



## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

[A-542-806]

#### **Paper File Folders from Sri Lanka: Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value**

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

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) preliminarily determines that paper file folders from Sri Lanka are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV). The period of investigation (POI) is October 1, 2023, through September 30, 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:** Rachel Jennings, 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) 482-1110.

#### **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 November 19, 2024.<sup>1</sup> On February 24, 2025, Commerce postponed the preliminary determination of this investigation until May 21, 2025.<sup>2</sup>

For a complete description of the events that followed the initiation of this investigation, *see* the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.<sup>3</sup> A list of topics included 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 paper file folders from Sri Lanka. For a complete description of the scope of this investigation, *see* Appendix I.

### **Scope Comments**

In accordance with the *Preamble* to Commerce's regulations,<sup>4</sup> we set aside a period of time for parties to raise issues regarding product coverage (*i.e.*, scope).<sup>5</sup> No interested party commented on the scope of the investigation as it appeared in the *Initiation Notice*. Commerce is not modifying the scope language as it appeared in the *Initiation Notice*.

### **Methodology**

Commerce is conducting this investigation in accordance with section 731 of the Act. Pursuant to section 776(a) and (b) of the Act, Commerce has preliminarily relied upon facts

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<sup>1</sup> *See Paper File Folders from Cambodia and Sri Lanka: Initiation of Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigations*, 89 FR 91322 (November 19, 2024) (*Initiation Notice*).

<sup>2</sup> *See Paper File Folders from Cambodia and Sri Lanka: Postponement of Preliminary Determinations in the Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigations*, 90 FR 10473 (February 24, 2025).

<sup>3</sup> *See* Memorandum, "Decision Memorandum for the Preliminary Determination in the Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigation of Paper File Folders from Sri Lanka" dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice (Preliminary Decision Memorandum).

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

<sup>5</sup> *See Initiation Notice*.

otherwise available, with adverse inferences (AFA), to Lanka Educational Products Pvt Ltd (Lanka Educational Products), because Lanka Educational Products did not respond to Commerce's requests for information. 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.

Pursuant to section 735(c)(5)(B) of the Act, if the estimated weighted-average dumping margins 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 weighted-average dumping margin for all other producers or exporters.

Commerce has preliminarily determined the estimated weighted-average dumping margin for the individually examined respondent under section 776 of the Act. Consequently, consistent with section 735(c)(5)(B) of the Act, Commerce's normal practice under these circumstances has been to calculate the all-others rate as a simple average of the alleged dumping margins from the

petition.<sup>6</sup> For a full description of the methodology underlying Commerce’s analysis, *see* the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

### **Preliminary Determination**

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

<b>Exporter/Producer</b>	<b>Weighted-Average Dumping Margin (percent)</b>
Lanka Educational Products Pvt Ltd	91.28*
All Others	57.43

\*Rate 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, as follows: (1) The cash deposit rate for the respondent listed above will be equal to the company-specific estimated weighted-average dumping margin 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

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<sup>6</sup> *See, e.g., Notice of Preliminary Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Sodium Nitrite from the Federal Republic of Germany*, 73 FR 21909, 21912 (April 23, 2008), unchanged in *Notice of Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Sodium Nitrite from the Federal Republic of Germany*, 73 FR 38986, 38987 (July 8, 2008), and accompanying Issues and Decision Memorandum at Comment 2; *see also Notice of Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Raw Flexible Magnets from Taiwan*, 73 FR 39673, 39674 (July 10, 2008); *Steel Threaded Rod from Thailand: Preliminary Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value and Affirmative Preliminary Determination of Critical Circumstances*, 78 FR 79670, 79671 (December 31, 2013), unchanged in *Steel Threaded Rod from Thailand: Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value and Affirmative Final Determination of Critical Circumstances*, 79 FR 14476, 14477 (March 14, 2014).

be equal to the all-others estimated weighted-average dumping margin. These suspension of liquidation instructions will remain in effect until further notice.

## **Disclosure**

Normally, Commerce discloses to interested parties the calculations performed in connection with a 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 the notice of preliminary determination in the *Federal Register*, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.224(b). However, because Commerce preliminarily applied AFA to the individually examined company (*i.e.*, Lanka Educational Products) in this investigation in accordance with section 776 of the Act, and the applied AFA rate is based solely on the petition, there are no calculations to disclose.

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**

Because the examined respondent in this investigation did not provide information requested by Commerce, and Commerce preliminarily determines that the examined respondent has been uncooperative, we will not conduct verification as provided under section 782(i)(1) of the Act.

