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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-423-813]

Citric Acid and Certain Citrate Salts from Belgium: Affirmative Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value

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

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (Commerce) determines that citric acid and certain citrate salts (citric acid) from Belgium are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV) during the period of investigation (POI) April 1, 2016, through March 31, 2017.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Stolz, AD/CVD Operations, Office III, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-4474.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Commerce published the *Preliminary Determination* of sales at LTFV of citric acid from Belgium on January 8, 2018, in which we also postponed the final determination until May 26, 2018.¹ We invited interested parties to comment on the *Preliminary Determination*.

¹ See *Citric Acid and Certain Citrate Salts from Belgium: Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value, Postponement of Final Determination, and Extension of Provisional Measures*, 83 FR 787 (January 8, 2018) (*Preliminary Determination*), and accompanying memorandum, “Decision Memorandum for the

Commerce exercised its discretion to toll all deadlines affected by the closure of the Federal Government from January 20 through 22, 2018. If the new deadline falls on a non-business day, in accordance with Commerce's practice, the deadline will become the next business day. The revised deadline for the final determination of this investigation is now May 29, 2018.²

A summary of the events that occurred since Commerce published the *Preliminary Determination*, as well as a full discussion of the issues raised by parties for this final determination, may be found in the Issues and Decision Memorandum,³ which is adopted by this notice.

Scope of the Investigation

The product covered by this investigation is citric acid from Belgium. For a full description of the scope of this investigation, see the "Scope of the Investigation" in Appendix I of this notice.

Scope Comments

Prior to the *Preliminary Determination*, we issued a Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum.⁴ We subsequently invited parties to submit additional scope comment in their case briefs, but received none. Therefore, for the final determination, we continue to find that the scope of the investigation as defined in the *Initiation Notice*⁵ and the *Preliminary*

Preliminary Determination in the Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigation of Citric Acid and Certain Citrate Salts from Belgium" (Preliminary Decision Memorandum).

² See Memorandum, "Deadlines Affected by the Shutdown of the Federal Government" (Tolling Memorandum), dated January 23, 2018. All deadlines in this segment of the proceeding have been extended by 3 days. If the new deadline falls on a non-business day, in accordance with Commerce's practice, the deadline will become the next business day. 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).

³ See Memorandum, "Issues and Decision Memorandum for Final Affirmative Antidumping Determination in the Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigation of Citric Acid and Certain Citrate Salts from Belgium," dated concurrently with this determination, and hereby adopted by this notice (Issues and Decision Memorandum).

⁴ See Memorandum, "Scope Comments Decision Memorandum for the Preliminary Determinations," dated December 1, 2017 (Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum).

⁵ See *Citric Acid and Certain Citrate Salts from Belgium, Colombia, and Thailand: Initiation of Less-*

*Determination*⁶ remains applicable. See Appendix I.

Verification

As provided in section 782(i) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), Commerce verified the sales and cost data reported by S.A, Citrique Belge N.V. (Citrique Belge), for use in our final determination. We used standard verification procedures, including an examination of relevant accounting and production records, and original source documents provided by Citrique Belge.

Analysis of Comments Received

All issues raised in the case and rebuttal briefs submitted by interested parties in this proceeding are discussed in the Issues and Decision Memorandum. A list of the issues raised by parties and responded to by Commerce in the Issues and Decision Memorandum is attached to this notice at Appendix II.

The Issues and Decision Memorandum is a public document and is available 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 B-8024 of Commerce's main building. In addition, a complete version of the Issues and Decision Memorandum can be accessed at <http://enforcement.trade.gov/frn/>. The signed Issues and Decision Memorandum and electronic version are identical in content.

Than-Fair-Value Investigations, 82 FR 29828 (June 30, 2017) (*Initiation Notice*) and accompanying Initiation Checklist.

⁶ See *Preliminary Determination*, 83 FR at 789.

Changes Since the Preliminary Determination

Based on our analysis of the comments received and our findings at verification, we made certain changes to the margin calculations for Citrique Belge. These changes are discussed in the “Changes Since the Preliminary Determination” section of the Issues and Decision Memorandum.

All-Others Rate

Section 735(c)(5)(A) of the Act provides that, in the final determination, Commerce shall determine an estimated weighted-average dumping margin for all-other exporters and producers not individually examined. This rate shall be an amount equal to the weighted-average of the estimated weighted-average dumping margins established for exporters or producers individually examined, excluding rates that are zero, *de minimis* or determined entirely under section 776 of the Act.

Commerce calculated an individual estimate weighted-average dumping margin for Citrique Belge, the only individually examined exporter/producer in this investigation. Because the only individually calculated dumping margin is not zero, *de minimis*, or based entirely under section 776 of the Act, the estimated weighted-average dumping margin calculated for Citrique Belge is the margin assigned to all-other producers and exporters, pursuant to 735(c)(5)(A) of the Act.

Final Determination

The final estimated weighted-average dumping margins are as follows:

Exporter/Producer	Estimated Weighted-Average Dumping Margin (percent)
S.A. Citrique Belge N.V.	19.30 percent

All-Others	19.30 percent
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Disclosure

Commerce intends to disclose to interested parties the calculations performed in this final determination within five days of any public announcement in accordance with 19 CFR 351.224(b).

