

Initiation of Antidumping Investigations

Based upon our examination of the petitions covering DAS and SFWA, we have found that they meet the requirements of section 732 of the Act. See the Initiation Checklist. Therefore, we are initiating antidumping duty investigations to determine whether imports of DAS and SFWA from Germany, India and the PRC are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value. Unless this deadline is extended, we will make our preliminary determinations no later than 140 days after the date of these initiations.

Distribution of Copies of the Petitions

In accordance with section 732(b)(3)(A) of the Act, a copy of the public version of each petition has been provided to the representatives of the governments of Germany, India, and the PRC. We will attempt to provide a copy of the public version of each petition to each exporter named in the petitions, as provided for under 19 CFR 351.203(c)(2).

ITC Notification

We have notified the ITC of our initiations as required by section 732(d) of the Act.

Preliminary Determinations by the ITC

The ITC will determine no later than June 30, 2003, whether there is a reasonable indication that imports of DAS and SFWA from Germany, India, and the PRC are causing material injury, or threatening to cause material injury, to a U.S. industry. A negative ITC determination for any country will result in the investigation being terminated with respect to that country; otherwise, these investigations will proceed according to statutory and regulatory time limits.

This notice is issued and published pursuant to section 777(i) of the Act.

Dated: June 3, 2003.

Joseph Spetrini,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[C-533-835]

Notice of Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigation: 4,4'-Diamino-2,2'-Stilbenedisulfonic Acid (DAS) and Stilbenic Fluorescent Whitening Agents (SFWA) from India

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 10, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dana Mermelstein at (202) 482-1391, or Sean Carey (202) 482-3964; Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Initiation of Investigation

The Petition

On May 14, 2003, the Department of Commerce (the Department) received a petition filed in proper form by Ciba Specialty Chemicals Corp. (Ciba) (petitioner). See *4,4'-Diamino-2,2'-Stilbenedisulfonic Acid (DAS) Chemsitry from the PRC, India, and Germany (Petition)*. The Department received information supplementing the petition, on May 27 and May 29, 2003. See *Response to the Department's Supplemental Questions Regarding the Countervailing Duty Investigations of Certain 4,4'-Diamino-2,2'-Stilbenedisulfonic Acid (DAS) Chemsitry from the PRC, India, and Germany (May 27, 2003) (CVD Supplemental)* and, *Response to Department's Supplemental Questions Regarding the Scope, Standing and Injury Portions of the Petition Regarding Certain 4,4'-Diamino-2,2'-Stilbenedisulfonic Acid (DAS) Chemsitry from India (May 29, 2003) (Scope, Standing and Injury Supplemental)*.

In accordance with section 702(b)(1) of the Act, petitioner alleges that manufacturers, producers, or exporters of DAS and SFWA in India receive countervailable subsidies within the meaning of section 701 of the Act.

The Department finds that petitioner filed this petition on behalf of the domestic industry because it is an interested party as defined in section 771(9)(C) of the Act and has demonstrated sufficient industry support with respect to the antidumping and countervailing duty investigations that it is requesting the Department to

initiate. See *Determination of Industry Support for the Petition*, below.

Period of Investigation

In accordance with 19 CFR 351.204 (b)(2), the anticipated period of investigation (POI) is January 1, 2002, through December 31, 2002.

Scope of Investigation

This investigation covers, 4,4'-diamino-2,2'-stilbenedisulfonic acid (DAS) and stilbenic fluorescent whitening agents (SFWA). DAS is a chemical compound used to produce SFWA. SFWA are synthetic organic products normally used as fluorescent brightening agents in the production of certain textiles, paper and detergent. This investigation covers all DAS and SFWA regardless of end use.

DAS is currently classifiable under subheading 2921.59.2000 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS). This tariff classification only covers DAS. SFWA is currently classifiable under subheading 3204.20.80 of the HTSUS. This tariff classification represents a basket category which includes SFWA and other synthetic organic coloring matter. Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and Customs purposes, the written description of the merchandise under investigation is dispositive.

During our review of the petition, we sought additional information from the petitioner concerning the scope of the investigation. As a result of this supplemental information, we modified the scope language proposed by the petitioner with regard to the name of the subject merchandise and the description of the products covered.¹

As discussed in the preamble to the Department's regulations, we are setting aside a time period for parties to raise issues regarding product coverage. See *Antidumping Duties; Countervailing Duties; Final Rule*, 62 FR 27296, 27323 (May 19, 1997). The Department encourages all parties to submit such comments within 20 days of publication of this notice. Comments should be addressed to Import Administration's Central Records Unit, Room 1870, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230. The period of scope consultations is intended to provide the Department with ample opportunity to consider all comments and consult with parties prior to the issuance of the preliminary determination.

¹ See Memorandum to the File Re: Change to Scope Description (June 3, 2003).