

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20436

MEMORANDUM TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON PROPOSED TARIFF LEGISLATION ¹

[**Date approved:** May 6, 2002]²

Bill No.: H.R. 3901; 107th Congress

Introduced by: Mr. CASTLE

Similar and/or related³ bills: None.

Summary of the bill:⁴

The bill would suspend temporarily the general rate of duty⁵ on--
triflusulfuron methyl formulated product.

Effective date: The 15th day after the date of enactment.

Through: December 31, 2007.

Retroactive effect: None.

[The remainder of this memorandum is organized in five parts: (1) information about the bill's proponent(s) and the product which is the subject of this bill; (2) information about the bill's revenue effect; (3) contacts by Commission staff during preparation of this memorandum; (4) information about the domestic industry (if any); and (5) technical comments.]

¹ International trade analyst: Cynthia Trainor (202-205-3354); nomenclature analyst: Dave Beck (202-205-2603).

² Access to an electronic copy of this memorandum is available at <http://www.usitc.gov/billrpts.htm>. Access to a paper copy is available at the Commission's Law Library (202-205-3287) or at the Commission's Main Library (202-205-2630).

³ "Similar bills" are bills in the other House, in the current Congress, which address, at least in part, the substance of this bill. "Related bills" are bills in the **same** House, in the current Congress, but which are either earlier (or later) in time than the bill which is the subject of this memorandum.

⁴ The product nomenclature is as set forth in the bill. See technical comments for suggested changes (if any).

⁵ See appendix A for definitions of tariff and trade agreement terms.

– THE PROPONENT AND THE IMPORTED PRODUCT –

The proponent firm/organization(s)			
Name of firm	Location contacted (city/state)	Date contacted	Response received? (Yes/No) ⁶
Du Pont	Washington, DC	04/04/02	Yes
Du Pont	Wilmington, DE	04/16/02	Yes

Does the proponent plan **any** further processing or handling⁷ of the subject product after importation to its facilities in the United States (Y/N): No.

If “Yes,” provide location of this facility if different from above (city/state):

If “No,” provide location of proponent’s headquarters or other principal facility if different from above (city/state): n/a

The imported product	
Description and uses	Country(s) of origin
Triflusulfuron methyl is a synthetic organic chemical compound of the sulfonylurea group. The formulations of triflusulfuron methyl with application adjuvants are used as a post-emergence herbicide for selective annual and perennial broadleaf and grassy weed control in sugar beet fields.	France

⁶ Non-confidential written responses received prior to approval of this report by the Commission, if any, will be included in appendix C.

⁷ The phrase “further processing or handling” can include repackaging, storage or warehousing for resale, etc.

– EFFECT ON CUSTOMS REVENUE –

[*Note: This section is divided in two parts. The first table addresses the effect on customs revenue based on the duty rate for the HTS number set out in the bill. The second table addresses the effect on customs revenue based on the duty rate for the HTS number recommended by the Commission (if a different number has been recommended). Five-year estimates are given based on Congressional Budget Office “scoring” guidelines. If the indicated duty rate is subject to “staging” during the duty suspension period, the rate for each period is stated separately.*]

HTS number used in the bill: 3808.10.15 ⁸					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
General rate of duty ⁹ (AVE) ¹⁰	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Estimated value <i>dutiable</i> imports	Between \$9,000,000 and \$11,000,000	Between \$8,000,000 and \$10,000,000	Between \$7,000,000 and \$9,000,000	Between \$6,500,000 and \$8,500,000	Between \$6,500,000 and \$8,500,000
Customs revenue loss	0	0	0	0	0

HTS number recommended by the Commission: 3808.30.15 ¹¹					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
General rate of duty (AVE)	6.5 % ¹²	6.5 % ¹²	6.5 %	6.5 %	6.5 %
Estimated value <i>dutiable</i> imports	Between \$9,000,000 and \$11,000,000	Between \$8,000,000 and \$10,000,000	Between \$7,000,000 and \$9,000,000	Between \$6,500,000 and \$8,500,000	Between \$6,500,000 and \$8,500,000
Customs revenue loss	Between \$585,000 and \$715,000	Between \$520,000 and \$650,000	Between \$455,000 and \$585,000	Between \$422,500 and \$552,500	Between \$422,500 and \$552,500

– CONTACTS WITH OTHER FIRMS/ORGANIZATIONS –

⁸ The HTS number is as set forth in the bill. See technical comments for suggested changes (if any).

