

Notification to Interested Parties

This determination is issued and published in accordance with sections 733(f) and 777(i)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(c).

Dated: August 29, 2018.

Christian Marsh,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

Appendix I

Scope of the Investigation

The products subject to this investigation are bands made of vulcanized rubber, with a flat length, as actually measured end-to-end by the band lying flat, no less than 1/2 inch and no greater than 10 inches; with a width, which measures the dimension perpendicular to the length, actually of at least 3/64 inch and no greater than 2 inches; and a wall thickness actually from 0.020 inch to 0.125 inch. Vulcanized rubber has been chemically processed into a more durable material by the addition of sulfur or other equivalent curatives or accelerators. Subject products are included regardless of color or inclusion of printed material on the rubber band's surface, including but not limited to, rubber bands with printing on them, such as a product name, advertising, or slogan, and printed material (e.g., a tag) fastened to the rubber band by an adhesive or another temporary type of connection. The scope includes vulcanized rubber bands which are contained or otherwise exist in various forms and packages, such as, without limitation, vulcanized rubber bands included within a desk accessory set or other type of set or package, and vulcanized rubber band balls. The scope excludes products that consist of an elastomer loop and durable tag all-in-one, and bands that are being used at the time of import to fasten an imported product.

Excluded from the scope of this investigation are vulcanized rubber bands of various sizes with arrow shaped rubber protrusions from the outer diameter that exceeds at the anchor point a wall thickness of 0.125 inches and where the protrusion is used to loop around, secure and lock in place.

Excluded from the scope of this investigation are yarn/fabric-covered vulcanized rubber hair bands, regardless of size.

Merchandise covered by this investigation is currently classified in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) under subheading 4016.99.3510. Merchandise covered by the scope may also enter under HTSUS subheading 4016.99.6050. While the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the scope of the investigation is dispositive.

Appendix II

List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum

- I. Summary
- II. Background
- III. Period of Investigation
- IV. Scope Comments

- V. Discussion of the Methodology
 - A. Non-Market Economy Country
 - B. China-Wide Entity
 - C. Use of Facts Otherwise Available With an Adverse Inference
 - D. Application of Facts Available
 - E. Application of Facts Available With an Adverse Inference
 - F. Selection and Corroboration of the AFA Rate
 - G. Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances
 1. Legal Framework
 2. Critical Circumstances Allegation
 3. Analysis
- VI. Adjustment under Section 777a(F) of the Act
- VII. Adjustments to Cash Deposit Rates for Export Subsidies
- VIII. Verification
- IX. Conclusion

[FR Doc. 2018-19333 Filed 9-5-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration [C-570-076]

Certain Plastic Decorative Ribbon From the People's Republic of China: Amended Preliminary Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination

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

SUMMARY: On June 22, 2018, the Department of Commerce (Commerce) published in the **Federal Register** the preliminary determination of the countervailing duty (CVD) investigation on certain plastic decorative ribbon (plastic ribbon) from the People's Republic of China (China). Commerce is amending the scope of the preliminary determination.

DATES: Applicable September 6, 2018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Hoadley, AD/CVD Operations, Office VII, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-3148.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 22, 2018, Commerce published in the **Federal Register** the preliminary determination of the CVD investigation of plastic ribbon.¹ On August 2, 2018, Commerce placed on the record of this investigation a preliminary decision

¹ *Certain Plastic Decorative Ribbon from the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination and Alignment of Final Determination with Final Antidumping Duty Determination*, 83 FR 29096 (June 22, 2018) (Preliminary CVD Determination).

memorandum addressing all comments received in this proceeding and the companion antidumping proceeding regarding the scope of the investigations.² In accordance with the comments discussed in the memorandum, we made certain changes to the scope of these investigations. The changes include a revision to part b) of clause 4 in paragraph 5, and the exclusion of certain shredded plastic film or shredded plastic strip from the investigations. The revised scope is printed in its entirety below.

