703(c)(1)(A) of the Act, Commerce is postponing the deadline for the preliminary determination to no later than 130 days after the date on which the investigation was initiated, *i.e.*, March 24, 2025.⁵ Pursuant to section 705(a)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.210(b)(1), the deadline for the final determination of the investigation will continue to be 75 days after the date of the preliminary determination.

Notification to Interested Parties

This notice is issued and published pursuant to section 703(c)(2) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(f)(1).

² The petitioner is the Coalition of Domestic Folder Manufacturers.

³ See Petitioner's Letter, "Petitioner's Request For Postponement of the Preliminary Determination," dated December 19, 2024.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Postponing the preliminary determination to 130 days after the date of initiation would place the deadline on Saturday, March 22, 2025. Commerce's practice dictates that where a deadline falls on a weekend or federal holiday, the appropriate deadline is the next business day. See *Notice of Clarification: Application of "Next Business Day" Rule for Administrative Determination Deadlines Pursuant to the Tariff Act of 1930, As Amended*, 70 FR 24533 (May 10, 2005).

Dated: January 3, 2025.

Abdelali Elouaradia,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2025–00326 Filed 1–8–25; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A–570–192]

Erythritol From the People's Republic of China: Initiation of Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigation

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

DATES: Applicable January 2, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian Smith, Office VIII, AD/CVD Operations, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482–1766.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Petition

On December 13, 2024, the U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) received an antidumping duty (AD) petition concerning imports of erythritol from the People's Republic of China (China) filed in proper form on behalf of Cargill, Incorporated (the petitioner), a U.S. producer of erythritol.¹ The AD Petition was accompanied by a countervailing duty (CVD) petition concerning imports of erythritol from China.²

On December 17, 2024, Commerce requested supplemental information pertaining to certain aspects of the Petition in supplemental questionnaires.³ On December 19, 2024, the petitioner filed timely responses to these requests for additional information.⁴

In accordance with section 732(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), the petitioner alleges that imports of erythritol from China are being, or are

¹ See Petitioner's Letter, "Petition for the Imposition of Antidumping and Countervailing Duties," dated December 13, 2024 (Petition).

² *Id.*

³ See Commerce's Letters, "Supplemental Questions," dated December 17, 2024 (General Issues Questionnaire); and "Supplemental Questions," dated December 17, 2024.

⁴ See Petitioner's Letters, "Response to Supplemental Petition Questionnaire," dated December 19, 2024 (General Issues Supplement); and "Response to Supplemental Petition Questionnaire," dated December 19, 2024.

¹ See *Paper File Folders from Cambodia: Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigation*, 89 FR 91331 (November 19, 2024).

likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV) within the meaning of section 731 of the Act, and that imports of such products are materially injuring, or threatening material injury to, the erythritol industry in the United States. Consistent with section 732(b)(1) of the Act, the Petition was accompanied by information reasonably available to the petitioner supporting its allegations.

Commerce finds that the petitioner filed the Petition on behalf of the domestic industry, because the petitioner is an interested party, as defined in section 771(9)(C) of the Act. Commerce also finds that the petitioner demonstrated sufficient industry support for the initiation of the requested LTFV investigation.⁵

Period of Investigation

Because the Petition was filed on December 13, 2024, and because China is a non-market economy (NME) country, pursuant to 19 CFR 351.204(b)(1), the period of investigation (POI) for the LTFV investigation is April 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024.

Scope of the Investigation

The product covered by this investigation is erythritol from China. For a full description of the scope of this investigation, *see* the appendix to this notice.

Comments on the Scope of the Investigation

On December 17, 2024, Commerce requested information and clarification from the petitioner regarding the proposed scope to ensure that the scope language in the Petition is an accurate reflection of the products for which the domestic industry is seeking relief.⁶ On December 19, 2024, the petitioner provided clarifications and revised the scope.⁷ The description of merchandise covered by this investigation, as described in the appendix to this notice, reflects these clarifications.

