



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-423-813]

Citric Acid and Certain Citrate Salts from Belgium: Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review; 2022-2023

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

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) preliminarily determines that Citribel nv. (Citribel) did not sell subject merchandise in the United States at prices below normal value during the July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, period of review (POR). We invite interested parties to comment on these preliminary results.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah Cohen, 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) 482-4521.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On July 25, 2018, Commerce published the antidumping duty (AD) order on citric acid and certain citrate salts (citric acid) from Belgium in the *Federal Register*.¹ On September 11, 2023, pursuant to section 751(a)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), Commerce

¹ See *Citric Acid and Certain Citrate Salts from Belgium, Colombia and Thailand: Antidumping Duty Orders*, 83 FR 35214 (July 25, 2018) (*Order*).

initiated an AD administrative review of the *Order*.² During the course of this administrative review, Citribel responded to Commerce's questionnaire and supplemental questionnaires. For further details, *see* the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.³

Scope of the *Order*

The merchandise covered by this *Order* 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. For a full description of the scope of the *Order*, *see* the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

Methodology

Commerce is conducting this review in accordance with section 751(a) of the Act. Export price has been calculated in accordance with section 772(a) of the Act, and normal value was calculated in accordance with section 773 of the Act. For a full description of the methodology underlying our conclusions, *see* the Preliminary Decision Memorandum. A list of the topics discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum is attached as an appendix 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>.

Preliminary Results of the Review

Commerce preliminarily determines that the following estimated weighted-average dumping margin exists for the period July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023:

² *See Initiation of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Administrative Reviews*, 88 FR 62332 (September 11, 2023) (*Initiation Notice*).

³ *See* Memorandum, "Decision Memorandum for the Preliminary Results of the Antidumping Duty Administrative Review: Citric Acid and Certain Citrate Salts from Belgium; 2022-2023," dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice (Preliminary Decision Memorandum).

Exporter/Producer	Weighted-Average Dumping Margin (percent)
Citribel nv.	0.00

Disclosure and Public Comment

Commerce intends to disclose its calculations and analysis performed to interested parties for these preliminary results within five days of any public announcement or, if there is no public announcement, within five days of the date of publication of this notice in the *Federal Register* in accordance with 19 CFR 351.224(b).

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.309(c), interested parties may submit case briefs to Commerce no later than 30 days after the date of publication of this notice. 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.⁴ 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.⁵

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 review, we instead request that interested parties provide at the beginning of their briefs a public, executive summary for each issue raised in their briefs.⁶ 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 results in this administrative review. 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).⁷

⁴ 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*).

⁵ See 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2) and (d)(2).

⁶ We use the term “issue” here to describe an argument that Commerce would normally address in a comment of the Issues and Decision Memorandum.

⁷ See *APO and Service Final Rule*.

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.310(c), interested parties who wish to request a hearing must submit a written request to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance, filed electronically via ACCESS. Requests should contain: (1) the party's name, address, and telephone number; (2) the number of participants; and (3) a list of issues to be discussed. Issues raised in the hearing will be limited to those raised in the respective case briefs. An electronically filed hearing request must be received successfully in its entirety by Commerce's electronic records system, ACCESS, by 5 p.m. Eastern Time within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice. Commerce intends to issue the final results of this administrative review, including the results of our analysis of the issues raised in any the written briefs, no later than 120 days after the date of publication of this notice, unless otherwise extended.⁸

Assessment Rates

Upon completion of the administrative review, Commerce shall determine, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) shall assess, antidumping duties on all appropriate entries. If the weighted-average dumping margin for Citribel (*i.e.*, the sole individually-examined respondent in this review) is not zero or *de minimis* (*i.e.*, greater than or equal to 0.5 percent) in the final results of this review, we will calculate importer-specific *ad valorem* assessment rates for the merchandise based on the ratio of the total amount of dumping calculated for the examined sales made during the POR to each importer and the total entered value of those same sales, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.212(b)(1). Where an importer-specific *ad valorem* assessment rate is zero or *de minimis* in the final results of the review, we will instruct CBP to liquidate the appropriate entries without regard to antidumping duties.⁹ If Citribel's weighted-average dumping margin is zero or *de minimis* in the final results of the review, we will instruct CBP not to assess duties on any of its entries in accordance with the *Final Modification for*

⁸ See section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.213(h).

⁹ See 19 CFR 351.106(c)(2).

*Reviews, i.e., “{w}here the weighted-average margin of dumping for the exporter is determined to be zero or de minimis, no antidumping duties will be assessed.”*¹⁰

For entries of subject merchandise during the POR produced by Citribel for which the producer did not know its merchandise was destined for the United States, we will instruct CBP to liquidate unreviewed entries at the all-others rate if there is no rate for the intermediate company (or companies) involved in the transaction.¹¹

Commerce intends to issue assessment instructions to CBP no earlier than 35 days after the date of publication of the final results of this review in the *Federal Register*. If a timely summons is filed at the U.S. Court of International Trade, the assessment instructions will direct CBP not to liquidate relevant entries until the time for parties to file a request for a statutory injunction has expired (*i.e.*, within 90 days of publication).

Cash Deposit Requirements

The following cash deposit requirements will be effective upon publication of the final results of this administrative review for all shipments of the subject merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the publication date of the final results of this administrative review, as provided by section 751(a)(2)(C) of the Act: (1) the cash deposit rate for Citribel will be equal to the weighted-average dumping margin established in the final results of this administrative review, except if the rate is less than 0.50 percent, and therefore *de minimis* within the meaning of 19 CFR 351.106(c)(1), in which case the cash deposit rate will be zero; (2) for previously reviewed or investigated companies not listed above, the cash deposit rate will continue to be the company-specific rate published for the most recently completed segment of this proceeding in which the company participated; (3) if the exporter is not a firm covered in this review, a prior review, or in the investigation but the

¹⁰ See *Antidumping Proceedings: Calculation of the Weighted-Average Dumping Margin and Assessment Rate in Certain Antidumping Proceedings; Final Modification*, 77 FR 8101, 8102 (February 14, 2012) (*Final Modification for Reviews*).

¹¹ See *Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings: Assessment of Antidumping Duties*, 68 FR 23954 (May 6, 2003).

producer is, the cash deposit rate will be the rate established for the most recently completed segment of this proceeding for the producer of the merchandise; and (4) the cash deposit rate for all other producers or exporters will continue to be the all-others rate of 19.30 percent, the rate established in the less-than-fair-value investigation of this proceeding.¹² These cash deposit requirements, when imposed, shall remain in effect until further notice.

Notification to Importers

This notice serves as a preliminary reminder to importers of their responsibility under 19 CFR 351.402(f)(2) to file a certificate regarding the reimbursement of antidumping duties prior to liquidation of the relevant entries during this review period. Failure to comply with this requirement could result in Commerce's presumption that reimbursement of antidumping duties occurred and the subsequent assessment of double antidumping duties.

Notification to Interested Parties

We are issuing and publishing these preliminary results in accordance with sections 751(a)(1) and 777(i) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.213(h)(1).

Dated: March 27, 2024.

Abdelali Elouaradia,
*Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Enforcement and Compliance.*

¹² See *Order*, 83 FR at 35215.

Appendix

List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum

- I. Summary
- II. Background
- III. Scope of the *Order*
- IV. Discussion of the Methodology
- V. Currency Conversion
- VI. Recommendation

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