

suspension of liquidation will be lifted. 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assess, upon further instruction by Commerce, antidumping duties on all imports of the subject merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the effective date of the suspension of liquidation, as discussed in the "Continuation of Suspension of Liquidation" section above.

Administrative Protective Order

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 the 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: March 28, 2025.

Christopher Abbott,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Negotiations, performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

Appendix I

Scope of the Investigation

The merchandise subject to this investigation is fully or partially uncured epoxy resins, also known as epoxide resins, polyepoxides, oxirane resins, ethoxyline resins, diglycidyl ether of bisphenol, (chloromethyl) oxirane, or aromatic diglycidyl, which are polymers or prepolymers containing epoxy groups (*i.e.*, three-membered ring structures comprised of two carbon atoms and one oxygen atom). Epoxy resins range in physical form from low viscosity liquids to solids. All epoxy resins are covered by the scope of this investigation irrespective of physical form, viscosity, grade, purity, molecular weight, or molecular structure, and packaging.

Epoxy resins may contain modifiers or additives, such as hardeners, curatives, colorants, pigments, diluents, solvents, thickeners, fillers, plasticizers, softeners, flame retardants, toughening agents, catalysts, Bisphenol F, and ultraviolet light inhibitors, so long as the modifier or additive has not chemically reacted so as to cure the epoxy resin or convert it into a different product no longer containing epoxy groups. Such epoxy resins with modifiers or additives are included in the scope where the

epoxy resin component comprises no less than 30 percent of the total weight of the product. The scope also includes blends of epoxy resins with different types of epoxy resins, with or without the inclusion of modifiers and additives, so long as the combined epoxy resin component comprises at least 30 percent of the total weight of the blend.

Epoxy resins that enter as part of a system or kit with separately packaged co-reactants, such as hardeners or curing agents, are within the scope. The scope does not include any separately packaged co-reactants that would not fall within the scope if entered on their own.

The scope includes merchandise matching the above description that has been processed in a third country, including by commingling, diluting, introducing, or removing modifiers or additives, or performing any other processing that would not otherwise remove the merchandise from the scope of the investigation if performed in the subject country.

The scope also includes epoxy resin that is commingled or blended with epoxy resin from sources not subject to this investigation. Only the subject component of such commingled products is covered by the scope of this investigation.

Excluded from the scope are phenoxyl resins, which are polymers with a weight greater than 11,000 Daltons, a Melt Flow Index (MFI) at 200 °C (392 °F) no less than 4 grams and no greater than 70 grams per 10 min, Glass-Transition Temperatures (Tg) no less than 80 °C (176 °F) and no greater than 100 °C (212 °F), and which contain no epoxy groups other than at the terminal ends of the molecule.

Excluded from the scope are certain paint and coating products, which are blends, mixtures, or other formulations of epoxy resin, curing agent, and pigment, in any form, packaged in one or more containers, wherein (1) the pigment represents a minimum of 10 percent of the total weight of the product, (2) the epoxy resin represents a maximum of 80 percent of the total weight of the product, and (3) the curing agent represents 5 to 40 percent of the total weight of the product.

Excluded from the scope are preimpregnated fabrics or fibers, often referred to as "pre-pregs," which are composite materials consisting of fabrics or fibers (typically carbon or glass) impregnated with epoxy resin.

Also excluded from the scope is Tetramethyl Bisphenol F Diglycidyl Ether epoxy resin, also known as Tetramethyl Bisphenol F -DGE Polymer (TMBPF-DGE), that (1) has the chemical name: phenol, 4, 4'-methylenebis[2,6-dimethyl-, polymer with 2-(chloromethyl)oxirane, (2) falls under Chemical Abstract Services (CAS) Registry Number 113693-69-9, and (3) has an epoxy equivalent weight (EEW), also referred to as the weight per epoxide (WPE), of no less than 200 and no greater than 230 grams of epoxy resin per epoxy equivalent (g/eq or GEW).¹¹

This merchandise is currently classifiable under Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the

¹¹ The bracket in this sentence is part of the chemical formula and does not denote business proprietary information.