As discussed in the *Preamble* to Commerce's regulations, we are setting aside a period for interested parties to raise issues regarding product coverage (*i.e.*, scope).⁸ Commerce will consider all scope comments received from interested parties and, if necessary, will consult with interested parties prior to

the issuance of the preliminary determination. If scope comments include factual information,⁹ all such factual information should be limited to public information. To facilitate preparation of its questionnaires, Commerce requests that scope comments be submitted by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on January 22, 2025, which 20 calendar days from the signature date of this notice. Any rebuttal comments, which may include factual information, and should also be limited to public information, must be filed by 5:00 p.m. ET on February 3, 2025, which is the next business day after 10 calendar days from the initial comment deadline.¹⁰

Commerce requests that any factual information that parties consider relevant to the scope of this investigation be submitted during that period. However, if a party subsequently finds that additional factual information pertaining to the scope of the investigation may be relevant, the party must contact Commerce and request permission to submit the additional information. All scope comments must be filed simultaneously on the records of the concurrent LTFV and CVD investigations.

Filing Requirements

All submissions to Commerce must be filed electronically via Enforcement and Compliance's Antidumping Duty and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Service System (ACCESS), unless an exception applies.¹¹ An electronically filed document must be received successfully in its entirety by the time and date it is due.

Comments on Product Characteristics

Commerce is providing interested parties an opportunity to comment on the appropriate physical characteristics

of erythritol to be reported in response to Commerce's AD questionnaires. This information will be used to identify the key physical characteristics of the subject merchandise in order to report the relevant factors of production (FOP) accurately, as well as to develop appropriate product comparison criteria.

Interested parties may provide any information or comments that they feel are relevant to the development of an accurate list of physical characteristics. In order to consider the suggestions of interested parties in developing and issuing the AD questionnaires, all product characteristics comments must be filed by 5:00 p.m. ET on January 22, 2025, which is 20 calendar days from the signature date of this notice. Any rebuttal comments must be filed by 5:00 p.m. ET on February 3, 2025, which is the next business day after 10 calendar days from the initial comment deadline.¹² All comments and submissions to Commerce must be filed electronically using ACCESS, as explained above, on the record of the LTFV investigation.

Determination of Industry Support for the Petition

Section 732(b)(1) of the Act requires that a petition be filed on behalf of the domestic industry. Section 732(c)(4)(A) of the Act provides that a petition meets this requirement if the domestic producers or workers who support the petition account for: (i) at least 25 percent of the total production of the domestic like product; and (ii) more than 50 percent of the production of the domestic like product produced by that portion of the industry expressing support for, or opposition to, the petition. Moreover, section 732(c)(4)(D) of the Act provides that, if the petition does not establish support of domestic producers or workers accounting for more than 50 percent of the total production of the domestic like product, Commerce shall: (i) poll the industry or rely on other information in order to determine if there is support for the petition, as required by subparagraph (A); or (ii) determine industry support using a statistically valid sampling method to poll the "industry."

Section 771(4)(A) of the Act defines the "industry" as the producers as a

⁹ See 19 CFR 351.102(b)(21) (defining "factual information").

¹⁰ See 19 CFR 351.303(b)(1). The deadline for scope rebuttal comments falls on February 1, 2025, which is a Saturday. In accordance with 19 CFR 351.303(b)(1), Commerce will accept scope rebuttal comments filed by 5:00 p.m. ET on February 3, 2025 ("For both electronically filed and manually filed documents, if the applicable due date falls on a non-business day, the Secretary will accept documents that are filed on the next business day.").

¹¹ See *Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings: Electronic Filing Procedures; Administrative Protective Order Procedures*, 76 FR 39263 (July 6, 2011); *see also Enforcement and Compliance: Change of Electronic Filing System Name*, 79 FR 69046 (November 20, 2014) for details of Commerce's electronic filing requirements, effective August 5, 2011. Information on using ACCESS can be found at <https://access.trade.gov/help.aspx> and a handbook can be found at https://access.trade.gov/help/Handbook_on_Electronic_Filing_Procedures.pdf.

