



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[C-821-825]

Phosphate Fertilizers from the Russian Federation: Preliminary Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination

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

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (Commerce) preliminarily determines that countervailable subsidies are being provided to producers and exporters of phosphate fertilizers from the Russian Federation (Russia). The period of investigation is January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2019. Interested parties are invited to comment on this preliminary determination.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: George Ayache or William Horn, AD/CVD Operations, Office VIII, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-2623 or (202) 482-4868, 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 July 23, 2020.¹ On September 2, 2020, Commerce postponed the preliminary determination of this investigation and the revised deadline is now November 23, 2020.² For a complete description of the events that followed the initiation of this investigation, *see the*

¹ See *Phosphate Fertilizers from the Kingdom of Morocco and the Russian Federation: Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigations*, 85 FR 44505 (July 23, 2020) (Initiation Notice).

² See *Phosphate Fertilizers from the Kingdom of Morocco and the Russian Federation: Postponement of Preliminary Determinations in the Countervailing Duty Investigations*, 85 FR 54535 (September 2, 2020).

Preliminary Decision Memorandum.³ 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 <http://access.trade.gov>. In addition, a complete version of the Preliminary Decision Memorandum can be accessed directly at <http://enforcement.trade.gov/frn/>. The signed and electronic versions of the Preliminary Decision Memorandum are identical in content.

Scope of the Investigation

The products covered by this investigation are phosphate fertilizers from Russia. For a complete description of the scope of this investigation, *see* Appendix I.

Scope Comments

In accordance with the *Preamble* to Commerce’s regulations,⁴ the *Initiation Notice* set aside a period of time for parties to raise issues regarding product coverage, (*i.e.*, scope).⁵ No interested party commented on the scope of the investigation as it appeared in the *Initiation Notice*. Therefore, no changes were made to the scope of the investigation.

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

³ See Memorandum, “Decision Memorandum for the Affirmative Preliminary Determination of the Countervailing Duty Investigation of Phosphate Fertilizers from the Russian Federation,” dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice (Preliminary Decision Memorandum).

⁴ See *Antidumping Duties; Countervailing Duties, Final Rule*, 62 FR 27296, 27323 (May 19, 1997) (*Preamble*).

⁵ See *Initiation Notice*.

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.

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.

In this investigation, Commerce calculated individual estimated countervailable subsidy rates for Industrial Group Phosphorite LLC and Joint Stock Company Apatit that are not zero, *de minimis*, or based entirely on facts otherwise available. Commerce calculated the all-others' rate using a weighted average of the individual estimated subsidy rates calculated for the examined respondents using each company's publicly-ranged values for the merchandise under consideration.⁷

Preliminary Determination

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

⁷ With two respondents under examination, Commerce normally calculates (A) a weighted-average of the estimated subsidy rates calculated for the examined respondents; (B) a simple average of the estimated subsidy rates calculated for the examined respondents; and (C) a weighted-average of the estimated subsidy rates calculated for the examined respondents using each company's publicly-ranged U.S. sale values for the merchandise under consideration. Commerce then compares (B) and (C) to (A) and selects the rate closest to (A) as the most appropriate rate for all other producers and exporters. See, e.g., *Cast Iron Soil Pipe Fittings from the People's Republic of China: Final Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination*, 83 FR 32075 (July 11, 2018). As complete publicly ranged sales data were available, Commerce based the all-others rate on the publicly ranged sales data of the mandatory respondents. For a complete analysis of the data, please see the All-Others' Rate Calculation Memorandum.

Company	Subsidy Rate
Industrial Group Phosphorite LLC ⁸	72.50 percent
Joint Stock Company Apatit ⁹	20.94 percent
All-Others	32.92 percent

Suspension of Liquidation

In accordance with section 703(d)(1)(B) and (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 19 CFR 351.205(d), Commerce will instruct CBP to require a cash deposit equal to the rates indicated above.

Disclosure

Commerce intends to disclose its calculations and analysis performed to interested parties in this preliminary determination 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).

Verification

Commerce is currently unable to conduct on-site verification of the information relied upon in making its final determination in this investigation. Accordingly, we intend to take additional steps in lieu of on-site verification. Commerce will notify interested parties of any additional documentation or information required.

⁸ As discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum, Commerce has found the following companies to be cross-owned with Industrial Group Phosphorite LLC: Mineral and Chemical Company EuroChem, JSC; NAK Azot, JSC; EuroChem Northwest, JSC; Joint Stock Company Kovdorsky GOK; EuroChem-Energo, LLC; EuroChem-Usolsky Potash Complex, LLC; EuroChem-BMU, LLC; JSC Nevinnomyskky Azot; and EuroChem Trading Rus, LLC.

⁹ As discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum, Commerce has found the following companies to be cross-owned with Joint Stock Company Apatit: PhosAgro PJSC; PhosAgro-Belgorod LLC; PhosAgro-Don LLC; PhosAgro-Kuban LLC; PhosAgro-Kursk LLC; PhosAgro-Lipetsk LLC; PhosAgro-Orel LLC; PhosAgro- Stavropol LLC; PhosAgro-Volga LLC; PhosAgro-SeveroZapad LLC; PhosAgro- Tambov LLC; and Martynovsk AgrokhimSnab LLC.

