



BILLING CODE: 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

C-602-811

Silicon Metal from Australia: Preliminary Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination and Alignment of Final Determination with Final Antidumping Duty Determination

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (the Department) preliminarily determines that countervailable subsidies are being provided to a producer/exporter of silicon metal from Australia. The period of investigation is January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

DATES: Effective [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Katherine Johnson or John Anwesen, AD/CVD Operations, Office VIII, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-4929 or (202) 482-0131, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

This preliminary determination is made in accordance with section 703(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act). The Department published the notice of initiation of this investigation on April 4, 2017.¹ On May 16, 2017, the Department postponed the preliminary

¹ See *Silicon Metal from Australia, Brazil, and Kazakhstan: Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigations*, 82 FR 16356 (April 4, 2017) (*Initiation Notice*).

determination of this investigation and the revised deadline is now August 7, 2017.² For a complete description of the events that followed the initiation of this investigation, *see* the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.³ A list of topics discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum is included as Appendix II to this notice. The Preliminary Decision Memorandum is a public document and is on file electronically via Enforcement and Compliance's Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Service System (ACCESS). ACCESS is available to registered users at <http://access.trade.gov>, and is available to all parties in the Central Records Unit, room B8024 of the main Department of Commerce building. In addition, a complete version of the Preliminary Decision Memorandum can be accessed directly at <http://enforcement.trade.gov/frn/>. The signed and electronic versions of the Preliminary Decision Memorandum are identical in content.

Scope of the Investigation

The product covered by this investigation is silicon metal from Australia. For a complete description of the scope of this investigation, *see* Appendix I.

Scope Comments

In accordance with the preamble to the Department's regulations,⁴ the *Initiation Notice* set aside a period of time for parties to raise issues regarding product coverage, (*i.e.*, scope).⁵ Certain interested parties commented on the scope of the investigation as it appeared in the *Initiation Notice*. For a summary of the product coverage comments and rebuttal responses submitted to the record for this preliminary determination, and accompanying discussion and

² *See Silicon Metal from Australia, Brazil, and Kazakhstan: Postponement of Preliminary Determinations of Countervailing Duty Investigations*, 82 FR 22490 (May 16, 2017).

³ *See* Memorandum, "Decision Memorandum for the Preliminary Determination in the Countervailing Duty Investigation of Silicon Metal from Australia," dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice (Preliminary Decision Memorandum).

⁴ *See Antidumping Duties; Countervailing Duties, Final Rule*, 62 FR 27296, 27323 (May 19, 1997).

⁵ *See Initiation Notice*.

analysis of all comments timely received, *see* the Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum.⁶

The Department preliminarily is not modifying the scope language as it appeared in the *Initiation Notice*. *See* Appendix I.

Methodology

The Department is conducting this investigation in accordance with section 701 of the Act. For each of the subsidy programs found countervailable, the Department preliminarily determines that there is a subsidy, *i.e.*, a financial contribution by an “authority” that gives rise to a benefit to the recipient, and that the subsidy is specific.⁷

Alignment

On March 28, 2017, the Department initiated this countervailing duty (CVD) investigation of silicon metal from Australia.⁸ On the same day, the Department also initiated antidumping duty (AD) investigations of silicon metal from Australia, Brazil, and Norway.⁹ This CVD investigation and the AD investigations of Australia, Brazil, and Norway cover the same class or kind of merchandise.

As noted in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum, in accordance with section 705(a)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.210(b)(4), the Department is aligning the final CVD determination in this investigation with the final determinations in the companion AD investigations of silicon metal from Australia, Brazil, and Norway based on a request made by the petitioner.¹⁰

⁶ *See* Memorandum, “Silicon Metal from Australia, Brazil, Kazakhstan, and Norway: Scope Comments Decision Memorandum for the Preliminary Determinations,” dated June 27, 2017 (Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum).

⁷ *See* sections 771(5)(B) and (D) of the Act regarding financial contribution; section 771(5)(E) of the Act regarding benefit; and section 771(5A) of the Act regarding specificity.

⁸ *See Initiation Notice*.

⁹ *See Silicon Metal from Australia, Brazil and Norway: Initiation of Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigations*, 82 FR 16352 (April 4, 2017).

¹⁰ *See* Letter from the petitioner, “Silicon Metal from Australia, Brazil, and Kazakhstan; Countervailing Duty Investigations; Request for Alignment of Final Determinations,” dated July 10, 2017.

