supplementary information:
The Commission instituted the underlying investigation on May 11, 2006, based on a complaint, as amended, filed by Crocs, Inc. ("Crocs") of Niwot, Colorado. 71 FR 27514–15 (May 11, 2006). The complaint alleged, inter alia, violations of section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1337), in the importation into the United States, the sale for importation, and the sale within the United States after importation of certain foam footwear, by reason of infringement of claims 1–2 of U.S. Patent No. 6,993,858 ("the '858 patent") and U.S. Patent No. D517,789 ("the '789 patent"). The notice of investigation named several respondents, including Double Diamond Distribution Ltd. ("Double Diamond") of Saskatchewan, Canada.

On July 25, 2008, the Commission issued a final determination finding no violation of section 337 based on non-infringement and failure to satisfy the technical prong of the domestic industry requirement with respect to the '789 patent, and based on invalidity of the '858 patent as obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103. 73 FR 45073–74 (Aug. 1, 2008). On July 15, 2011, after an appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and subsequent remand vacating the Commission’s previous finding of no violation, the Commission found a violation of section 337 based on infringement of the asserted claims of the patents and issued a general exclusion order ("GEO") and, inter alia, a cease and desist order ("CDO") directed against Double Diamond. 76 FR 43723–24 (July 21, 2011).

On March 28, 2020, the '789 patent expired, so the GEO and CDO are now only directed to articles that infringe one or more of claims 1 and 2 of the '858 patent. Subsequently, on December 8, 2020, Double Diamond petitioned for institution of an expedited advisory opinion proceeding to determine whether its Original Beach DAWGS™ shoes with plastic washers are covered by the GEO or CDO. On December 18, 2020, Crocs opposed Double Diamond’s petition for an expedited advisory opinion proceeding. On December 22, 2020, Double Diamond moved for leave to file a reply to Crocs’ opposition. The Commission has determined that Double Diamond’s petition complies with the requirements for institution of an advisory opinion proceeding under Commission Rule 210.79 to determine whether its Original Beach DAWGS™ shoes with plastic washers fall within the scope of the GEO or CDO.

Accordingly, the Commission has determined to institute an advisory opinion proceeding and refer it to the Office of the General Counsel. The parties will furnish the Office of the General Counsel with information as requested in the accompanying order, and the Commission will issue an advisory opinion within ninety (90) days of the date of publication of this notice in the Federal Register. The following entities are named as parties to the proceeding: (1) Double Diamond and (2) Crocs. The Commission has determined to grant Double Diamond’s motion for leave to file a reply to Crocs’ opposition. The Commission vote for this determination took place on January 7, 2021.


By order of the Commission.
Issued: January 7, 2021.

Lisa Barton,
Secretary to the Commission.
complaint names as respondents: Ericsson AB of Sweden; Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson of Sweden; and Ericsson Inc. of Plano, TX. The complainant requests that the Commission issue a limited exclusion order, cease and desist orders, and impose a bond upon respondents’ alleged infringing articles during the 60-day Presidential review period pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1337(j).

Proposed respondents, other interested parties, and members of the public are invited to file comments on any public interest issues raised by the complaint or § 210.8(b) filing. Comments should address whether issuance of the relief specifically requested by the complainant in this investigation would affect the public health and welfare in the United States, competitive conditions in the United States economy, the production of like or directly competitive articles in the United States, or United States consumers.

In particular, the Commission is interested in comments that:

(i) Explain how the articles potentially subject to the requested remedial orders are used in the United States;

(ii) identify any public health, safety, or welfare concerns in the United States relating to the requested remedial orders;

(iii) identify like or directly competitive articles that complainant, its licensees, or third parties make in the United States which could replace the subject articles if they were to be excluded;

(iv) indicate whether complainant, complainant’s licensees, and/or third party suppliers have the capacity to replace the volume of articles potentially subject to the requested exclusion order and/or a cease and desist order within a commercially reasonable time; and

(v) explain how the requested remedial orders would impact United States consumers.

Written submissions on the public interest must be filed no later than by close of business, eight calendar days after the date of publication of this notice in the Federal Register. There will be further opportunities for comment on the public interest after the issuance of any final initial determination in this investigation. Any written submissions on other issues must also be filed by no later than by the close of business, eight calendar days after publication of this notice in the Federal Register. Complainant may file replies to any written submissions no later than three calendar days after the date on which any initial submissions were due. Any submissions and replies filed in response to this Notice are limited to five (5) pages in length, inclusive of attachments.

Persons filing written submissions must file the original document electronically on or before the deadlines stated above. Submissions should refer to the docket number (“Docket No. 3522”) in a prominent place on the cover page and/or the first page. (See Handbook for Electronic Filing Procedures, Electronic Filing Procedures 1). Please note the Secretary’s Office will accept only electronic filings during this time. Filings must be made through the Commission’s Electronic Document Information System (EDIS, https://edis.usitc.gov.) No in-person paper-based filings or paper copies of any electronic filings will be accepted until further notice. Persons with questions regarding filing should contact the Secretary at EDIS3Help@usitc.gov.

Any person desiring to submit a document to the Commission in confidence must request confidential treatment. All such requests should be directed to the Secretary to the Commission and must include a full statement of the reasons why the Commission should grant such treatment. See 19 CFR 201.6. Documents for which confidential treatment by the Commission is properly sought will be treated accordingly. All information, including confidential business information and documents for which confidential treatment is properly sought, submitted to the Commission for purposes of this Investigation may be disclosed to and used: (i) By the Commission, its employees and Offices, and contract personnel (a) for developing or maintaining the records of this or a related proceeding, or (b) in internal investigations, audits, reviews, and evaluations relating to the programs, personnel, and operations of the Commission including under 5 U.S.C. Appendix 3; or (ii) by U.S. government employees and contract personnel,2 solely for cybersecurity purposes. All nonconfidential written submissions will be available for public inspection at the Office of the Secretary and on EDIS.3

This action is taken under the authority of section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1337), and of §§ 201.10 and 210.8(c) of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR 201.10, 210.8(c)).

By order of the Commission.

Issued: January 8, 2021.

Lisa Barton,
Secretary to the Commission.

[FR Doc. 2021-00518 Filed 1–12–21; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7020–02–P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 332–579]

Lobsters: Effects of the Canada-EU Trade Agreement on the U.S. Industry Termination of Investigation


ACTION: Notice of termination of investigation.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to a letter from the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) received on December 23, 2020, withdrawing his request of July 29, 2020 that the Commission conduct an investigation and prepare a report that details any negative effects of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between Canada and the European Union on the United States lobster industry, the Commission has terminated Investigation No. 332–579: Lobsters: Effects of the Canada-EU Trade Agreement on the U.S. Industry, and will not release a report.

The USTR requested the investigation and report under authority delegated by the President and pursuant to section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930. In his letter withdrawing the request, the USTR stated that the European Union’s recent removal of tariffs on imported lobsters eliminated the need for a report analyzing any disadvantages to the U.S. lobster industry caused by the prior agreement between Canada and the European Union.

DATES:

July 29, 2020: Receipt of request for the investigation.

October 1, 2020: Public hearing.

December 23, 2020: Receipt of request to terminate the investigation. [Publication in Federal Register]: Termination of investigation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Project Leader Christopher Robinson (202–205–2602 or christopher.robinson@usitc.gov) or Deputy Project Leader Amelia Shister (202–205–2047 or amelia.shister@usitc.gov) for information specific to this investigation. For information on the legal aspects of these investigations,