



## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

[A-851-806]

#### **Certain Freight Rail Couplers and Parts Thereof from the Czech Republic: 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 certain freight rail couplers and parts thereof (freight rail couplers) from the Czech Republic are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV). The period of investigation (POI) is July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. Interested parties are invited to comment on this preliminary determination.

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Andrew Hart or Sofia Pedrelli, AD/CVD Operations, Office II, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-1058 or (202) 482-4310, 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 August 18, 2025.<sup>1</sup> Due to a lapse in appropriations and Federal Government shutdown, on November 14, 2025, Commerce tolled all deadlines in administrative proceedings

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<sup>1</sup> See *Certain Freight Rail Couplers and Parts Thereof from the Czech Republic and India: Initiation of Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigations*, 90 FR 40059 (August 18, 2025) (*Initiation Notice*).

by 47 days.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, due to a backlog of document that were electronically filed via Enforcement and Compliances' Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Service System (ACCESS) during the Federal Government Shutdown, November 24, 2025, Commerce tolled all deadlines in administrative proceedings by an additional 21 days.<sup>3</sup> On February 23, 2026, Commerce postponed the preliminary determination of this investigation and the revised deadline is now April 27, 2026.<sup>4</sup>

For a complete description of the events that followed the initiation of this investigation, *see* the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.<sup>5</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 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/frnotices>.

#### Scope of the Investigation

The products covered by this investigation are freight rail couplers from the Czech Republic. 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>6</sup> the *Initiation Notice* set aside a period of time for parties to raise issues regarding product coverage (*i.e.*, scope).<sup>7</sup> 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 and rebuttal responses submitted to the record for this preliminary determination, and accompanying discussion and analysis of all

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<sup>2</sup> *See* Memorandum, "Deadlines Affected by the Shutdown of the Federal Government," dated November 14, 2025.

<sup>3</sup> *See* Memorandum, "Tolling of all Case Deadlines," dated November 24, 2025.

<sup>4</sup> *See Certain Freight Rail Couplers and Parts Thereof from the Czech Republic and India: Postponement of Preliminary Determinations in the Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigations*, 91 FR 8423 (February 23, 2026).

<sup>5</sup> *See* Memorandum, "Decision Memorandum for the Preliminary Affirmative Determination in the Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigation of Certain Freight Rail Couplers and Parts Thereof from the Czech Republic," dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice (Preliminary Decision Memorandum).

<sup>6</sup> *See Antidumping Duties; Countervailing Duties, Final Rule*, 62 FR 27296, 27323 (May 19, 1997) (*Preamble*).

<sup>7</sup> *See Initiation Notice*.

comments timely received, *see* the Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum.<sup>8</sup> Commerce is preliminarily modifying the scope language as it appeared in the *Initiation Notice*. *See* the revised scope in Appendix I to this notice.

### Methodology

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. Normal value for CKD Kutná Hora A.S. (CKD) is calculated using constructed value in accordance with section 773 of the Act. 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 weighted-average dumping margin, *i.e.*, the 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.

Commerce calculated an individual estimated weighted-average dumping margin for CKD, the only individually examined exporter or producer in this investigation. Because the only individually calculated estimated weighted-average dumping margin is not zero, *de minimis*, or based entirely on facts otherwise available, the estimated weighted-average dumping margin calculated for CKD is the estimated weighted-average dumping margin assigned to all other producers and exporters, pursuant to section 735(c)(5)(A) of the Act.

### Preliminary Determination

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<sup>8</sup> *See* Memorandum, “Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigations of Certain Freight Rail Couplers and Parts Thereof from the Czech Republic and India and Countervailing Duty Investigation of Certain Freight Rail Couplers and Parts Thereof from India: Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum,” dated February 26, 2026 (Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum).

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

<b>Exporter or Producer</b>	<b>Estimated Weighted-Average Dumping Margin (percent)</b>
CKD Kutná Hora A.S.	60.05
All Others	60.05

#### 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 CKD will be equal to the company-specific estimated weighted-average dumping margins determined in this preliminary determination; (2) if the exporter is not CKD, but the producer is, then the cash deposit rate will be equal to the company-specific estimated weighted-average dumping margin established for CKD; and (3) the cash deposit rate for all other producers and exporters will be equal to the estimated weighted-average dumping margin for all other producers and exporters.