Consequently, the final CVD determination will be issued on the same date as the final AD determinations for Australia, Brazil, and Norway, which are currently scheduled to be issued no later than December 18, 2017, unless postponed.

All-Others Rate

Sections 703(d) and 705(c)(5)(A) of the Act provide that in the preliminary determination, the Department shall determine an estimated all-others rate for companies not individually examined. This rate shall be an amount equal to the weighted average of the estimated subsidy rates established for those companies individually examined, excluding any zero and *de minimis* rates and any rates based entirely under section 776 of the Act.

The Department calculated an individual estimated countervailable subsidy rate for Simcoa Operations Pty. Ltd. (Simcoa), the only individually examined producer/exporter in this investigation. Because the only individually calculated rate is not zero, *de minimis*, or based entirely on facts otherwise available, the estimated weighted-average rate calculated for Simcoa is the rate assigned to all-other producers and exporters, pursuant to section 705(c)(5)(A)(i) of the Act.

Preliminary Determination

The Department preliminarily determines that the following estimated countervailable subsidy rates exist:

Company	Subsidy Rate
Simcoa Operations Pty Ltd. ¹¹	16.23 percent
All-Others	16.23 percent

Suspension of Liquidation

In accordance with section 703(d)(1)(B) and (d)(2) of the Act, the Department will direct U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to suspend liquidation of entries of subject merchandise as described in the scope of the investigation section entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the date of publication of this notice in the *Federal Register*. Further, pursuant to 19 CFR 351.205(d), the Department will instruct CBP to require a cash deposit equal to the rates indicated above.

Disclosure

The Department intends to disclose to interested parties its calculations and analysis performed in this preliminary determination within five days of its public announcement, or if there is no public announcement, within five days of the publication date of this notice in accordance with 19 CFR 351.224(b).

Verification

As provided in section 782(i)(1) of the Act, the Department intends to verify the information relied upon in making its final determination.

Public Comment

Case briefs or other written comments may be submitted to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance at a date to be determined. Rebuttal briefs, limited to issues raised

¹¹ As discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum, the Department has found the following companies to be cross-owned with Simcoa: Silicon Metal Company of Australia Pty Ltd., Microsilica Pty Ltd., and Simcoa International Pty Ltd.

in case briefs, may be submitted no later than five days after the deadline date for case briefs.¹²

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2) and (d)(2), parties who submit case briefs or rebuttal briefs in this investigation are encouraged to submit with each argument: (1) a statement of the issue; (2) a brief summary of the argument; and (3) a table of authorities.

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.310(c), interested parties who wish to request a hearing, limited to issues raised in the case and rebuttal briefs, must submit a written request to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance, U.S. Department of Commerce within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice. Requests should contain the party's name, address, and telephone number, the number of participants, whether any participant is a foreign national, and a list of the issues to be discussed. If a request for a hearing is made, the Department intends to hold the hearing at the U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230, at a time and date to be determined. Parties should confirm by telephone the date, time, and location of the hearing two days before the scheduled date.

International Trade Commission Notification

In accordance with section 703(f) of the Act, the Department will notify the International Trade Commission (ITC) of its determination. If the final determination is affirmative, the ITC will make its final injury determination before the later of 120 days after the date of this preliminary determination or 45 days after the final determination.

Notification to Interested Parties

This determination is issued and published pursuant to sections 703(f) and 777(i) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(c).

¹² See 19 CFR 351.309; *see also* 19 CFR 351.303 (for general filing requirements).

Carole Showers
Executive Director, Office of Policy
performing the duties of
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance

Dated: August 7, 2017

Appendix I

Scope of the Investigation

The scope of these investigation covers all forms and sizes of silicon metal, including silicon metal powder. Silicon metal contains at least 85.00 percent but less than 99.99 percent silicon, and less than 4.00 percent iron, by actual weight. Semiconductor grade silicon (merchandise containing at least 99.99 percent silicon by actual weight and classifiable under Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) subheading 2804.61.0000) is excluded from the scope of these investigations.

Silicon metal is currently classifiable under subheadings 2804.69.1000 and 2804.69.5000 of the HTSUS. While HTSUS numbers are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the scope remains dispositive.

Appendix II

List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum

- I. Summary
- II. Background
- III. Scope Comments
- IV. Alignment
- V. Injury Test
- VI. Subsidies Valuation
- VII. Analysis of Programs
- VIII. Conclusion

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