⁹ See appendix B for column 1-special and column 2 duty rates.

¹⁰ AVE is ad valorem equivalent expressed as percent. Staged rates may be found at: <http://dataweb.usitc.gov>

¹¹ If a different HTS number is recommended, see technical comments.

¹² Duty rate suspended until 12/31/03. (See appendix B HTS heading 9902.38.50.)

Contacts with firms or organizations <i>other than</i> the proponents			
Name of firm	Location contacted (city/state)	Date contacted	Response received? (Yes/No) ¹³
Aventis	Research Triangle Park, NC	04/23/02	No
BASF	Mount Olive, NJ	04/23/02	No
Bayer	Pittsburgh, PA	04/23/02	No
Dow	Washington, DC	04/23/02	No
FMC	Philadelphia, PA	04/23/02	No
Monsanto	Washington, DC	04/23/02	No
Syngenta	Greensboro, NC	04/23/02	No
U.S. Customs	New York, NY	04/17/02	Yes

– THE DOMESTIC INDUSTRY –

*[Note: This section is divided in two parts. The first part lists non-confidential written submissions received by the Commission which assert that **the imported product itself** is produced in the United States and freely offered for sale under standard commercial terms. The second part lists non-confidential written submissions received by the Commission which assert either that (1) the imported product will be produced in the United States in the future; or (2) another product which **may compete** with the imported product is (or will be) produced in the United States and freely offered for sale under standard commercial terms. All submissions received by the Commission in connection with this bill prior to approval of the report will be included in appendix D. The Commission cannot, in the context of this memorandum, make any statement concerning the validity of these claims.]*

Statements concerning current U.S. production			
Name of product	Name of firm	Location of U.S. production facility	Date received
None.			

¹³ Non-confidential written responses received prior to approval of this report by the Commission, if any, will be included in appendix D. Only statements submitted in connection with **this** bill will be included in the appendix.

Statements concerning “future” or “competitive” U.S. production			
Name of product	Name of firm	Location of U.S. production facility	Date received
None.			

– TECHNICAL COMMENTS –

*[The Commission notes that references to HTS numbers in temporary duty suspensions (i.e., proposed amendments to subchapter II of chapter 99 of the HTS) should be limited to **eight digits**. Ten-digit numbers are established by the Committee for Statistical Annotation of Tariff Schedules pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1484(f) and are not generally referenced in statutory enactments.]*

Recommended changes to the nomenclature in the bill:

The subject proposed legislation is, in reality, an extension of an existing temporary duty suspension, i.e., heading 9902.38.50, but it also amends the article description of that heading to make its scope clearer. The Commission recommends that that article description be amended to read as follows:

Mixtures of
triflusulfuron
methyl (Methyl
2-[[[[[4-
(dimethylamino)-
6-(2,2,2-trifluoro-
ethoxy)-1,3,5-
triazin-2-yl]-
amino]carbonyl]-
amino]sulfonyl]-
3-methylbenzoate)
(CAS No.
126535-15-7)
and application
adjuvants (provided
for in subheading
3808.30.15)

The common name “triflusulfuron methyl” will help clarify the scope of the temporary duty-free provision.

See also “*Basis for recommended changes to the HTS number used in the bill*” and “*Other technical comments (if any)*,” below.

Recommended changes to any CAS numbers in the bill (if given):

None.

Recommended changes to any Color Index names in the bill (if given):

n/a.

*Basis for recommended changes to the HTS number used in the bill:*¹⁴

U.S. Customs suggests the correct classification of the subject herbicide formulation would be under HTS subheading 3808.30.15,¹⁵ as set forth in HTS heading 9902.38.50.

Other technical comments (if any):

The subject proposed legislation is not a new temporary duty suspension, rather it is an extension of an existing duty suspension as set forth in HTS heading 9902.38.50. As such, the title of the proposed legislation would be corrected to read as follows: "To extend the temporary suspension of duty on triflurosulfuron methyl formulated product."

Further, Section I of the subject proposed legislation should be corrected to reflect an extension, as follows:

"SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF DUTY.

