

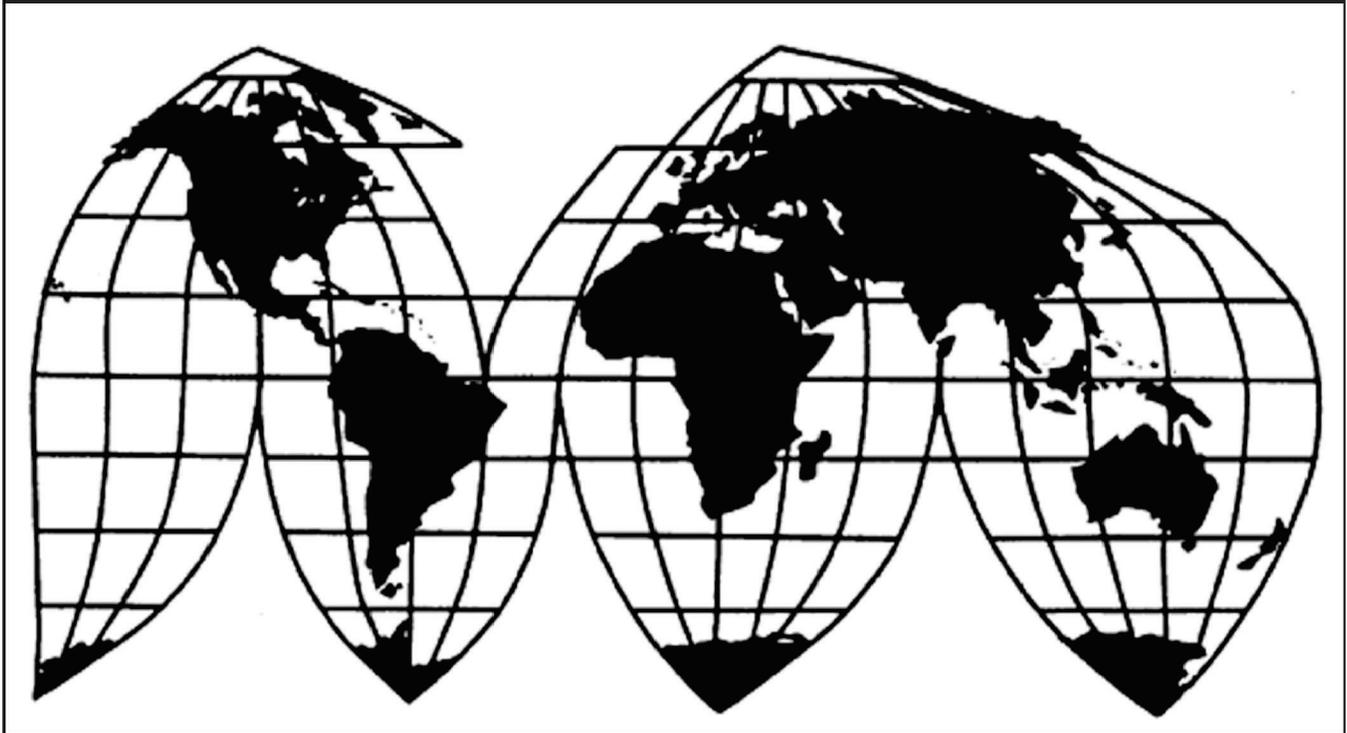
Certain Amorphous Silica Fabric from China

Investigation Nos. 701-TA-555 and 731-TA-1310 (Review)

Publication 5368

September 2022

U.S. International Trade Commission



Washington, DC 20436

U.S. International Trade Commission

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Kristina Lara, Supervisory Investigator

Address all communications to
Secretary to the Commission
United States International Trade Commission
Washington, DC 20436

U.S. International Trade Commission

Washington, DC 20436
www.usitc.gov

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Note: Information that would reveal confidential operations of individual concerns may not be published. Such information is identified by brackets or by headings in confidential reports and is deleted and replaced with asterisks in public reports.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

Investigation Nos. 701-TA-555 and 731-TA-1310 (Review)

Certain Amorphous Silica Fabric from China

DETERMINATIONS

On the basis of the record¹ developed in the subject five-year reviews, the United States International Trade Commission (“Commission”) determines, pursuant to the Tariff Act of 1930 (“the Act”), that revocation of the countervailing and antidumping duty orders on certain amorphous silica fabric from China would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time.

BACKGROUND

The Commission instituted these reviews on February 1, 2022 (87 FR 5511) and determined on May 9, 2022, that it would conduct expedited reviews (87 FR 53488, August 31, 2022).

¹ The record is defined in § 207.2(f) of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR 207.2(f)).

Views of the Commission

Based on the record in these five-year reviews, we determine under section 751(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (“the Tariff Act”), that revocation of the antidumping and countervailing duty orders on certain amorphous silica fabric (“ASF”) from China would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time.

I. Background

Original Investigations. In January 2016, Auburn Manufacturing, Inc. (“AMI”) filed antidumping and countervailing duty petitions regarding imports of ASF from China.¹ The Commission determined in March 2017 that an industry in the United States was materially injured by reason of imports of ASF from China that had been found by U.S. Department of Commerce (“Commerce”) to be sold in the United States at less-than-fair-value (“LTFV”) and to be subsidized by the government of China.^{2 3} On March 17, 2017, Commerce published antidumping and countervailing duty orders on imports of ASF from China.⁴

¹ *Certain Amorphous Silica Fabric from China*, Inv. Nos. 701-TA-555 and 731-TA-1310 (Final), USITC Pub. 4672 (March 2017) (“Original Determinations”).

² *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 3.

³ Commissioners Broadbent and Kieff determined that an industry in the United States was threatened with material injury by reason of imports of ASF from China that Commerce found to be sold in the United States at LTFV and subsidized by the government of China. See *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 3 n.1 and 33-39. (Separate Views of Commissioners Broadbent and Kieff).

⁴ *Certain Amorphous Silica Fabric From the People’s Republic of China: Antidumping Duty Order*, 82 Fed. Reg. 14314 (Mar. 17, 2017); *Certain Amorphous Silica Fabric From the People’s Republic of China: Countervailing Duty Order*, 82 Fed. Reg. 14316 (Mar. 17, 2017).

Current Reviews. The Commission instituted the current reviews on February 1, 2022.⁵ Domestic producers AMI and SGL Composites Inc. (“SGL”),⁶ submitted responses to the notice of institution (collectively “Domestic Producers”).⁷ No respondent party responded to the notice of institution or participated in these reviews. On May 9, 2022, the Commission determined that the domestic interested party group response to the notice of institution was adequate and that the respondent interested party group response was inadequate.⁸ In the absence of any other circumstances that would warrant full reviews, the Commission determined that it would conduct expedited reviews of the orders.⁹ AMI submitted final comments pursuant to Commission rule 207.62(d)(1) on August 24, 2022.¹⁰

⁵ *Amorphous Silica Fabric From China; Institution of Five-Year Reviews*, 87 Fed. Reg. 5511 (Feb. 1, 2022).

⁶ SGL formerly was HITCO Carbon Composites, Inc. (“HITCO”), a U.S. producer of certain ASF, that supported the petitions and appeared at the hearing in the original investigations with counsel. See Confidential Report, INV-UU-039 (Apr. 27, 2022), as revised by INV-UU-047 (May 9, 2022) (“CR”); Public Report, *Certain Amorphous Silica Fabric From China*, Inv. Nos. 701-TA-555 and 731-TA-1310 (Review), USITC Pub. 5368 (Sep. 2022) (“PR”) at I-2 and I-17; *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 3; see also SGL Response to Notice of Institution, EDIS Doc. 764644 (Mar. 4, 2022) (“SGL Response”).

⁷ See AMI Response to the Notice of Institution, EDIS Doc. 764449 (Mar. 3, 2022) (“AMI Response”); SGL Response; and CR/PR at I-2.

⁸ Explanation of Commission Determination on Adequacy, EDIS Doc. 770829 (May 16, 2022).

⁹ *Certain Amorphous Silica Fabric From China; Scheduling of Expedited Five-Year Reviews*, 87 Fed. Reg. 53488 (Aug. 31, 2022).

¹⁰ AMI Final Comments, EDIS Doc. 778647 (Aug. 24, 2022).

