

accordance with 19 CFR 351.212(c)(1)(i). Commerce intends to issue assessment instructions to CBP for these companies no earlier than 35 days after the publication of the preliminary 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

In accordance with section 751(a)(1) of the Act, Commerce intends to instruct CBP to collect cash deposits of estimated countervailing duties in the amounts shown for the POR for each of the respective companies listed above on shipments of subject merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the date of publication of the final results of this administrative review. For all non-reviewed firms subject to the *Order*, we will instruct CBP to continue to collect cash deposits of estimated countervailing duties at the most recent company-specific or all-others rate applicable to the company, as appropriate. These cash deposit requirements, effective upon publication of the final results of review, shall remain in effect until further notice.

Administrative Protective Order (APO)

This notice also serves as a reminder to parties subject to an APO of their responsibility concerning the return or destruction of proprietary information disclosed under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305(a)(3), which continues to govern business proprietary information in this segment of the proceeding. Timely written notification of the return or destruction of APO materials, or conversion to judicial protective order, is hereby requested. Failure to comply with the regulations and terms of an APO is a violation which is subject to sanction.

Notification to Interested Parties

We are issuing and publishing these final results of administrative review and notice in accordance with sections 751(a)(1) and 777(i) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.221(b)(5).

Dated: August 15, 2024.

Abdelali Elouaradia,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

Appendix I—List of Topics Discussed in the Issues and Decision Memorandum

I. Summary

II. Background

III. Final Rescission of Review, in Part

IV. Scope of the *Order*

V. Use of Facts Otherwise Available and Application of Adverse Inferences

VI. Subsidies Valuation Information

VII. Analysis of Programs

VIII. Discussion of the Issues

Comment 1: Whether Commerce Should Change Its Preliminary Findings Regarding the Export Buyer's Credit Program (EBCP)

Comment 2: Whether the Electricity for Less Than Adequate Remuneration (LTAR) Program Is Specific

Comment 3: Whether Certain Input Suppliers Are Government Authorities

A. Whether Information Is Missing From the Record

B. Whether Two Suppliers Provided Sufficient Information

Comment 4: Whether Commerce Properly Excluded Respondents' Benchmark Data

A. Whether Commerce Should Use All of Respondents' Benchmark Data

B. Whether Commerce Should Revise the Cut Timber Benchmark

Comment 5: Whether Commerce Should Revise the Paint Benchmark

Comment 6: Whether Commerce Should Revise the Ocean Freight Benchmark

A. Whether Commerce Should Include Drewry Data

B. Whether Commerce Should Adjust Its Averaging Methodology

C. Whether To Include Certain Surcharges

Comment 7: Whether Commerce Should Rely on Respondents' Reported Inland Freight Data

Comment 8: Whether Commerce Should Exclude Sales Not Related to Production Activities

Comment 9: Whether Commerce Should Rely on Malaysian Land Benchmarks

IX. Recommendation

Appendix II—Non-Selected Companies Under Review

1. Anji Huaxin Bamboo & Wood Products Co., Ltd.
2. Fotiou Frames Limited
3. Fujian Hongjia Craft Products Co., Ltd.
4. Fujian Wangbin Decorative Material Co., Ltd.
5. Fujian Youxi Best Arts & Crafts Co. Ltd.
6. Homebuild Industries Co., Ltd.
7. Huaan Longda Wood Industry Co., Ltd.
8. Jiangsu Wenfeng Wood Co., Ltd.
9. Longquan Jiefeng Trade Co., Ltd.
10. Nanping Huatai Wood & Bamboo Co., Ltd.
11. Nanping Huatai Wood and Bamboo Co., Ltd.
12. Putian Yihong Wood Industry Co., Ltd.
13. Shandong Miting Household Co., Ltd.
14. Shaxian Hengtong Wood Industry Co., Ltd.
15. Shaxian Shiyiwood, Ltd.
16. Shuyang Kevin International Co., Ltd.
17. Shuyang Zhongding Decoration Materials Co., Ltd.
18. Suqian Sulu Import & Export Trading Co., Ltd.
19. Zhangzhou Wangjia Industry & Trade Co., Ltd.