¹² See 19 CFR 351.303(b)(1). The deadline for rebuttal comments on product characteristics falls on February 1, 2025, which is a Saturday. In accordance with 19 CFR 351.303(b)(1), Commerce will accept comments filed by 5:00 p.m. ET on February 3, 2025 ("For both electronically filed and manually filed documents, if the applicable due date falls on a non-business day, the Secretary will accept documents that are filed on the next business day.").

⁵ See section on "Determination of Industry Support for the Petition," *infra*.

⁶ See General Issues Questionnaire.

⁷ See General Issues Supplement at 2–3 and Exhibit GEN–S–2.

⁸ See *Antidumping Duties; Countervailing Duties, Final Rule*, 62 FR 27296, 27323 (May 19, 1997) (*Preamble*); *see also* 19 CFR 351.312.

whole of a domestic like product. Thus, to determine whether a petition has the requisite industry support, the statute directs Commerce to look to producers and workers who produce the domestic like product. The U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC), which is responsible for determining whether “the domestic industry” has been injured, must also determine what constitutes a domestic like product in order to define the industry. While both Commerce and the ITC apply the same statutory definition regarding the domestic like product,¹³ they do so for different purposes and pursuant to a separate and distinct authority. In addition, Commerce’s determination is subject to limitations of time and information. Although this may result in different definitions of the like product, such differences do not render the decision of either agency contrary to law.¹⁴

Section 771(10) of the Act defines the domestic like product as “a product which is like, or in the absence of like, most similar in characteristics and uses with, the article subject to an investigation under this title.” Thus, the reference point from which the domestic like product analysis begins is “the article subject to an investigation” (*i.e.*, the class or kind of merchandise to be investigated, which normally will be the scope as defined in the petition).

With regard to the domestic like product, the petitioner does not offer a definition of the domestic like product distinct from the scope of the investigation.¹⁵ Based on our analysis of the information submitted on the record, we have determined that erythritol, as defined in the scope, constitutes a single domestic like product, and we have analyzed industry support in terms of that domestic like product.¹⁶

In determining whether the petitioner has standing under section 732(c)(4)(A) of the Act, we considered the industry

support data contained in the Petition with reference to the domestic like product as defined in the “Scope of the Investigation,” in the appendix to this notice. To establish industry support, the petitioner provided its own production of the domestic like product in 2023.¹⁷ The petitioner stated that there are no other known producers of erythritol in the United States; therefore, the Petition is supported by 100 percent of the U.S. industry.¹⁸ We relied on data provided by the petitioner for purposes of measuring industry support.¹⁹

Our review of the data provided in the Petition, the General Issues Supplement, and other information readily available to Commerce indicates that the petitioner has established industry support for the Petition.²⁰ First, the Petition established support from domestic producers (or workers) accounting for more than 50 percent of the total production of the domestic like product and, as such, Commerce is not required to take further action in order to evaluate industry support (*e.g.*, polling).²¹ Second, the domestic producers (or workers) have met the statutory criteria for industry support under section 732(c)(4)(A)(i) of the Act because the domestic producers (or workers) who support the Petition account for at least 25 percent of the total production of the domestic like product.²² Finally, the domestic producers (or workers) have met the statutory criteria for industry support under section 732(c)(4)(A)(ii) of the Act because the domestic producers (or workers) who support the Petition account for more than 50 percent of the production of the domestic like product produced by that portion of the industry expressing support for, or opposition to, the Petition.²³ Accordingly, Commerce determines that the Petition was filed on behalf of the domestic industry within the meaning of section 732(b)(1) of the Act.²⁴

Allegations and Evidence of Material Injury and Causation

The petitioner alleges that the U.S. industry producing the domestic like product is being materially injured, or is threatened with material injury, by reason of the imports of the subject merchandise sold at LTFV. In addition,

the petitioner alleges that subject imports from China exceed the negligibility threshold provided for under section 771(24)(A) of the Act.²⁵

The petitioner contends that the industry’s injured condition is illustrated by the significant and increasing volume of subject imports; reduced market share; underselling and price depression and/or suppression; lost sales and revenues; and declines in the domestic industry’s production, capacity utilization, U.S. shipments, employment variables, and financial performance.²⁶ We assessed the allegations and supporting evidence regarding material injury, threat of material injury, causation, cumulation, as well as negligibility, and we have determined that these allegations are properly supported by adequate evidence and meet the statutory requirements for initiation.²⁷

Allegations of Sales at LTFV

The following is a description of the allegations of sales at LTFV upon which Commerce based its decision to initiate a LTFV investigation of imports of erythritol from China. The sources of data for the deductions and adjustments relating to U.S. price and normal value (NV) are discussed in greater detail in the China AD Initiation Checklist.

