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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-580-839, A-583-833]

Polyester Staple Fiber from the Republic of Korea and Taiwan: Initiation of Changed Circumstances Reviews, and Consideration of Revocation of the Antidumping Duty Orders in Part

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

SUMMARY: Based upon a request from DAK Americas, LLC, Nan Ya Plastics Corporation, America, Auriga Polymers, and Palmetto Synthetics LLC (*i.e.*, the domestic producers), the Department of Commerce (Commerce) is initiating changed circumstances reviews to consider the possible revocation, in part, of the antidumping duty (AD) orders on polyester staple fiber (PSF) from the Republic of Korea (Korea) and Taiwan with respect to low-melt PSF.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Emily Halle or Nicholas Czajkowski, AD/CVD Operations, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone (202) 482-0176 or (202) 482-1395, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On May 25, 2000, Commerce published the AD orders on PSF from Korea and Taiwan.¹

On December 8, 2017, the domestic producers requested that Commerce conduct changed

¹ See *Notice of Amended Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Certain Polyester Staple Fiber from the Republic of Korea and Antidumping Duty Orders: Certain Polyester Staple Fiber from the Republic of Korea and Taiwan*, 65 FR 33807 (May 25, 2000) (*Orders*).

circumstances reviews pursuant to section 751(b)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act) and 19 CFR 351.216(b) with respect to any coarse denier low-melt PSF that may be currently covered by the *Orders* to avoid any potential overlap in coverage between the *Orders* and the pending less-than-fair-value investigations of low-melt polyester staple fiber from Korea and Taiwan.² We received no comments from other interested parties.

Scope of the Orders

The product covered by the orders is certain polyester staple fiber (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 these orders 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 under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) at subheading 5503.20.00.25 is specifically excluded from these orders. Also specifically excluded from these orders are polyester staple fibers 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 these orders. 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.

² See *Low Melt Polyester Staple Fiber from the Republic of Korea and Taiwan: Initiation of Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigations*, 82 FR 34277 (July 24, 2017); see also *Low Melt Polyester Staple Fiber from the Republic of Korea: Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value, Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances, in Part, Postponement of Final Determination, and Extension of Provisional Measures*, 83 FR 4906 (February 2, 2018).

The merchandise subject to these orders is currently classifiable in the HTSUS at subheadings 5503.20.00.45 and 5503.20.00.65.³ Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the merchandise under the orders is dispositive.

Proposed Revocation of the *Orders*

The domestic producers propose that the *Orders* be revoked with respect to coarse denier low-melt PSF. Should Commerce determine to revoke the *Orders*, in part, the domestic producers propose that Commerce replace the language currently in the scope, “{i}n addition, low-melt PSF is excluded from these orders. 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,” with the following language: “{i}n addition, low-melt PSF is excluded from these orders. Low-melt PSF is defined as a bi-component polyester fiber having a polyester fiber component that melts at a lower temperature than the other polyester fiber component.”

Initiation of Changed Circumstances Reviews, and Consideration of Revocation of the *Orders*, in Part

Pursuant to section 751(b)(1) of the Act, Commerce will conduct a changed circumstances review upon receipt of a request an interested party that shows changed circumstances sufficient to warrant a review of an order.⁴ In accordance with 19 CFR 351.216(d), Commerce determines that the information submitted by the domestic producers constitutes sufficient evidence to conduct changed circumstances reviews of the *Orders*.

Section 782(h)(2) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.222(g)(1)(i) provide that Commerce may revoke an order (in whole or in part) if it determines that producers accounting for substantially all of the production of the domestic like product have expressed a lack of interest in the order, in

³ These HTSUS numbers have been revised to reflect changes in the HTSUS numbers at the suffix level.

⁴ See 19 CFR 351.216.

whole or in part. In addition, in the event Commerce determines that expedited action is warranted, 19 CFR 351.221(c)(3)(ii) permits Commerce to combine the notices of initiation and preliminary results. In its administrative practice, Commerce has interpreted “substantially all” to mean producers accounting for at least 85 percent of the total U.S. production of the domestic like product covered by the order.⁵

The domestic producers did not submit any documentation supporting their claim that they account for substantially all of the domestic production of PSF. We are providing interested parties with the opportunity to address the issue of domestic industry support with respect to this requested partial revocation of the orders, as explained below. After examining comments, if any, concerning domestic industry support, Commerce will issue the preliminary results of these changed circumstances reviews.

Public Comment

Interested parties are invited to provide comments and/or factual information regarding these changed circumstances reviews, including comments concerning industry support. Comments and factual information may be submitted to Commerce no later than ten days after the date of publication of this notice. Rebuttal comments and rebuttal factual information may be filed with Commerce no later than seven days after the comments and/or factual information are filed.⁶ All submissions must be filed electronically using Enforcement and Compliance’s Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Service System (ACCESS).⁷ An

⁵ See, e.g., *Certain Cased Pencils from the People’s Republic of China: Initiation and Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Changed Circumstances Review, and Intent To Revoke Order in Part*, 77 FR 42276 (July 18, 2012), unchanged in *Certain Cased Pencils from the People’s Republic of China: Final Results of Antidumping Duty Changed Circumstances Review, and Determination To Revoke Order, in Part*, 77 FR 53176 (August 31, 2012).

⁶ Submission of rebuttal factual information must comply with 19 CFR 351.301(b)(2).

⁷ See, generally, 19 CFR 351.303.

electronically filed document must be received successfully in its entirety by ACCESS, by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the due dates set forth in this notice.

Preliminary and Final Results of the Review

Commerce intends to publish in the *Federal Register* a notice of the preliminary results of the antidumping duty changed circumstances review in accordance with 19 CFR 351.221(b)(4) and (c)(3)(i), which will set forth Commerce's preliminary factual and legal conclusions. Commerce will issue its final results of the changed circumstances review in accordance with the time limits set forth in 19 CFR 351.216(e).

Dated: March 12, 2018.

Gary Taverman,
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Operations,
performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the
Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

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