



FACT SHEET

Commerce Initiates Antidumping Duty Investigations on Imports of Polyethylene Retail Carrier Bags from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Indonesia, and Taiwan

- On April 21, the Department of Commerce announced its decision to initiate antidumping duty investigations of imports of polyethylene retail carrier bags (plastic bags) from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (Vietnam), Indonesia, and Taiwan.
- Dumping occurs when a foreign company sells a product in the United States at less than normal value.
- The petitioners for these investigations are Hilex Poly Co., LLC, of Hartsville, SC, and Superbag Corporation, of Houston, TX.
- The merchandise subject to these investigations is plastic bags, which also may be referred to as t-shirt sacks, merchandise bags, grocery bags, or checkout bags. Plastic bags are classifiable under subheading 3923.21.0085 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS). While the HTSUS subheading is provided for convenience and customs purposes, Commerce's written description of the subject merchandise governs the scope of these investigations
- Imports of plastic bags from Vietnam were valued at an estimated \$79 million in 2008; imports of plastic bags from Indonesia were valued at an estimated \$38 million in 2008; imports of plastic bags from Taiwan were valued at an estimated \$51 million in 2008.

NEXT STEPS

- The U.S. International Commission (ITC) is scheduled to make its preliminary injury determination on or about May 15.
- If the ITC determines that there is a reasonable indication that imports are materially injuring, or threatening material injury to, the domestic industry, the investigations will continue, and Commerce will be scheduled to make its preliminary determinations on September 8.

ALLEGED DUMPING MARGINS:

COUNTRY	MARGIN
VIETNAM	28.49% - 76.11%
INDONESIA	35.47% - 60.24%
TAIWAN	76.25% - 95.81%

CASE CALENDAR:

EVENT	DATE
Petitions Filed	March 31, 2009
DOC Initiation Date	April 20, 2009
ITC Preliminary Determination	May 15, 2009
DOC Preliminary Determinations*	September 8, 2009
DOC Final Determinations*	November 23, 2009
ITC Final Determination**	January 7, 2010
Issuance of Orders***	January 14, 2010

* These deadlines may be extended under the governing statute.

** This will take place only in the event of a final affirmative determination by the Department of Commerce.

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IMPORT STATISTICS:

VIETNAM	2006	2007	2008
Volume (Thousand Units)	3,061,998	7,288,037	7,192,325
Value (USD)	17,480,448	65,428,966	79,408,688
INDONESIA			
INDONESIA	2006	2007	2008
Volume (Thousand Units)	1,592,965	3,396,505	2,819,569
Value (USD)	23,519,266	42,249,578	37,772,433
TAIWAN			
TAIWAN	2006	2007	2008
Volume (Thousand Units)	2,171,587	3,988,867	4,575,499
Value (USD)	17,663,302	38,546,248	51,250,854

Source: U.S. International Trade Commission, Dataweb (HTSUS 3923.21.0085).