



FACT SHEET

Commerce Initiates Antidumping Duty Investigation on Imports of Carton-Closing Staples from the People's Republic of China

- On April 21, 2017, the Department of Commerce (Commerce) announced the initiation of an antidumping duty (AD) investigation of imports of carton-closing staples from the People's Republic of China (China).
- The AD law provides U.S. businesses and workers with a transparent, quasi-judicial, and internationally accepted mechanism to seek relief from the market-distorting effects caused by injurious dumping of imports into the United States, establishing an opportunity to compete on a level playing field.
- For the purpose of AD investigations, dumping occurs when a foreign company sells a product in the United States at less than its fair value.
- The petitioner is North American Steel & Wire, Inc./ISM Enterprises (ISM). ISM is located in Pennsylvania.
- The merchandise covered by this investigation is carton-closing staples. Carton-closing staples may be manufactured from carbon, alloy, or stainless steel wire, and are included in the scope of the investigation regardless of whether they are uncoated or coated, regardless of the type of coating.
- Carton-closing staples are generally made to American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) specification ASTM D1974/D1974M- 16, but can also be made to other specifications. Regardless of specification, however, all carton-closing staples meeting the scope description are included in the scope. Carton-closing staples include stick staple products, often referred to as staple strips, and roll staple products, often referred to as coils. Stick staples are lightly cemented or lacquered together to facilitate handling and loading into stapling machines. Roll staples are taped together along their crowns. Carton-closing staples are covered regardless of whether they are imported in stick form or roll form.
- Carton-closing staples vary by the size of the wire, the width of the crown, and the length of the leg. The nominal leg length ranges from 0.4095 inch to 1.375 inches and the nominal crown width ranges from 1.125 inches to 1.375 inches. The size of the wire used in the production of carton-closing staples varies from 0.029 to 0.064 inch (nominal thickness) by 0.064 to 0.100 inch (nominal width).
- Carton-closing staples subject to this investigation are currently classifiable under subheadings 8305.20.00.00 and 7317.00.65.60 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States ("HTSUS"). While the HTSUS subheadings and ASTM specification are provided for convenience and for customs purposes, the written description of the subject merchandise is dispositive.
- In 2016, imports of carton-closing staples from China were valued at an estimated \$73.2 million.

NEXT STEPS

- The U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) is scheduled to make its preliminary injury determination on or before May 15, 2017.
- If the ITC determines that there is a reasonable indication that imports of carton-closing staples from China, materially injure, or threaten material injury to, the domestic industry, the investigation will continue and Commerce will be scheduled to make its preliminary AD determination in September 2017, unless the statutory deadline is extended. If the ITC's preliminary determination is negative, the investigation will be terminated.

ALLEGED DUMPING MARGINS:

COUNTRY	DUMPING MARGINS
China	13.76 to 263.43 percent

CASE CALENDAR:

EVENT	AD INVESTIGATION
Petition Filed	March 31, 2017
DOC Initiation Date	April 20, 2017
ITC Preliminary Determination*	May 15, 2017
DOC Preliminary Determination	September 7, 2017
DOC Final Determination	November 21, 2017
ITC Final Determination**	January 5, 2018
Issuance of Order***	January 12, 2018

NOTE: Commerce's preliminary and final determination deadlines are governed by statute. For AD investigations, the deadlines are set forth in sections 733(b) and 735(a) of the Act. These deadlines may be extended under certain circumstances.

* If the ITC makes a negative preliminary determination of injury, the investigation is terminated.

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

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

IMPORT STATISTICS:

CHINA	2014	2015	2016
Volume (metric tons)	46,772	51,408	54,664
Value (USD)	72,184,292	76,262,738	73,214,777

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, accessed through Global Trade Atlas. (HTSUS 7317.00.6560 and 8305.20.0000).

These HTSUS subheadings are basket categories and cover both subject and non-subject merchandise; therefore, the import statistics above may be significantly overstated.