U.S. Price

The petitioner based export price (EP) on transaction-specific average unit values (AUVs) (*i.e.*, month- and port-specific AUVs) derived from official import statistics and tied to ship manifest data.²⁸ The petitioner made certain adjustments to U.S. price to calculate a net ex-factory U.S. price, where applicable.²⁹

Normal Value

Commerce considers China to be an NME country.³⁰ In accordance with

²⁵ For further information regarding negligibility and the injury allegation, see China AD Initiation Checklist at Attachment III, Analysis of Allegations and Evidence of Material Injury and Causation for the Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Petitions Covering Erythritol from the People’s Republic of China (Attachment III).

²⁶ See Attachment III of the China AD Initiation Checklist.

²⁷ *Id.*

²⁸ See China AD Initiation Checklist.

²⁹ *Id.*

³⁰ See, *e.g.*, *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*, 88 FR 15372 (March 13, 2023), and accompanying Preliminary Decision Memorandum at 5, unchanged in *Certain Freight Rail Couplers and Parts Thereof from the People’s Republic of China: Final Affirmative Determination of Sales at Less-*

¹³ See section 771(10) of the Act.

¹⁴ See *USEC, Inc. v. United States*, 132 F. Supp. 2d 1, 8 (CIT 2001) (citing *Algoma Steel Corp., Ltd. v. United States*, 688 F. Supp. 639, 644 (CIT 1988), *aff’d Algoma Steel Corp., Ltd. v. United States*, 865 F.2d 240 (Fed. Cir. 1989)).

¹⁵ For a discussion of the domestic like product analysis as applied to this case and information regarding industry support, see Checklist, “Antidumping Duty Investigation Initiation Checklist: Erythritol from the People’s Republic of China,” dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice (China AD Initiation Checklist), at Attachment II, Analysis of Industry Support for the Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Petitions Covering Erythritol from the People’s Republic of China (Attachment II). This checklist is on file electronically via ACCESS.

¹⁶ See Attachment II of the China AD Initiation Checklist.

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ For further discussion, see Attachment II of the China AD Initiation Checklist.

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ *Id.*; see also section 732(c)(4)(D) of the Act.

²² See Attachment II of the China AD Initiation Checklist.

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ *Id.*

section 771(18)(C)(i) of the Act, any determination that a foreign country is an NME country shall remain in effect until revoked by Commerce. Therefore, we continue to treat China as an NME country for purposes of the initiation of this LTFV investigation. Accordingly, we base NV on FOPs valued in a surrogate market economy country in accordance with section 773(c) of the Act.

The petitioner claims that Malaysia is an appropriate surrogate country for China because it is a market economy that is at a level of economic development comparable to that of China and is a significant producer of comparable merchandise.³¹ The petitioner provided publicly available information from Malaysia to value all FOPs except labor.³² Consistent with Commerce's recent practice in cases involving Malaysia as a surrogate country,³³ to value labor, the petitioner provided data from another surrogate country, the Republic of Türkiye (Türkiye). Based on the information provided by the petitioner, we believe it is appropriate to use Malaysia as a surrogate country for China to value all FOPs except labor and Türkiye to value labor for initiation purposes.

Interested parties will have the opportunity to submit comments regarding surrogate country selection and, pursuant to 19 CFR 351.301(c)(3)(i), will be provided an opportunity to submit publicly available information to value FOPs within 30 days before the scheduled date of the preliminary determination.