U.S. industry data for these reviews are based on the information that the Domestic Producers, which are estimated to have accounted for 100 percent of domestic production of ASF in 2021, furnished in their respective responses to the notice of institution.¹¹ U.S. import data and related information are based on Commerce’s official import statistics and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”) data concerning subject imports from China that AMI submitted to the Commission.¹² Foreign industry data and related information are based on information from the original investigations, information furnished by Domestic Producers in these reviews, as well as publicly available information gathered by the Commission staff.¹³ Two U.S. purchasers responded to the Commission’s adequacy phase questionnaire.¹⁴

II. Domestic Like Product and Industry

A. Domestic Like Product

In making its determination under section 751(c) of the Tariff Act, the Commission defines the “domestic like product” and the “industry.”¹⁵ The Tariff Act defines “domestic like product” as “a product which is like, or in the absence of like, most similar in characteristics and uses with, the article subject to an investigation under this subtitle.”¹⁶ The Commission’s practice in five-year reviews is to examine the domestic like product definition from the original investigation and consider whether the record indicates any reason to revisit the prior findings.¹⁷

¹¹ See CR/PR at Table I-2; AMI Response at 11; AMI Response to Cure Letter, EDIS Doc. 766862 (Mar. 29, 2022); SGL Response at 2; SGL Response to Cure Letter, EDIS Doc. 767203 (Apr. 1, 2022) (“SGL Cure Response”) at 2.

¹² See CR/PR at Table I-5, Appendix E. As discussed in section III.B.1 below, we rely on CBP data concerning subject imports from China for subject import volume, apparent U.S. consumption, and market shares in 2021.

¹³ See CR/PR at I-24-28 and E-3-5. See also, AMI Response at 4 and Ex. 2.

¹⁴ CR/PR at D-3.

¹⁵ 19 U.S.C. § 1677(4)(A).

¹⁶ 19 U.S.C. § 1677(10); see, e.g., *Cleo Inc. v. United States*, 501 F.3d 1291, 1299 (Fed. Cir. 2007); *NEC Corp. v. Dep’t of Commerce*, 36 F. Supp. 2d 380, 383 (Ct. Int’l Trade 1998); *Nippon Steel Corp. v. United States*, 19 CIT 450, 455 (1995); *Timken Co. v. United States*, 913 F. Supp. 580, 584 (Ct. Int’l Trade 1996); *Torrington Co. v. United States*, 747 F. Supp. 744, 748-49 (Ct. Int’l Trade 1990), *aff’d*, 938 F.2d 1278 (Fed. Cir. 1991); see also S. Rep. No. 249, 96th Cong., 1st Sess. 90-91 (1979).

¹⁷ See, e.g., *Internal Combustion Industrial Forklift Trucks from Japan*, Inv. No. 731-TA-377 (Second Review), USITC Pub. 3831 at 8-9 (Dec. 2005); *Crawfish Tail Meat from China*, Inv. No. 731-TA-752 (Review), USITC Pub. 3614 at 4 (July 2003); *Steel Concrete Reinforcing Bar from Turkey*, Inv. No. 731-TA-745 (Review), USITC Pub. 3577 at 4 (Feb. 2003).

Commerce has defined the scope of the antidumping and countervailing orders in these five-year reviews as follows:

. . . woven (whether from yarns or rovings) industrial grade amorphous silica fabric, which contains a minimum of 90 percent silica (SiO₂) by nominal weight, and a nominal width in excess of 8 inches. The Order{s} cover{} industrial grade amorphous silica fabric regardless of other materials contained in the fabric, regardless of whether in roll form or cut-to-length, regardless of weight, width (except as noted above), or length. The Order{s} cover{} industrial grade amorphous silica fabric regardless of whether the product is approved by a standards testing body (such as being Factory Mutual (FM) Approved), or regardless of whether it meets any governmental specification.

Industrial grade amorphous silica fabric may be produced in various colors. Th{ese} Order{s} cover{} industrial grade amorphous silica fabric regardless of whether the fabric is colored. Industrial grade amorphous silica fabric may be coated or treated with materials that include, but are not limited to, oils, vermiculite, acrylic latex compound, silicone, aluminized polyester (Mylar®) film, pressure-sensitive adhesive, or other coatings and treatments. The Order{s} cover{} industrial grade amorphous silica fabric regardless of whether the fabric is coated or treated, and regardless of coating or treatment weight as a percentage of total product weight. Industrial grade amorphous silica fabric may be heat-cleaned. The Order{s} cover{} industrial grade amorphous silica fabric regardless of whether the fabric is heat-cleaned.

Industrial grade amorphous silica fabric may be imported in rolls or may be cut-to-length and then further fabricated to make welding curtains, welding blankets, welding pads, fire blankets, fire pads, or fire screens. Regardless of the name, all industrial grade amorphous silica fabric that has been further cut-to-length or cut-to-width or further finished by finishing the edges and/or adding grommets, is included within the scope of th{ese} Order{s}.

Subject merchandise also includes (1) any industrial grade amorphous silica fabric that has been converted into industrial grade amorphous silica fabric in China from fiberglass cloth produced in a third country; and (2) any industrial grade amorphous silica fabric that has been further processed in a third country prior to export to the United States, including but not limited to treating, coating, slitting, cutting to length, cutting to width, finishing the edges, adding grommets, or any other processing that would not otherwise remove the merchandise from the scope of the Order{s} if performed in the country of manufacture of the in-scope industrial grade amorphous silica fabric.

Excluded from the scope of the Order{s} {are} amorphous silica fabric that is subjected to controlled shrinkage, which is also called “pre-shrunk” or “aerospace grade” amorphous silica fabric. In order to be excluded as a pre-shrunk or aerospace grade amorphous silica fabric, the amorphous silica fabric must meet the following exclusion criteria: (1) the amorphous silica fabric must contain a minimum of 98 percent silica (SiO₂) by nominal weight; (2) the amorphous silica fabric must have an areal shrinkage of 4 percent or less; (3) the amorphous silica fabric must contain no coatings or treatments; and (4) the amorphous silica fabric must be white in color. For purposes of this scope, “areal shrinkage” refers to the extent to which a specimen of amorphous silica fabric shrinks while subjected to heating at 1800 degrees F for 30 minutes.

Also excluded from the scope are amorphous silica fabric rope and tubing (or sleeving). Amorphous silica fabric rope is a knitted or braided product made from amorphous silica yarns. Silica tubing (or sleeving) is braided into a hollow sleeve from amorphous silica yarns.

The subject imports are normally classified in subheadings 7019.59.4021, 7019.59.4096, 7019.59.9021, and 7019.59.9096 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS), but may also enter under HTSUS subheadings 7019.40.4030, 7019.40.4060, 7019.40.9030, 7019.40.9060, 7019.51.9010, 7019.51.9090, 7019.52.9010, 7019.52.9021, 7019.52.9096 and 7019.90.1000. HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes only; the written description of the scope of these Order{s} {are} dispositive.¹⁸

Industrial grade ASF is a woven textile product composed of silica strands. Domestically produced industrial grade ASF typically contains at least 96 percent silica, but may range as low as 90 percent silica.¹⁹ It possesses a number of properties that make it suitable for use in extreme heat applications, including thermal survivability, low thermal conductivity, chemical non-reactivity, flexibility, strength, abrasion resistance, and ease of handling. Specifically, industrial grade ASF may withstand heat up to 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit without sacrificing any of its other properties, and industrial grade ASF will remain in usable cloth form at temperatures of up to approximately 2,300 degrees Fahrenheit, albeit with some loss of flexibility. Industrial grade ASF will continue to provide some protection up to its melting point over 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit.²⁰

¹⁸ *Certain Amorphous Silica Fabric From the People’s Republic of China: Final Results of the Expedited First Sunset Review of the Antidumping Order*, 87 Fed. Reg. 34845 (Jun. 8, 2022) (“Commerce AD Sunset Determination”); *Issues and Decision Memorandum for the Expedited First Sunset Review of the Antidumping Duty Order on Certain Amorphous Silica Fabric from the People’s Republic of China* (Jun. 1, 2022) at 2-3; *Certain Amorphous Silica Fabric From the People’s Republic of China: Final Results of the Expedited First Sunset Review of the Countervailing Duty Order*, 87 Fed. Reg. 34641 (Jun. 7, 2022) (“Commerce CVD Sunset Determination”); *Issues and Decision Memorandum for the Expedited First Sunset Review of the Countervailing Duty Order on Certain Amorphous Silica Fabric from the People’s Republic of China*, (Jun. 1, 2022) at 2-3 (“Commerce CVD I&D Memo”).

¹⁹ CR/PR at I-9. There is no known U.S. production of ASF in the lower portion of this range. *Id.*

²⁰ CR/PR at I-9.

