

assessment rate and receive a refund of any excess deposits. *See Certain Hot-Rolled Lead and Bismuth Carbon Steel Products From the United Kingdom: Final Results of Changed-Circumstances Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Administrative Reviews*, 64 FR 66880 (November 30, 1999). As a result, if these preliminary results are adopted in our final results of this changed circumstances review, we will instruct the Customs Service to suspend shipments of subject merchandise made by Solvay Solexis at Ausimont's cash deposit rate (*i.e.*, 12.08 percent). Until that time, the cash deposit rate assigned to Solvay Solexis' entries is the rate in effect at the time of entry (*i.e.*, the "all others" rate).

Public Comment

Any interested party may request a hearing within 30 days of publication of this notice. *See* 19 CFR 351.310(c). Any hearing, if requested, will be held 44 days after the date of publication of this notice, or the first working day thereafter. Interested parties may submit case briefs and/or written comments not later than 30 days after the date of publication of this notice. Rebuttal briefs and rebuttals to written comments, which must be limited to issues raised in such briefs or comments, may be filed not later than 37 days after the date of publication of this notice. Parties who submit arguments are requested to submit with the argument (1) a statement of the issue, (2) a brief summary of the argument, and (3) a table of authorities.

Consistent with section 351.216(e) of the Department's regulations, we will issue the final results of this changed circumstances review no later than 270 days after the date on which this review was initiated, or within 45 days if all parties agree to our preliminary finding.

We are issuing and publishing this finding and notice in accordance with sections 751(b)(1) and 777(i)(1) of the Act and section 351.216 of the Department's regulations.

March 13, 2003.

Joseph Spetrini,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-570-879]

Notice of Preliminary Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value and Postponement of Final Determination: Polyvinyl Alcohol From the People's Republic of China

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of preliminary determination of sales at less than fair value.

SUMMARY: We preliminarily determine that polyvinyl alcohol from the People's Republic of China is being, or is likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value, as provided in section 733(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended.

Interested parties are invited to comment on this preliminary determination. We will make our final determination not later than 135 days after the date of publication of this preliminary determination.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 20, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elizabeth Eastwood or Alice Gibbons, Office of AD/CVD Enforcement, Office 2, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-3874 or (202) 482-0498, respectively.

Preliminary Determination

We preliminarily determine that polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) from the People's Republic of China (PRC) is being sold, or is likely to be sold, in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV), as provided in section 733 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act). The estimated margins of sales at LTFV are shown in the "Suspension of Liquidation" section of this notice.

Case History

Since the initiation of this investigation (*Initiation of Antidumping Duty Investigations: Polyvinyl Alcohol from Germany, Japan, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, and Singapore*, 67 FR 61591 (Oct. 1, 2002)) (*Initiation Notice*), the following events have occurred:

On October 21, 2002, the United States International Trade Commission (ITC) preliminarily determined that there is reasonable indication that imports of PVA from the PRC are materially injuring the United States

industry. *See* ITC Investigation Nos. 731-TA-1014-1018 (Publication No. 3553 *Polyvinyl Alcohol from Germany, Japan, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, and Singapore*, 67 FR 65597 (Oct. 25, 2002)).

Also on October 21, 2002, we issued an antidumping questionnaire to the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC) with a letter requesting that it forward the questionnaire to Chinese producers/exporters accounting for all known exports of subject merchandise from the PRC during the period of investigation (POI). The Department also sent courtesy copies of the antidumping questionnaire to the China Chamber of Commerce of Metals, Minerals, and Chemicals Importers and Exporters, to all companies identified in U.S. customs data as exporters of the subject merchandise during the POI with shipments in commercial quantities, and any additional companies identified in the petition as exporters of PVA. These companies included: B.V. Rebes, Chang Chun Plastics Co., Ltd. (Chang Chun),¹ Sichuan Mianyang International Trade Co., Ltd., Sinopec Maoming Refining & Chemical Co., Ltd., Sinopec Sichuan Vinylon Works (SVW), and Sichuan Weinilun Chang. For further discussion, see the November 7, 2002, memorandum from Alice Gibbons to the File entitled "Antidumping Duty Investigation of Polyvinyl Alcohol from the People's Republic of China—Selection of Respondents." The letters sent to MOFTEC and individual exporters provided deadlines for responses to the different sections of the questionnaire.

On October 28, 2002, B.V. Rebes informed us that it is merely a provider of logistics services and, therefore, it did not intend to respond to the Department's questionnaire in this investigation. For further discussion, see the October 28, 2002, memorandum from Elizabeth Eastwood to the File entitled "Response from B.V. Rebes to the Questionnaire in the Antidumping Duty Investigation of Polyvinyl Alcohol from the People's Republic of China." On November 4, 2002, Chang Chun informed us that its records did not reflect any exports of PRC-produced PVA to the United States during the POI. Chang Chun also requested additional U.S. customs information in order to ascertain the reason that it appeared as an exporter. See the February 19, 2003, memorandum from Alice Gibbons to the File entitled "Placing Information on the Record in

¹ Both B.V. Rebes and Chang Chun appeared to be third country resellers.