



## FACT SHEET

### Commerce Preliminarily Finds Subsidization of Commodity Matchbooks from India

- On March 31, the Department of Commerce (Commerce) announced its affirmative preliminary determination in the countervailing duty investigation on imports of commodity matchbooks from India. Commodity match books are also commonly known as commodity book matches, paper matches or booklet matches.
- Subsidies are financial assistance from foreign governments that benefit the production, manufacture, or exportation of goods.
- Commerce preliminarily determined that Indian producers/exporters of commodity matchbooks have received net countervailable subsidies at 11.23 percent.
- The sole mandatory respondent, Triveni Safety Matches, Pvt., Ltd, received a preliminary net subsidy rate of 11.23 percent, which is also the rate for all other Indian producers/exporters.
- As a result of this preliminary determination, Commerce will instruct U.S. Customs and Border Protection to collect a cash deposit or bond based on this preliminary rate.
- The petitioner for this investigation is D. D. Bean & Sons Co. (NH).
- The merchandise subject to this investigation is commodity matchbooks, also known as commodity book matches, paper matches or booklet matches. Commodity matchbooks typically, but do not necessarily, consist of twenty match stems which are usually made from paperboard or similar material tipped with a match head composed of any chemical formula. The match stems may be stitched, stapled or otherwise fastened into a matchbook cover of any material, on which a striking strip composed of any chemical formula has been applied to assist in the ignition process.
- Commodity matchbooks included in the scope of this investigation may or may not contain printing; they may have no printing other than the identification of the manufacturer or importer; they may also be printed with a generic message such as “*Thank You*” or a generic image such as the American Flag.
- Commodity matchbooks are currently classifiable under the subheading 3605.00.0060 and may also enter under subheading 3605.00.0030 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 governs the scope of this investigation.
- From 2007 to 2008, imports of commodity matchbooks increased 3.79 percent by volume and were valued at \$479,430 in 2008.

## NEXT STEPS

- Commerce is currently scheduled to issue its final determination in August 2009.
- If Commerce makes an affirmative final determination, and the U.S. International Trade Commission makes an affirmative final determination that imports of commodity matchbooks from India materially injure, or threaten material injury to, the domestic industry, Commerce will issue a countervailing duty order.

## PRELIM SUBSIDY RATE:

COUNTRY	PRODUCER/EXPORTER	SUBSIDY RATE
INDIA	Triveni Safety Matches, Pvt., Ltd.	11.23%
	All Others	11.23%

## CASE CALENDAR:

EVENT	DATE
Petition Filed	October 29, 2008
DOC Initiation Date	November 18, 2008
ITC Preliminary Determination	December 15, 2008
DOC Preliminary Determination	March 30, 2009
DOC Final Determination*	August 10, 2009
ITC Final Determination**	September 24, 2009
Issuance of Orders***	October 10, 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:

INDIA	2006	2007	2008
Volume (gross containers)	75,417	517,590	537,196
Value (\$US)	974,950	624,375	479,430

Source: U.S. International Trade Commission, Dataweb (HTSUS 3605.00.0060)