Industrial grade ASF is primarily manufactured in two weights, lightweight (*i.e.*, 18 ounces per square yard) and heavyweight (*i.e.*, 36 ounces per square yard), but may also include a medium weight (*i.e.*, 24 ounces per square yard), a very light weight (*i.e.*, 12 ounces per square yard) or a very heavyweight (*i.e.*, 40 ounces per square yard). Additionally, while industrial grade ASF is made predominantly in 36-inch and 60-inch widths, it may also come in other widths. Customers may also request a number of topical coatings and treatments to provide water or grease repellency and enhance the product's characteristics for specialized uses.²¹

Industrial grade ASF is used to insulate and to resist extreme heat so as to conserve energy and protect people, materials, and machinery from potential injury or damage, especially during welding activities. Other uses include as shields for ducting and pipes, as protection from sparks and molten metal splash, as insulating blankets in heat-treating and high-temperature processing operations, and as refractory lining and furnace curtains.²²

Customers may request industrial grade ASF to meet either military (MIL) or factory mutual (FM) standards relating to welding or hot-work applications. Military standard MIL-C-24576A is used by the U.S. Navy for welding protection during shipbuilding, maintenance, and repair, while FM 4950-certification ASF delineates whether the ASF is a blanket, curtain, or pad and therefore the product's exposure and vertical or horizontal application capabilities.²³

²¹ CR/PR at I-10.

²² CR/PR at I-10.

²³ CR/PR at I-10.

In the original investigations, the parties did not dispute the definition of the domestic like product.²⁴ In its preliminary determinations, the Commission defined a single domestic like product consisting of all industrial grade ASF that was coextensive with the scope of the investigations. The Commission further found that out-of-scope aerospace grade ASF and ASF rope, tubing and tape were not part of the domestic like product because they differed from in-scope ASF in terms of physical characteristics, manufacturing processes, channels of distribution, interchangeability, and customer perceptions.²⁵ In its final determinations, the Commission noted the absence of any information or argument suggesting a different result and again defined a single domestic like product consisting of all industrial grade ASF that was coextensive with Commerce's scope.²⁶

In these reviews, AMI agrees with the definition of the domestic like product adopted by the Commission in the original investigations,²⁷ and SGL raises no objection to this definition.²⁸ The record contains no new information suggesting that the characteristics of domestically produced ASF have changed since the original investigations so as to warrant revisiting the Commission's domestic like product definition.²⁹ Accordingly, we again define a single domestic like product consisting of all industrial grade ASF, coextensive with Commerce's scope.

²⁴ *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 8. See also, *Certain Amorphous Silica Fabric from China*, Inv. Nos. 701-TA-555 and 731-TA-1310 (Preliminary), USITC Pub. 4598 (March 2016) ("Preliminary Determinations") at 7.

²⁵ *Preliminary Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4598 at 7-10.

²⁶ *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 8. In the original determinations, the Commission noted that the use of "ASF" in the opinion was to industrial grade ASF encompassing the domestic like product, unless otherwise indicated. *Id.* at n.23.

²⁷ AMI Response at 13.

²⁸ See SGL Response and SGL Cure Response.

²⁹ See generally CR/PR at I-9-11.

B. Domestic Industry

Section 771(4)(A) of the Tariff Act defines the relevant industry as the domestic “producers as a whole of a domestic like product, or those producers whose collective output of a domestic like product constitutes a major proportion of the total domestic production of the product.”³⁰ In defining the domestic industry, the Commission’s general practice has been to include in the industry producers of all domestic production of the like product, whether toll-produced, captively consumed, or sold in the domestic merchant market.

In the original investigations, the Commission defined a single domestic industry comprised of all domestic producers of ASF.³¹ There were no related party or other domestic industry issues.³²

In the current reviews, AMI states that it agrees with the definition of the domestic industry that the Commission adopted in the original investigations and SGL raises no objection to this definition.³³ There is no evidence in the record of any related party issues in these reviews.³⁴ Consistent with our definition of the domestic like product, we define the domestic industry as all U.S. producers of ASF.

³⁰ 19 U.S.C. § 1677(4)(A). The definitions in 19 U.S.C. § 1677 are applicable to the entire subtitle containing the antidumping and countervailing duty laws, including 19 U.S.C. §§ 1675 and 1675a. *See* 19 U.S.C. § 1677.

³¹ *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 8.

³² *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 8.

³³ AMI Response at 13. *See* SGL Response and SGL Cure Response.

³⁴ AMI Response at 10; SGL Cure Response at 2.

III. Revocation of the Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Orders Would Likely Lead to Continuation or Recurrence of Material Injury Within a Reasonably Foreseeable Time

A. Legal Standards

In a five-year review conducted under section 751(c) of the Tariff Act, Commerce will revoke an antidumping or countervailing duty order unless: (1) it makes a determination that dumping or subsidization is likely to continue or recur and (2) the Commission makes a determination that revocation of the antidumping or countervailing duty order “would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury within a reasonably foreseeable time.”³⁵ The SAA states that “under the likelihood standard, the Commission will engage in a counterfactual analysis; it must decide the likely impact in the reasonably foreseeable future of an important change in the status quo – the revocation or termination of a proceeding and the elimination of its restraining effects on volumes and prices of imports.”³⁶ Thus, the likelihood standard is prospective in nature.³⁷ The U.S. Court of International Trade (“CIT”) has found that “likely,” as used in the five-year review provisions of the Act, means “probable,” and the Commission applies that standard in five-year reviews.³⁸

³⁵ 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a).

³⁶ SAA at 883-84. The SAA states that “[t]he likelihood of injury standard applies regardless of the nature of the Commission’s original determination (material injury, threat of material injury, or material retardation of an industry). Likewise, the standard applies to suspended investigations that were never completed.” *Id.* at 883.

³⁷ While the SAA states that “a separate determination regarding current material injury is not necessary,” it indicates that “the Commission may consider relevant factors such as current and likely continued depressed shipment levels and current and likely continued {sic} prices for the domestic like product in the U.S. market in making its determination of the likelihood of continuation or recurrence of material injury if the order is revoked.” SAA at 884.

³⁸ See *NMB Singapore Ltd. v. United States*, 288 F. Supp. 2d 1306, 1352 (Ct. Int’l Trade 2003) (“‘likely’ means probable within the context of 19 U.S.C. § 1675(c) and 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)”), *aff’d mem.*, 140 Fed. Appx. 268 (Fed. Cir. 2005); *Nippon Steel Corp. v. United States*, 26 CIT 1416, 1419 (2002) (same); *Usinor Industeel, S.A. v. United States*, 26 CIT 1402, 1404 nn.3, 6 (2002) (“more likely than not” standard is “consistent with the court’s opinion;” “the court has not interpreted ‘likely’ to imply any particular degree of ‘certainty’”); *Indorama Chemicals (Thailand) Ltd. v. United States*, 26 CIT 1059, 1070 (2002) (“standard is based on a likelihood of continuation or recurrence of injury, not a certainty”); *Usinor v. United States*, 26 CIT 767, 794 (2002) (“‘likely’ is tantamount to ‘probable,’ not merely ‘possible’”).

The statute states that “the Commission shall consider that the effects of revocation or termination may not be imminent, but may manifest themselves only over a longer period of time.”³⁹ According to the SAA, a “‘reasonably foreseeable time’ will vary from case-to-case, but normally will exceed the ‘imminent’ timeframe applicable in a threat of injury analysis in original investigations.”⁴⁰

Although the standard in a five-year review is not the same as the standard applied in an original investigation, it contains some of the same fundamental elements. The statute provides that the Commission is to “consider the likely volume, price effect, and impact of imports of the subject merchandise on the industry if the orders are revoked or the suspended investigation is terminated.”⁴¹ It directs the Commission to take into account its prior injury determination, whether any improvement in the state of the industry is related to the order or the suspension agreement under review, whether the industry is vulnerable to material injury if an order is revoked or a suspension agreement is terminated, and any findings by Commerce regarding duty absorption pursuant to 19 U.S.C. § 1675(a)(4).⁴² The statute further provides that the presence or absence of any factor that the Commission is required to consider shall not necessarily give decisive guidance with respect to the Commission’s determination.⁴³

³⁹ 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(5).

⁴⁰ SAA at 887. Among the factors that the Commission should consider in this regard are “the fungibility or differentiation within the product in question, the level of substitutability between the imported and domestic products, the channels of distribution used, the methods of contracting (such as spot sales or long-term contracts), and lead times for delivery of goods, as well as other factors that may only manifest themselves in the longer term, such as planned investment and the shifting of production facilities.” *Id.*

⁴¹ 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(1).

⁴² 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(1). Commerce has not made any duty absorption findings with respect to the orders under review. *Commerce I&D Memorandum* at 7-8

⁴³ 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(5). Although the Commission must consider all factors, no one factor is necessarily dispositive. SAA at 886.