20. Zhangzhou Yihong Industrial Co., Ltd.

[FR Doc. 2024–19318 Filed 8–27–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A–821–838, C–821–839]

Ferrosilicon From the Russian Federation: Preliminary Affirmative Critical Circumstances Determinations

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

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) preliminarily determines that critical circumstances exist, with respect to imports of ferrosilicon in the antidumping duty (AD) and countervailing duty (CVD) investigations of ferrosilicon from the Russian Federation (Russia). The AD period of investigation is July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, and the CVD period of investigation is January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023.

DATES: Applicable August 28, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Hoadley AD/CVD Operations, Office VII, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-3148.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

These preliminary determinations are made in accordance with sections 703(e) and 733(e) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act). Commerce published the notices of initiation of these AD and CVD investigations on April 24, 2024.¹ On August 9, 2024, CC Metals and Alloys, LLC and Ferroglobe USA, INC. (collectively, the petitioners) filed timely allegations, pursuant to sections 703(e)(1) and 733(e)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.206, that critical circumstances exist with respect to ferrosilicon from Russia.² On August 19,

¹ See *Ferrosilicon from Brazil, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, and the Russian Federation: Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigations*, 89 FR 31133 (April 24, 2024) (*CVD Initiation Notice*); see also *Ferrosilicon from Brazil, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, and the Russian Federation: Initiation of Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigations*, 89 FR 31137 (April 24, 2024) (*AD Initiation Notice*).

² See Petitioners' Letter, "Petitioners' Critical Circumstances Allegation," dated August 9, 2024 (*AD Critical Circumstances Allegation*); also see Petitioners' Letter, "Petitioners' Critical Circumstances Allegation," dated August 9, 2024 (*CVD Critical Circumstances Allegation*).

2024, the Government of Russia (GOR) submitted comments in response to the petitioners' CVD critical circumstances allegation.³ Commerce published its preliminary AD and CVD determinations on June 28, 2024.⁴ In the *CVD Preliminary Determination*, we applied adverse facts available (AFA) to the mandatory respondent, Russian Ferro Alloys Inc./RFA International LP (RFA) and determined an all-others rate based on the rate for RFA.⁵ In the *AD Preliminary Determination*, we assigned the Russia-wide entity an AFA rate as no individual producers/exporters participated in the investigation.⁶

In accordance with sections 703(e)(1) and 733(e)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.206(c)(1) and (2)(ii), because the petitioners submitted the critical circumstances allegations more than 30 days before the scheduled date of the final determinations, Commerce will make preliminary findings as to whether there is a reasonable basis to believe or suspect that critical circumstances exist and will issue preliminary critical circumstances determinations within 30 days after the allegations are filed.

Critical Circumstances Allegations

The petitioners allege that imports of ferrosilicon from Russia were massive over a relatively short period, and provided monthly import data comparing a base period of January 2024 through March 2024, to a comparison period of April 2024 through June 2024.⁷ The petitioners allegation of massive imports utilizes base and comparison periods established in accordance with 19 CFR 351.206(i) and reflects an increase from 0 to 5,744.922 metric tons, which is "massive" under 19 CFR 351.206(h)(2) and under sections 703(e)(1)(b) and 733(e)(1)(b) of the Act.⁸ For the CVD investigation, the petitioners also allege that there is a reasonable basis to believe that there are subsidies in this investigation which are inconsistent with the World Trade

Organization Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures (SCM Agreement).⁹ For the AD investigation, the petitioners also allege that there is reason to believe there is history of dumping and material injury by reason of dumped imports in the United States or elsewhere of ferrosilicon and a reason to believe importers knew or should have known that Russian producers and/or exporters were selling ferrosilicon at less than fair value (LTFV) and that material injury was likely.¹⁰

Analysis

CVD Allegation: Alleged Countervailable Subsidies Are Inconsistent With the SCM Agreement

Section 703(e)(1) of the Act provides that Commerce will determine that critical circumstances exist in CVD investigations if there is a reasonable basis to believe or suspect that the alleged countervailable subsidy is inconsistent with the SCM Agreement.¹¹

To determine whether an alleged countervailable subsidy is inconsistent with the SCM Agreement, in accordance with section 703(e)(1)(A) of the Act, Commerce considered the evidence currently on the record of this investigation. As determined in the *CVD Preliminary Determination*, we found, based on AFA, that the non-cooperating mandatory respondent RFA used the Import Substitution Loans program. Record evidence indicates that this program is contingent on the use of domestic over imported goods, rendering it inconsistent with Article 3 of the SCM Agreement.¹² Therefore, Commerce preliminarily determines, for purposes of this critical circumstances' determination, that there are subsidies in this investigation that are inconsistent with the SCM Agreement.

