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Sheleen Dumas,

Departmental PRA Clearance Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Economic Affairs, Commerce Department.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Order No. 2170]

Activation Limit Increase Under Alternative Site Framework; Foreign-Trade Zone 84; Houston, Texas

Pursuant to its authority under the Foreign-Trade Zones Act of June 18, 1934, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a–81u), the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) adopts the following Order:

Whereas, the Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZ) Act provides for “. . . the establishment . . . of foreign-trade zones in ports of entry of the United States, to expedite and encourage foreign commerce, and for other purposes,” and authorizes the Board to grant to qualified corporations the privilege of establishing foreign-trade zones in or adjacent to U.S. Customs and Border Protection ports of entry;

Whereas, the Board adopted the alternative site framework (ASF) (15 CFR 400.2(c)) as an option for the establishment or reorganization of zones;

Whereas, the Port of Houston Authority, grantee of Foreign-Trade Zone 84, submitted an application to the Board (FTZ Docket B–36–2024, docketed June 26, 2024) for authority to increase the activation limit of the zone under the ASF to 3,000 acres;

Whereas, the application has been processed pursuant to the FTZ Act and the Board’s regulations; and,

Whereas, the Board adopts the findings and recommendations of the examiner’s report, and finds that the requirements of the FTZ Act and the Board’s regulations are satisfied;

Now, therefore, the Board hereby orders:

The application to increase the activation limit of the zone under the ASF to 3,000 acres is approved, subject to the FTZ Act and the Board’s regulations, including section 400.13.

Dated: October 23, 2024.

Dawn Shackelford,

Executive Director of Trade Agreements Policy & Negotiations, Alternate Chairman, Foreign-Trade Zones Board.

[FR Doc. 2024–25011 Filed 10–25–24; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[C–570–171]

Disposable Aluminum Containers, Pans, Trays, and Lids From the People’s Republic of China: Preliminary Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination, Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances, and Alignment of Final Determination With Final Antidumping Duty Determination

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

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) preliminarily determines that countervailable subsidies are being provided to producers and exporters of disposable aluminum containers, pans, trays, and lids (disposable aluminum containers) from the People’s Republic of China (China). The period of investigation (POI) is January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. Interested parties are invited to comment on this preliminary determination.

DATES: Applicable October 28, 2024.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian Warnes, 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) 482–0028.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

This preliminary determination is made in accordance with section 703(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act). Commerce published the notice of initiation of this countervailing duty (CVD) investigation on June 12, 2024.¹ On July 25, 2024, Commerce postponed the deadline for the preliminary determination until October 15, 2024, in accordance with section

¹ See *Disposable Aluminum Containers, Pans, Trays, and Lids from the People’s Republic of China: Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigation*, 89 FR 49833 (June 12, 2024) (*Initiation Notice*).

703(c)(1)(A) of the Act.² On July 26, 2024, Commerce further tolled all deadlines in this proceeding by seven days.³ The deadline for the preliminary determination is now October 21, 2024.

For a complete description of events that followed the initiation of this investigation, see the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.⁴ A list of topics discussed 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 disposable aluminum containers from China. 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*.

Methodology

Commerce is conducting this investigation in accordance with section 701 of the Act. For each of the subsidy programs found to be countervailable, Commerce preliminarily determines that there is a subsidy, *i.e.*, a financial contribution by an “authority” that gives rise to a benefit to the recipient,

² See *Disposable Aluminum Containers, Pans, Trays, and Lids from the People’s Republic of China: Postponement of Preliminary Determination in the Countervailing Duty Investigation*, 89 FR 60355 (July 25, 2024).

³ See Memorandum, “Tolling of Deadlines for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings,” dated July 25, 2024.