Continuation of Suspension of Liquidation

In accordance with section 735(c)(1)(B) of the Act, for this final determination, we will instruct U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to continue the suspension of liquidation of all appropriate entries of citric acid from Belgium, as described in Appendix I of this notice, which were entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after January 8, 2018, the date of publication in the *Federal Register* of the affirmative *Preliminary Determination*.

Pursuant to section 735(c)(1)(B)(ii) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.10(d), Commerce will instruct CBP to require a cash deposit for such entries of merchandise equal to the estimated weighted-average dumping margin or the estimate all-others rate, as follows: (1) the cash deposit rate for the respondents listed above will be equal to the respondent-specific estimated weighted-average dumping margin determined in this final determination; (2) if the exporter is not a respondent identified above but the producer is, then the cash deposit rate will be equal to the respondent-specific estimated weighted average dumping margin established for the producer of the subject merchandise; and (3) the cash deposit rate for all other producers and exporters will equal to the all-others estimated weighted-average dumping margin. These suspension of liquidation instructions will remain in effect until further notice.

International Trade Commission Notification

In accordance with section 735(d) of the Act, we will notify the International Trade Commission (ITC) of the final affirmative determination of sales at LTFV. Because Commerce's final determination in this proceeding is affirmative, in accordance with section 735(b)(2) of the Act, the ITC will make its final determination as to whether the domestic industry in the United States is materially injured, or threatened with material injury, by reason of imports, or sales (or the likelihood of sales) for importation of citric acid from Belgium no later than 45 days after this final determination. If the ITC determines that such injury does not exist, this proceeding will be terminated and all cash deposits posted will be refunded or canceled. If the ITC determines that such injury does exist, Commerce will issue an antidumping duty order directing CBP to assess, upon further instruction by Commerce, antidumping duties on all imports of the subject merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the effective date of the suspension of liquidation, as discussed above in the "Continuation of Suspension of Liquidation" section.

Notification Regarding Administrative Protective Orders

This notice serves as the only reminder to parties subject to an administrative protective order (APO) of their responsibility concerning the disposition of proprietary information disclosed under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305(a)(3). Timely written notification of return or destruction of APO materials, or conversion to judicial protective order, is hereby requested. Failure to comply with the regulations and terms of an APO is a sanctionable violation.

Notification to Interested Parties

This determination is issued and published in accordance with sections 735(d) and 777(i)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.210(c).

Dated: May 29, 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.

Appendix I

Scope of the Investigation

The merchandise covered by this investigation includes all grades and granulation sizes of citric acid, sodium citrate, and potassium citrate in their unblended forms, whether dry or in solution, and regardless of packaging type. The scope also includes blends of citric acid, sodium citrate, and potassium citrate; as well as blends with other ingredients, such as sugar, where the unblended form(s) of citric acid, sodium citrate, and potassium citrate constitute 40 percent or more, by weight, of the blend.

The scope also includes all forms of crude calcium citrate, including dicalcium citrate monohydrate, and tricalcium citrate tetrahydrate, which are intermediate products in the production of citric acid, sodium citrate, and potassium citrate.

The scope includes the hydrous and anhydrous forms of citric acid, the dihydrate and anhydrous forms of sodium citrate, otherwise known as citric acid sodium salt, and the monohydrate and monopotassium forms of potassium citrate. Sodium citrate also includes both trisodium citrate and monosodium citrate which are also known as citric acid trisodium salt and citric acid monosodium salt, respectively.

The scope does not include calcium citrate that satisfies the standards set forth in the United States Pharmacopeia and has been mixed with a functional excipient, such as dextrose or starch, where the excipient constitutes at least 2 percent, by weight, of the product.

Citric acid and sodium citrate are classifiable under 2918.14.0000 and 2918.15.1000 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS), respectively. Potassium citrate and crude calcium citrate are classifiable under 2918.15.5000 and, if included in a mixture or

blend, 3824.99.9295 of the HTSUS. Blends that include citric acid, sodium citrate, and potassium citrate are classifiable under 3824.99.9295 of the HTSUS. Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the merchandise is dispositive.

Appendix II

List of Topics Discussed in the Issues and Decision Memorandum

- I. Summary
 - II. Background
 - III. Scope of the Investigation
 - IV. Changes Since the *Preliminary Determination*
 - V. Discussion of Issues
 - Comment 1: Whether a Certain Home Market Sale Should Be Considered Outside the Normal Course of Trade
 - Comment 2: Correction of Misclassification of Indirect Selling and Inventory Carrying Expense as Movement Expenses
 - Comment 3: Short Term Interest Income Offset to Interest Expenses
 - Comment 4: Minor Correction Revising Indirect Selling Expense, General and Administrative, and Financial Expense Ratios
 - VI. Recommendation
- [FR Doc. 2018-12012 Filed: 6/4/2018 8:45 am; Publication Date: 6/5/2018]