



FACT SHEET

Commerce Initiates Antidumping Duty and Countervailing Duty Investigations of Imports of Certain Amorphous Silica Fabric from the People's Republic of China (China)

- On February 17, 2016, the Department of Commerce (Commerce) announced the initiation of antidumping duty (AD) and countervailing duty (CVD) investigations of imports of certain amorphous silica fabric from China.
- The AD and CVD laws provide U.S. businesses and workers with a transparent and internationally accepted mechanism to seek relief from the market-distorting effects caused by injurious dumping and unfair subsidization 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. For the purpose of CVD investigations, countervailable subsidies are financial assistance from foreign governments that benefit the production of goods from foreign companies and are limited to specific enterprises or industries, or are contingent either upon export performance or upon the use of domestic goods over imported goods.
- The petitioner for these investigations is Auburn Manufacturing, Inc. (Mechanic Falls, ME).
- The product covered by these investigations is woven (whether from yarns or rovings) industrial grade amorphous silica fabric, which contains a minimum of 90 percent silica (SiO₂) by nominal weight, and a nominal width in excess of 8 inches. The investigation covers industrial grade amorphous silica fabric regardless of other materials contained in the fabric, regardless of whether in roll form or cut-to-length, regardless of weight, width (except as noted above), or length. The investigation covers industrial grade amorphous silica fabric regardless of whether the product is approved by a standards testing body (such as being Factory Mutual (FM) Approved), or regardless of whether it meets any governmental specification.

Industrial grade amorphous silica fabric may be produced in various colors. The investigation covers industrial grade amorphous silica fabric regardless of whether the fabric is colored. Industrial grade amorphous silica fabric may be coated or treated with materials that include, but are not limited to, oils, vermiculite, acrylic latex compound, silicone, aluminized polyester (Mylar®) film, pressure-sensitive adhesive, or other coatings and treatments. The investigation covers industrial grade amorphous silica fabric regardless of whether the fabric is coated or treated, and regardless of coating or treatment weight as a percentage of total product weight. Industrial grade amorphous silica fabric may be heat-cleaned. The investigation covers industrial grade amorphous silica fabric regardless of whether the fabric is heat-cleaned.

Industrial grade amorphous silica fabric may be imported in rolls or may be cut-to-length and then further fabricated to make welding curtains, welding blankets, welding pads, fire blankets, fire pads, or fire screens. Regardless of the name, all industrial grade amorphous silica fabric that has been further cut-to-length or cut-to-width or further finished by finishing the edges and/or adding grommets, is included within the scope of this investigation.

Subject merchandise also includes (1) any industrial grade amorphous silica fabric that has been converted into industrial grade amorphous silica fabric in China from fiberglass cloth produced in a third country; and (2) any industrial grade amorphous silica fabric that has been further processed in a third country prior to export to the United States, including but not limited to treating, coating, slitting, cutting to length, cutting to width, finishing the edges, adding grommets, or any other processing that would not otherwise remove the merchandise from the scope of the investigation if performed in the country of manufacture of the in-scope industrial grade amorphous silica fabric.

Excluded from the scope of the investigation is amorphous silica fabric that is subjected to controlled shrinkage, which is also called “pre-shrunk” or “aerospace grade” amorphous silica fabric. In order to be excluded as a pre-shrunk or aerospace grade amorphous silica fabric, the amorphous silica fabric must meet the following exclusion criteria: (1) the amorphous silica fabric must contain a minimum of 98 percent silica (SiO₂) by nominal weight; (2) the amorphous silica fabric must have an areal shrinkage of 4 percent or less; (3) the amorphous silica fabric must contain no coatings or treatments; and (4) the amorphous silica fabric must be white in color. For purposes of this scope, “areal shrinkage” refers to the extent to which a specimen of amorphous silica fabric shrinks while subjected to heating at 1800 degrees F for 30 minutes.¹

Also excluded from the scope are amorphous silica fabric rope and tubing (or sleeving). Amorphous silica fabric rope is a knitted or braided product made from amorphous silica yarns. Silica tubing (or sleeving) is braided into a hollow sleeve from amorphous silica yarns.

