



FACT SHEET

Commerce Initiates Antidumping Duty (AD) Investigations of Certain Stilbenic Optical Brightening Agents from the People's Republic of China (China) and Taiwan

- On April 20, 2011, the Department of Commerce (Commerce) initiated AD investigations of imports of certain stilbenic optical brightening agents from 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 normal value.
- The petitioner for these investigations is Clariant Corporation (NC).
- Certain stilbenic optical brightening agents are typically used as optical brighteners in the production of paper.
- 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 2010, imports of certain stilbenic optical brightening agents from China and Taiwan were valued at an estimated \$38.9 million and \$18.9 million, respectively. However, the certain stilbenic optical brightening agents subject to these investigations are classified within HTSUS basket categories that contain products beyond the scope of the investigations.

NEXT STEPS

- The U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) is scheduled to make its preliminary injury determination on or about May 16, 2011.
- If the ITC determines that there is a reasonable indication that imports from China and Taiwan are materially injuring, or threatening material injury to, the domestic industry, the investigations will continue, and Commerce will be scheduled to make its preliminary determinations in September 2011.

Alleged Dumping Margins:

COUNTRY	MARGIN
CHINA	80.64 – 203.16 percent
TAIWAN	61.79 – 109.45 percent

CASE CALENDAR:

EVENT	AD INVESTIGATIONS
Petitions Filed	March 31, 2011
DOC Initiation Date	April 20, 2011
ITC Preliminary Determinations*	May 16, 2011
DOC Preliminary Determinations**	September 7, 2011
DOC Final Determinations**	November 21, 2011
ITC Final Determinations***	January 5, 2012
Issuance of Orders****	January 12, 2012

* If the ITC makes a negative preliminary determination of injury, the investigation is terminated.

**These deadlines may be extended under the governing statute.

***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.

IMPORT STATISTICS:

CHINA	2008	2009	2010
Volume (metric tons)	21,000	17,000	17,000
Value (US\$)	46,951,000	32,508,000	38,868,000

TAIWAN	2008	2009	2010
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.