(a) IN GENERAL. – Subchapter II of chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is amended in heading 9902.38.50 by striking "On or before 12/31/2003" and inserting "On or before 12/31/2006".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE. – The amendment made by this section applies with respect to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day after the date of the enactment of this Act."

¹⁴ The Commission may express an opinion concerning the HTS classification of a product to facilitate the Committee's consideration of the bill, but the Commission also notes that, by law, the U.S. Customs Service is the only agency authorized to issue a binding ruling on this question. The Commission believes that the U.S. Customs Service should be consulted prior to enactment of the bill.

¹⁵ Written response from Mr. Harvey Kuperstein, U.S. Customs Service, National Import Specialist, April 22, 2002.

APPENDIX A

TARIFF AND TRADE AGREEMENT TERMS

In the **Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States** (HTS), chapters 1 through 97 cover all goods in trade and incorporate in the tariff nomenclature the internationally adopted Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System through the 6-digit level of product description. Subordinate 8-digit product subdivisions, either enacted by Congress or proclaimed by the President, allow more narrowly applicable duty rates; 10-digit administrative statistical reporting numbers provide data of national interest. Chapters 98 and 99 contain special U.S. classifications and temporary rate provisions, respectively. The HTS replaced the **Tariff Schedules of the United States** (TSUS) effective January 1, 1989.

Duty rates in the **general** subcolumn of HTS column 1 are normal trade relations rates; many general rates have been eliminated or are being reduced due to concessions resulting from the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. Column 1-general duty rates apply to all countries except those listed in HTS general note 3(b) (Afghanistan, Cuba, Laos, and North Korea) plus Serbia and Montenegro, which are subject to the statutory rates set forth in **column 2**. Specified goods from designated general-rate countries may be eligible for reduced rates of duty or duty-free entry under preferential tariff programs, as set forth in the **special** subcolumn of HTS rate of duty column 1 or in the general notes. If eligibility for special tariff rates is not claimed or established, goods are dutiable at column 1-general rates. The HTS does not list countries covered by a total or partial embargo.

The **Generalized System of Preferences** (GSP) affords nonreciprocal tariff preferences to designated beneficiary developing countries. The U.S. GSP, enacted in title V of the Trade Act of 1974 for 10 years and extended several times thereafter, applies to merchandise imported on or after January 1, 1976, and before the close of September 30, 2001. Indicated by the symbol "A", "A*", or "A+" in the special subcolumn, GSP provides duty-free entry to eligible articles the product of and imported directly from designated beneficiary developing countries (see HTS gen. note 4). Eligible products of listed sub-Saharan African countries may qualify for duty-free entry under the **African Growth and Opportunity Act** (AGOA) (see HTS gen. note 16) through September 30, 2008, as indicated by the symbol "D" in the special subcolumn; see subchapter XIX of chapter 98.

The **Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act** (CBERA) affords nonreciprocal tariff preferences to designated developing countries in the Caribbean Basin area. The CBERA, enacted in title II of Public Law 98-67, implemented by Presidential Proclamation 5133 of November 30, 1983, and amended by the Customs and Trade Act of 1990, applies to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after January 1, 1984. Indicated by the symbol "E" or "E*" in the special subcolumn, CBERA provides duty-free entry to eligible articles, and reduced-duty treatment to certain other articles, which are the product of and imported directly from designated countries (see HTS gen. note 7). Eligible products of listed beneficiary countries may qualify for duty-free or reduced-duty entry under the **Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act** (CBTPA) (see HTS gen. note 17), through September 30, 2008, as indicated by the symbol "R" in the special subcolumn; see subchapter XX of chapter 98.

Free rates of duty in the special subcolumn followed by the symbol "IL" are applicable to products of Israel under the **United States-Israel Free Trade Area Implementation Act** of 1985 (IFTA), as provided in general note 8 to the HTS; see also subchapter VIII of chapter 99.

Preferential nonreciprocal duty-free or reduced-duty treatment in the special subcolumn followed by the symbol "J" or "J*" in parentheses is afforded to eligible articles from designated beneficiary countries under the **Andean Trade Preference Act** (ATPA), enacted as title II of Public Law 102-182 and implemented by Presidential Proclamation 6455 of July 2, 1992 (effective July 22, 1992–Dec. 4, 2001) (see HTS gen. note 11).