United States (HTSUS) subheading 3907.30.0000. Subject merchandise may also be entered under subheadings 3907.29.0000, 3824.99.9397, 3214.10.0020, 2910.90.9100, 2910.90.9000, 2910.90.2000, and 1518.00.4000. The HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes only; the written description of the scope is dispositive.

Appendix II

List of Topics Discussed in the Issues and Decision Memorandum

- I. Summary
- II. Background
- III. Changes Since the *Amended Preliminary Determination*
- IV. Final Negative Critical Circumstances Decision
- V. Discussion of the Issues
 - Comment 1: Whether Commerce Should Correct a Ministerial Error in the Calculation of Kukdo's U.S. Movement Expenses
 - Comment 2: Whether Commerce Should Use Kukdo's Most Recent Sales Files in the Final Determination
 - Comment 3: Whether Commerce Should Treat Kukdo Finechem's International Freight Expenses as Incurred in Korean Won (KRW)
 - Comment 4: Whether Commerce Should Increase the Costs of Manufacture Reported by the Mandatory Respondents Due to Chinese Overcapacity of Bisphenol A and Epichlorohydrin
 - Comment 5: Whether Commerce Should Revise the Transactions Disregarded Adjustment Calculated for Certain Kumho P&B Inputs
 - Comment 6: Whether Commerce Should Consider the Losses on the Valuation of Inventories or Inventory Obsolescence Amounts Related to Finished Goods for Kumho P&B
- VI. Recommendation

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[C-570-197]

Slag Pots From the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination

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

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) preliminarily determines that countervailable subsidies are being provided to producers and exporters of slag pots from the People's Republic of China (China). The period of investigation is January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. Interested parties are invited to comment on this preliminary determination.

DATES: Applicable April 3, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Samuel Brummitt or T.J. Worthington, 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) 482-7851 or (202) 482-4567, 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). Commerce published the notice of initiation of this investigation on January 28, 2025.¹ For a complete description of the events that followed the initiation of this investigation, see the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.² 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 <https://access.trade.gov>. In addition, a complete version of the Preliminary Decision Memorandum can be accessed directly at <https://access.trade.gov/public/FRNoticesListLayout.aspx>.

Scope of the Investigation

The products covered by this investigation are slag pots from China. For a complete description of the scope of this investigation, see Appendix I.

Scope Comments

In accordance with the *Preamble* to Commerce's regulations,³ the *Initiation Notice* set aside a period of time for parties to raise issues regarding product coverage, (*i.e.*, scope).⁴ 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 submitted to the record for this preliminary determination, and accompanying discussion and analysis of the comments timely received, see the Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum.⁵ Commerce is preliminarily modifying the scope language as it appeared in the *Initiation Notice*. See revised scope in Appendix I.

Methodology

Commerce is conducting this investigation in accordance with section 701 of the Act. For each of the subsidy programs found countervailable, Commerce 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.⁶

Commerce notes that, in making these findings, it relied on facts available and, because Commerce finds that necessary information was missing from the record and because respondents did not act to the best of their ability to respond to Commerce's requests for information, Commerce drew an adverse inference (AFA) in selecting from among the facts otherwise available.⁷ For further information, see the "Use of Facts Otherwise Available and Adverse

Inferences" section in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

All-Others Rate

Sections 703(d) and 705(c)(5)(A) of the Act provide that in the preliminary determination, Commerce 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.

Pursuant to section 705(c)(5)(A)(ii) of the Act, if the individual estimated countervailable subsidy rates established for all exporters and producers individually examined are zero, *de minimis*, or determined based entirely on facts otherwise available, Commerce may use any reasonable method to establish the estimated subsidy rate for all other producers or exporters. In this investigation, Commerce preliminarily determined the individually estimated subsidy rate for each of the individually examined respondents based entirely on facts available under section 776 of the Act. This is the only rate available in this proceeding for deriving the all-others rate. Consequently, pursuant to sections 703(d) and 705(c)(5)(A)(ii) of the Act, Commerce established the all-others rate by applying the countervailable subsidy rate assigned to the non-responsive companies listed below.