Factors of Production

Because information regarding the volume of inputs consumed by Chinese producers/exporters was not reasonably available, the petitioner used its own production experience and product-specific consumption rates as a surrogate to value Chinese manufacturers' FOPs.³⁴ Additionally, the petitioner calculated factory overhead, selling, general, and administrative expenses, and profit

Than-Fair Value and Final Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances, 88 FR 34485 (May 30, 2023).

³¹ See China AD Initiation Checklist.

³² *Id.*

³³ See, e.g., *Certain Collated Steel Staples from the People's Republic of China: Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review*; and *Final Determination of No Shipments; 2021–2022*, 88 FR 85242 (December 7, 2023), and accompanying Issues and Decision Memorandum (IDM) at Comment 2; and *Light-Walled Rectangular Pipe and Tube from the People's Republic of China: Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review*, 88 FR 15671 (March 14, 2023), and accompanying IDM at Comment 2.

³⁴ See China AD Initiation Checklist.

based on the experience of a Malaysian producer of comparable merchandise.³⁵

Fair Value Comparisons

Based on the data provided by the petitioner, there is reason to believe that imports of erythritol from China are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at LTFV. Based on comparisons of EP to NV in accordance with sections 772 and 773 of the Act, the estimated dumping margins for erythritol from China covered by this initiation range from 270.00 to 450.64 percent.³⁶

Initiation of LTFV Investigation

Based upon the examination of the Petition and supplemental responses, we find that they meet the requirements of section 732 of the Act. Therefore, we are initiating a LTFV investigation to determine whether imports of erythritol are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at LTFV. In accordance with section 733(b)(1)(A) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(b)(1), unless postponed, we will make our preliminary determination no later than 140 days after the date of this initiation.

Respondent Selection

In the Petition, the petitioner identified 83 companies in China as producers and/or exporters of erythritol.³⁷ Our standard practice for respondent selection in AD investigations involving NME countries is to select respondents based on quantity and value (Q&V) questionnaires in cases where Commerce has determined that the number of companies is large, and it cannot individually examine each company based upon its resources. Therefore, considering the number of producers and/or exporters identified in the Petition, Commerce will solicit Q&V information that can serve as a basis for selecting exporters for individual examination in the event that Commerce determines that the number is large and decides to limit the number of respondents individually examined pursuant to section 777A(c)(2) of the Act. Because there are 83 Chinese producers and/or exporters identified in the Petition, Commerce has determined that it will issue Q&V questionnaires to the largest producers and/or exporters in China that are identified in the U.S. Customs and Border Protection POI

³⁵ *Id.*

³⁶ *Id.*

³⁷ See Petition at Volume I (pages I–7 and I–8 and Exhibit I–5); see also General Issues Supplement at 1 and Exhibit GEN–S–1.

entry data for which there is complete address information on the record.³⁸

Commerce will post the Q&V questionnaires along with filing instructions on Commerce's website at <https://www.trade.gov/ec-adcvd-case-announcements>. Producers/exporters of erythritol from China that do not receive Q&V questionnaires may still submit a response to the Q&V questionnaire and can obtain a copy of the Q&V questionnaire from Commerce's website. Responses to the Q&V questionnaire must be submitted by the relevant Chinese producers/exporters no later than 5:00 p.m. ET on January 16, 2025, which is two weeks from the signature date of this notice. All Q&V questionnaire responses must be filed electronically via ACCESS. An electronically filed document must be received successfully, in its entirety, by ACCESS no later than 5:00 p.m. ET on the deadline noted above.

Interested parties must submit applications for disclosure under administrative protective order (APO) in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305(b). As stated above, instructions for filing such applications may be found on Commerce's website at <https://www.trade.gov/administrative-protective-orders>.

Separate Rates

In order to obtain separate rate status in an NME investigation, exporters and producers must submit a separate rate application. The specific requirements for submitting a separate rate application in an NME investigation are outlined in detail in the application itself, which is available on Commerce's website at <https://access.trade.gov/Resources/nme/nme-sep-rate.html>. The separate rate application will be due 30 days after publication of this initiation notice. Exporters and producers must file a timely separate rate application if they want to be considered for individual examination. Exporters and producers who submit a separate rate application and have been selected as mandatory respondents will be eligible for consideration for separate rate status only if they respond to all parts of Commerce's AD questionnaire as mandatory respondents. Commerce requires that companies from China submit a response both to the Q&V questionnaire and to the separate rate application by the respective deadlines to receive consideration for separate rate status. Companies not filing a timely

³⁸ See Memorandum, "Release of U.S. Customs and Border Protection Entry Data," dated December 31, 2024.

