

FACT SHEET

Antidumping Duty Investigations on Imports of Polyethylene Retail Carrier Bags from the People's Republic of China

On June 10, the Department of Commerce (the Department) announced its final determination in the antidumping duty investigations on imports of polyethylene retail carrier bags (PRCBs) from the People's Republic of China (PRC), Malaysia, and Thailand. The Department found that producers/exporters have sold PRCBs in the U.S. market at less than fair value, with margins ranging from 0.20 percent to 77.33 percent for the PRC, 0.91 percent to 101.74 percent for Malaysia, and 0.62 percent to 122.88 percent for Thailand.

Next Steps: The U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) is scheduled to announce its final injury determination on or about July 23. If the ITC makes an affirmative determination that imports of PRCBs are materially injuring, or threatening to materially injure, the domestic industry in the United States, then the Department will issue an antidumping order and instruct U.S. Customs and Border Protection to collect antidumping duties. If the ITC makes a negative injury determination, the investigation will be terminated and no order will be issued.

Petitioners: The petition requesting this investigation was filed by the Polyethylene Retail Carrier Bag Committee, and its individual members, PCL Packaging, Inc., Sonoco Products Company, Superbag Corp., Vanguard Plastics, Inc., and Intoplast Group, Ltd..

Product Description: The merchandise subject to this investigation is PRCBs which may be referred to as t-shirt sacks, merchandise bags, grocery bags, or checkout bags. The subject merchandise is defined as non-sealable sacks and bags with handles (including drawstrings), without zippers or integral extruded closures, with or without gussets, with or without printing, of polyethylene film having a thickness no greater than .035 inch (0.889 mm) and no less than .00035 inch (0.00889 mm), and with no length or width shorter than 6 inches (15.24 cm) or longer than 40 inches (101.6 cm). The depth of the bag may be shorter than 6 inches but not longer than 40 inches (101.6 cm).

PRCBs are typically provided without any consumer packaging and free of charge by retail establishments (e.g., grocery, drug, convenience, department, specialty retail, discount stores, and restaurants) to their customers to package and carry their purchased products. The scope of the investigation excludes (1) polyethylene bags that are not printed with logos or store names and that are closeable with drawstrings made of polyethylene film and (2) polyethylene bags that are packed in consumer packaging with printing that refers to specific end-uses other than packaging and carrying merchandise from retail establishments (e.g., garbage bags, lawn bags, trash-can liners).

Imports of the subject merchandise are currently classifiable under subheading 3923.21.0090 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS). This subheading also covers products that are outside the scope of this investigation. Furthermore, although the HTSUS subheading is provided for convenience and customs purposes, our written description of the scope of this investigation is dispositive.

Final Dumping Margins:

PRC Exporter/Producer	Percent Margin
Hang Lung Plastic Manufactory Ltd. (Hang Lung)	0.20
Dongguan Huang Jiang United Wah Plastic Bag Factory (United Wah)	23.19
Nantong Huasheng Plastic Products Co., Ltd (Nantong)	2.29
Rally Plastics Co., Ltd. (Rally Plastics)	23.81
Shanghai Glopak Packing Co., Ltd and Sea Lake Polyethylene Enterprise Ltd. (Glopak)	19.73
Xiamen Ming Pak Plastics Co., Ltd. (Ming Pak)	35.23
Zhongshan Dongfeng Hung Wai Plastic Bag Manufactory (Zhongshan)	41.21
Beijing Lianbin	23.06
Dongguan Zhongqiao	23.06
Good-in Holdings	23.06
Guangdong Esquel	23.06
Nan Sing	23.06
Ningbo Fanrong	23.06
Ningbo Huansen	23.06
Rain Continent	23.06
Shanghai Dazhi	23.06
Shanghai Fangsheng	23.06
Shanghai Jingtai	23.06
Shanghai Light Industrial	23.06
Shanghai Minmetals	23.06
Shanghai New Ai Lian	23.06
Shanghai Overseas	23.06
Shanghai Yafu	23.06
Weihai Weiquan	23.06
Xiamen Xingyatai	23.06
Xinhui Henglong	23.06
PRC-wide Rate	77.33

Malaysia Exporter/Producer	Percent Margin
Bee Lian Plastic Industries Sdn. Bhd.	0.91
Teong Chuan Plastic and Timber Sdn. Bhd	101.74
Brandpak Industries Sdn. Bhd	101.74
Gants Pac Industries	101.74
Sido Bangun Sdn.Bhd.	101.74
Zhin Hin/Chin Hin Plastic Manufacturer Sdn. Bhd	101.74
All Others Rate	84.94

Thailand Exporter/Producer	Percent Margin
Thai Plastic Bags Industries Group	0.62
Universal Polybag Co., Ltd.	5.66
Champion Paper Polybags Ltd.	122.88
TRC Polypack	122.88
Zip-Pak Co., Ltd.	122.88
All Others Rate	5.66

Case Calendar:

EVENT	DATE
Petition Filed	June 20, 2003
Initiation Date	July 10, 2003
ITC Preliminary Determination	August 4, 2003
ITA Preliminary Determination	January 16, 2003
ITA Final Determination	June 9, 2004
ITC Final Determination (estimated)	July 23, 2004
Signature of Order* (estimated)	July 30, 2004

* This will take place only in the event of final affirmative determinations by both the Department and the ITC.

Import Statistics:

PRC	2001	2002	2003
Volume (thousands units)	23,467,582	29,154,545	39,263,756
Value (\$US)	\$132,696,703	\$146,959,406	\$183,826,408
Malaysia			
Malaysia	2001	2002	2003
Volume (thousands units)	1,781,280	2,189,916	1,150,706
Value (\$US)	\$9,055,738	\$8,032,744	\$6,898,167
Thailand			
Thailand	2001	2002	2003
Volume (thousands units)	3,750,117	5,185,939	6,925,293
Value (\$US)	\$17,491,552	\$28,551,879	\$43,339,576