In evaluating the likely volume of imports of subject merchandise if an order under review is revoked and/or a suspended investigation is terminated, the Commission is directed to consider whether the likely volume of imports would be significant either in absolute terms or relative to production or consumption in the United States.⁴⁴ In doing so, the Commission must consider “all relevant economic factors,” including four enumerated factors: (1) any likely increase in production capacity or existing unused production capacity in the exporting country; (2) existing inventories of the subject merchandise, or likely increases in inventories; (3) the existence of barriers to the importation of the subject merchandise into countries other than the United States; and (4) the potential for product shifting if production facilities in the foreign country, which can be used to produce the subject merchandise, are currently being used to produce other products.⁴⁵

In evaluating the likely price effects of subject imports if an order under review is revoked and/or a suspended investigation is terminated, the Commission is directed to consider whether there is likely to be significant underselling by the subject imports as compared to the domestic like product and whether the subject imports are likely to enter the United States at prices that otherwise would have a significant depressing or suppressing effect on the price of the domestic like product.⁴⁶

⁴⁴ 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(2).

⁴⁵ 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(2)(A-D).

⁴⁶ See 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(3). The SAA states that “{c}onsistent with its practice in investigations, in considering the likely price effects of imports in the event of revocation and termination, the Commission may rely on circumstantial, as well as direct, evidence of the adverse effects of unfairly traded imports on domestic prices.” SAA at 886.

In evaluating the likely impact of imports of subject merchandise if an order under review is revoked and/or a suspended investigation is terminated, the Commission is directed to consider all relevant economic factors that are likely to have a bearing on the state of the industry in the United States, including but not limited to the following: (1) likely declines in output, sales, market share, profits, productivity, return on investments, and utilization of capacity; (2) likely negative effects on cash flow, inventories, employment, wages, growth, ability to raise capital, and investment; and (3) likely negative effects on the existing development and production efforts of the industry, including efforts to develop a derivative or more advanced version of the domestic like product.⁴⁷ All relevant economic factors are to be considered within the context of the business cycle and the conditions of competition that are distinctive to the industry. As instructed by the statute, we have considered the extent to which any improvement in the state of the domestic industry is related to the orders under review and whether the industry is vulnerable to material injury upon revocation.⁴⁸

No respondent interested party participated in these expedited reviews. The record, therefore, contains limited new information with respect to the ASF industry in China. There also is limited information about the market for ASF in the United States during the period of review. Accordingly, for our determinations, we rely as appropriate on the facts available from the original investigations and the limited new information in the record of these reviews.

B. Conditions of Competition and the Business Cycle

In evaluating the likely impact of the subject imports on the domestic industry if an order is revoked, the statute directs the Commission to consider all relevant economic factors “within the context of the business cycle and conditions of competition that are distinctive to the affected industry.”⁴⁹ The following conditions of competition inform our determinations.

⁴⁷ 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(4).

⁴⁸ The SAA states that in assessing whether the domestic industry is vulnerable to injury if the order is revoked, the Commission “considers, in addition to imports, other factors that may be contributing to overall injury. While these factors, in some cases, may account for the injury to the domestic industry, they may also demonstrate that an industry is facing difficulties from a variety of sources and is vulnerable to dumped or subsidized imports.” SAA at 885.

⁴⁹ 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(4).

1. Demand Conditions

Original Investigations. In the original investigations, the Commission found that U.S. demand for ASF depended on the demand for downstream products in which ASF is used, primarily consisting of heat shields used in various industry sectors including ship building, ship maintenance and repair, and oil and gas.⁵⁰ The Commission also found that specific end uses for ASF included welding protection fabrics, fire blankets, safety clothing, and pipe and hose coverings.⁵¹ It observed that apparent U.S. consumption decreased during the period of investigations (“POI”) from *** kilograms in 2013 to *** kilograms in 2015.⁵² The Commission found that this decline resulted from decreased military shipbuilding, maintenance, and repair resulting from decreased military funding, and decreased demand from the oil and gas sector resulting from the low prices of those commodities.⁵³

⁵⁰ *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 13.

⁵¹ *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 13.

⁵² *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 13; *Confidential Original Determinations*, EDIS Doc. 767626 (Mar. 10, 2017) at 19.

⁵³ *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 15.

Current Reviews. In these reviews, the information available indicates that the factors influencing demand remain unchanged from the prior proceedings.⁵⁴ According to AMI, there have been no significant changes in the end uses and applications of ASF.⁵⁵ SGL asserts that demand for ASF products is expected to remain strong.⁵⁶ In 2021, apparent U.S. consumption of ASF was *** kilograms.⁵⁷

2. Supply Conditions

Original Investigations. In the original investigations, the Commission found that the domestic industry's market share was generally smaller than that for either subject imports or nonsubject imports, with the domestic industry's market share exceeding that of nonsubject imports only in 2015.⁵⁸ The domestic industry's market share ranged from a low of *** percent in 2013 to a high of *** percent in 2015.⁵⁹ The Commission observed that while subject import market share fluctuated over the period, it increased overall from *** percent in 2013 to *** percent in 2015 and accounted for the largest share of apparent U.S. consumption throughout the period.⁶⁰ Latvia was the only source of nonsubject imports of ASF during the POI and accounted for the second largest share of apparent U.S. consumption for most of the period. Nonsubject import market share declined from *** percent in 2013 to *** percent in 2015.⁶¹

⁵⁴ AMI did not identify any changes in the conditions of competition affecting U.S. demand for ASF. See AMI Response at 13.

⁵⁵ AMI Response at 13.

⁵⁶ See SGL Response.

⁵⁷ CR/PR at Table E-2. We rely on CBP data submitted by AMI instead of on official Commerce import statistics for the volume of subject imports in 2021, as used to calculate apparent U.S. consumption and market shares for that year. Official Commerce import statistics are overstated because each of the four relevant HTS statistical report numbers contains products outside the scope of these reviews, including various out-of-scope glass fiber and fiberglass products. *Id.* at Table I-5 source. Indeed, the vast majority (*** percent) of imports from China under those four HTS statistical report numbers in 2016 consisted of out-of-scope merchandise, when compared to the data concerning subject imports collected in the importer questionnaires in the original investigations for that year. *Calculated from id.* at Tables I-5, E-1. By contrast, the CBP data released in the 2020-2021 administrative review of the antidumping duty order, and relied upon by Commerce, show that there were no imports of subject ASF from China from March 1, 2020, through February 28, 2021. See *id.* at Table I-5 source and Appendix E; see also AMI Response at 4 and Ex. 2. We rely on official Commerce statistics only for the volume of nonsubject imports from Latvia and Belarus, and recognize that these data, and the apparent U.S. consumption and market shares derived from the data, are likely overstated by the inclusion of out-of-scope merchandise. See CR/PR at Table E-1 source.

⁵⁸ *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 15.

⁵⁹ *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 15; *Confidential Original Determinations* at 20.

⁶⁰ *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 16; *Confidential Original Determinations* at 20.

⁶¹ *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 16; *Confidential Original Determinations* at 20-21.

Current Reviews. The domestic industry was *** source of supply to the U.S. market in 2021, with U.S. shipments of *** kilograms of ASF accounting for *** percent of apparent U.S. consumption in 2021.⁶² The information available indicates that there were no subject imports from China in the U.S. market in 2021.⁶³ Nonsubject imports were *** source of supply in 2021, with nonsubject imports of 182,873 kilograms accounting for *** percent of apparent U.S. consumption.⁶⁴ The largest nonsubject sources of ASF during the review period were Latvia and Belarus.⁶⁵

3. Substitutability and Other Conditions

Original Investigations. In the original investigations, the Commission found a high degree of substitutability between domestically produced ASF and subject imports,⁶⁶ and that price was an important factor in purchasing decisions.⁶⁷ The Commission also observed that some purchases of ASF were subject to the Berry Amendment or Buy American Act and thus were required to be of U.S. origin.⁶⁸ Lastly, the Commission found that the domestic industry produced an abrasion resistant ASF that competed with subject imported fabrication grade ASF.⁶⁹

Current Reviews. According to AMI, the U.S. market for ASF remains highly price-sensitive based on the substitutable nature of ASF and the paramount importance of price in purchasing decisions.⁷⁰ The record in these reviews contains no new information to indicate that the degree of substitutability between the domestic like product and subject imports or the importance of price in purchasing decisions has changed since the original investigations.⁷¹ Accordingly, we find that domestically produced ASF and subject imports are highly substitutable, and that price continues to be an important factor in purchasing decisions.

⁶² CR/PR at Table E-2.

⁶³ CR/PR at Table E-2.

