



FACT SHEET

Commerce Initiates Countervailing Duty Investigation on Imports of Polyethylene Retail Carrier Bags from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

- On April 21, the Department of Commerce announced its decision to initiate a countervailing duty (CVD) investigation of imports of polyethylene retail carrier bags (plastic bags) from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (Vietnam).
- Subsidies are financial assistance from foreign governments that benefit the production, manufacture, or exportation of goods.
- This is the first CVD investigation involving Vietnam. In the Federal Register notice announcing the initiation of the CVD investigation, Commerce has invited comments from the public regarding the application of the CVD law to imports from Vietnam.
- The petitioners for this investigation are Hilex Poly Co., LLC, of Hartsville, SC, and Superbag Corporation, of Houston, TX.
- The merchandise subject to this investigation are 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 this investigation.
- Imports of plastic bags from Vietnam were valued at an estimated \$79 million in 2008.

NEXT STEPS

- The U.S. International Trade 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 determination on June 24.

CASE CALENDAR:

EVENT	DATE
Petitions Filed	March 31, 2009
DOC Initiation Date	April 20, 2009
ITC Preliminary Determination	May 15, 2009
DOC Preliminary Determination*	June 24, 2009
DOC Final Determination*	September 8, 2009
ITC Final Determination**	October 23, 2009
Issuance of Orders***	October 30, 2009

* 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.

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

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

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