## **Public Comment**

Case briefs or other written comments may be submitted to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance no later than 30 days after the date of publication of the preliminary determination, unless the Secretary alters the time limit. 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.<sup>7</sup> 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.<sup>8</sup>

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 briefs 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.<sup>9</sup> 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).<sup>10</sup>

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 date and time to be determined. Parties should confirm by telephone the date, time, and location of the hearing two days before the scheduled date.

## **Final Determination**

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<sup>7</sup> 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*).

<sup>8</sup> See 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2) and (d)(2).

<sup>9</sup> We use the term "issue" here to describe an argument that Commerce would normally address in a comment of the Issues and Decision Memorandum.

<sup>10</sup> See *APO and Service Final Rule*.

Section 735(a)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.210(b)(1) provide that Commerce will issue the final determination within 75 days after the date of its preliminary determination. Accordingly, Commerce will make its final determination no later than 75 days after the signature date of this preliminary determination.

#### **U.S. International Trade Commission Notification**

In accordance with section 733(f) of the Act, Commerce will notify the U.S. International Trade Commission (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: May 21, 2025.

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

## Appendix I

### Scope of the Investigation

The products within the scope of this investigation are file folders consisting primarily of paper, paperboard, pressboard, or other cellulose material, whether coated or uncoated, that has been folded (or creased in preparation to be folded), glued, taped, bound, or otherwise assembled to be suitable for holding documents. The scope includes all such folders, regardless of color, whether or not expanding, whether or not laminated, and with or without tabs, fasteners, closures, hooks, rods, hangers, pockets, gussets, or internal dividers. The term “primarily” as used in the first sentence of this scope means 50 percent or more of the total product weight, exclusive of the weight of fasteners, closures, hooks, rods, hangers, removable tabs, and similar accessories, and exclusive of the weight of the packaging.

Subject folders have the following dimensions in their folded and closed position: lengths and widths of at least 8 inches and no greater than 17 inches, regardless of depth.

The scope covers all varieties of folders, including but not limited to manila folders, hanging folders, fastener holders, classification folders, expanding folders, pockets, jackets, and wallets.

Excluded from the scope are:

- mailing envelopes with a flap bearing one or more adhesive strips that can be used permanently to seal the entire length of a side such that, when sealed, the folder is closed on all four sides;
- binders, with two or more rings to hold documents in place, made of paperboard or pressboard encased entirely in plastic;
- binders consisting of a front cover, back cover, and spine, with or without a flap; to be excluded, a mechanism with two or more metal rings must be included on or adjacent to the interior spine;
- non-expanding folders with a depth exceeding 2.5 inches and that are closed or closeable on the top, bottom, and all four sides (*e.g.*, boxes or cartons);
- expanding folders that have: (1) 13 or more pockets; (2) a flap covering the top; (3) a latching mechanism made of plastic and/or metal to close the flap; and (4) an affixed plastic or metal carry handle;
- folders that have an outer surface (other than the gusset, handles, and/or closing mechanisms, if any) that is covered entirely with fabric, leather, and/or faux leather;

- fashion folders, which are defined as folders with all of the following characteristics: (1) plastic lamination covering the entire exterior of the folder; (2) printing, foil stamping, embossing (*i.e.*, raised relief patterns that are recessed on the opposite side), and/or debossing (*i.e.*, recessed relief patterns that are raised on the opposite side), covering the entire exterior surface area of the folder; (3) at least two visible and printed or foil stamped colors (other than the color of the base paper), each of which separately covers no less than 10 percent of the entire exterior surface area; and (4) patterns, pictures, designs, or artwork covering no less than thirty percent of the exterior surface area of the folder;
- portfolios, which are folders having: (1) a width of at least 16 inches when open flat; (2) no tabs or dividers; and (3) one or more pockets that are suitable for holding letter size documents and that cover at least 15 percent of the surface area of the relevant interior side or sides; and
- report covers, which are folders having: (1) no tabs, dividers, or pockets; and (2) one or more fasteners or clips, each of which is permanently affixed to the center fold, to hold papers securely in place.

Imports of the subject merchandise are provided for under Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) category 4820.30.0040. Subject imports may also enter under other HTSUS classifications. While the HTSUS subheading is provided for convenience and customs purposes, 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. Period of Investigation
- IV. Application of Facts Available and Use of Adverse Inference
- V. Recommendation

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