Q&V questionnaire response will not receive separate rate consideration.

Use of Combination Rates

Commerce will calculate combination rates for certain respondents that are eligible for a separate rate in an NME investigation. The Separate Rates and Combination Rates Bulletin states:

{w}hile continuing the practice of assigning separate rates only to exporters, all separate rates that {Commerce} will now assign in its NME investigation will be specific to those producers that supplied the exporter during the period of investigation. Note, however, that one rate is calculated for the exporter and all of the producers which supplied subject merchandise to it during the period of investigation. This practice applies both to mandatory respondents receiving an individually calculated separate rate as well as the pool of non-investigated firms receiving the {weighted average} of the individually calculated rates. This practice is referred to as the application of “combination rates” because such rates apply to specific combinations of exporters and one or more producers. The cash-deposit rate assigned to an exporter will apply only to merchandise both exported by the firm in question *and* produced by a firm that supplied the exporter during the period of investigation.³⁹

Distribution of Copies of the Petition

In accordance with section 732(b)(3)(A) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.202(f), copies of the public version of the Petition have been provided to the Government of China via ACCESS. To the extent practicable, we will attempt to provide a copy of the public version of the Petition to each exporter named in the Petition, as provided under 19 CFR 351.203(c)(2).

ITC Notification

Commerce will notify the ITC of our initiation, as required by section 732(d) of the Act.

Preliminary Determination by the ITC

The ITC will preliminarily determine, within 45 days after the date on which the Petition was filed, whether there is a reasonable indication that imports of erythritol from China are materially injuring, or threatening material injury to, a U.S. industry.⁴⁰ A negative ITC determination will result in the investigation being terminated.⁴¹ Otherwise, this LTFV investigation will

³⁹ See Enforcement and Compliance’s Policy Bulletin No. 05.1, regarding, “Separate-Rates Practice and Application of Combination Rates in Antidumping Investigation Involving NME Countries,” (April 5, 2005), at 6 (emphasis added), available on Commerce’s website at <https://access.trade.gov/Resources/policy/bull05-1.pdf>.

⁴⁰ See section 733(a) of the Act.

⁴¹ *Id.*

proceed according to statutory and regulatory time limits.

Submission of Factual Information

Factual information is defined in 19 CFR 351.102(b)(21) as: (i) evidence submitted in response to questionnaires; (ii) evidence submitted in support of allegations; (iii) publicly available information to value factors under 19 CFR 351.408(c) or to measure the adequacy of remuneration under 19 CFR 351.511(a)(2); (iv) evidence placed on the record by Commerce; and (v) evidence other than factual information described in (i)–(iv). Section 351.301(b) of Commerce’s regulations requires any party, when submitting factual information, to specify under which subsection of 19 CFR 351.102(b)(21) the information is being submitted⁴² and, if the information is submitted to rebut, clarify, or correct factual information already on the record, to provide an explanation identifying the information already on the record that the factual information seeks to rebut, clarify, or correct.⁴³ Time limits for the submission of factual information are addressed in 19 CFR 351.301, which provides specific time limits based on the type of factual information being submitted. Interested parties should review the regulations prior to submitting factual information in this investigation.

Extensions of Time Limits

Parties may request an extension of time limits before the expiration of a time limit established under 19 CFR 351.301, or as otherwise specified by Commerce. In general, an extension request will be considered untimely if it is filed after the expiration of the time limit established under 19 CFR 351.301, or as otherwise specified by Commerce.⁴⁴ For submissions that are due from multiple parties simultaneously, an extension request will be considered untimely if it is filed after 10:00 a.m. ET on the due date. Under certain circumstances, Commerce may elect to specify a different time limit by which extension requests will be considered untimely for submissions which are due from multiple parties simultaneously. In such a case, we will inform parties in a letter or memorandum of the deadline (including a specified time) by which extension requests must be filed to be considered

⁴² See 19 CFR 351.301(b).

