



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-549-853]

Large Top Mount Combination Refrigerator-Freezers from Thailand: Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value, Postponement of Final Determination, and Extension of Provisional Measures

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

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) preliminarily determines that
large top mount combination refrigerator-freezers (refrigerators) from Thailand are being, or are
likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV). The period of investigation
(POI) is April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024. Interested parties are invited to comment on
this preliminary determination.

DATES: Applicable [Insert date of publication in the *Federal Register*].

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Benito Ballesteros or Lilit Astvatsatrian,
AD/CVD Operations, Office IX, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade
Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington,
DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-7425 or (202) 482-6412, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

This preliminary determination is made in accordance with section 733(b) of the Tariff
Act of 1930, as amended (the Act). Commerce published the notice of initiation of this
investigation on July 16, 2024.¹ On July 22, 2024, Commerce tolled certain deadlines in this

¹ See *Large Top Mount Combination Refrigerator-Freezers from Thailand: Initiation of Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigation*, 89 FR 57860 (July 16, 2024) (*Initiation Notice*). On July 24, 2024, Commerce published a correction

administrative proceeding by seven days.² On November 18, 2024, Commerce postponed the preliminary determination of this investigation until January 22, 2025.³ For a complete description of the events that followed the initiation of this investigation, *see* the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.⁴

A list of topics included in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum is provided in Appendix II of 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 at <https://access.trade.gov/public/FRNoticesListLayout.aspx>.

Scope of the Investigation

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

Scope Comments

In accordance with the *Preamble* to Commerce's regulations,⁵ the *Initiation Notice* set aside a period of time for parties to raise issues regarding product coverage (*i.e.*, scope).⁶ No interested party commented on the scope of the investigation as it appeared in the *Initiation Notice*. Accordingly, Commerce is not preliminarily modifying the scope language as it appeared in the *Initiation Notice*. *See* the scope in Appendix I to this notice.

Methodology

to this notice. *See Large Top Mount Combination Refrigerator-Freezers from Thailand: Correction*, 89 FR 59894 (July 24, 2024).

² *See* Memorandum, "Tolling of Deadlines for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings," dated July 22, 2024.

³ *See Large Top Mount Combination Refrigerator-Freezers from Thailand: Postponement of Preliminary Determination in the Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigation*, 89 FR 90668 (November 18, 2024).

⁴ *See* Memorandum, "Decision Memorandum for the Preliminary Affirmative Determination in the Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigation of Large Top Mount Combination Refrigerator-Freezers from Thailand," dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice (Preliminary Decision Memorandum).

⁵ *See Antidumping Duties; Countervailing Duties, Final Rule*, 62 FR 27296, 27323 (May 19, 1997) (*Preamble*).

⁶ *See Initiation Notice*, 89 FR at 57861.

Commerce is conducting this investigation in accordance with section 731 of the Act. Commerce has calculated export prices in accordance with section 772(a) of the Act. Constructed export prices have been calculated in accordance with section 772(b) of the Act. Normal value is calculated in accordance with section 773 of the Act. Furthermore, pursuant to section 776(a) and (b) of the Act, Commerce has preliminarily relied upon facts otherwise available with adverse inferences for Thai Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. (Samsung); Sanden Intercool (Thailand) Public Company Limited; and Sharp Appliances (Thailand) Co., Ltd. For a full description of the methodology underlying the preliminary determination, *see* the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

All-Others Rate

Sections 733(d)(1)(ii) and 735(c)(5)(A) of the Act provide that in the preliminary determination Commerce shall determine an estimated all-others rate for all exporters and producers not individually examined. This rate shall be an amount equal to the weighted average of the estimated weighted-average dumping margins established for exporters and producers individually investigated, excluding any zero and *de minimis* margins, and any margins determined entirely under section 776 of the Act.

In this investigation, Commerce preliminarily assigned a rate based entirely on facts available to Samsung. Therefore, the only rate that is not zero, *de minimis*, or based entirely on facts otherwise available is the rate calculated for Toshiba Consumer Products (Thailand) Co., Ltd. (Toshiba). Consequently, the rate calculated for Toshiba is also assigned as the rate for all other producers and exporters.

Preliminary Determination

Commerce preliminarily determines that the following estimated weighted-average dumping margins exist:

Exporter/Producer	Estimated Weighted-Average Dumping Margin (percent)
Toshiba Consumer Products (Thailand) Co., Ltd.	13.28
Thai Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd.	37.90*
Sanden Intercool (Thailand) Public Company Limited	37.90*
Sharp Appliances (Thailand) Co., Ltd.	37.90*
All Others	13.28

* This rate is based on facts available with adverse inferences.

Suspension of Liquidation

In accordance with section 733(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 Appendix I, 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 733(d)(1)(B) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(d), Commerce will instruct CBP to require a cash deposit equal to the estimated weighted-average dumping margin 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 weighted-average dumping margins determined in this preliminary determination; (2) if the exporter is not a respondent identified above, but the producer is, then the cash deposit rate will be equal to the company-specific estimated weighted-average dumping margin established for that producer of the subject merchandise; and (3) the cash deposit rate for all other producers and exporters will be equal to the all-others estimated weighted-average dumping margin. These suspension of liquidation instructions will remain in effect until further notice.

Disclosure

Commerce intends to disclose its calculations and analysis performed to interested parties in this preliminary determination 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 accordance with 19 CFR 351.224(b).

Consistent with 19 CFR 351.224(e), Commerce will analyze and, if appropriate, correct any timely allegations of significant ministerial errors by amending the preliminary

determination. However, consistent with 19 CFR 351.224(d), Commerce will not consider incomplete allegations that do not address the significance standard under 19 CFR 351.224(g) following the preliminary determination. Instead, Commerce will address such allegations in the final determination together with issues raised in the case briefs or other written comments.

Verification

As provided in section 782(i)(1) of the Act, Commerce intends to verify the information relied upon in making its final determination.

Public Comment

Case briefs or other written comments may be submitted to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance no later than seven days after the date on which the last verification report is issued in this investigation. A timeline for the submission of case briefs and written comments will be released to interested parties at a later date. 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.⁷ 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.⁸

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.⁹ Further, we request that interested parties limit their public executive summary of each issue to no more than 450 words, not including citations. We intend to use the public 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

⁷ 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*).

⁸ See 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2) and (d)(2).

⁹ We use the term “issue” here to describe an argument that Commerce would normally address in a comment of the Issues and Decision Memorandum.

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).¹⁰

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 1) the party's name, address, and telephone number; 2) the number of participants and whether any participant is a foreign national; and 3) 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.

Postponement of Final Determination and Extension of Provisional Measures

Section 735(a)(2) of the Act provides that a final determination may be postponed until not later than 135 days after the date of the publication of the preliminary determination if, in the event of an affirmative preliminary determination, a request for such postponement is made by exporters who account for a significant proportion of exports of the subject merchandise, or in the event of a negative preliminary determination, a request for such postponement is made by the petitioner. Section 351.210(e)(2) of Commerce's regulations requires that a request by exporters for postponement of the final determination be accompanied by a request for extension of provisional measures from a four-month period to a period not more than six months in duration.

On January 17, 2025, pursuant to 19 CFR 351.210(e), Toshiba requested that Commerce postpone the final determination and that provisional measures be extended to a period not to exceed six months.¹¹ In accordance with section 735(a)(2)(A) of the Act and 19 CFR

¹⁰ See *APO and Service Final Rule*.

¹¹ See Toshiba's Letter, "Request to Postpone Final Determination," dated January 17, 2025.

351.210(b)(2)(ii), because: (1) the preliminary determination is affirmative; (2) the requesting exporter accounts for a significant proportion of exports of the subject merchandise; and (3) no compelling reasons for denial exist, Commerce is postponing the final determination and extending the provisional measures from a four-month period to a period not greater than six months. Accordingly, Commerce will make its final determination no later than 135 days after the date of publication of this preliminary determination.

U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) Notification

In accordance with section 733(f) of the Act, Commerce will notify the ITC of its preliminary 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 these imports are materially injuring, or threaten material injury to, the U.S. industry.

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: January 22, 2025.

Abdelali Elouaradia,
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Enforcement and Compliance.

Appendix I

Scope of the Investigation

The products covered by this investigation are large top mount combination refrigerator-freezers with a refrigerated volume of at least 15.6 cubic feet or 442 liters. For the purposes of this investigation, the term “large top mount combination refrigerator-freezers” consists of freestanding or built-in cabinets that have an integral source of refrigeration using compression technology, with all of the following characteristics:

- The cabinet contains at least two interior storage compartments accessible through two separate external doors;
- The lower-most interior storage compartment(s) that is accessible through an external door is a fresh food or convertible compartment, but is not a freezer compartment; however, the existence of an interior sub-compartment for ice-making in the lower-most storage compartment does not render the lower-most storage compartment a freezer compartment; and
- There is a freezer or convertible compartment that is mounted above the lower-most interior storage compartment(s).

For the purposes of the investigation, a fresh food compartment is capable of storing food at temperatures above 32 degrees F (0 degrees C), a freezer compartment is capable of storing food at temperatures at or below 32 degrees F (0 degrees C), and a convertible compartment is capable of operating as either a fresh food compartment or a freezer compartment, as defined in this paragraph.

The products subject to this investigation are currently classifiable under subheading 8418.10.0075 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS). Products subject to this investigation may also enter under HTSUS subheadings 8418.21.0090, 8418.40.0000, and 8418.69.0180. The HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, but the written description of the merchandise subject to this scope is dispositive.

Appendix II

List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum

- I. Summary
- II. Background
- III. Period of Investigation
- IV. Application of Facts Available and Use of Adverse Inference
- V. Discussion of the Methodology
- VI. Currency Conversion
- VII. Recommendation

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