



FACT SHEET

Commerce Finds Dumping of Certain Stilbenic Optical Brightening Agents from the People's Republic of China and Taiwan

- On March 20, 2012, the Department of Commerce (Commerce) announced its affirmative final determinations in the antidumping duty (AD) investigations of imports of certain stilbenic optical brightening agents (brightening agents) from the People's Republic of China (China) and Taiwan.
- For the purpose of AD investigations, dumping occurs when a foreign company sells a product in the United States at less than fair value.
- Commerce determined that producers/exporters from China and Taiwan have sold brightening agents in the United States at margins ranging from 63.98 to 109.95 percent, and 6.20 percent, respectively.
- In the China investigation, mandatory respondents Zhejiang Hongda Chemicals Co., Ltd. and Zhejiang Transfar Whyyon Chemical Co., Ltd. received dumping rates of 95.29 and 63.98 percent, respectively. All other Chinese exporters received a dumping rate of 109.95 percent.
- In the Taiwan investigation, mandatory respondent Teh Fong Min International, Co., Ltd received a dumping rate of 6.20 percent. Mandatory respondent Sun Rise Chemical Ind. Co., Ltd. will be subject to the All Others rate of 6.20 percent because it had no sales of subject merchandise during the period of investigation.
- As The Fong Min International Co., Ltd. was the only respondent assigned a rate, All Other Taiwanese exporters received a dumping rate of 6.20 percent.
- As a result of these final determinations, Commerce will instruct U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to continue to collect cash deposits or bonds equal to the weighted-average dumping margins.
- The petitioner for these investigations is Clariant Corporation (NC).
- The merchandise covered by these investigations are all forms (whether free acid or salt) of compounds known as triazinylaminostilbenes (*i.e.*, all derivatives of 4,4'-bis [1,3,5- triazin-2-yl] amino-2,2'-stilbenedisulfonic acid), except for compounds listed in the following paragraph. The certain stilbenic optical brightening agents covered by these investigations include final optical brightening agent products, as well as intermediate products that are themselves triazinylaminostilbenes produced during the synthesis of final optical brightening agent products.
- Excluded from these investigations are all forms of 4,4'-bis[4-anilino-6-morpholino-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl] amino-2,2'-stilbenedisulfonic acid, C₄₀H₄₀N₁₂O₈S₂ (Fluorescent Brightener 71).
- These investigations cover the above-described compounds in any state (including but not limited to powder, slurry, or solution), of any concentrations of active certain stilbenic optical brightening

ingredient, as well as any compositions regardless of additives (*i.e.*, mixtures or blends, whether of certain stilbenic optical brightening agents with each other, or of certain stilbenic optical brightening agents with additives that are not certain stilbenic optical brightening agents), and in any type of packaging.

- Imports of the subject merchandise are classifiable under subheading 3204.20.8000 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS), but may also enter under subheadings 2933.69.6050, 2921.59.4000 and 2921.59.8090. Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the scope is dispositive.
- In 2011, imports of brightening agents from China and Taiwan were valued at an estimated \$38.9 million and \$ 18.9 million, respectively. However, because brightening agents subject to these investigations are classified within HTSUS basket categories that contain products beyond the scope of the investigations, these values may be overstated.

NEXT STEPS

- The U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) is currently scheduled to issue its final injury determination on or before May 3, 2012.
- If the ITC makes affirmative final determinations that imports of brightening agents from China and/or Taiwan materially injure, or threaten material injury to, the domestic industry, Commerce will issue AD orders. If the ITC makes negative injury determinations, these investigations will be terminated.

FINAL DUMPING MARGINS:

COUNTRY	PRODUCER/EXPORTER	MARGIN
CHINA	Zhejiang Hongda Chemicals Co., Ltd.	95.29%
	Zhejiang Transfar Whyyon Chemical Co., Ltd.	63.98%
	China-Wide	109.95%

COUNTRY	PRODUCER/EXPORTER	MARGIN
TAIWAN	Teh Fong Min International Co., Ltd.	6.20%
	All Others Rate (including Sun Rise Chemical Ind. Co., Ltd.)	6.20%

CASE CALENDAR¹:

EVENT	AD INVESTIGATIONS
Petition Filed	March 31, 2011
DOC Initiation Date	April 20, 2011
ITC Preliminary Determination	May 27, 2011
DOC Preliminary Determinations	October 27, 2011
DOC Final Determinations	March 19, 2012
ITC Final Determination	May 3, 2012
Issuance of Order*	May 10, 2012

*This will take place only in the event of final affirmative determinations from the ITC.

IMPORT STATISTICS:

CHINA	2009	2010	2011
Volume (metric tons)	21,000	17,000	17,000
Value (US\$)	46,951,000	32,508,000	38,868,000

TAIWAN	2009	2010	2011
Volume (metric tons)	4,000	5,000	9,000
Value (US\$)	8,418,000	11,583,000	18,864,000

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, accessed through Global Trade Atlas. (HTSUS 3204.20.8000, 2921.59.4000, 2933.69.6050, and 2921.59.8090). Some HTSUS subheadings include basket categories and may cover both subject and non-subject merchandise.

² For an AD investigation, the deadline is set forth in section 735(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended.