June 9, 2014

MEMORANDUM TO: Paul Piquado
Assistant Secretary
for Enforcement and Compliance

FROM: Christian Marsh
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Operations

SUBJECT: Decision Memorandum for Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review: Polyester Staple Fiber from Taiwan; 2012 – 2013 Administrative Review

Summary

The Department of Commerce (the Department) is conducting this administrative review of the antidumping duty order on polyester staple fiber (PSF) from Taiwan. The review covers two producers/exporters of the subject merchandise, Far Eastern New Century Corporation (FENC) and Nan Ya Plastics Corporation (Nan Ya). The period of review (POR) is May 1, 2012, through April 30, 2013. We preliminarily find that FENC has not sold subject merchandise at less than normal value (NV) and that Nan Ya had no shipments during the POR.

Background

Pursuant to section 751(a)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), and 19 CFR 351.213(b), Auriga Polymers, Inc., a domestic interested party, requested an administrative review of the antidumping duty order on PSF from Taiwan with respect to FENC and Nan Ya on May 31, 2013. Also on May 31, 2013, FENC requested a review of the 2012-2013 review period. On June 28, 2013, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.221(c)(1)(i), we published a notice of initiation of administrative review of the antidumping duty order on PSF from Taiwan.1

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The original deadline for the preliminary results of this review was January 31, 2014. As explained in the memorandum from the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance, the Department exercised its discretion to toll deadlines for the duration of the closure of the Federal Government from October 1 through October 16, 2013.² As a result, the deadline for the preliminary results of this review was revised to February 16, 2014.³ On February 6, 2014, we extended the time period for issuing the preliminary results of this review by 90 days, to May 17, 2014.⁴ However, because May 17, 2014, fell on a Saturday, the preliminary results were due on May 19, 2014.⁵ Further, on April 22, 2014, in accordance with section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Act, the Department extended the due date for the preliminary results by an additional 20 days to June 9, 2014.⁶

Scope of the Order

The product covered by the order is PSF. PSF is defined as synthetic staple fibers, not carded, combed or otherwise processed for spinning, of polyesters measuring 3.3 decitex (3 denier, inclusive) or more in diameter. This merchandise is cut to lengths varying from one inch (25 mm) to five inches (127 mm). The merchandise subject to the order may be coated, usually with a silicon or other finish, or not coated. PSF is generally used as stuffing in sleeping bags, mattresses, ski jackets, comforters, cushions, pillows, and furniture. Merchandise of less than 3.3 decitex (less than 3 denier) currently classifiable in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) at subheading 5503.20.00.20 is specifically excluded from the order. Also specifically excluded from the order are PSF of 10 to 18 denier that are cut to lengths of 6 to 8 inches (fibers used in the manufacture of carpeting). In addition, low-melt PSF is excluded from the order. Low-melt PSF is defined as a bi-component fiber with an outer sheath that melts at a significantly lower temperature than its inner core.

The merchandise subject to the order is currently classifiable in the HTSUS at subheadings 5503.20.00.40, 5503.20.00.45, 5503.20.00.60, and 5503.20.00.65. Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the merchandise subject to the order is dispositive.

² See Memorandum to the record from Paul Piquado, Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance, regarding “Deadlines Affected by the Shutdown of the Federal Government,” dated October 18, 2013.
³ Because February 16, 2014, fell on a Sunday, and Monday, February 17, is a federal holiday, the preliminary results were due the next business day, February 18, 2014. See Notice of Clarification: Application of “Next Business Day” Rule for Administrative Determination Deadlines Pursuant to the Tariff Act of 1930, As Amended, 70 FR 24533 (May 10, 2005).
⁵ Id.
Preliminary Determination of No Shipments

The Department received a timely submission from Nan Ya reporting to the Department that it did not sell or export the subject merchandise to the United States during the POR.7 We transmitted a “No-Shipment Inquiry” to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) regarding this company.8 Pursuant to this inquiry, the Department received no notification from CBP of entries of subject merchandise from Nan Ya within the ten-day deadline. Accordingly, based on record evidence, we preliminarily determine that Nan Ya had no shipments during the POR.9

In our May 6, 2003, “automatic assessment” clarification, we explained that, where respondents in an administrative review demonstrated that they had no knowledge of sales through resellers to the United States, we would instruct CBP to liquidate such entries at the all-others rate applicable to the proceeding.10 Because “as entered” liquidation instructions do not alleviate the concerns which the Assessment Policy Notice was intended to address, instead of rescinding the review with respect to Nan Ya, we find it appropriate to complete the review and issue liquidation instructions to CBP concerning entries for Nan Ya following the final results of the review. If we continue to find that Nan Ya had no shipments of subject merchandise in the final results, we will instruct CBP to liquidate any existing entries of merchandise produced by Nan Ya but exported by other parties at the all-others rate.11

Discussion of the Methodology

Fair Value Comparisons

Pursuant to section 773(a) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.414(c)(1), to determine whether FENC’s sales of the subject merchandise from Taiwan to the United States were made at less than NV, the Department compared the export price to the NV as described in the “Export Price” and “Normal Value” sections of this memorandum.