⁶⁴ CR/PR at Table E-2. We recognize that the data for nonsubject imports may be overstated, as these data are based on Commerce statistics under statistical report numbers that contain products outside the scope of these reviews.

⁶⁵ CR/PR at Table E-1. During the original investigations, *** nonsubject imports of ASF were from Latvia. *Id.* at E-4. Appendix E includes Latvia as well as Belarus, given the expiration of sanctions on Belarus since the imposition of the orders. *Id.*

⁶⁶ *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 17-18.

⁶⁷ *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 17-18.

⁶⁸ *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 16.

⁶⁹ *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 17.

⁷⁰ AMI Response at 8. AMI Final Comments at 9.

⁷¹ See AMI Response at 13.

Both responding purchasers reported ***. Responding purchaser *** reported that, ***.⁷² Responding purchaser *** reports that ***.⁷³ Both responding purchasers ***.⁷⁴

Effective September 24, 2018, ASF imported from China became subject to a 25 percent *ad valorem* duty under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974⁷⁵ (“section 301 tariffs”).⁷⁶

C. Likely Volume of Subject Imports

1. Original Investigations

In the original investigations, the Commission found that the volume of subject imports was significant on an absolute basis and relative to consumption.⁷⁷ The Commission observed that while the volume of subject imports decreased during the POI, apparent U.S. consumption decreased by a significantly greater amount.⁷⁸ Consequently, while subject import volume decreased from *** kilograms in 2013 to *** kilograms in 2015, subject import market share increased irregularly from *** percent in 2013 to *** percent in 2015.⁷⁹ Both subject import volume and market share were higher in January-September 2016 (“interim 2016”) than in January-September 2015 (“interim 2015”).⁸⁰

⁷² CR/PR at D-3.

⁷³ CR/PR at D-3-4.

⁷⁴ CR/PR at D-4.

⁷⁵ 19 U.S.C. § 2411.

⁷⁶ CR/PR at I-8; *Notice of Action Pursuant to Section 301: China’s Acts, Policies, and Practices Related to Technology Transfer, Intellectual Property, and Innovation*, 83 Fed. Reg. 47974 (Sep. 21, 2018).

⁷⁷ *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 18.

⁷⁸ *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 18.

⁷⁹ *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 18; *Confidential Original Determinations* at 23-4.

⁸⁰ *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 18; *Confidential Original Determinations* at 23-4.

Subject import volume was *** kilograms in interim 2016, accounting for *** percent of apparent U.S. consumption, compared to *** kilograms in interim 2015, accounting for *** percent of apparent U.S. consumption. *Id.*

2. Current Reviews

The record in these five-year reviews indicates that the orders have had a disciplining effect on subject import volumes during the period of review. The information available show that subject import volumes decreased from *** kilograms in 2016, the last year for which data were collected in the original investigations, to zero towards the end of the period of review.⁸¹ By contrast, subject import volume peaked during the original investigations at *** kilograms in 2013.⁸²

AMI contends that the apparent absence of subject imports from the U.S. market during the period of review understates the extent to which subject producers have continued to serve the U.S. market. According to AMI, certain producers in China have shifted to exporting out-of-scope ASF containing between 70 to 90 percent silica content, falling below the 90 percent silica threshold for ASF subject to the orders, and advertising the out-of-scope ASF for use in the same applications as in-scope ASF.⁸³ AMI also notes that in November 2021, Commerce initiated a minor alterations circumvention inquiry, which is currently ongoing.⁸⁴

⁸¹ CR/PR at Table E-1; AMI's Response at Ex. 2.

⁸² CR/PR at Tables E-2 and C-1.

⁸³ AMI Response at 5-7 and 11. AMI Final Comments at 2 and 4.

⁸⁴ AMI Response at 5.

Due to the expedited nature of these reviews, the record contains limited information on the ASF industry in China. The information available indicates that subject producers in China have the means and incentive to increase exports of subject merchandise to the U.S. market within a reasonably foreseeable time if the orders were revoked. AMI provided a list of 90 possible producers of ASF in China during the period of review.⁸⁵ The record also indicates that HuaTek New Material Inc., a Chinese producer of ASF, announced an expansion of its capacity for the production of fiberglass products, including ASF, to 2,400 metric tons by the end of 2018.⁸⁶ Global Trade Atlas (“GTA”) data show that China was the largest global exporter of woven fabrics of glass fibers, a product category that includes ASF as well as out-of-scope products, during each year of the period of review, and increased its exports of such products from \$219.9 million in 2016 to \$385.0 million in 2021.⁸⁷ Thus, the available information indicates that the subject industry in China remains large.

⁸⁵ CR/PR at I-24.

⁸⁶ CR/PR at Table I-7.

⁸⁷ CR/PR at I-27-I-28 and Table I-9. Additionally, Commerce has found that a subsidy program likely to continue or recur includes an export subsidy program within the meaning of Article 3.1 of the World Trade Organization (“WTO”) Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures. Commerce CVD I&D Memo at 10.

Furthermore, ASF producers in China are likely to direct additional exports to the United States upon revocation. Although subject imports declined to zero after imposition of the orders, the information available indicates that subject producers in China remain interested in serving the U.S. market. According to GTA data, the United States was the second largest destination for Chinese exports of woven fabrics of glass fibers, a category including ASF and out-of-scope merchandise, in 2021.⁸⁸ Similarly, official Commerce import statistics show that out-of-scope imports from China under the four HTS statistical numbers that include ASF were a substantial 2.2 million kilograms in 2021.⁸⁹ These data are consistent with AMI's contention that subject producers in China have been exporting out-of-scope ASF with a silica content of between 70 and 90 percent for use in the same applications as in-scope ASF, which would have enabled them to maintain ready distribution networks in the United States through affiliated importers and sales agents.⁹⁰ Moreover, since 2020, Chinese exports of ASF from China have been subject to antidumping and countervailing duty orders in the European Union ("EU") and an antidumping duty order in India, providing further incentive for subject producers to direct exports to the U.S. market if the orders are revoked.⁹¹

Given the significant volume and increasing market share of subject imports during the original investigations, the subject industry's substantial capacity and exports, and the attractiveness of the U.S. market to subject producers, we find that the volume of subject imports would likely be significant, both in absolute terms and relative to consumption in the United States, if the orders were revoked.⁹²

⁸⁸ CR/PR at Table I-8.

⁸⁹ CR/PR at Table I-5.

⁹⁰ AMI Response at 5-7 and 11. AMI Final Comments at 2 and 4.

⁹¹ CR/PR at I-26.

⁹² We observe that the record in these expedited reviews contains no information concerning inventories of the subject merchandise or the potential for product shifting. No responding purchaser reported ***. See CR/PR at D-3-4. Furthermore, the U.S. market is sufficiently attractive to encourage subject producers to export significant quantities of ASF in the absence of the orders.

D. Likely Price Effects

1. Original Investigations

In the original investigations, the Commission found that the subject imports undersold the domestic like product in all 35 quarterly comparisons, involving approximately 1.8 million square yards of subject imports, at margins averaging 36.8 percent.⁹³ Based on the widespread underselling and the importance of price in purchasing decisions, the Commission found that there was significant underselling.⁹⁴ The Commission also found that lower prices enabled subject imports to obtain substantial sales throughout the POI, resulting in the domestic industry losing market share to subject imports in interim 2016.⁹⁵ Although, the Commission did not find that subject imports had depressed or suppressed prices for the domestic like product, the Commission concluded that significant underselling by significant volumes of subject imports had resulted in the domestic industry losing sales and, in interim 2016, market share.⁹⁶

2. Current Reviews

As previously discussed, we continue to find a high degree of substitutability between the domestic like product and subject imports and that price is an important factor in purchasing decisions. Due to the expedited nature of these reviews, the record does not contain new product-specific pricing information. Based on the available information, we find that if the antidumping and countervailing duty orders were revoked, subject imports would likely undersell the domestic like product to gain sales and market share, as they did during the original investigations. Because price is an important factor in purchasing decisions and ASF is highly substitutable regardless of source, the increased volume of low-priced subject imports likely after revocation would likely force domestic producers to either reduce their prices or risk losing sales and market share to subject imports.

Accordingly, we find that if the orders were revoked, significant volumes of cumulated subject imports would likely undersell the domestic like product to a significant degree to gain market share and/or have a significant depressing or suppressing effect on prices for the domestic like product.

⁹³ *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 19.

⁹⁴ *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 19.

⁹⁵ *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 20.

⁹⁶ *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 20.

