

to appear at the hearing must be filed with the Secretary to the Commission not later than August 28, 2003; the prehearing conference will be held at the U.S. International Trade Commission Building at 9:30 a.m. on September 2, 2003; the prehearing staff report will be placed in the nonpublic record on August 21, 2003; the deadline for filing prehearing briefs is August 28, 2003; the hearing will be held at the U.S. International Trade Commission Building at 9:30 a.m. on September 4, 2003; the deadline for filing posthearing briefs is September 11, 2003; the Commission will make its final release of information on September 26; and final party comments are due on September 30.

For further information concerning these investigations see the Commission's notice cited above and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, part 201, subparts A through E (19 CFR part 201), and part 207, subparts A and C (19 CFR part 207).

**Authority:** These investigations are being conducted under authority of title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930; this notice is published pursuant to section 207.21 of the Commission's rules.

Issued: June 24, 2003. By order of the Commission.

**Marilyn R. Abbott,**

*Secretary to the Commission.*

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## INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigations Nos. 731-TA-1043-1045 (Preliminary)]

### Polyethylene Retail Carrier Bags From China, Malaysia, and Thailand

**AGENCY:** United States International Trade Commission.

**ACTION:** Institution of antidumping investigations and scheduling of preliminary phase investigations.

**SUMMARY:** The Commission hereby gives notice of the institution of investigations and commencement of preliminary phase antidumping investigations No. 731-TA-1043-1045 (Preliminary) under section 733(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1673b(a)) (the Act) to determine whether there is a reasonable indication that an industry in the United States is materially injured or threatened with material injury, or the establishment of an industry in the United States is materially retarded, by reason of imports from China, Malaysia, and Thailand of polyethylene retail

carrier bags, provided for in subheading 3923.21.00 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, that are alleged to be sold in the United States at less than fair value. Unless the Department of Commerce extends the time for initiation pursuant to section 732(c)(1)(B) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1673a(c)(1)(B)), the Commission must reach preliminary determinations in antidumping investigations in 45 days, or in this case by August 4, 2003. The Commission's views are due at Commerce within five business days thereafter, or by August 11, 2003.

For further information concerning the conduct of these investigations and rules of general application, consult the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, part 201, subparts A through E (19 CFR part 201), and part 207, subparts A and B (19 CFR part 207).

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** June 20, 2003.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Larry Reavis (202-205-3185), Office of Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20436. Hearing-impaired persons can obtain information on this matter by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal on 202-205-1810. Persons with mobility impairments who will need special assistance in gaining access to the Commission should contact the Office of the Secretary at 202-205-2000. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its internet server (<http://www.usitc.gov>). The public record for these investigations may be viewed on the Commission's electronic docket (EDIS) at <http://edis.usitc.gov>.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

These investigations are being instituted in response to a petition filed on June 20, 2003, by the Polyethylene Retail Carrier Bag Committee, an ad hoc coalition of U.S. polyethylene retail carrier bag producers, consisting of PCL Packaging, Inc., Barrie, Ontario, Canada; Sonoco Products Company, Hartsville, SC; Superbag Corp., Houston, TX; Vanguard Plastics, Inc., Farmers Branch, TX; and Intoplast Group, Ltd., Livingston, NJ.

##### Participation in the Investigations and Public Service List

Persons (other than petitioners) wishing to participate in the investigations as parties must file an entry of appearance with the Secretary to the Commission, as provided in §§ 201.11 and 207.10 of the Commission's rules, not later than seven

days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. Industrial users and (if the merchandise under investigation is sold at the retail level) representative consumer organizations have the right to appear as parties in Commission antidumping investigations. The Secretary will prepare a public service list containing the names and addresses of all persons, or their representatives, who are parties to these investigations upon the expiration of the period for filing entries of appearance.

##### Limited Disclosure of Business Proprietary Information (BPI) Under an Administrative Protective Order (APO) and BPI Service List

Pursuant to section 207.7(a) of the Commission's rules, the Secretary will make BPI gathered in these investigations available to authorized applicants representing interested parties (as defined in 19 U.S.C. 1677(9)) who are parties to the investigations under the APO issued in the investigations, provided that the application is made not later than seven days after the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. A separate service list will be maintained by the Secretary for those parties authorized to receive BPI under the APO.

##### Conference

The Commission's Director of Operations has scheduled a conference in connection with these investigations for 9:30 a.m. on Friday, July 11, 2003, at the U.S. International Trade Commission Building, 500 E Street SW., Washington, DC. Parties wishing to participate in the conference should contact Larry Reavis (202-205-3185) and provide a witness list for their appearance not later than Wednesday, July 9, 2003. Parties in support of the imposition of antidumping duties in these investigations and parties in opposition to the imposition of such duties will each be collectively allocated one hour within which to make an oral presentation at the conference. A nonparty who has testimony that may aid the Commission's deliberations may request permission to present a short statement at the conference.

##### Written Submissions

As provided in sections 201.8 and 207.15 of the Commission's rules, any person may submit to the Commission on or before July 16, 2003, a written brief containing information and arguments pertinent to the subject matter of the investigations. Parties may file written testimony in connection