Product Comparisons

When making these comparisons in accordance with section 771(16) of the Act, we considered all products sold in the comparison market as described in the “Scope of the Order” section of this notice (i.e., the foreign like product), that were in the ordinary course of trade for purposes of determining an appropriate normal value for comparison to the U.S. export price. Both subject merchandise and the foreign like product are defined according to the physical

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7 See letter from Nan Ya to the Department, “Antidumping Duty Administrative Review on Polyester Staple Fiber from Taiwan for the period from May 1, 2012 to April 30, 2013” (August 8, 2013).
8 See CBP message number 3226305 dated August 14, 2013, for Nan Ya (http://adcvd.cbp.dhs.gov/adcvdweb/).
9 CBP responds only to the Department’s inquiry when there are records of shipments from the company in question. See, i.e., Certain Hot-Rolled Flat-Rolled Carbon Quality Steel Flat Products From Brazil: Notice of Rescission of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review, 75 FR 65453, 65454 (October 25, 2010).
11 See, e.g., Magnesium Metal From the Russian Federation: Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review, 75 FR 26922, 26923 (May 13, 2010), unchanged in Magnesium Metal From the Russian Federation: Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review, 75 FR 56989 (September 17, 2010).
characteristics identified in the questionnaire: fiber loft, specialty, type, grade, cross section, finish, and denier. If contemporaneous comparison market sales were reported of merchandise which was identical to subject merchandise sold in the U.S. market, then we calculated NV based on the monthly weighted-average comparison market prices of such sales. If there were no contemporaneous comparison market sales of identical merchandise, then we identified comparison market sales of the most similar merchandise that were contemporaneous with the U.S. sales in accordance with 19 CFR 351.414(e). The most similar merchandise sold in the comparison market was based on the reporting requirements of the physical characteristics and resulting model matching hierarchy set forth in the Department’s questionnaire. Where there were no sales of identical or similar merchandise made in the ordinary course of trade in the comparison market, we compared the prices of U.S. sales to constructed value.

**Determination of Comparison Method**

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.414(c)(1), the Department calculates dumping margins by comparing weighted-average NVs to weighted-average export prices (or constructed export prices) (the average-to-average method) unless the Secretary determines that another method is appropriate in a particular situation. In less-than-fair-value investigations, the Department examines whether to compare weighted-average NVs to the export prices (or constructed export prices) of individual export transactions (the average-to-transaction method) as an alternative comparison method using an analysis consistent with section 777A(d)(1)(B) of the Act. Although section 777A(d)(1)(B) of the Act does not strictly govern the Department’s examination of this question in the context of administrative reviews, the Department nevertheless finds that the issue arising under 19 CFR 351.414(c)(1) in administrative reviews is, in fact, analogous to the issue in less-than-fair-value investigations. In recent investigations, the Department applied a “differential pricing” analysis for determining whether application of average-to-transaction comparisons is appropriate in a particular situation pursuant to 19 CFR 351.414(c)(1) and consistent with section 777A(d)(1)(B) of the Act. The Department finds that the differential pricing analysis used in those recent investigations may be instructive for purposes of examining whether to apply an alternative comparison method in this administrative review. The Department will continue to develop its approach in this area based on comments received in this and other proceedings, and on the Department’s additional experience with addressing the potential masking of dumping that can occur when the Department uses the average-to-average method in calculating weighted-average dumping margins.

The differential pricing analysis used in these preliminary results requires a finding of a pattern of export prices (or constructed export prices) for comparable merchandise that differs significantly among purchasers, regions, or time periods. If such a pattern is found, then the differential pricing analysis evaluates whether such differences can be taken into account when using the average-to-average method to calculate the weighted-average dumping margin. The differential pricing analysis used here evaluates all purchasers, regions, and time periods to

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determine whether a pattern of prices that differ significantly exists. The analysis incorporates default group definitions for purchasers, regions, time periods, and comparable merchandise. Purchasers are based on the reported customer names. Regions are defined using the reported destination code (i.e., city name) and are grouped into regions based upon standard definitions published by the U.S. Census Bureau. Time periods are defined by the quarter within the period of review being examined based upon the reported date of sale. For purposes of analyzing sales transactions by purchaser, region and time period, comparable merchandise is considered using the product control number and any characteristics of the sales, other than purchaser, region and time period, that the Department uses in making comparisons between export price (or constructed export price) and NV for the individual dumping margins.

