



## FACT SHEET

### Commerce Initiates Antidumping Duty Investigations of Imports of Polyethylene Terephthalate Sheet from the Republic of Korea, Mexico, and the Sultanate of Oman

- Today, the Department of Commerce (Commerce) announced the initiation of antidumping duty (AD) investigations of imports of polyethylene terephthalate sheet (PET sheet) from the Republic of Korea (Korea), Mexico, and the Sultanate of Oman (Oman).
- 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 petitioners are Advanced Extrusions, Inc. (Rogers, MN), Ex-Tech Plastics, Inc., (Richmond, IL), and Multi-Plastics Extrusions, Inc. (Hazleton, PA).
- The merchandise covered by these investigations is raw, pretreated, or primed polyethylene terephthalate sheet, whether extruded or coextruded, in nominal thicknesses of equal to or greater than 7 mil (0.007 inches or 177.8  $\mu\text{m}$ ) and not exceeding 45 mil (0.045 inches or 1143  $\mu\text{m}$ ) (PET sheet). The scope includes all PET sheet whether made from prime (virgin) inputs or recycled inputs, as well as any blends thereof. The scope includes all PET sheet meeting the above specifications regardless of width, color, surface treatment, coating, lamination, or other surface finish.
- The merchandise subject to these investigations is properly classified under statistical reporting number 3920.62.0090 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS). Although the HTSUS statistical reporting number is provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the merchandise is dispositive.
- In 2018, imports of PET sheet from Korea, Mexico, and Oman were valued at an estimated \$90.0 million, \$88.5 million, and \$208.3 million, respectively.
- The Initiation Decision Checklists 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-201-852 for Mexico, A-580-903 for Korea, and A-523-813 for Oman.

### NEXT STEPS

- The U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) is scheduled to make its preliminary injury determinations on or before September 13, 2019. If the ITC determines that there is a reasonable indication that imports of PET sheet from Korea, Mexico and/or Oman materially injure, or threaten

material injury to, the domestic industry in the United States, the investigations will continue, and Commerce will be scheduled to issue its preliminary determinations on January 6, 2020. If the ITC's determinations are negative, the investigations will be terminated.

### ALLEGED DUMPING MARGINS:

COUNTRY	DUMPING MARGINS
Korea	44.13 – 52.01 percent
Mexico	27.60 – 115.46 percent
Oman	75.02 – 114.43 percent

### CASE CALENDAR:

EVENT	AD INVESTIGATIONS
Petitions Filed	July 9, 2019
DOC Initiation Date <sup>^</sup>	August 19, 2019
ITC Preliminary Determinations*	September 13, 2019****
DOC Preliminary Determinations	January 6, 2020
DOC Final Determinations	March 23, 2020
ITC Final Determinations**	May 7, 2020
Issuance of Orders***	May 14, 2020

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 Tariff Act of 1930, as amended. These deadlines may be extended under certain circumstances.

<sup>^</sup> Under the Act, in any case in which Commerce is required to poll the industry or otherwise determine industry support for the petition, Commerce may extend the deadline for deciding whether to initiate an antidumping duty investigation for a period not to exceed 40 days after the petition is officially filed. Commerce extended the initiation deadline by 20 days and polled the industry in order to determine industry support for the PET sheet petitions.

\* If the ITC makes negative preliminary determinations 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.

\*\*\*\*When Commerce extends the initiation deadline, the ITC preliminary determination will be within 25 days after the date on which the ITC receives notification from Commerce of the initiation of the investigation, in accordance with section 773(a)(2)(A)(ii). The ITC has indicated that its preliminary determination will now take place on or about September 13, 2019.

## IMPORT STATISTICS:

<b>KOREA</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Volume (kilograms)	19,713,265	25,197,658	30,990,906
Value (USD)	64,322,587	84,675,859	89,954,875
<b>MEXICO</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Volume (kilograms)	22,408,327	17,021,156	39,272,487
Value (USD)	49,513,472	36,113,481	88,530,198
<b>OMAN</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
Volume (kilograms)	123,060,451	134,628,139	117,795,844
Value (USD)	179,983,753	206,434,866	208,308,678

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, accessed through Global Trade Atlas (Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) subheading 3920.62.0090). Imports of PET sheet enter under an HTSUS subheading which is a basket category and covers a significant amount of non-subject merchandise.