E. Likely Impact

1. Original Investigations

In the original investigations, the Commission found that the widespread underselling of subject imports resulted in the domestic industry losing sales it otherwise would have obtained,⁹⁷ ultimately resulting in subject imports taking market share from the domestic industry in interim 2016.⁹⁸ Due to the domestic industry's loss of sales and market share to subject imports, the Commission found that the industry made fewer shipments and obtained fewer revenues than it would have otherwise, exacerbating its poor financial performance throughout the POI.⁹⁹ The Commission thus concluded that subject imports had a significant impact on the domestic industry.¹⁰⁰

The Commission also considered whether there were other factors that may have affected the domestic industry to ensure that they did not attribute injury from those other factors to subject imports. While acknowledging that declining U.S. demand for ASF during the POI contributed to the domestic industry's declines in production, output, and revenues, the Commission found that the domestic industry lost large volumes of its remaining sales in the shrinking market to subject imports,¹⁰¹ and would have obtained substantial additional shipments and revenues but for subject imports.¹⁰² Additionally, the Commission observed that shipments of subject imports declined by less than shipments by the domestic industry over the POI, resulting in the domestic industry having its lowest market share of the period in interim 2016, when subject imports obtained their peak market share.¹⁰³

⁹⁷ *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 23.

⁹⁸ *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 23.

⁹⁹ *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 23.

¹⁰⁰ *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 23.

¹⁰¹ *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 23-24.

¹⁰² *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 24.

¹⁰³ *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 24.

In considering the role of nonsubject imports for purposes of non-attribution, the Commission found that while declining shipments of nonsubject imports appeared to result in increased market shares for both the domestic industry and subject imports in 2015, subject imports took market share from both nonsubject imports and the domestic industry in interim 2016.¹⁰⁴ The Commission also observed that purchasers had indicated in their lost sales/lost revenue surveys that they would have purchased from the domestic industry but for lower-priced subject imports. Based on the foregoing, the Commission concluded that any adverse effects from nonsubject imports were distinguishable from those attributed to subject imports.¹⁰⁵

2. Current Reviews

Due to the expedited nature of these reviews, the record contains limited new information on the domestic industry's condition, consisting of data provided by the Domestic Producers in their response to the notice of institution.

The information available indicates that the domestic industry's performance in 2021 was generally stronger than its performance in 2015, the last full year of the original investigations. The domestic industry's capacity and production were lower in 2021 than in 2015, but its capacity utilization rate was higher. Specifically, in 2021, the domestic industry's production capacity was *** kilograms, its production was *** kilograms, and its capacity utilization rate was *** percent.¹⁰⁶ The industry's U.S. shipments were *** kilograms, with a value of \$***, and its net sales revenues were \$*** in 2021, which were higher than in 2015.¹⁰⁷ Similarly, the industry's gross profit of \$*** in 2021 was higher than in 2015, and its operating income of ***, equivalent to *** percent of net sales, was an improvement over 2015.¹⁰⁸ This limited information is insufficient for us to make a finding as to whether the domestic industry is vulnerable to the continuation or recurrence of material injury in the event of revocation of the orders.

¹⁰⁴ *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 24.

¹⁰⁵ *Original Determinations*, USITC Pub. 4672 at 24.

¹⁰⁶ CR/PR at Table I-4. In 2015, the domestic industry's capacity was ***, its production was *** kilograms, and its capacity utilization rate was *** percent. *Id.* See also CR/PR Appendix C.

¹⁰⁷ CR/PR at Table I-4. In 2015, the domestic industry's U.S. shipments were *** kilograms, valued at \$***, and its net sales revenues were \$***. *Id.*

¹⁰⁸ CR/PR at Table I-4. In 2015, the domestic industry's gross profit was *** and its operating income was ***, equivalent to *** percent of net sales. *Id.*

Based on the information available in these reviews, we find that revocation of the orders would likely lead to a significant volume of subject imports that would likely significantly undersell the domestic like product. Given the high degree of substitutability between domestically produced ASF and subject imports and the importance of price to purchasers, increasing volumes of low-priced subject imports would likely capture sales and market share from the domestic industry and/or force domestic producers to lower their prices to maintain their sales, thereby depressing or suppressing prices for the domestic like product to a significant degree. Consequently, subject imports would likely have a significant impact on the production, shipments, sales, market share, and revenue of the domestic industry. These declines would likely impact the domestic industry's profitability and employment, and its ability to raise capital, and to make and maintain capital investments.

We have also considered the role of factors other than subject imports, including the presence of nonsubject imports, so as not to attribute injury from other factors to subject imports. Although nonsubject imports have increased their presence in the U.S. market since the original investigations, and their market share was *** percent in 2021,¹⁰⁹ the record provides no indication that the presence of nonsubject imports would prevent subject imports from entering the U.S. market in significant volumes through significant underselling upon revocation of the orders. Given the fact that the domestic industry supplies a majority of the U.S. market, the high degree of substitutability between subject imports and the domestic like product, and the importance of price in purchasing decisions, we find it likely that the increase in low-priced subject imports would come at least in part at the expense of the domestic industry. Consequently, we find that subject imports would likely cause adverse effects on the domestic industry that are distinct from any by nonsubject imports in the event of revocation.

¹⁰⁹ CR/PR at Table E-2. As previously discussed, we recognize that nonsubject import market share may be overstated due to the inclusion of out-of-scope merchandise.

We have also considered the likely effects of demand trends on the domestic industry. We recognize that apparent U.S. consumption was *** lower in 2021, at *** kilograms, than in 2015, at *** kilograms.¹¹⁰ Nevertheless, neither AMI nor the responding purchasers reported that demand had declined during the period of review, and SGL reported that it expected ASF demand to remain strong.¹¹¹ Furthermore, the domestic industry was able to increase its U.S. shipments and market share and improve its financial performance in 2021 relative to 2015, notwithstanding any decline in demand.¹¹² We therefore find that the adverse effects likely to be caused by subject imports upon revocation of the orders would be distinct from any adverse effects caused by demand trends.

In sum, we conclude that if the orders were revoked, subject imports from China would likely have a significant impact on the domestic industry within a reasonably foreseeable time.

IV. Conclusion

For the reasons discussed above, we determine that revocation of the antidumping and countervailing duty orders on ASF from China would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time.

¹¹⁰ See CR/PR at Table E-2.

¹¹¹ CR/PR at D-3-4; SGL's Response at 2; *see also* AMI's Response at 11-13.

¹¹² See CR/PR at Tables I-4, E-2.

Information obtained in these reviews

Background

On February 1, 2022, the U.S. International Trade Commission (“Commission”) gave notice, pursuant to section 751(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (“the Act”),¹ that it had instituted reviews to determine whether revocation of the antidumping and countervailing duty orders on certain amorphous silica fabric (“ASF”) from China would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury.² All interested parties were requested to respond to this notice by submitting certain information requested by the Commission.³ ⁴ Table I-1 presents information relating to the background and schedule of this proceeding.

Table I-1

ASF: Information relating to the background and schedule of this proceeding

Effective date	Action
February 1, 2022	Notice of initiation by Commerce (87 FR 5467, February 1, 2022)
February 1, 2022	Notice of institution by Commission (87 FR 5511, February 1, 2022)
May 9, 2022	Commission’s vote on adequacy (87 FR 53488, August 31, 2022)
June 7, 2022	Commerce’s results of its expedited review of countervailing duty order (87 FR 34641, June 7, 2022)
June 8, 2022	Commerce’s results of its expedited review of antidumping duty order (87 FR 34845, June 8, 2022)
September 22, 2022	Commission’s determinations and views

¹ 19 U.S.C. 1675(c).

² 87 FR 5511, February 1, 2022. In accordance with section 751(c) of the Act, the U.S. Department of Commerce (“Commerce”) published a notice of initiation of five-year reviews of the subject antidumping and countervailing duty orders. 87 FR 5467, February 1, 2022. Pertinent Federal Register notices are referenced in app. A, and may be found at the Commission’s website (www.usitc.gov).

³ As part of their response to the notice of institution, interested parties were requested to provide company-specific information. That information is presented in app. B. Summary data compiled in the original investigations are presented in app. C.

⁴ Interested parties were also requested to provide a list of three to five leading purchasers in the U.S. market for the domestic like product and the subject merchandise. Presented in app. D are the responses received from purchaser surveys transmitted to the purchasers identified in this proceeding.

Responses to the Commission’s notice of institution

Individual responses

The Commission received two submissions in response to its notice of institution in the subject reviews. They were filed on behalf of the following entities: (1) Auburn Manufacturing, Inc. (“AMI”), a domestic producer of ASF; and (2) SGL Composites Inc. (“SGL”), a domestic producer of ASF.^{5 6}

A complete response to the Commission’s notice of institution requires that a responding interested party submit to the Commission all the information listed in the notice. Responding firms are given an opportunity to remedy and explain any deficiencies in their responses. A summary of the number of responses and estimates of coverage for each is shown in table I-2.