In the first stage of the differential pricing analysis used here, the “Cohen’s *d* test” is applied. The Cohen’s *d* test is a generally recognized statistical measure of the extent of the difference between the mean of a test group and the mean of a comparison group. First, for comparable merchandise, the Cohen’s *d* coefficient is calculated when the test and comparison groups of data each have at least two observations, and when the sales quantity for the comparison group accounts for at least five percent of the total sales quantity of the comparable merchandise. Then, the Cohen’s *d* coefficient is used to evaluate the extent to which the net prices to a particular purchaser, region or time period differ significantly from the net prices of all other sales of comparable merchandise. The extent of these differences can be quantified by one of three fixed thresholds defined by the Cohen’s *d* test: small, medium or large. Of these thresholds, the large threshold provides the strongest indication that there is a significant difference between the means of the test and comparison groups, while the small threshold provides the weakest indication that such a difference exists. For this analysis, the difference was considered significant, and the sales in the test group were found to pass the Cohen’s *d* test, if the calculated Cohen’s *d* coefficient is equal to or exceeds the large (i.e., 0.8) threshold.

Next, the “ratio test” assesses the extent of the significant price differences for all sales as measured by the Cohen’s *d* test. If the value of sales to purchasers, regions, and time periods that pass the Cohen’s *d* test account for 66 percent or more of the value of total sales, then the identified pattern of export prices that differ significantly support the consideration of the application of the average-to-transaction method to all sales as an alternative to the average-to-average method. If the value of sales to purchasers, regions, and time periods that pass the Cohen’s *d* test accounts for more than 33 percent and less than 66 percent of the value of total sales, then the results support consideration of the application of an average-to-transaction method to those sales identified as passing the Cohen’s *d* test as an alternative to the average-to-average method, and application of the average-to-average method to those sales identified as not passing the Cohen’s *d* test. If 33 percent or less of the value of total sales passes the Cohen’s *d* test, then the results of the Cohen’s *d* test do not support consideration of an alternative to the average-to-average method.

If both tests in the first stage (i.e., the Cohen’s *d* test and the ratio test) demonstrate the existence of a pattern of prices that differ significantly such that an alternative comparison method should be considered, then in the second stage of the differential pricing analysis, we examine whether using only the average-to-average method can appropriately account for such differences. In considering this question, the Department tests whether using an alternative method, based on
the results of the Cohen’s $d$ and ratio tests described above, yields a meaningful difference in the weighted-average dumping margin as compared to that resulting from the use of the average-to-average method only. If the difference between the two calculations is meaningful, then this demonstrates that the average-to-average method cannot account for differences such as those observed in this analysis, and, therefore, an alternative method would be appropriate. A difference in the weighted-average dumping margins is considered meaningful if 1) there is a 25 percent relative change in the weighted-average dumping margin between the average-to-average method and the appropriate alternative method where both rates are above the de minimis threshold, or 2) the resulting weighted-average dumping margin moves across the de minimis threshold.

Interested parties may present arguments and justifications in relation to the above-described differential pricing approach used in these preliminary results, including arguments for modifying the group definitions used in this proceeding.

**Results of the Differential Pricing Analysis**

For FENC, based on the results of the differential pricing analysis, the Department finds that 66.38 percent of FENC’s export sales does confirm the existence of a pattern of export prices for comparable merchandise that differ significantly among purchasers, regions, or time periods. Further, the Department determines that the average-to-average method can appropriately account for such differences because there is not a meaningful difference in the weighted-average dumping margin when calculated using the average-to-average method and the alternative method based on applying the average-to-transaction method to all U.S. sales. Accordingly, the Department determined to use the average-to-average method to calculate the weighted-average dumping margin for FENC.