Preferential free rates of duty in the special subcolumn followed by the symbol "CA" are applicable to eligible goods of Canada, and rates followed by the symbol "MX" are applicable to eligible goods of Mexico, under the **North American Free Trade Agreement** (NAFTA), as provided in general note 12 to the HTS and implemented effective January 1, 1994, by Presidential Proclamation 6641 of December 15, 1993. Goods must originate in the NAFTA region under rules set forth in general note 12(t) and meet other requirements of the note and applicable regulations.

Preferential rates of duty in the special subcolumn followed by the symbol "JO" are applicable to eligible goods of Jordan under the **United States-Jordan Free Trade Area Implementation Act**, (JFTA) effective as of Dec. 17, 2001; see HTS gen. note 18 and subchapter IX of chapter 99.

Other special tariff treatment applies to particular **products of insular possessions** (gen. note 3(a)(iv)), **products of the West Bank and Gaza Strip** (gen. note 3(a)(v)), goods covered by the **Automotive Products Trade Act** (APTA) (gen. note 5) and the **Agreement on Trade in Civil Aircraft** (ATCA) (gen. note 6), **articles imported from freely associated states** (gen. note 10), **pharmaceutical products** (gen. note 13), and **intermediate chemicals for dyes** (gen. note 14).

The **General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994** (GATT 1994), pursuant to the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, is based upon the earlier GATT 1947 (61 Stat. (pt. 5) A58; 8 UST (pt. 2) 1786) as the primary multilateral system of disciplines and principles governing international trade. Signatories' obligations under both the 1994 and 1947 agreements focus upon most-favored-nation treatment, the maintenance of scheduled concession rates of duty, and national treatment for imported products; the GATT also provides the legal framework for customs valuation standards, "escape clause" (emergency) actions, antidumping and countervailing duties, dispute settlement, and other measures. The results of the Uruguay Round of multilateral tariff negotiations are set forth by way of separate schedules of concessions for each participating contracting party, with the U.S. schedule designated as Schedule XX. Pursuant to the **Agreement on Textiles and Clothing** (ATC) of the GATT 1994, member countries are phasing out restrictions on imports under the prior "Arrangement Regarding International Trade in Textiles" (known as the **Multifiber Arrangement** (MFA)). Under the MFA, which was a departure from GATT 1947 provisions, importing and exporting countries negotiated bilateral

agreements limiting textile and apparel shipments, and importing countries could take unilateral action in the absence or violation of an agreement. Quantitative limits had been established on imported textiles and apparel of cotton, other vegetable fibers, wool, man-made fibers or silk blends in an effort to prevent or limit market disruption in the importing countries. The ATC establishes notification and safeguard procedures, along with other rules concerning the customs treatment of textile and apparel shipments, and calls for the eventual complete integration of this sector into the GATT 1994 over a ten-year period, or by Jan. 1, 2005.

Rev. 12/18/01

APPENDIX B

**SELECTED PORTIONS OF THE
HARMONIZED TARIFF SCHEDULE OF THE UNITED STATES**

[Note: Appendix may not be included in the electronic version of this memorandum.]

APPENDIX C

STATEMENTS SUBMITTED BY THE PROPONENTS

[Note: Appendix C may not be included in the electronic version of this memorandum posted on the Commission's web site if an electronic copy of the statement was not received by the Commission.]

APPENDIX D

STATEMENTS SUBMITTED BY OTHER FIRMS/ORGANIZATIONS

[Note: Appendix D may not be included in the electronic version of this memorandum posted on the Commission's web site if an electronic copy of the statement was not received by the Commission.]

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3901

To suspend temporarily the duty on triflusulfuron methyl formulated product.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 7, 2002

Mr. CASTLE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To suspend temporarily the duty on triflusulfuron methyl
formulated product.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF DUTY.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 99 of
5 the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is
6 amended by inserting in numerical sequence the following
7 new heading:

“	9902.38.16	Mixtures of methyl 2-[[[[[4-(dimethylamino)-6-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)-1,3,5-triazin-2-yl]-amino]carbonyl]amino]sulfonyl]-3-methylbenzoate (CAS No. 126535-15-7) and application adjuvants (provided for in sub-heading 3808.10.15)	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2007	”.
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1 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by
2 this section applies with respect to goods entered, or with-
3 drawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the
4 15th day after the date of the enactment of this Act.

○