Public Comment

Case briefs or other written comments may be submitted to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance. Interested parties will be notified of the timeline for the submission of such case briefs and written comments at a later date. Rebuttal briefs, limited to issues raised in case briefs, may be submitted no later than seven days after the deadline date for case briefs.¹⁰ Commerce has modified certain of its requirements for serving documents containing business proprietary information until further notice.¹¹ 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.

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.

International Trade Commission Notification

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

¹⁰ See 19 CFR 351.309; see also 19 CFR 351.303 (for general filing requirements). See also *Temporary Rule Modifying AD/CVD Service Requirements Due to COVID-19*, 85 FR 17006, 17007 (March 26, 2020).

¹¹ See *Temporary Rule Modifying AD/CVD Service Requirements Due to COVID-19; Extension of Effective Period*, 85 FR 41363 (July 10, 2020).

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: November 23, 2020.

Joseph A. Laroski Jr.,
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Negotiations.

Appendix I

Scope of the Investigation

The merchandise covered by this investigation is phosphate fertilizers in all physical forms (*i.e.*, solid or liquid form), with or without coating or additives such as anti-caking agents. Phosphate fertilizers in solid form are covered whether granular, prilled (*i.e.*, pelletized), or in other solid form (*e.g.*, powdered).

The covered merchandise includes phosphate fertilizers in the following forms: ammonium dihydrogenorthophosphate or monoammonium phosphate (MAP), chemical formula NH₄H₂PO₄; diammonium hydrogenorthophosphate or diammonium phosphate (DAP), chemical formula (NH₄)₂HPO₄; normal superphosphate (NSP), also known as ordinary superphosphate or single superphosphate, chemical formula Ca(H₂PO₄)₂□CaSO₄; concentrated superphosphate, also known as double, treble, or triple superphosphate (TSP), chemical formula Ca(H₂PO₄)₂□H₂O; and proprietary formulations of MAP, DAP, NSP, and TSP.

The covered merchandise also includes other fertilizer formulations incorporating phosphorous and non-phosphorous plant nutrient components, whether chemically-bonded, granulated (*e.g.*, when multiple components are incorporated into granules through, *e.g.*, a slurry process), or compounded (*e.g.*, when multiple components are compacted together under high pressure), including nitrogen, phosphate, sulfur (NPS) fertilizers, nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium (NPK) fertilizers, nitric phosphate (also known as nitrophosphate) fertilizers, ammoniated superphosphate fertilizers, and proprietary formulations thereof that may or may not include other nonphosphorous plant nutrient components. For phosphate fertilizers that contain non-phosphorous plant nutrient components, such as nitrogen, potassium, sulfur, zinc, or other non-phosphorous components, the entire article is covered, including the non-phosphorous content, provided that the phosphorous content (measured by available diphasporous pentaoxide, chemical formula P₂O₅) is at least 5% by actual weight.

Phosphate fertilizers that are otherwise subject to this investigation are included when commingled (*i.e.*, mixed or blended) with phosphate fertilizers from sources not subject to this investigation. Phosphate fertilizers that are otherwise subject to this investigation are included when commingled with substances other than phosphate fertilizers subject to this investigation (*e.g.*, granules containing only non-phosphate fertilizers such as potash or urea). Only the subject component of such commingled products is covered by the scope of this investigation. The following products are specifically excluded from the scope of this investigation:

- (1) ABC dry chemical powder preparations for fire extinguishers containing MAP or DAP in powdered form;
- (2) industrial or technical grade MAP in white crystalline form with available P₂O₅ content of at least 60% by actual weight;
- (3) industrial or technical grade diammonium phosphate in white crystalline form with available P₂O₅ content of at least 50% by actual weight;
- (4) liquid ammonium polyphosphate fertilizers;
- (5) dicalcium phosphate, chemical formula CaHPO₄;
- (6) monocalcium phosphate, chemical formula CaH₄P₂O₈;
- (7) trisodium phosphate, chemical formula Na₃PO₄;
- (8) sodium tripolyphosphate, chemical formula Na₅P₃O₁₀;
- (9) prepared baking powders containing sodium bicarbonate and any form of phosphate;
- (10) animal or vegetable fertilizers not containing phosphate fertilizers otherwise covered by the scope of this investigation;

(11) phosphoric acid, chemical formula H₃PO₄.

The Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) numbers for covered phosphate fertilizers include, but are not limited to: 7722-76-1 (MAP); 7783-28-0 (DAP); and 65996-95-4 (TSP). The covered products may also be identified by Nitrogen-Phosphate-Potash composition, including but not limited to: NP 11-52-0 (MAP); NP 18-46-0 (DAP); and NP 0-46-0 (TSP).

The covered merchandise is currently classified in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) at subheadings 3103.11.0000; 3103.19.0000; 3105.20.0000; 3105.30.0000; 3105.40.0010; 3105.40.0050; 3105.51.0000; and 3105.59.0000. Phosphate fertilizers subject to this investigation may also enter under subheadings 3103.90.0010, 3105.10.0000, 3105.60.0000, 3105.90.0010, and 3105.90.0050. Although the HTSUS subheadings and CAS registry numbers are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the scope is dispositive.

Appendix II

List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum

- I. Summary
- II. Background
- III. Injury Test
- IV. Subsidies Valuation
- V. Benchmarks and Interest Rates
- VI. Analysis of Programs
- VII. Recommendation

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