**Date of Sale**

19 CFR 351.401(i) states that the Department normally will use the date of invoice, as recorded in the producer’s or exporter’s records kept in the ordinary course of business, as the date of sale. The regulation provides further that the Department may use a date other than the date of the invoice if the Secretary is satisfied that a different date better reflects the date on which the material terms of sale are established. The Department has a long-standing practice of finding that, where shipment date precedes invoice date, shipment date better reflects the date on which the material terms of sale are established.14

With respect to FENC’s sales to the United States, shipment date occurs on or before the date of invoice (the date on which the Government Uniform Invoice is issued). Further, based on record evidence, all material terms of sale are established at the time of shipment and do not change prior to the issuance of the invoice. Based upon these facts and in accordance with our practice,

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14 See Notice of Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value and Negative Final Determination of Critical Circumstances: Certain Frozen and Canned Warmwater Shrimp From Thailand, 69 FR 76918 (December 23, 2004), and accompanying Issues and Decision Memorandum at Comment 10; see also Notice of Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Structural Steel Beams From Germany, 67 FR 35497 (May 20, 2002), and accompanying Issues and Decision Memorandum at Comment 2.
we preliminarily determine that shipment date is the appropriate date of sale for all sales to the United States.

For the majority of FENC’s home market sales, the goods are shipped on the same day that the Government Uniform Invoice is issued. For the remaining sales, the invoice date occurs after the date of shipment. Based on record evidence, all material terms of sale are established at the time of shipment and there were no changes during the period between the date of shipment and the issuance of the Government Uniform Invoice. Based upon these facts and in accordance with our practice, we preliminarily determine that shipment date is the appropriate date of sale for all home-market sales.

Export Price

For sales to the United States, the Department calculated export price in accordance with section 772(a) of the Act because the merchandise was sold prior to importation by the exporter or producer outside the United States to the first unaffiliated purchaser in the United States and because constructed export price methodology was not otherwise warranted. We calculated export price based on the free-on-board or carriage-and-insurance-paid-to price to unaffiliated purchasers in the United States. Where appropriate, we made deductions, consistent with section 772(c)(2)(A) of the Act, for the following movement expenses: inland freight from the plant to the port of exportation, inland insurance in Taiwan, brokerage and handling in Taiwan, harbor construction fee, trade promotion fee, containerization expense, international freight, and marine insurance. No other adjustments were claimed or applied.

Normal Value

A. Home Market Viability as Comparison Market

To determine whether there was a sufficient volume of sales of PSF in the home market to serve as a viable basis for calculating NV, the Department compared the volume of the respondent’s home market sales of the foreign like product to its volume of U.S. sales of the subject merchandise in accordance with section 773(a) of the Act. Pursuant to section 773(a)(1)(B) of the Act, because the respondent’s aggregate volume of home market sales of the foreign like product was greater than five percent of its aggregate volume of U.S. sales of the subject merchandise, we determined that the home market was viable for comparison purposes.

B. Level of Trade

In accordance with section 773(a)(1)(B) of the Act and the Statement of Administrative Action accompanying the Uruguay Round Agreements Act, to the extent practicable, the Department determines NV based on sales in the comparison market at the same level of trade as the export price. Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.412(c)(1), the NV level of trade is based on the starting price of the sales in the comparison market or, when NV is based on constructed value, the starting price of the sales from which we derive the adjustment to constructed value for selling, general, and

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administrative expenses and profit. For export price sales, the U.S. level of trade is based on the starting price of the sales in the U.S. market, which is usually from the exporter to the importer.

To determine whether comparison market sales are at a different level of trade than export price sales, we examine stages in the marketing process and selling functions along the chain of distribution between the producer and the unaffiliated customer. If the comparison market sales are at a different level of trade and the difference affects price comparability, as manifested in a pattern of consistent price differences between the sales on which NV is based and the comparison market sales at the level of trade of the export transaction, we make a level of trade adjustment under section 773(a)(7)(A) of the Act.

In implementing these principles in this review, we obtained information from FENC regarding the marketing stages involved in making its reported home market and U.S. sales for each channel of distribution. FENC reported one channel of distribution (i.e., direct sales to distributors) and a single level of trade in the U.S. market. For purposes of these preliminary results, we organized the common selling functions into four major categories: sales process and marketing support, freight and delivery, inventory and warehousing, and quality assurance/warranty services. Because the sales process and selling functions FENC performed for selling to the U.S. market did not vary by individual customers, the necessary condition for finding they constitute different levels of trade was not met. Accordingly, we preliminarily determine that all of FENC’s U.S. sales constitute a single level of trade.

FENC reported a single channel of distribution (i.e., direct sales to end-users) and a single level of trade in the home market. Because the sales process and selling functions FENC performed for selling to home market customers did not vary by individual customers, we preliminarily determine that all of FENC’s home-market sales constitute a single level of trade.

We found that the export price level of trade was similar to the home market level of trade in terms of selling activities. Accordingly, we considered the export price level of trade to be similar to the home market level of trade and not at a different stage of distribution than the home market level of trade. Therefore, we matched export price sales to sales at the same level of trade in the home market and no level of trade adjustment under section 773(a)(7)(A) of the Act was necessary.