⁴ See Memorandum, “Decision Memorandum for the Preliminary Affirmative Determination of the Countervailing Duty Investigation of Disposable Aluminum Containers, Pans, Trays, and Lids from the People’s Republic of China,” 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 49834.

and that the subsidy is specific.⁷ For a full description of the methodology underlying our preliminary determination, see the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

Commerce notes that, in making these findings, it relied, in part, on facts available, and, because it finds that certain respondents and the Government of China did not act to the best of their ability to respond to Commerce's requests for information, it drew an adverse inference where appropriate in selecting from among the facts otherwise available.⁸ For further information, see the "Use of Facts Otherwise Available and Adverse Inferences" section in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

Preliminary Affirmative Determination Critical Circumstances

In accordance with section 703(e)(1) of the Act, we preliminarily find that critical circumstances exist with respect to imports of subject merchandise from Henan Aluminium Corporation (Henan), Zhejiang Acumen Living Technology Co., Ltd. (Zhejiang Acumen), and all other exporters/producers of disposable

aluminum containers from China. For a full discussion of our preliminary critical circumstances determination, see the "Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances" section of the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

Alignment

In accordance with section 705(a)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.210(b)(4), Commerce is aligning the final CVD determination in this investigation with the final determination in the concurrent antidumping duty (AD) investigation of disposable aluminum containers from China, based on a request made by the Aluminum Foil Container Manufacturers Association (the petitioner).⁹ Consequently, the final CVD determination will be issued on the same date as the final AD determination, which is currently scheduled to be issued no later than March 4, 2025, unless postponed.

All-Others Rate

Sections 703(d) and 705(c)(5)(A) of the Act provide that, in the preliminary determination, Commerce shall determine an estimated all-others rate

for companies not individually examined. This rate shall be an amount equal to the weighted average of the estimated subsidy rates established for those companies individually examined, excluding any rates that are zero, *de minimis*, or based entirely under section 776 of the Act.

In this investigation, Commerce preliminarily calculated a total subsidy rate for Henan that is not zero, *de minimis*, or based entirely on the facts otherwise available. The rate determined for the other mandatory respondent, Zhejiang Acumen, is based entirely under section 776 of the Act. Because Commerce calculated a total countervailable subsidy rate for Henan that is not zero, *de minimis*, or based entirely on the facts otherwise available, and because the only other respondent, Zhejiang Acumen, is based entirely on the facts otherwise available, we have preliminarily determined the all-others rate to be Henan's rate.¹⁰

Preliminary Determination

Commerce preliminarily determines that the following estimated countervailable subsidy rates exist:

Company	Subsidy rate (percent <i>ad valorem</i>)
Henan Aluminium Corporation	78.12
Zhejiang Acumen Living Technology Co., Ltd	* 312.91
All Others	78.12

* Rate based on facts available with adverse inferences.

Disclosure

Commerce intends to disclose its calculations and analysis performed to interested parties in this preliminary determination within five days of its public announcement or, if there is no public announcement, within five days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, 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.

Suspension of Liquidation

Section 703(e)(2) of the Act provides that, given an affirmative determination of critical circumstances, any suspension of liquidation shall apply to unliquidated entries of merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the later of: (a) the date which is 90 days before the date on which the suspension of liquidation was first ordered; or (b) the date on which notice of initiation of the investigation was published. Commerce preliminarily finds that critical circumstances exist for imports of subject merchandise from all exporters/producers. In accordance with section 703(e)(2)(A) of the Act, the suspension of liquidation shall apply to unliquidated entries of merchandise from all exporters/producers that were

entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the date which is 90 days before the publication of this notice. Further, pursuant to 19 CFR 351.205(d), Commerce will instruct U.S. Customs and Border Protection to require a cash deposit to suspended entries equal to the rates indicated above.

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. Rebuttal briefs, limited to

⁷ See sections 771(5)(B) and (D) of the Act regarding financial contribution; section 771(5)(E) of the Act regarding benefit; and section 771(5A) of the Act regarding specificity.

⁸ See sections 776(a) and (b) of the Act.

⁹ See Petitioner's Letter, "Petitioner's Request to Align Final Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Determinations," dated October 11, 2024.

