

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20436

**MEMORANDUM ON PROPOSED TARIFF LEGISLATION
of the 110th Congress ¹**

[Date approved: May 16, 2008]²

Bill No. and sponsor: H.R. 4615 (Mr. Phil English of Pennsylvania).

Proponent name,³ location: BASF Corp., Florham Park, NJ.

Other bills on product (110th Congress only): H.R. 5374 (Mr. Henry E. Brown, Jr. of South Carolina)
and H.R. 5415 (Mr. Bob Etheridge of North Carolina).

Nature of bill: Extension of temporary duty suspension through December 31, 2011.

Retroactive effect: None.

Suggested article description(s) for enactment (including appropriate HTS subheading(s)):

Methanol, sodium salt (CAS No. 124-41-4) (provided for in subheading 2905.19.90).

Check one: Same as that in bill as introduced.
 Different from that in bill as introduced (see Technical comments section).

Product information, including uses/applications and source(s) of imports:

The subject product is a synthetic organic chemical that is used as an intermediate in the manufacture of pesticides, sunscreens, and biodiesel fuel. It is imported from Germany, China, and Singapore.⁴

Estimated effect on customs revenue:

HTS subheading: 2905.19.90					
 	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Col. 1-General rate of duty	3.7%	3.7%	3.7%	3.7%	3.7%
Estimated value <i>dutiable</i> imports	\$3,300,000	\$3,300,000	\$3,300,000	\$3,300,000	\$3,300,000
Customs revenue loss 1/	\$0	\$122,100	\$122,100	\$122,100	\$122,100

1/ There is an existing duty suspension under HTS heading 9902.01.36 that expires on December 31, 2009. Therefore, there will be no customs revenue loss related to this bill in 2009.

Source of estimated dutiable import data: U.S. industry estimates.

¹ Industry analyst preparing report: L. Johnson (202-205-3351); Tariff Affairs contact: D. Michels (202-205-3440).

² Access to an electronic copy of this memorandum is available at http://www.usitc.gov/tata/hts/other/rel_doc/bill_reports/.

³ The sponsor/proponent did not identify any additional beneficiaries of this bill.

⁴ Imports of the subject product may be eligible for duty-free treatment under the U.S.-Singapore FTA.

Contacts with domestic firms/organizations (including the proponent):

Name of firm/organization	Date contacted	Claim US makes same or competing product(s)?	Submission attached?	Opposition noted?
		(Yes/No)		
BASF Corp. (Proponent) Gregory Thies, 202-904-2332	03/24/2008	No	No	No
Amspec Chemical Corp. John Gustavsen, 856-456-3930	03/24/2008	No	No	No
Bayer Will Hensley, 202-756-3781	03/24/2008	No	No	No
Clariant Corporation Andrew Zamoyski, 202-415-9159	03/24/2008	No	No	No
Dow Lisa Schroeter, 202-429-3400	03/24/2008	No	No	No
DuPont Elaine Olsen, 302-992-2263	03/24/2008	No	No	No
Eli Lilly Kathy Karol, 202-393-7950	03/24/2008	No	No	No
FMC Corp. Jerry Prout, 202-956-5200	03/24/2008	No	No	No
International Flavors & Fragrances Tom Kinlin, 732-264-4500	03/24/2008	No	No	No
Monsanto Corp. Linda Strachan, 202-783-2460	03/24/2008	No	No	No
Procter & Gamble Jim McCarthy, 202-393-4606	03/24/2008	No	No	No
Symrise, Inc. Jed D'Ercole, 202-835-0740	03/24/2008	No	No	No
Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc. Mike Blythe, 336-632-6000	03/24/2008	No	No	No

Technical comments:⁵

The Commission staff notes that H.R. 4615, H.R. 5374, and H.R. 5415 cover the same product. Only one bill should be enacted.

⁵ The Commission may express an opinion on the HTS classification of a product to facilitate consideration of the bill. However, by law, only the U.S. Customs Service is authorized to issue a binding ruling on this matter. The Commission believes that the U.S. Customs Service should be consulted prior to enactment of the bill.

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4615

To extend the temporary suspension of duty on Methanol, sodium salt.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 13, 2007

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

A BILL

To extend the temporary suspension of duty on Methanol, sodium salt.

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. METHANOL, SODIUM SALT.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Heading 9902.01.36 of the Har-
5 monized Tariff Schedule of the United States is amended
6 by striking “12/31/2009” and inserting “12/31/2011”.

7 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
8 subsection (a) applies with respect to goods entered, or
9 withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after
10 the 15th day after the date of the enactment of this Act.