Scope of the Investigation

The merchandise covered by this investigation is certain plastic decorative ribbon having a width (measured at the narrowest span of the ribbon) of less than or equal to four (4) inches in actual measurement, including but not limited to ribbon wound onto itself; a spool, a core or a tube (with or without flanges); attached to a card or strip; wound into a keg- or egg-shaped configuration; made into bows, bow-like items, or other shapes or configurations; and whether or not packaged or labeled for retail sale. The subject merchandise is typically made of substrates of polypropylene, but may be made in whole or in part of any type of plastic, including without limitation, plastic derived from petroleum products and plastic derived from cellulose products. Unless the context otherwise clearly indicates, the word "ribbon" used in the singular includes the plural and the plural "ribbons" includes the singular.

The subject merchandise includes ribbons comprised of one or more layers of substrates made, in whole or in part, of plastics adhered to each other, regardless of the method used to adhere the layers together, including without limitation, ribbons comprised of layers of substrates adhered to each other through a lamination process. Subject merchandise also includes ribbons comprised of (a) one or more layers of substrates made, in whole or in part, of plastics adhered to (b) one or more layers of substrates made, in whole or in part, of non-plastic materials, including, without limitation, substrates made, in whole or in part, of fabric.

The ribbons subject to this investigation may be of any color or combination of colors (including without limitation, ribbons that are transparent, translucent or opaque) and may or may not bear words or images, including without limitation, those of a holiday motif. The subject merchandise

² See Scope Comments Preliminary Decision Memorandum, dated July 30, 2018.

includes ribbons with embellishments and/or treatments, including, without limitation, ribbons that are printed, hot-stamped, coated, laminated, flocked, crimped, die-cut, embossed (or that otherwise have impressed designs, images, words or patterns), and ribbons with holographic, metallic, glitter or iridescent finishes.

Subject merchandise includes “pull-bows” an assemblage of ribbons connected to one another, folded flat, and equipped with a means to form such ribbons into the shape of a bow by pulling on a length of material affixed to such assemblage, and “pre-notched” bows, an assemblage of notched ribbon loops arranged one inside the other with the notches in alignment and affixed to each other where notched, and which the end user forms into a bow by separating and spreading the loops circularly around the notches, which form the center of the bow. Subject merchandise includes ribbons that are packaged with non-subject merchandise, including ensembles that include ribbons and other products, such as gift wrap, gift bags, gift tags and/or other gift packaging products. The ribbons are covered by the scope of this investigation; the “other products” (*i.e.*, the other, non-subject merchandise included in the ensemble) are not covered by the scope of this investigation.

Excluded from the scope of this investigation are the following: (1) Ribbons formed exclusively by weaving plastic threads together; (2) ribbons that have metal wire in, on, or along the entirety of each of the longitudinal edges of the ribbon; (3) ribbons with an adhesive coating covering the entire span between the longitudinal edges of the ribbon for the entire length of the ribbon; (4) ribbon formed into a bow without a tab or other means for attaching the bow to an object using adhesives, where the bow has: (a) An outer layer that is either flocked or made of fabric, and (b) a flexible metal wire at the base which permits attachment to an object by twist-tying; (5) elastic ribbons, meaning ribbons that elongate when stretched and return to their original dimension when the stretching load is removed; (6) ribbons affixed as a decorative detail to non-subject merchandise, such as a gift bag, gift box, gift tin, greeting card or plush toy, or affixed (including by tying) as a decorative detail to packaging containing non-subject merchandise; (7) ribbons that are (a) affixed to non-subject merchandise as a working component of such non-subject merchandise, such as where the ribbon comprises a book marker, bag cinch, or

part of an identity card holder, or (b) affixed (including by tying) to non-subject merchandise as a working component that holds or packages such non-subject merchandise or attaches packaging or labeling to such non-subject merchandise, such as a “belly band” around a pair of pajamas, a pair of socks or a blanket; (8) imitation raffia made of plastics having a thickness not more than one (1) mil when measured in an unfolded/untwisted state; and (9) ribbons in the form of bows having a diameter of less than seven-eighths ($\frac{7}{8}$) of an inch, or having a diameter of more than 16 inches, based on actual measurement. For purposes of this exclusion, the diameter of a bow is equal to the diameter of the smallest circular ring through which the bow will pass without compressing the bow.