Table I-2
ASF: Summary of completed responses to the Commission’s notice of institution

Interested party	Type	Number of firms	Coverage
U.S. producer	Domestic	2	100.0%

Note: During the original investigations, AMI and SGL (formerly HITCO Carbon Composites, Inc. (“HITCO”)) accounted for all known U.S. production of ASF during 2015. Original publication, pp. I-5 and III-1. In 2021, AMI and SGL assert that they remain the sole two domestic producers of ASF. Commission staff are not aware of any other domestic producer of ASF. As a result, it is estimated that AMI and SGL accounted for 100 percent of ASF production in the United States during 2021. AMI’s response to the notice of institution, March 3, 2022, p. 9; SGL’s response to the notice of institution, March 3, 2022, p.1.

Party comments on adequacy

The Commission received party comments from AMI on the adequacy of responses to the notice of institution and whether the Commission should conduct expedited or full reviews. AMI requests that the Commission conduct expedited reviews of the antidumping and countervailing duty orders on ASF.⁷

⁵ AMI was the sole petitioner in the original investigations. Certain Amorphous Silica Fabric from China, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-555 and 731-TA-1310 (Final), USITC Publication 4672, March 2017 (“Original publication”), p. I-1; AMI’s response to the notice of institution, March 3, 2022, p. 2.

⁶ During the final investigations, the Commission received U.S. producer data from the two known U.S. producers of ASF, AMI and HITCO. Original publication, p. III-1. HITCO changed its name to SGL Composites Inc. (*i.e.*, SGL) in 2018. SGL’s response to the notice of institution, March 3, 2022, p. 1; SGL’s supplemental response to the notice of institution, April 1, 2022, p. 1.

⁷ AMI’s comments on adequacy, April 13, 2022, pp. 2-4.

The original investigations

The original investigations resulted from petitions filed on January 20, 2016, with Commerce and the Commission by AMI, Mechanic Falls, Maine.⁸ On January 25, 2017, Commerce determined that imports of ASF from China were being sold at less than fair value (“LTFV”) and subsidized by the government of China.⁹ The Commission determined on March 10, 2017, that an industry in the United States was materially injured by reason of LTFV imports of ASF from China that had been found by Commerce to be sold in the United States at LTFV and to be subsidized by the government of China.^{10 11 12} On March 17, 2017, Commerce issued its antidumping and countervailing duty orders with the final weighted-average dumping margin of 162.47 percent¹³ and net subsidy rates ranging from 48.94 to 165.39 percent.¹⁴

⁸ Original publication, p. I-1.

⁹ 82 FR 8399, January 25, 2017 (antidumping duty determination) and 82 FR 8405, January 25, 2017 (countervailing duty determination).

¹⁰ 82 FR 14030, March 16, 2017.

¹¹ Commissioners Meredith M. Broadbent and F. Scott Kieff determined that an industry in the United States was threatened with material injury by reason of imports of ASF from China that Commerce found to be sold in the United States at LTFV and subsidized by the government of China. Original publication, p. 3, fn. 1.

¹² Commissioners Meredith M. Broadbent and F. Scott Kieff, having determined that a domestic industry was not materially injured by reason of imports of ASF from China sold at LTFV, did not reach the issue of critical circumstances. Vice Chair David S. Johanson made a negative critical circumstances finding. Chair Rhonda K. Schmidlein and Commissioner Irving A. Williamson made affirmative critical circumstances findings. Because a minority of participating Commissioners made affirmative findings that imports subject to Commerce’s affirmative critical circumstances determination were likely to undermine seriously the remedial effect of the antidumping duty order on ASF from China, the Commission did not make an affirmative critical circumstances finding with respect to such imports. 82 FR 14030, March 16, 2017.

¹³ 82 FR 14314, March 17, 2017.

¹⁴ 82 FR 14316, March 17, 2017.

Previous and related investigations

The Commission has conducted one previous import injury investigation on amorphous silica filament fabric, a similar product to ASF.¹⁵ Table I-3 presents information on this previous and related title VII investigation.

Table I-3

ASF or similar merchandise: Previous and related title VII investigation and status of the order

Date	Number	Country	Product Scope	Determination	Current Status of Order
1986	731-TA-355	Japan	Amorphous silica filament fabric	Affirmative	Order revoked after original investigation, 11/14/1995.

Source: U.S. International Trade Commission publications and Federal Register notices.

Note: "Date" refers to the year in which the investigation or review was instituted by the Commission.

Note: Following five consecutive administrative reviews where no domestic interested party objected to the revocation of the order, effective November 14, 1995, Commerce revoked the antidumping duty order on amorphous silica filament fabric from Japan. 60 FR 57217, November 14, 1995.

¹⁵ During the final investigation on amorphous silica filament fabric, the scope of the product was defined as "commercial grade woven fabric of glass (silica filaments), whether or not colored, containing not over 17 percent of wool by weight." 52 FR 28033, July 27, 1987. See also the original publication, p. I-4.

Commerce's five-year reviews

Commerce announced that it would conduct expedited reviews with respect to the orders on imports of ASF from China with the intent of issuing the final results of these reviews based on the facts available not later than June 1, 2022.¹⁶ Commerce publishes its Issues and Decision Memoranda and its final results concurrently, accessible upon publication at <http://enforcement.trade.gov/frn/>. Issues and Decision Memoranda contain complete and up-to-date information regarding the background and history of the orders, including scope rulings, duty absorption, changed circumstances reviews, and anticircumvention, as well as any decisions that may have been pending at the issuance of this report. Any foreign producers/exporters that are not currently subject to the antidumping and countervailing duty orders on imports of ASF from China are noted in the sections titled "The original investigations" and "U.S. imports," if applicable.

The product

Commerce's scope

Commerce has defined the scope as follows:¹⁷

The product covered by this order is woven (whether from yarns or rovings) industrial grade amorphous silica fabric, which contains a minimum of 90 percent silica (SiO₂) by nominal weight, and a nominal width in excess of 8 inches. The order covers industrial grade amorphous silica fabric regardless of other materials contained in the fabric, regardless of whether in roll form or cut-to-length, regardless of weight, width (except as noted above), or length. The order covers industrial grade amorphous silica fabric regardless of whether the product is approved by a standards testing body (such as being Factory Mutual (FM) Approved), or regardless of whether it meets any governmental specification.

¹⁶ Letter from Abdelali Elouaradia, Office Director, Office IV, AD/CVD Operations, Enforcement and Compliance, U.S. Department of Commerce to Nannette Christ, Director, Office of Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, March 21, 2022.

¹⁷ 82 FR 14314, March 17, 2017 (Commerce's final antidumping duty order); 82 FR 14316, March 17, 2017 (Commerce's final countervailing duty order).

Industrial grade amorphous silica fabric may be produced in various colors. The order covers industrial grade amorphous silica fabric regardless of whether the fabric is colored. Industrial grade amorphous silica fabric may be coated or treated with materials that include, but are not limited to, oils, vermiculite, acrylic latex compound, silicone, aluminized polyester (Mylar®) film, pressure-sensitive adhesive, or other coatings and treatments. The order covers industrial grade amorphous silica fabric regardless of whether the fabric is coated or treated, and regardless of coating or treatment weight as a percentage of total product weight. Industrial grade amorphous silica fabric may be heat-cleaned. The order covers industrial grade amorphous silica fabric regardless of whether the fabric is heat-cleaned.

Industrial grade amorphous silica fabric may be imported in rolls or may be cut-to-length and then further fabricated to make welding curtains, welding blankets, welding pads, fire blankets, fire pads, or fire screens. Regardless of the name, all industrial grade amorphous silica fabric that has been further cut-to-length or cut-to-width or further finished by finishing the edges and/or adding grommets, is included within the scope of this order.

Subject merchandise also includes (1) any industrial grade amorphous silica fabric that has been converted into industrial grade amorphous silica fabric in China from fiberglass cloth produced in a third country; and (2) any industrial grade amorphous silica fabric that has been further processed in a third country prior to export to the United States, including but not limited to treating, coating, slitting, cutting to length, cutting to width, finishing the edges, adding grommets, or any other processing that would not otherwise remove the merchandise from the scope of the order if performed in the country of manufacture of the in-scope industrial grade amorphous silica fabric.