C. Cost of Production

In the last administrative review of the order, completed on the same day we initiated this review, the Department disregarded certain home market sales made by FENC at prices below the cost of production (COP). Thus, in accordance with section 773(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Act, there are reasonable grounds to believe or suspect that FENC made sales of the foreign like product in its comparison market at prices below the COP in the current review period. Pursuant to section 773(b)(1) of the Act, we initiated a COP investigation of home market sales by FENC. Based on our analysis of FENC’s cost data, we preliminarily determine that our quarterly cost adjustment...
methodology is not warranted. Therefore, we applied our standard methodology of using annual costs based on the reported data, adjusted as described below.

1. Calculation of Cost of Production

We calculated the COP on a product-specific basis, based on the sum of the respondent’s costs of materials and fabrication for the foreign like product plus amounts for general and administrative expenses, interest expenses, and the costs of all expenses incidental to preparing the foreign like product for shipment in accordance with section 773(b)(3) of the Act.

Except as stated below, we relied on COP data FENC submitted in its response to our cost questionnaire.

2. Test of Comparison Market Sales Prices

On a product-specific basis, we compared the adjusted weighted-average COP for the POR to the per-unit price of the comparison market sales of the foreign like product to determine whether these sales had been made at prices below the COP. In particular, in determining whether to disregard home market sales made at prices below their COP, we examined whether such sales were made within an extended period of time in substantial quantities and at prices which permitted the recovery of all costs within a reasonable period of time, in accordance with sections 773(b)(2)(B), (C), and (D) of the Act. We determined the net comparison market prices for the sales-below-cost test by adjusting the gross unit price for all applicable movement charges, discounts, rebates, billing adjustments, direct and indirect selling expenses, and packing expenses excluding all adjustments for imputed expenses.

3. Results of the Cost of Production Test

Pursuant to section 773(b)(2)(C)(i) of the Act, where less than 20 percent of sales of a given product were at prices less than the COP, we did not disregard below-cost sales of that product because we determined that the below-cost sales were not made in substantial quantities. Where 20 percent or more of a respondent’s home market sales of a given product were at prices less than the COP, we disregarded the below-cost sales because (1) they were made within an extended period of time in substantial quantities in accordance with sections 773(b)(2)(B) and (C) of the Act and (2) based on our comparison of prices to the weighted average of the COPs, they were at prices which would not permit the recovery of all costs within a reasonable period of time in accordance with section 773(b)(2)(D) of the Act. Because we are applying our standard annual average cost methodology in these preliminary results, we also applied our standard cost-recovery test with no adjustments.

Our cost test for FENC indicated that for home market sales of certain products, more than 20 percent were sold at prices below the COP within an extended period of time and were at prices which would not permit the recovery of all costs within a reasonable period of time. Thus, in accordance with section 773(b)(1) of the Act, we disregarded these below-cost sales in our analysis as outside of the ordinary course of trade and used the remaining sales to determine NV.
D. Calculation of Normal Value Based on Comparison Market Prices

We calculated NV based on the price FENC reported for home market sales to unaffiliated customers which we determined were within the ordinary course of trade. We made adjustments for differences in domestic and export packing expenses in accordance with sections 773(a)(6)(A) and 773(a)(6)(B)(i) of the Act. We also made adjustments, consistent with section 773(a)(6)(B)(ii) of the Act, for inland freight expenses from the plant to the customer and expenses associated with loading the merchandise onto the truck to be shipped.

Finally, we made adjustments for differences in circumstances of sale in accordance with section 773(a)(6)(C)(iii) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.410. We made these adjustments, where appropriate, by deducting direct selling expenses (i.e., imputed credit expenses) incurred on home market sales and adding U.S. direct selling expenses (i.e., imputed credit expenses) to NV.\(^{18}\)

**Currency Conversion**

We made currency conversions into U.S. dollars in accordance with section 773A(a) of the Act based on the exchange rates in effect on the dates of the U.S. sales as certified by the Federal Reserve Bank. These exchange rates are available on the Enforcement and Compliance’s website at [http://enforcement.trade.gov/exchange/index.html](http://enforcement.trade.gov/exchange/index.html).

**Recommendation**

We recommend applying the above methodology for these preliminary results.

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\(^{18}\) See Memorandum to the File from Jerrold Freeman, International Trade Compliance Analyst, entitled, “Polyester Staple Fiber from Taiwan: Preliminary Analysis Memorandum for Far Eastern New Century Corporation” dated concurrently with this memorandum and hereby incorporated by reference.