



FACT SHEET

Commerce Finds Dumping of Imports of Acetone from Belgium, Korea, and South Africa

- On February 7, 2020, the Department of Commerce (Commerce) announced its affirmative final determinations in the antidumping duty (AD) investigations of imports of acetone from Belgium, Korea, and South Africa.
- 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.
- Dumping occurs when a foreign company sells a product in the United States at less than its fair value.
- In the Belgium investigation, Commerce calculated a final dumping rate of 28.10 percent to the sole mandatory respondent INEOS Europe AG/INEOS Phenol Belgium NV (collectively, INEOS Europe). Commerce calculated a dumping rate of 28.10 percent for all other Belgian producers and exporters.
- In the Korea investigation, Commerce calculated a dumping rate of 47.86 percent to mandatory respondent Kumho P&B Chemicals, Inc. Commerce calculated a dumping rate of 25.05 percent to mandatory respondent LG Chem, Ltd. Commerce calculated a dumping rate of 33.10 percent for all other Korean producers and exporters.
- In the South Africa investigation, Commerce assigned a dumping rate of 414.92 percent to mandatory respondent Sasol South Africa Limited. Commerce assigned a dumping rate of 314.51 percent for all other South African producers and exporters.
- Upon publication of the final affirmative AD determinations, Commerce will instruct U.S. Customs and Border Protection to collect cash deposits based on the final dumping margins, as applicable.
- The petitioner is the Coalition for Acetone Fair Trade. The members of the Coalition for Acetone Fair Trade are AdvanSix, Inc. (Parsippany, NJ), Altivia Petrochemicals, LLC (Haverhill, OH), and Olin Corporation (Clayton, MO).
- The scope for these investigations is listed in Appendix I.
- In 2018, imports of acetone from Belgium, Korea, and South Africa were valued at an estimated \$51.1 million, \$61.2 million, and \$21.8 million, respectively.
- The Final Decision Memoranda are on file electronically via Enforcement and Compliance's Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Service System (ACCESS). ACCESS is available to registered users at <https://access.trade.gov>, and to all parties in the Central Records Unit, Room B8024 of the main Department of Commerce building. Please refer to case numbers A-423-814, A-580-899, A-791-819 for Belgium, Korea, South Africa, respectively.

NEXT STEPS

- The U.S International Trade Commission (ITC) is scheduled to make its final determinations on or before March 23, 2020.
- If the ITC makes affirmative final determinations that imports of acetone from Belgium, Korea, and South Africa materially injure, or threaten material injury to, the domestic industry, Commerce will issue AD orders. If the ITC makes negative determinations of injury, the investigations will be terminated.

FINAL DUMPING RATES:

COUNTRY	EXPORTER/PRODUCER	DUMPING RATES
Belgium	INEOS Europe AG/INEOS Phenol Belgium NV (collectively, INEOS Europe)	28.10%
	All Others	28.10%

COUNTRY	EXPORTER/PRODUCER	DUMPING RATES
Korea	Kumho P&B Chemicals, Inc.	47.86%
	LG Chem, Ltd.	25.05%
	All Others	33.10%

COUNTRY	EXPORTER/PRODUCER	DUMPING RATES
South Africa	Sasol South Africa Limited	414.92%
	All Others	314.51%

CASE CALENDAR:

EVENT	DATE
Petitions Filed	February 19, 2019
DOC Initiations Date	March 11, 2019
ITC Preliminary Determinations	April 5, 2019
DOC Preliminary Determinations	September 17, 2019
DOC Final Determinations	February 6, 2020
ITC Final Determinations	March 23, 2020
Issuance of Orders*	March 30, 2020

NOTE: Commerce preliminary and final determination deadlines are governed by statute. For AD investigations, the deadlines are set forth in sections 733(b) and 735(a)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended. These deadlines may be extended under certain circumstances.

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

IMPORT STATISTICS:

Belgium	2016	2017	2018
Quantity (Metric Ton)	30,545	45,020	62,755
Value (USD)	14,934,049	31,454,384	51,101,814
Korea			
Korea	2016	2017	2018
Quantity (Metric Ton)	23,536	50,519	90,115
Value (USD)	12,296,879	37,046,081	61,249,963
South Africa			
South Africa	2016	2017	2018
Quantity (Metric Ton)	25,947	24,277	27,216
Value (USD)	12,355,598	17,256,941	21,805,079

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, accessed through Global Trade Atlas using the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) subheadings 2914.11.1000 and 2914.11.5000.

Appendix I

The merchandise covered by these investigations is all grades of liquid or aqueous acetone. Acetone is also known under the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) name propan-2-one. In addition to the IUPAC name, acetone is also referred to as β -ketopropane (or beta-ketopropane), ketone propane, methyl ketone, dimethyl ketone, DMK, dimethyl carbonyl, propanone, 2-propanone, dimethyl formaldehyde, pyroacetic acid, pyroacetic ether, and pyroacetic spirit. Acetone is an isomer of the chemical formula C_3H_6O , with a specific molecular formula of CH_3COCH_3 or $(CH_3)_2CO$.

The scope covers both pure acetone (with or without impurities) and acetone that is combined or mixed with other products, including, but not limited to, isopropyl alcohol, benzene, diethyl ether, methanol, chloroform, and ethanol. Acetone that has been combined with other products is included within the scope, regardless of whether the combining occurs in third countries.

The scope also includes acetone that is commingled with acetone from sources not subject to these investigations.

For combined and commingled products, only the acetone component is covered by the scope of these investigations. However, when acetone is combined with acetone components from sources not subject to these investigations, those third country acetone components may still be subject to other acetone investigations.

Notwithstanding the foregoing language, an acetone combination or mixture that is transformed through a chemical reaction into another product, such that, for example, the acetone can no longer be separated from the other products through a distillation process (*e.g.*, methyl methacrylate (MMA) or Bisphenol A (BPA)), is excluded from these investigations.

A combination or mixture is excluded from these investigations if the total acetone component (regardless of the source or sources) comprises less than 5 percent of the combination or mixture, on a dry weight basis.

The Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) registry number for acetone is 67-64-1.

The merchandise covered by these investigations is currently classifiable under Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) subheadings 2914.11.1000 and 2914.11.5000. Combinations or mixtures of acetone may enter under subheadings in Chapter 38 of the HTSUS, including, but not limited to, those under heading 3814.00.1000, 3814.00.2000, 3814.00.5010, and 3814.00.5090. The list of items found under these HTSUS subheadings is non-exhaustive. Although these HTSUS subheadings and CAS registry number are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the scope of these investigations is dispositive.