



## FACT SHEET

### **Commerce Preliminarily Finds Dumping of Imports of 1,1,1,2-Tetrafluoroethane from the People's Republic of China**

- On May 22, 2014, the Department of Commerce (Commerce) announced its affirmative preliminary determination in the antidumping duty (AD) investigation of imports of 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane from the People's Republic of China (China).
- The AD law provides U.S. businesses and workers with a transparent and internationally approved 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.
- Commerce preliminarily determined that 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane from China has been sold in the United States at dumping margins ranging from 133.47 percent to 237.33 percent.
- Mandatory respondents Weitron International Refrigeration Equipment (Kunshan) Co., Ltd. and Jiangsu Bluestar Green Technology Co., Ltd. received preliminary dumping margins of 133.47 percent and 237.33 percent, respectively. Three other exporters qualified for a separate rate of 187.48 percent. All other producers/exporters in China received a China-wide preliminary dumping margin of 237.33 percent.
- As a result of the preliminary affirmative determination, Commerce will instruct U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to require cash deposits based on these preliminary rates.
- The petitioner for this investigation is Mexichem Fluor Inc. (LA).
- On February 19, 2014, the petitioner timely filed allegations of critical circumstances. We preliminarily made affirmative critical circumstances determinations for Weitron International Refrigeration Equipment (Kunshan) Co., Ltd., the exporters that qualified for a separate rate and the China-wide entity; and a negative critical circumstances determination for Jiangsu Bluestar Green Technology Co., Ltd. In the instance where we found that affirmative critical circumstances exist, we will instruct CBP to impose provisional measures retroactively on entries of subject tetrafluoroethane up to 90 days prior to these determinations.
- The merchandise subject to this investigation is 1,1,1,2-Tetrafluoroethane, R-134a, or its chemical equivalent, regardless of form, type, or purity level. The chemical formula for 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane is  $\text{CF}_3\text{-CH}_2\text{F}$ , and the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) registry number is CAS 811-97-2. 1,1,1,2-Tetrafluoroethane is sold under a number of trade names including Klea 134a and Zephex 134a (Mexichem Fluor); Genetron 134a (Honeywell); Suva 134a, Dymel 134a, and Dymel P134a (DuPont); Solkane 134a (Solvay); and Forane 134a (Arkema). Generically, 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane has been sold as Fluorocarbon 134a, R-134a, HFC-134a, HF A-134a, Refrigerant

134a, and UN3159. Merchandise covered by the scope of these investigations is currently classified in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) at subheading 2903.39.2020. Although the HTSUS subheading and CAS registry number are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the scope is dispositive.

- In 2013, imports of 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane from China were valued at an estimated \$34.7 million.

**NEXT STEPS**

- Commerce is scheduled to announce its final determination on or about October 3, 2014.
- If Commerce makes an affirmative final determination, and the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) makes an affirmative final determination that imports of 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane from China materially injure, or threaten material injury to, the domestic industry, Commerce will issue an AD order. If either Commerce’s or the ITC’s final determination is negative, no AD order will be issued. The ITC is scheduled to make its final injury determinations in November 2014.

**PRELIMINARY DUMPING MARGINS:**

COUNTRY	EXPORTER/PRODUCER	DUMPING MARGINS
China	Weitron International Refrigeration Equipment (Kunshan) Co., Ltd.	133.47%
	Jiangsu Bluestar Green Technology Co., Ltd.	237.33%
	Shandong Dongyue Chemical Co., Ltd.	187.48%
	T.T. International Co., Ltd.	187.48%
	Zhejiang Sanmei Chemical Industry Co., Ltd.	187.48%
	China-Wide Rate	237.33%

**CASE CALENDAR:**

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DATE</b>
<b>Petitions Filed</b>	<b>October 22, 2013</b>
<b>DOC Initiation Date</b>	<b>December 2, 2013</b>
<b>ITC Preliminary Determination</b>	<b>December 13, 2014</b>
<b>DOC Preliminary Determination<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>May 21, 2014</b>
<b>DOC Final Determination<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>October 3, 2014</b>
<b>ITC Final Determination<sup>*</sup></b>	<b>November 17, 2014</b>
<b>Issuance of Order<sup>**^</sup></b>	<b>November 24, 2014</b>

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

<sup>^</sup> See Notice of Extension of the Deadline for Determining the Adequacy of the Antidumping Duty and Countervailing Duty Petitions: 1,1,1,2-Tetrafluoroethane from the People's Republic of China, 78 FR 66894 (November 7, 2013).

<sup>\*</sup>This will take place only in the event of a final affirmative determination by Commerce.

<sup>\*\*</sup>This will take place only in the event of final affirmative determinations by Commerce and the ITC.

**IMPORT STATISTICS:**

<b>CHINA</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
Volume (metric tons)	10,400	11,700	10,100
Value (USD)	86,524,000	53,166,000	34,695,000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, accessed through Global Trade Atlas. (HTSUS 2903.39.2020)