Preliminary Determination

Commerce preliminarily determines that the following estimated countervailable subsidy rates exist:

Company	Subsidy rate (percent <i>ad valorem</i>)
Chaeng Great Wall Steel Casting Co. Ltd	* 226.16
UMECC Beijing Equipment Inc. Ltd	* 226.16
Cast-Con Engineering GmbH & Co. KG	* 226.16
Changzhou Jinyuan Machinery Equipment Ltd. Co	* 226.16
Dawang Metals Co. Ltd	* 226.16
GVA Krefeld GmbH	* 226.16
Liaoning Mineral and Metallurgy Group Co. Ltd	* 226.16
Luoyang Zhongtai Industries Co., Ltd	* 226.16
Shantou Huaxing Metallurgical Equipment Co. Ltd	* 226.16
Tangshan Sinya International Trade Co., Ltd	* 226.16
All Others	226.16

* Rate is based on facts available with adverse inferences.

¹ See *Slag Pots from the People's Republic of China: Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigation*, 90 FR 8267 (January 28, 2025) (*Initiation Notice*).

² See Memorandum, "Decision Memorandum for the Preliminary Affirmative Determination of the Countervailing Duty Investigation of Slag Pots from the People's Republic of China," dated concurrently

with, and hereby adopted by, this notice (Preliminary Decision Memorandum).

³ See *Antidumping Duties: Countervailing Duties, Final Rule*, 62 FR 27296, 27323 (May 19, 1997).

⁴ See *Initiation Notice*, 90 FR at 8268.

⁵ See Memorandum, "Antidumping Duty and Countervailing Duty Investigations of Slag Pots from the People's Republic of China: Preliminary

Scope Decision Memorandum," dated concurrently with this notice (Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum).

⁶ 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.

⁷ See sections 776(a) and (b) of the Act.

Suspension of Liquidation

In accordance with section 703(d)(2) of the Act, Commerce 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 section 703(d)(1)(B) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.107(e), Commerce will instruct CBP to require a cash deposit equal to the estimated company-specific countervailable subsidy rate or the estimated all-others rate, as follows: (1) the cash deposit rate for the respondents listed above will be equal to the company-specific estimated individual countervailable subsidy rates determined in this preliminary determination; (2) if both the producer and exporter of the subject merchandise have company-specific estimated subsidy rates determined in this preliminary determination, and their rates differ, then the applicable cash deposit rate will be the higher of these two rates; (3) if either the producer or the exporter, but not both, of the subject merchandise have a company-specific estimated subsidy rate determined in this preliminary determination, the applicable cash deposit rate will be that company's company-specific rate; and (4) the cash deposit rate for all other producers and exporters will be equal to the estimated all-others subsidy rate.

Disclosure

Normally, Commerce discloses its calculations and analysis performed in connection with the preliminary determination to interested parties within five days of its public announcement, or if there is no public announcement, within five days of the date of this notice in accordance with 19 CFR 351.224(b). However, because Commerce preliminarily applied total AFA in the calculation of the benefit for Chaeng Great Wall Steel Casting Co. Ltd., UMECC Beijing Equipment Inc. Ltd., and the non-responsive companies, and the applied AFA rates are based on rates calculated in prior proceedings, there are no calculations to disclose.

Verification

Because the examined respondents in this investigation did not provide information requested by Commerce and Commerce preliminarily determines each of the examined respondents to have been uncooperative, it will not conduct verification.

Public Comment

All interested parties will have the opportunity to submit scope case and rebuttal briefs on the preliminary decision regarding the scope of the less-than-fair-value (LTFV) and CVD investigations. The deadlines to submit scope case and rebuttal briefs will be provided in the preliminary scope decision memorandum. For all scope case and rebuttal briefs, parties must file identical documents simultaneously on the records of the ongoing LTFV and CVD slag pots investigations. No new factual information or business proprietary information may be included in either scope case or rebuttal briefs.

