



FACT SHEET

Commerce Initiates Antidumping Duty Investigations of Imports of Low Melt Polyester Staple Fiber from the Republic of Korea and Taiwan

- On July 18, 2017, the Department of Commerce (Commerce) announced the initiation of antidumping duty (AD) investigations of imports of low melt polyester staple fiber (low melt PSF) from the Republic of Korea (Korea) and Taiwan.
- The AD law provides U.S. businesses and workers with a transparent, quasi-judicial, and internationally accepted mechanism to seek relief from the market-distorting effects caused by injurious dumping of imports into the United States, establishing an opportunity to compete on a level playing field.
- For the purpose of AD investigations, dumping occurs when a foreign company sells a product in the United States at less than its fair value.
- The petitioner is Nan Ya Plastics Corporation, America (SC).
- The scope of these investigations covers synthetic staple fibers, not carded or combed, specifically bi-component polyester fibers having a polyester fiber component that melts at a lower temperature than the other polyester fiber component (low melt PSF). The scope includes bi-component polyester staple fibers of any denier or cut length. The subject merchandise may be coated, usually with a finish or dye, or not coated.

Low melt PSF is currently classifiable under subheading 5503.20.0015. Although the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) subheading is provided for convenience and U.S. Customs purposes, it does not define the scope of the investigations; rather, the written description of the subject merchandise is dispositive.

- In 2016, imports of low melt PSF from Korea and Taiwan were valued at an estimated \$76.6 million and \$26.8 million, respectively.

NEXT STEPS

- The U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) is scheduled to make its preliminary injury determinations on or before August 11, 2017.
- If the ITC determines that there is a reasonable indication that imports of low melt PSF from Korea and/or Taiwan materially injure, or threaten material injury to, the domestic industry in the United States, the investigations will continue, and the Department will be scheduled to announce its preliminary AD determinations in December 2017; this date may be extended. If the ITC's determinations are negative, the investigations will be terminated.

ALLEGED DUMPING MARGINS:

COUNTRY	DUMPING MARGINS
Korea	39.24 to 52.23 percent
Taiwan	28.47 to 73.21 percent

CASE CALENDAR:

EVENT	AD INVESTIGATIONS
Petitions Filed	June 27, 2017
DOC Initiation Date	July 17, 2017
ITC Preliminary Determinations*	August 11, 2017
DOC Preliminary Determinations	December 4, 2017
DOC Final Determinations†	February 20, 2018
ITC Final Determinations**	April 3, 2018
Issuance of Orders***	April 10, 2018

NOTE: Commerce preliminary and final determination deadlines are governed by statute. For CVD investigations, the deadlines are set forth in sections 703(b) and 705(a)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act). For AD investigations, the deadlines are set forth in sections 733(b) and 735(a) of the Act. These deadlines may be extended under certain circumstances.

* If the ITC makes a negative preliminary determination of injury, the investigations are terminated.

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

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

†Where the deadline falls on a weekend/holiday, the appropriate date is the next business day.

IMPORT STATISTICS:

KOREA	2014	2015	2016
Volume (metric tons)	48,392	54,750	63,086
Value (USD)	84,503,339	76,824,043	76,558,288
TAIWAN			
TAIWAN	2014	2015	2016
Volume (metric tons)	20,299	22,732	27,243
Value (USD)	30,295,427	27,501,105	26,835,612

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, accessed through Global Trade Atlas. (HTSUS 5503.20.0015)