¹⁰ See Memorandum, "Calculation of Subsidy Rate for All Others," dated concurrently with this notice.

issues raised in the case briefs, may be filed not later than five days after the date for filing case briefs.¹¹ 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.¹²

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.¹³ 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 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).¹⁴

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, via ACCESS, 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. Oral presentations at the hearing will be limited to issues raised in the briefs. If a request for a hearing is made, parties will be notified of the time and date for the hearing.¹⁵ Parties should confirm by telephone the date, time, and location of the hearing two days before the scheduled date.

¹¹ 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*).

¹² See 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2) and (d)(2).

¹³ We use the term "issue" here to describe an argument that Commerce would normally address in a comment of the Issues and Decision Memorandum.

¹⁴ See *APO and Service Final Rule*, 88 FR at 67069.

¹⁵ See 19 CFR 351.310(d).

All submissions, including case and rebuttal briefs, as well as hearing requests, should be filed using ACCESS. An electronically-filed document must be received successfully in its entirety by ACCESS by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the established deadline.

U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) Notification

In accordance with section 703(f) of the Act, Commerce will notify the ITC of its 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 imports of disposable aluminum containers from China 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 703(f) and 777(i)(1) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.205(c).

Dated: October 21, 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.

Appendix I

Scope of the Investigation

The merchandise covered by this investigation is disposable aluminum containers, pans, trays, and lids produced primarily from flat-rolled aluminum. The subject merchandise includes disposable aluminum containers, pans, trays, and lids regardless of shape or size and whether or not wrinkled or smooth.

The term "disposable" is used to identify an aluminum article that is designed to be used once, or for a limited number of times, and then recycled or otherwise disposed. "Containers, pans, and trays" are receptacles for holding goods.

The subject disposable aluminum lids are intended to be used in combination with disposable containers produced from aluminum or other materials (e.g., paper or plastic). Where a disposable aluminum lid is imported with a non-aluminum container, only the disposable aluminum lid is included in the scope.

Disposable aluminum containers, pans, trays, and lids are also included within the scope regardless of whether the surface has been embossed, printed, coated (including with a non-stick substance), or decorated, and regardless of the style of the edges. The inclusion of a nonaluminum lid or dome sold or packaged with an otherwise in-scope article does not remove the article from the scope, however, only the disposable aluminum container, pan, tray, and lid is covered by the scope definition.

Disposable aluminum containers, pans, trays, and lids are typically used in food-related applications, including but not limited to food preparation, packaging, baking, barbecuing, reheating, takeout, or storage, but also have other uses. Regardless of end use, disposable aluminum containers, pans, trays, and lids that meet the scope definition and are not otherwise excluded are subject merchandise.

Excluded from the scope are disposable aluminum casks, drums, cans, boxes and similar containers (including disposable aluminum cups and bottles) properly classified under Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) subheading 7612.90. However, aluminum containers, pans, trays, and lids that would otherwise be covered by the scope are not excluded based solely on the fact that they are being classified under HTSUS subheading 7612.90.5000 due to the thickness of aluminum being less than 0.04 mm or greater than 0.22 mm.

The flat-rolled aluminum used to produce the subject articles may be made to ASTM specifications ASTM B479 or ASTM B209–14 but can also be made to other specifications. Regardless of the specification, however, all disposable aluminum containers, pans, trays, and lids meeting the scope description are included in the scope.

Disposable aluminum containers, pans, trays, and lids are currently classifiable under HTSUS subheading 7615.10.7125. Further, merchandise that falls within the scope of this proceeding may also be entered into the United States under HTSUS subheadings 7612.90.1090, 7615.10.3015, 7615.10.3025, 7615.10.7130, 7615.10.7155, 7615.10.7180, 7615.10.9100, and 8309.90.0000. Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the scope of this proceeding is dispositive.

Appendix II

List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum

- I. Summary
- II. Background
- III. Alignment
- IV. Injury Test
- V. Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances
- VI. Diversification of China's Economy
- VII. Use of Facts Available and Adverse Inferences
- VIII. Subsidies Valuation
- IX. Benchmarks and Interest Rates
- X. Analysis of Programs
- XI. Recommendation

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