Case briefs or other written comments on non-scope issues may be submitted to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance no later than 20 days after the date of publication of the preliminary determination. Rebuttal briefs, limited to issues raised in the case briefs, may be filed not later than five days after the date for filing case briefs.⁸ Interested parties who submit case briefs or rebuttal briefs in this proceeding must submit: (1) a table of contents listing each issue; and (2) a table of authorities.⁹

As provided under 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2) and (d)(2), in prior proceedings we have encouraged interested parties to provide an executive summary of their brief that should be limited to five pages total, including footnotes. In this investigation, we instead request that interested parties provide at the beginning of their briefs a public, executive summary for each issue raised in their briefs.¹⁰ Further, we request that interested parties limit their executive summary of each issue to no more than 450 words, not including citations. We intend to use the executive summaries as the basis of the comment summaries included in the issues and decision memorandum that will accompany the final determination in this investigation. We request that interested parties include footnotes for relevant citations in the executive summary of each issue. Note that Commerce has amended certain of its requirements pertaining to

the service of documents in 19 CFR 351.303(f).¹¹

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, Commerce intends to hold the hearing 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.

U.S. International Trade Commission Notification

In accordance with section 703(f) of the Act, Commerce will notify the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) of its determination. If the final determination is affirmative, the ITC will determine before the later of 120 days after the date of this preliminary determination or 45 days after the final determination whether imports of slag pots from China are materially injuring, or threaten material injury to, the U.S. industry.

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).

Dated: March 27, 2025.

Christopher Abbott,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Negotiations, 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 the investigation is slag pots with a nominal capacity of 65 cubic feet to 1200 cubic feet regardless of shape, form, or finish.

Slag pots are load bearing devices typically formed as a curved shell or bowl-shaped container. Slag pots are metallurgical goods typically produced either using a casting process or a fabrication process (e.g., welding) and may include a ceramic refractory coating, heat treatment or various finishes in order to handle high temperature slag. Slag pots may contain integral features or attachments including (1) legs (or a stand) and (2) pivotal mounting hooks or brackets. Legs (or a stand) are a fixed or detachable

⁸ See 19 CFR 351.309(d); see also *Administrative Protective Order, Service, and Other Procedures in Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings*, 88 FR 67069, 67077 (September 29, 2023) (*APO and Service Final Rule*).

⁹ See 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2) and (d)(2).

¹⁰ We use the term "issue" here to describe an argument that Commerce would normally address in a comment of the Issues and Decision Memorandum.

¹¹ See *APO and Service Final Rule*.

support structure which allows the slag pot to be securely positioned upright on a surface when not being lifted or transported and may also keep the slag pot off the ground and allow for air cooling. The pivotal mounting hooks and brackets are specialized attachment points (such as lifting lugs or trunnions) that allow the slag pot to be securely lifted and transported by a crane or lifting device, or that enable the slag pot to swing or rotate while remaining attached to the lifting mechanism. The merchandise covered by this investigation includes all aforementioned attachments of a fully assembled slag pot, regardless of whether shipped assembled or unassembled.

Slag pots are included within the scope whether finished or unfinished, whether imported individually or with other subject or non-subject merchandise, or whether assembled with attachments or unassembled. Finishing includes, but is not limited to, arc washing, welding, grinding, shot blasting, heat treatment, machining, and assembly of various parts.

The country of origin for slag pots whether fully assembled, unfinished or finished, is the country where the slag pot was cast or forged. Subject merchandise includes slag pots that have been further processed or further assembled in a third country. Further processing and further assembly include, but is not limited to, arc washing, welding, grinding, shot blasting, heat treatment, painting, coating, priming, machining, and assembly of attachments.