The scope of the investigation is not intended to include shredded plastic film or shredded plastic strip, in each case where the shred does not exceed 5 mm in width and does not exceed 18 inches in length, imported in bags.

Further, excluded from the scope of the antidumping duty investigation are any products covered by the existing antidumping duty order on polyethylene terephthalate film, sheet, and strip (PET Film) from the People's Republic of China (China). *See Polyethylene Terephthalate Film, Sheet, and Strip from Brazil, the People's Republic of China and the United Arab Emirates: Antidumping Duty Orders and Amended Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value for the United Arab Emirates*, 73 FR 66595 (November 10, 2008).

Merchandise covered by this investigation is currently classified in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) under subheadings 3920.20.0015 and 3926.40.0010. Merchandise covered by this investigation also may enter under subheadings 3920.10.0000; 3920.20.0055; 3920.30.0000; 3920.43.5000; 3920.49.0000; 3920.62.0050; 3920.62.0090; 3920.69.0000; 3921.90.1100; 3921.90.1500; 3921.90.1910; 3921.90.1950; 3921.90.4010; 3921.90.4090; 3926.90.9996; 5404.90.0000; 9505.90.4000; 4601.99.9000; 4602.90.0000; 5609.00.3000; 5609.00.4000; and 6307.90.9889. These HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes; the written description of the scope of this investigation is dispositive.

Suspension of Liquidation

Pursuant to the *Preliminary CVD Determination*, Commerce previously

suspended liquidation of certain plastic decorative ribbon from China entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after June 22, 2018 (the publication of the *Preliminary CVD Determination* in the **Federal Register**). Commerce will now instruct Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to suspend liquidation of certain plastic decorative ribbon from China, as defined by the revised scope language included above, entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the publication of this amended preliminary determination in the **Federal Register**. Commerce will also instruct CBP to lift suspension of certain shredded plastic film or shredded plastic strip, as defined above, now excluded from the investigation.

Public Comment

Commerce has previously set August 13, 2018, as the deadline for case briefs and August 20, 2018 as the deadline for rebuttal briefs regarding the CVD preliminary determination.³ Commerce has set a separate deadline for scope comments for both the antidumping and CVD proceedings.⁴ The current deadline for case briefs regarding scope issues is August 30, 2018, and the current deadline for rebuttal briefs regarding scope issues is September 4, 2018. 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.

International Trade Commission Notification

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

Notification to Interested Parties

This determination is issued and published pursuant to sections 705(d) and 777(i) of the Act.

³ See Memorandum from Kaitlin Wojnar, “Countervailing Duty Investigation of Plastic Decorative Ribbon from the People's Republic of China: Extension of Briefing Schedule and Clarification Regarding Scope Issues,” dated July 24, 2018.

⁴ See Scope Comments Preliminary Decision Memorandum at 5.

Dated: August 29, 2018.

Christian Marsh,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2018-19336 Filed 9-5-18; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

President's Advisory Council on Doing Business in Africa

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration.

ACTION: Notice of an open meeting of the President's Advisory Council on Doing Business in Africa (PAC-DBIA or Council).

SUMMARY: The President's Advisory Council on Doing Business in Africa will hold the final meeting of its term to deliberate and consider adopting a report containing recommendations to the President on actions the United States Government could take to mitigate obstacles that U.S. companies face in doing business in Africa, as well as findings from the Council's June 24-July 5, 2018 Fact-Finding Trip to Ethiopia, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, countries the Council identified as holding particular promise of business opportunities for U.S. companies, that was led by Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and Under Secretary for International Trade Gil Kaplan. The recommendations in the Council's report may include updates to recommendations the Council previously adopted on April 18, 2018 for Ethiopia, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, new recommendations that focus on those or other African countries, and recommendations that apply to the African region broadly.