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 notified 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.<sup>9</sup> Interested parties who submit case or rebuttal briefs in this proceeding must submit: (1) a table of contents listing each issue; and (2) a table of authorities.<sup>10</sup>

As provided under 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2)(iii) and (d)(2)(iii), we request that interested parties provide at the beginning of their briefs a public, executive summary for each issue raised in their briefs.<sup>11</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

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<sup>9</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>10</sup> See 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2) and (d)(2).

<sup>11</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.

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>12</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 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 April 24, 2026, pursuant to 19 CFR 351.210(e), CKD requested that Commerce postpone the final determination and that provisional measures be extended to a period not to exceed six months.<sup>13</sup> In accordance with section 735(a)(2)(A) of the Act and 19 CFR

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<sup>12</sup> See *APO and Service Final Rule*.

<sup>13</sup> See CKD's Letter, "Request to Extend the Final Determination," dated April 24, 2026.

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: April 27, 2026.

**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 scope of these investigations covers certain freight railcar couplers (also known as “fits” or “assemblies”) and parts thereof. Freight rail couplers are composed of two main parts, namely knuckles and coupler bodies but may also include other items (*e.g.*, coupler locks, lock lift assemblies, knuckle pins, knuckle throwers, and rotors). The parts covered by these investigations include: (1) E coupler bodies; (2) E/F coupler bodies; (3) F coupler bodies; (4) E knuckles; and (5) F knuckles; as set forth by the Association of American Railroads (AAR). The freight rail coupler parts are included within the scope of these investigations when imported individually. Coupler locks, lock lift assemblies, knuckle pins, knuckle throwers, and rotors are covered merchandise when imported in an assembly but are not covered by the scope when imported separately.

Subject freight rail couplers and parts are included within the scope whether finished or unfinished, whether imported individually or with other subject or nonsubject parts, whether assembled or unassembled, whether mounted or unmounted, or if joined with nonsubject merchandise, such as other nonsubject parts or a completed railcar. Finishing includes, but is not limited to, arc washing, welding, grinding, shot blasting, heat treatment, machining, and assembly of various parts. When a subject coupler or subject parts are mounted on or to other nonsubject merchandise, such as a railcar, only the coupler or subject parts are covered by the scope.

The finished products covered by the scope of these investigations meet or exceed the AAR specifications of M-211, “Foundry and Product Approval Requirements for the Manufacture of Couplers, Coupler Yokes, Knuckles, Follower Blocks, and Coupler Parts,” and/or AAR M-215 “Coupling Systems,” or other equivalent domestic or international standards (including any revisions to the standard(s)).

The country of origin for subject couplers and parts thereof, whether fully assembled, unfinished or finished, or attached to a railcar, is the country where the subject coupler parts were cast or forged. Subject merchandise includes coupler parts as defined above that have been further processed or further assembled, including those coupler parts attached to a railcar in third countries. Further processing includes, but is not limited to, arc washing, welding, grinding, shot blasting, heat treatment, painting, coating, priming, machining, and assembly of various parts. The inclusion, attachment, joining, or assembly of nonsubject parts with subject parts or couplers either in the country of manufacture of the in-scope product or in a third country does not remove the subject parts or couplers from the scope.

The couplers that are the subject of these investigations are currently classifiable in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) statistical reporting number 8607.30.1010, 8607.30.1050, and 8607.30.1090. Subject merchandise attached to finished railcars may also enter under HTSUS statistical reporting numbers 7326.90.8688, 8606.10.0000, 8606.91.0000, 8606.92.0000, 8606.99.0130, or under subheading 8606.99.0160. Subject merchandise may also be imported under HTSUS statistical reporting number 7325.99.5000. These HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes only; the written description of the scope of these investigations is dispositive.

## **Appendix II**

### **List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum**

- I. Summary
- II. Background
- III. Period of Investigation
- IV. Affiliation
- V. Discussion of the Methodology
- VI. Particular Market Situation
- VII. Currency Conversion
- VIII. Recommendation

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