Slag pots subject to the investigation are specified within the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) under subheadings 7309.00.0090 and 8454.20.0080. The slag pot attachments covered by the scope of this investigation may enter under HTSUS subheadings 7316.00.0000, 7325.10.0080, 7325.99.1000, 7325.99.5000, and 7326.19.0080. The HTSUS subheading is provided for convenience and customs purposes only. 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. Injury Test
- IV. Analysis of China's Financial System
- V. Diversification of China's Economy
- VI. Use of Facts Otherwise Available and Adverse Inferences
- VII. Analysis of Programs
- VIII. Recommendation

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[C–570–167]

Certain Epoxy Resins From the People's Republic of China: Final Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination and Final Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances

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

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) determines that countervailable subsidies are being provided to producers and exporters of certain epoxy resins (epoxy resins) from the People's Republic of China (China). The period of investigation is January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023.

DATES: Applicable April 3, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nathan James, AD/CVD Operations, Office V, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482–5305.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On September 13, 2024, Commerce published its *Preliminary Determination* in the **Federal Register**.¹ On February 7, 2025, Commerce issued its post-preliminary analysis in this investigation.² On February 10, 2025, we solicited comments in advance of this final determination.³ Because no comments were submitted by interested parties, we have adopted our *Preliminary Results* and Post-Preliminary Analysis for purposes of this final determination. Accordingly, no decision memorandum accompanies this **Federal Register** notice. Commerce conducted this investigation in accordance with section 705 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act).

¹ See *Certain Epoxy Resins from the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination, Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances, and Alignment of Final Determination with Final Antidumping Duty Determination*, 89 FR 74891 (September 13, 2024) (*Preliminary Determination*), and accompanying Preliminary Decision Memorandum (PDM).

² See Memorandum, “Post-Preliminary Analysis in the Countervailing Duty Investigation of Certain Epoxy Resins from the People's Republic of China,” dated February 7, 2025 (Post-Preliminary Analysis).

³ See Memorandum, “Case Brief Schedule,” dated February 10, 2025.

Scope of the Investigation

The products covered by this investigation are epoxy resins from China. For a complete description of the scope of this investigation, see Appendix I.

Scope Comments

During the course of this investigation, Commerce received scope comments from interested parties. Commerce issued a Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum to address these comments and set aside a period of time for parties to address scope issues in scope-specific case and rebuttal briefs.⁴ Between February 2025 and March 2025, Commerce received scope case and rebuttal briefs from interested parties.⁵ We made changes to the scope of the investigation from the scope published in the *Preliminary Determination*, as noted in Appendix I.⁶

Final Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances

Commerce preliminarily determined, pursuant to section 703(e)(1) of the Act, that critical circumstances exist for Jiangsu Sanmu Group Co., Ltd. (Sanmu), Shandong Bluestar Dongda Chemical (Bluestar), and all other producers and/or exporters.⁷ We have made no changes to that determination, and we find that critical circumstances exist for Sanmu, Bluestar, and all other producers and/or exporters, consistent with section 705(a)(2) of the Act.

Verification

Because the mandatory respondents in this investigation did not provide information requested by Commerce, and Commerce determined that the mandatory respondents were uncooperative, no verification was conducted.

⁴ See Memorandum, “Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum,” dated November 6, 2024 (Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum).

⁵ See Petitioner's Letter, “Case Brief on Scope Issues,” dated February 28, 2025 (Petitioner's Scope Case Brief); Sherwin Williams' Letter, “Scope Case Brief on Behalf of Sherwin-Williams,” dated February 28, 2025 (Sherwin-Williams' Scope Case Brief); PPG's Letter, “Scope Case Brief of PPG Industries, Inc.,” dated February 28, 2025 (PPG's Scope Case Brief); Petitioner's Letter, “Petitioner's Letter in Lieu of Rebuttal Brief on Scope Issues,” dated March 5, 2025 (Petitioner's Rebuttal Scope Case Brief); PPG's Letter, “Rebuttal Scope Case Brief of PPG Industries, Inc.,” dated March 5, 2025 (PPG's Rebuttal Scope Case Brief); and Sherwin-Williams' Letter, “Scope Rebuttal Brief on Behalf of Sherwin-Williams,” dated March 5, 2025 (Sherwin-Williams' Rebuttal Scope Case Brief).

⁶ See Memorandum, “Final Scope Decision Memorandum,” dated concurrently with this notice.

⁷ See *Preliminary Determination*, 89 FR 74892.