⁴³ See 19 CFR 351.301(b)(2).

⁴⁴ See 19 CFR 351.301; see also *Extension of Time Limits; Final Rule*, 78 FR 57790 (September 20, 2013) (*Time Limits Final Rule*), available at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-09-20/html/2013-22853.htm>.

timely. An extension request must be made in a separate, standalone submission; under limited circumstances we will grant untimely filed requests for the extension of time limits, where we determine, based on 19 CFR 351.302, that extraordinary circumstances exist. Parties should review Commerce’s regulations concerning the extension of time limits and the *Time Limits Final Rule* prior to submitting factual information in this investigation.⁴⁵

Certification Requirements

Any party submitting factual information in an AD or CVD proceeding must certify to the accuracy and completeness of that information.⁴⁶ Parties must use the certification formats provided in 19 CFR 351.303(g).⁴⁷ Commerce intends to reject factual submissions if the submitting party does not comply with the applicable certification requirements.

Notification to Interested Parties

Interested parties must submit applications for disclosure under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305. Parties wishing to participate in this investigation should ensure that they meet the requirements of 19 CFR 351.103(d) (e.g., by filing the required letter of appearance). Note that Commerce has amended certain of its requirements pertaining to the service of documents in 19 CFR 351.303(f).⁴⁸

This notice is issued and published pursuant to sections 732(c)(2) and 777(i) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.203(c).

Dated: January 2, 2025.

Abdelali Elouaradia,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

Appendix

Scope of the Investigation

The product within the scope of this investigation is erythritol, which is a sugar alcohol, commonly referred to as a polyol, typically produced by the fermentation of glucose using enzymes and yeast or yeast-like fungi (though the scope includes erythritol produced using any other feedstock or organism). Erythritol is an organic compound

⁴⁵ See 19 CFR 351.302; see also, e.g., *Time Limits Final Rule*.

⁴⁶ See section 782(b) of the Act.

⁴⁷ See *Certification of Factual Information to Import Administration During Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings*, 78 FR 42678 (July 17, 2013) (*Final Rule*). Additional information regarding the *Final Rule* is available at <https://access.trade.gov/Resources/filing/index.html>.

⁴⁸ See *Administrative Protective Order, Service, and Other Procedures in Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings*, 88 FR 67069 (September 29, 2023).

with the molecular formula $C_4H_{10}O_4$ and a Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) registry number of 149–32–6. Other names for erythritol include *meso*-erythritol, (2R, 3S)-butan-1,2,3,4-tetrol, butane-1,2,3,4-tetrol, or *meso*-1,2,3,4-Tetrahydroxybutane.

Erythritol typically appears as a white crystalline, odorless product that rapidly dissolves in water. While erythritol is typically produced in the crystalline form or as a fine powder or in directly compressible form, the scope of this investigation covers all physical forms and grades of erythritol, including organic erythritol.

The merchandise covered by this investigation is classifiable under Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) subheading 2905.49.4000. Erythritol may also enter under HTSUS subheading 2106.90.9998. Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the merchandise covered by this investigation is dispositive.

[FR Doc. 2025–00258 Filed 1–8–25; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[C–570–193]

Erythritol From the People’s Republic of China: Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigation

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

DATES: Applicable January 2, 2025.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Petition

On December 13, 2024, the U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) received a countervailing duty (CVD) petition concerning imports of erythritol from the People’s Republic of China (China) filed in proper form on behalf of Cargill, Incorporated (the petitioner), a U.S. producer of erythritol.¹ The CVD Petition was accompanied by an antidumping duty (AD) petition concerning imports of erythritol from China.²

On December 17, 2024, Commerce requested supplemental information pertaining to certain aspects of the

¹ See Petitioner’s Letter, “Petition for the Imposition of Antidumping and Countervailing Duties,” December 13, 2024 (Petition).