AD Allegation: History of Dumping and Material Injury by Reason of Dumped Imports in the United States or Elsewhere of the Subject Merchandise

In determining whether there is a history of dumping pursuant to section 733(e)(1)(A)(i) of the Act, Commerce generally considers current or previous

AD orders on subject merchandise from the country in question in the United States and current orders in any other country with regard to imports of subject merchandise.¹³ On May 4, 2021, Egypt imposed an antidumping duty order on imports of ferrosilicon from Russia.¹⁴ This third-country antidumping duty order remains in effect and constitutes evidence of a history of dumping and material injury by reason of LTFV sales.¹⁵

AD Allegation: The Importer Knew or Should Have Known That the Exporter Was Selling at Less Than Fair Value and That There Was Likely To Be Material Injury

In determining whether importers knew or should have known that exporters were selling subject merchandise at LTFV and that there was likely to be material injury by reason of such sales, pursuant to section 733(e)(1)(A)(ii), Commerce must rely on the facts before it at the time the determination is made. Commerce generally bases its decision with respect to knowledge on the margins calculated in the preliminary determination and the U.S. International Trade Commission's (ITC) preliminary injury determination.¹⁶

Commerce normally considers margins of 25 percent or more for export price sales and 15 percent or more for constructed export price sales sufficient to impute importer knowledge of sales at LTFV.¹⁷ In this investigation, we preliminarily assigned a dumping margin of 283.27 percent to the Russia-wide entity, which exceeds the minimum margin required to impute

¹³ See, e.g., *Certain Oil Country Tubular Goods from the People's Republic of China: Notice of Preliminary Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value, Affirmative Preliminary Determination of Critical Circumstances and Postponement of Final Determination*, 74 FR 59117, 59120 (November 17, 2009) (*OCTG China Preliminary Determination*), unchanged in *Certain Oil Country Tubular Goods from the People's Republic of China: Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value, Affirmative Final Determination of Critical Circumstances and Final Determination of Targeted Dumping*, 75 FR 20335 (April 19, 2010) (*OCTG China Final Determination*).

¹⁴ See AD Critical Circumstances Allegation at 3 and Exhibit 1.

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ See, e.g., *OCTG China Preliminary Determination*, unchanged in *OCTG China Final Determination*.

¹⁷ See, e.g., *Certain Uncoated Paper from Australia: Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value and Affirmative Final Determination of Critical Circumstances, In Part*, 81 FR 3108 (January 20, 2016) (*Uncoated Paper from Australia*), and accompanying Issues and Decision Memorandum at 13.

³ See GOR's Letter, "Response to the Petitioners' Critical Circumstances Allegation," dated August 19, 2024.

⁴ See *Ferrosilicon from the Russian Federation: Preliminary Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination*, 89 FR 53949 (June 28, 2024) (*CVD Preliminary Determination*), and accompanying Preliminary Decision Memorandum (PDM); see also *Ferrosilicon from the Russian Federation: Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value*, 89 FR 53953 (June 28, 2024) (*AD Preliminary Determination*), and accompanying PDM.

⁵ See *CVD Preliminary Determination* PDM at 6–14.

⁶ See *AD Preliminary Determination* PDM at 6–8.

⁷ See AD Critical Circumstance Allegation at 6; see also CVD Critical Circumstances Allegation at 5.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ See section 771(8)(A) of the Act.

¹⁰ See section 733(e)(1) of the Act.

¹¹ Commerce limits its critical circumstances findings to those subsidies contingent upon export performance or use of domestic over imported goods (*i.e.*, those prohibited under Article 3 of the SCM Agreement). See, e.g., *Final Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination and Final Negative Critical Circumstances Determination: Carbon and Certain Alloy Steel Wire from Germany*, 67 FR 55808, 55809–10 (August 30, 2002).

¹² See Checklist, "Enforcement and Compliance, Countervailing Duty Investigation Initiation Checklist," dated April 17, 2024, at 8–9.

knowledge of dumping to U.S. importers.¹⁸

In assessing importers' knowledge of likely material injury, Commerce relies on a preliminary affirmative determination by the ITC to impute the requisite knowledge to U.S. importers.¹⁹ Thus, Commerce finds that U.S. importers knew or should have known that imports of ferrosilicon from Russia were being sold at LTFV and were likely to cause injury, which is sufficient to satisfy the first requirement for an affirmative critical circumstances determination.