The Secretary of Commerce extended the appointments of the members of the PAC-DBIA by 60 days, to expire on November 5, 2018, to allow the Council sufficient time to complete its final report following the Fact-Finding Trip.

The final agenda for the meeting will be posted at least one week in advance of the meeting on the Council's website at <http://trade.gov/pac-dbia>.

DATES: September 26, 2018, 9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The President's Advisory Council on Doing Business in Africa meeting will be broadcast via live webcast on the internet at <http://whitehouse.gov/live>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Giancarlo Cavallo or Ashley Bubna, Designated Federal Officers, President's

Advisory Council on Doing Business in Africa, Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Ave. NW, Room 22004, Washington, DC, 20230, telephone: 202-482-2091, email: dbia@trade.gov, Giancarlo.Cavallo@trade.gov, Ashley.Bubna@trade.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: The Council was established on November 4, 2014, to advise the President, through the Secretary of Commerce, on strengthening commercial engagement between the United States and Africa. The Council's charter was renewed for a second, two-year term in September 2017. The Council was established in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App.

Public Submissions: The public is invited to submit written statements to the Council. Statements must be received by 5:00 p.m. September 19, 2018 by either of the following methods:

a. Electronic Submissions

Submit statements electronically to Giancarlo Cavallo and Ashley Bubna, Designated Federal Officers, President's Advisory Council on Doing Business in Africa, via email: dbia@trade.gov.

b. Paper Submissions

Send paper statements to Giancarlo Cavallo and Ashley Bubna, Designated Federal Officers, President's Advisory Council on Doing Business in Africa, Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Ave. NW, Room 22004, Washington, DC, 20230.

Statements will be provided to the members in advance of the meeting for consideration and also will be posted on the Council website (<http://trade.gov/pac-dbia>). Any business proprietary information should be clearly designated as such. All statements received, including attachments and other supporting materials, are part of the public record and subject to public disclosure.

Meeting minutes: Copies of the Council's meeting minutes will be available within ninety (90) days of the meeting on the Council's website at <http://trade.gov/pac-dbia>.

Dated: August 30, 2018.

Fred Stewart,

Director, Office of Africa.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[C-570-070]

Rubber Bands From the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances, in Part, in the Countervailing Duty Investigation, and Amendment to the Scope of the Preliminary Determination in the Countervailing Duty Investigation

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

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (Commerce) has preliminarily determined that critical circumstances exist with respect to imports of rubber bands from certain producers and exporters from the People's Republic of China (China). Further, Commerce has amended the scope of the countervailing duty (CVD) investigation on rubber bands from China.

DATES: Applicable September 6, 2018.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kristen Johnson, 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) 482-4793.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On January 30, 2018, Commerce received a CVD petition concerning imports of rubber bands from China filed in proper form on behalf of Alliance Rubber Co. (the petitioner).¹ The investigation was initiated on February 20, 2018,² and the affirmative *Preliminary Determination* was published on July 9, 2018.³

Commerce selected Graceful Imp. & Exp. Co., Ltd. (Graceful), Moyoung Trading Co., Ltd. (Moyoung), and Ningbo Syloon Imp & Exp Co., Ltd. (Ningbo Syloon) (collectively, the mandatory respondents) as the individually-examined respondents in

¹ See Letter from the petitioner, "Petition for the Imposition of Antidumping and Countervailing Duties: Rubber Bands from Thailand, China, and Sri Lanka," dated January 30, 2018 (Petition).

² See *Rubber Bands from Thailand, the People's Republic of China, and Sri Lanka: Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigations*, 83 FR 8429 (February 27, 2018) (*Initiation Notice*), and accompanying Initiation Checklist.

³ See *Rubber Bands from the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination and Alignment of Final Determination with Final Antidumping Determination*, 83 FR 31729 (July 9, 2018) (*Preliminary Determination*), and accompanying Preliminary Decision Memorandum (PDM).