² *Id.*

Petition in supplemental questionnaires.³ On December 19, 2024, the petitioner filed timely responses to these requests for additional information.⁴

In accordance with section 702(b)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), the petitioner alleges that the Government of China (GOC) is providing countervailable subsidies, within the meaning of sections 701 and 771(5) of the Act, to producers of erythritol in China, and that such imports are materially injuring, or threatening material injury to, the domestic industry producing erythritol in the United States. Consistent with section 702(b)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.202(b), for those alleged programs on which we are initiating a CVD investigation, the Petition was accompanied by information reasonably available to the petitioner supporting its allegations.

Commerce finds that the petitioner filed the Petition on behalf of the domestic industry, because the petitioner is an interested party, as defined in section 771(9)(C) of the Act. Commerce also finds that the petitioner demonstrated sufficient industry support with respect to the initiation of the requested CVD investigation.⁵

Period of Investigation

Because the Petition was filed on December 13, 2024, the period of investigation for the CVD investigation is January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023.⁶

Scope of the Investigation

The product covered by this investigation is erythritol from China. For a full description of the scope of this investigation, see the appendix to this notice.

Comments on the Scope of the Investigation

On December 17, 2024, Commerce requested information and clarification from the petitioner regarding the proposed scope to ensure that the scope language in the Petition is an accurate reflection of the products for which the domestic industry is seeking relief.⁷ On

³ See Commerce’s Letters, “Supplemental Questions,” dated December 17, 2024 (General Issues Questionnaire); and “Supplemental Questions,” dated December 17, 2024.

⁴ See Petitioner’s Letters, “Response to Supplemental Petition Questionnaire,” dated December 19, 2024 (General Issues Supplement); and “Response to Supplemental Petition Questionnaire,” dated December 19, 2024.

⁵ See section on “Determination of Industry Support for the Petition,” *infra*.

⁶ See 19 CFR 351.204(b)(2).

⁷ See General Issues Questionnaire.

December 19, 2024, the petitioner provided clarifications and revised the scope.⁸ The description of merchandise covered by this investigation, as described in the appendix to this notice, reflects these clarifications.

As discussed in the *Preamble* to Commerce’s regulations, we are setting aside a period for interested parties to raise issues regarding product coverage (*i.e.*, scope).⁹ Commerce will consider all comments received from interested parties and, if necessary, will consult with interested parties prior to the issuance of the preliminary determination. If scope comments include factual information, all such factual information should be limited to public information.¹⁰ To facilitate preparation of its questionnaires, Commerce requests that scope comments be submitted by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on January 22, 2025, which 20 calendar days from the signature date of this notice. Any rebuttal comments, which may include factual information, and should also be limited to public information, must be filed by 5:00 p.m. ET on February 3, 2025, which is the next business day after 10 calendar days from the initial comment deadline.¹¹

Commerce requests that any factual information that parties consider relevant to the scope of the investigation be submitted during that time period. However, if a party subsequently finds that additional factual information pertaining to the scope of the investigation may be relevant, the party must contact Commerce and request permission to submit the additional information. All scope comments must be filed simultaneously on the records of the concurrent AD and CVD investigations.

Filing Requirements

All submissions to Commerce must be filed electronically via Enforcement and Compliance’s Antidumping Duty and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Service System (ACCESS),

⁸ See General Issues Supplement at 2–3 and Exhibit GEN–S–2.

⁹ See *Antidumping Duties; Countervailing Duties; Final Rule*, 62 FR 27296, 27323 (May 19, 1997) (*Preamble*).

¹⁰ See 19 CFR 351.102(b)(21) (defining “factual information”).

¹¹ See 19 CFR 351.303(b)(1). The deadline for scope rebuttal comments falls on February 1, 2025, which is a Saturday. In accordance with 19 CFR 351.303(b)(1), Commerce will accept scope rebuttal comments filed by 5:00 p.m. ET on February 3, 2025 (“For both electronically filed and manually filed documents, if the applicable due date falls on a non-business day, the Secretary will accept documents that are filed on the next business day.”).