Massive Imports

In determining whether there have been "massive imports" over a "relatively short period," pursuant to sections 703(e)(1)(B) and 733(e)(1)(B) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.206(h), Commerce normally compares the import volumes of the subject merchandise for at least three months immediately preceding the filing of the petition (*i.e.*, the "base period") to a comparable period of at least three months following the filing of the petition (*i.e.*, the "comparison period"). Imports normally will be considered massive when imports during the comparison period have increased by 15 percent or more compared to imports during the base period.²⁰ The regulations also provide, however, that if Commerce finds that importers, or exporters or producers, had reason to believe, at some time prior to the beginning of the proceeding, that a proceeding was likely, Commerce may consider a period of not less than three months from that earlier time.²¹ In this case, Commerce compared the import volumes of subject merchandise, as provided by the petitioners,²² for the three months immediately preceding and three months following the filing of the petition, ending with the month prior to the *AD Preliminary Determination* and the *CVD Preliminary Determination*.

Because the petitions were filed on March 28, 2024, to determine whether there was a massive surge in imports for the cooperating mandatory respondent, Commerce compared the total volume of shipments during the period January 2024 through March 2024 with the volume of shipments during the

following three-month period of April 2024 through June 2024. Based on this analysis, we preliminarily determine that there was a massive surge in imports from RFA and "all other" producers/exporters from Russia (for CVD) and for the Russia-wide entity (for AD).

Conclusion

For the CVD investigation, based on the criteria and findings discussed above, we preliminarily determine that critical circumstances exist with respect to imports of ferrosilicon from Russia produced or exported by RFA and all other producers/exporters. For the AD investigation, based on the criteria and findings discussed above, we preliminarily determine that critical circumstances exist with respect to all imports of ferrosilicon from Russia produced or exported by the Russia-wide entity.

Final Critical Circumstances Determinations

We will make final critical circumstances determinations concerning critical circumstances in the final AD and CVD determinations, which are currently due no later than September 11, 2024.

Public Comment

Interested parties are invited to comment on these preliminary critical circumstances determinations no later than five days after the date on which this notice is published in the **Federal Register**. Given that the final determinations for the AD and CVD investigations are due no later than September 11, 2024, Commerce will allow two days for parties to submit rebuttal comments.

We request that interested parties provide at the beginning of their briefs a public, executive summary for each issue raised in their briefs.²³ 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 memoranda that will accompany the final determinations in these investigations. 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).²⁴

Suspension of Liquidation

In accordance with section 703(e)(2)(A) of the Act, for all entries, we will direct U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to suspend liquidation of any unliquidated entries of subject merchandise from Russia entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after March 30, 2024, which is 90 days prior to the date of publication of the *AD Preliminary Determination* and *CVD Preliminary Determination* in the **Federal Register**. For such entries, CBP shall require a cash deposit equal to the estimated weighted-average dumping margin established in the *AD Preliminary Determination* and *CVD Preliminary Determination*. This suspension of liquidation will remain in effect until further notice.

U.S. International Trade Commission Notification

In accordance with sections 703(f) and 733(f) of the Act, we will notify the ITC of these preliminary determinations of critical circumstances.

Notification to Interested Parties

This determination is issued and published pursuant to sections 703(f), 733(f), and 777(i) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.206.

Dated: August 22, 2024.

Ryan Majerus,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Negotiations, performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2024–19393 Filed 8–26–24; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Safety and Health Information Collection

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of

¹⁸ See *AD Preliminary Determination*.

¹⁹ See *Ferrosilicon from Brazil, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, and Russia; Determinations*, 89 FR 43435 (May 17, 2024).

²⁰ See 19 CFR 351.206(h)(2).

²¹ See 19 CFR 351.206(i).

²² See *AD Critical Circumstances Allegation* at 5–6; and *CVD Critical Circumstances Allegation* at 4–6.

²³ We use the term "issue" here to describe an argument that Commerce would normally address in a comment of the Issues and Decision Memorandum.

²⁴ See *Administrative Protective Order, Service, and Other Procedures in Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings*, 88 FR 67069, 67077 (September 29, 2023).