The subject imports are normally classified in subheadings 7019.59.4021, 7019.59.4096, 7019.59.9021, and 7019.59.9096 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS), but may also enter under HTSUS subheadings 7019.40.4030, 7019.40.4060, 7019.40.9030, 7019.40.9060, 7019.51.9010, 7019.51.9090, 7019.52.9010, 7019.52.9021, 7019.52.9096 and 7019.90.1000. HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes only; the written description of the scope of this investigation is dispositive.

- In 2015, imports of certain amorphous silica fabric from China were valued at an estimated \$16 million.

NEXT STEPS

- The U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) is scheduled to make its preliminary injury determination on or before March 7, 2016.
- If the ITC determines that there is a reasonable indication that imports of certain amorphous silica fabric from China materially injure, or threaten material injury to, the domestic industry, the investigations will continue and Commerce will be scheduled to make its preliminary CVD determination in April 2016 and its preliminary AD determination in July 2016, unless the statutory deadlines are extended. If the ITC’s preliminary determination is negative, the investigations will be terminated.

¹ Areal shrinkage is expressed as the following percentage:

$$\frac{\text{Fired Area, cm}^2 - \text{Initial Area, cm}^2}{\text{Initial Area, cm}^2} \times 100 = \text{Areal Shrinkage, \%}$$

ALLEGED DUMPING MARGINS:

COUNTRY	DUMPING MARGINS
China	160.28

ESTIMATED SUBSIDY RATES:

COUNTRY	SUBSIDY RATE
China	Above <i>de minimis</i> *

* *de minimis* = less than 1% for developed countries, less than 2% for developing countries.

CASE CALENDAR:

EVENT	AD INVESTIGATION	CVD INVESTIGATION
Petitions Filed	January 20, 2016	January 20, 2016
DOC Initiation Date [^]	February 16, 2016 [†]	February 16, 2016 [†]
ITC Preliminary Determination*	March 7, 2016 [†]	March 7, 2016 [†]
DOC Preliminary Determinations [^]	July 5, 2016	April 21, 2016
DOC Final Determinations ^{^*}	September 19, 2016 [†]	July 5, 2016
ITC Final Determination ^{^**}	November 2, 2016	August 19, 2016
Issuance of Orders ^{^***}	November 9, 2016	August 26, 2016

NOTE: Commerce preliminary and final determination deadlines are governed by statute. For CVD investigations, the deadlines are set forth in sections 703(b) and 705(a)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act). 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.

[†]Where the deadline falls on a weekend/holiday, the appropriate date is the next business day.

* If the ITC makes a negative preliminary determination of injury, the investigations are terminated.

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

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

[^]As explained in the Memorandum for the Record from Ronald K. Lorentzen, Acting Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance, "Tolling of Administrative Deadlines as a Result of the Government Closure during Snowstorm 'Jonas'" (January 27, 2016), Commerce has exercised its discretion to toll deadlines for four business days. Therefore, the initiation date for these investigations has been tolled by four days and all other deadlines have been adjusted accordingly.

IMPORT STATISTICS:

CHINA	2013	2014	2015
Volume (square meters)	4,989,000	5,693,000	7,342,000
Value (USD)	13,165,000	16,294,000	16,036,000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, accessed through Global Trade Atlas. (7019.59.4021, 7019.59.4096, 7019.59.9021, and 7019.59.9096). The above HTSUS subheadings are basket categories and may cover both subject and non-subject merchandise.

Imports of amorphous silica fabric may also enter under HTSUS 7019.40.4030, 7019.40.4060, 7019.40.9030, 7019.40.9060, 7019.51.9010, 7019.51.9090, 7019.52.9010, 7019.52.9021, 7019.52.9096, and 7019.90.1000. These HTSUS subheadings may cover a significant amount of non-subject merchandise and therefore have been excluded for purposes of reporting import statistics.