Excluded from the scope of the order is amorphous silica fabric that is subjected to controlled shrinkage, which is also called “pre-shrunk” or “aerospace grade” amorphous silica fabric. In order to be excluded as a pre-shrunk or aerospace grade amorphous silica fabric, the amorphous silica fabric must meet the following exclusion criteria: (1) The amorphous silica fabric must contain a minimum of 98 percent silica (SiO₂) by nominal weight; (2) the amorphous silica fabric must have an areal shrinkage of 4 percent or less; (3) the amorphous silica fabric must contain no coatings or treatments; and (4) the amorphous silica fabric must be white in color. For purposes of this scope, “areal shrinkage” refers to the extent to which a specimen of amorphous silica fabric shrinks while subjected to heating at 1800 degrees F for 30 minutes.¹⁸

Also excluded from the scope are amorphous silica fabric rope and tubing (or sleeving). Amorphous silica fabric rope is a knitted or braided product made from amorphous silica yarns. Silica tubing (or sleeving) is braided into a hollow sleeve from amorphous silica yarns.¹⁹

¹⁸ Areal shrinkage is expressed as the following percentage: $((\text{Fired Area, cm}^2 - \text{Initial Area, cm}^2) / \text{Initial Area, cm}^2) \times 100 = \text{Areal Shrinkage, \%}$.

¹⁹ Following allegations of circumvention by AMI, effective November 24, 2021, Commerce initiated a country-wide circumvention inquiry to determine whether imports of mid silica fabric with 70–90 percent silica content from China are circumventing the antidumping and countervailing duty orders on certain amorphous silica fabric with a silica content of at least 90 percent from China. AMI’s response to the notice of institution, March 3, 2022, pp. 5-7; and 86 FR 67022, November 24, 2021.

Commerce intends to issue its final determination within 300 days of the date of publication of its initiation of circumvention inquiry (i.e., September 20, 2022). 86 FR 67022, November 24, 2021.

U.S. tariff treatment²⁰

ASF is currently provided for in Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (“HTSUS” or “HTS”) subheadings 7019.69.40 and 7019.69.90. ASF produced in China and imported into the U.S. market under these subheadings has column 1-general duty rates of 7.3 and 7.0 percent ad valorem, respectively. Some subject goods may also be reported under HTS subheadings 7019.61.40, 7019.61.90, 7019.62.40, 7019.62.90, 7019.65.90, 7019.66.40, 7019.66, 90, and 7019.90.11.²¹ These alternate provisions have general duty rates ranging from 4.8 to 7.3 percent. Effective September 24, 2018, ASF produced in China is subject to an additional 25 percent ad valorem duty under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974.²² Decisions on the tariff classification and treatment of imported goods are within the authority of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

²⁰ The main statistical reporting numbers identified in Commerce’s scope language from the original antidumping and countervailing duty orders were: 7019.59.4021, 7019.59.4096, 7019.59.9021, and 7019.59.9096. These statistical reporting numbers were deleted under the HTSUS revision effective January 27, 2022. The equivalent 2022 HTS statistical reporting numbers are: 7019.69.4021, 7019.69.4096, 7019.69.9010, and 7019.69.9021.

Commerce’s scope language from the original antidumping and countervailing duty orders states that subject merchandise may also enter under statistical reporting numbers: 7019.40.4030, 7019.40.4060, 7019.40.9030, 7019.40.9060, 7019.51.9010, 7019.51.9090, 7019.52.9010, 7019.52.9021, 7019.52.9096, and 7019.90.1000. These statistical reporting numbers were also deleted, effective January 27, 2022. The equivalent statistical reporting numbers in the 2022 HTS are: 7019.66.4010, 7019.66.4021, 7019.61.4030, 7019.61.4060, 7019.61.9030, 7019.61.9060, 7019.62.4030, 7019.62.4060, 7019.62.9030, 7019.62.9060, 7019.65.9010, 7019.65.9090, 7019.66.9010, 7019.66.9021, 7019.66.9060, and 7019.90.1100.

²¹ All of the cited HTS provisions are broader or residual categories that may include out-of-scope merchandise.

²² See also HTS heading 9903.88.03 and U.S. notes 20(e) and 20(f) to subchapter III of chapter 99 and related tariff provisions for this duty treatment. USITC, HTSUS (2022) Basic Edition, Publication 5277, January 2022, pp. 99-III-25 – 99-III-26, 99-III-44.

Description and uses²³

Industrial grade ASF is a woven textile product composed of numerous fine, discrete silica strands and is principally used for welding protection. The domestically produced form typically contains a minimum of 96 percent silica, which is in the “amorphous,” or noncrystalline, state. While ASF may range as low as 90 percent silica, there is no known U.S. production in the lower portion of this range.²⁴

Industrial grade ASF possesses a combination of chemical and physical properties, including thermal survivability, low thermal conductivity, chemical non-reactivity, flexibility, strength, abrasion resistance, and ease of handling.²⁵ These properties make it useful in a number of industrial applications, especially to insulate and resist extreme heat.

The thermal insulation characteristics of industrial grade ASF cover a wide range of temperatures. Specifically, industrial grade ASF is capable of withstanding heat up to 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit without sacrificing any of its other properties and will remain in usable cloth form up to approximately 2,300 degrees Fahrenheit, albeit with some loss of flexibility. Industrial grade ASF will continue to provide some protection up to its melting point over 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

²³ Unless otherwise noted, this information is based on the original publication, pp. I-9-I-11.

²⁴ In the original investigations, the Chinese producer MOWCO Industry Limited reportedly produced an ASF with high temperature resistance that has a minimum silica content of 94 percent and Eastern European, principally Latvian, ASF is produced with a silica content of 94 percent.

During the original investigations, respondent parties noted a market for fabric with silica contents lower than 90 percent. Regarding lower silicon content ASF, there is no known U.S. production of mid-silica fabric, comprising fabric with silica contents as low as 70 percent.

²⁵ In the original investigations, importer AVS Industries, LLC (“AVS”) stated that there was a qualitative difference between the high-strength fabrication grade ASF imports coming from China and industrial grade ASF produced in the United States. AVS stated that the U.S. producers did not produce the fabrication grade ASF. The ASF types are differentiated by the content of silica fabrics and manufacturing process. Imported “high-strength” ASF competes with domestically-produced ASF that has been coated for abrasion resistance.

Most industrial grade ASF is manufactured in two weights, lightweight (i.e., 18 ounces per square yard) and heavyweight (i.e., 36 ounces per square yard), but may also include a medium weight (i.e., 24 ounces per square yard), a very light weight (12 ounces per square yard) or a very heavyweight (40 ounces per square yard). There are also a number of topical coatings and treatments that may be requested by the customer to enhance the product's characteristics for specialized uses and provide water or grease repellency. These coatings include, but are not limited to, neoprene or silicone for water repellency and greater abrasion resistance, chrome compounds to maintain flexibility at particularly high temperatures, and aluminizing to increase heat reflectivity.

Industrial grade ASF is made predominantly in 36-inch and 60-inch widths, but may also be produced in other widths. Industrial grade ASF is used to insulate and to resist extreme heat so as to conserve energy and protect people, materials, and machinery from potential injury or damage. The principle use of industrial grade ASF is protection during welding or other hot-work activities (e.g., heat-treating). Other specific applications of industrial grade ASF are as shields for ducting and pipes, as protection from sparks and molten metal splash, as insulating blankets in heat-treating and high-temperature processing operations, and as refractory lining and furnace curtains. High-strength or abrasion resistant ASF are used in protective garments, welding protection, and as a substitute for ceramics in refractory applications.

Industrial grade ASF meeting either military or Factory Mutual (FM) standards may be used by customers requiring specific ASF criteria for welding or hot-work applications. Military standard MIL-C-24576A is used by the U.S. Navy for welding protection during shipbuilding, maintenance, and repair.²⁶ FM 4950-certified ASF specifically delineates whether the ASF is a blanket, curtain, or pad and therefore its exposure and vertical or horizontal application capabilities. FM approved welding blankets and welding curtains are intended for light to moderate exposure such as from chipping, grinding, heat treating, sand blasting and light welding but in horizontal or vertical applications respectively; welding pads are designed for horizontal use with severe exposures such as from molten substances or heavy horizontal welding.²⁷

²⁶ This specification establishes the requirements for two types of woven cloth intended for use in protecting equipment and personnel from spatter from metal welding and cutting operations. EverySpec, "MIL-C-24576A," http://everyspec.com/MIL-SPECS/MIL-SPECS-MIL-C/MIL-C-24576A_37826/ accessed on April 6, 2022.

²⁷ FM Approved, Welding Blankets, <https://www.fmapprovals.com/products-we-certify/products-we-certify/other-materials/welding-blankets>, accessed on April 6, 2022.

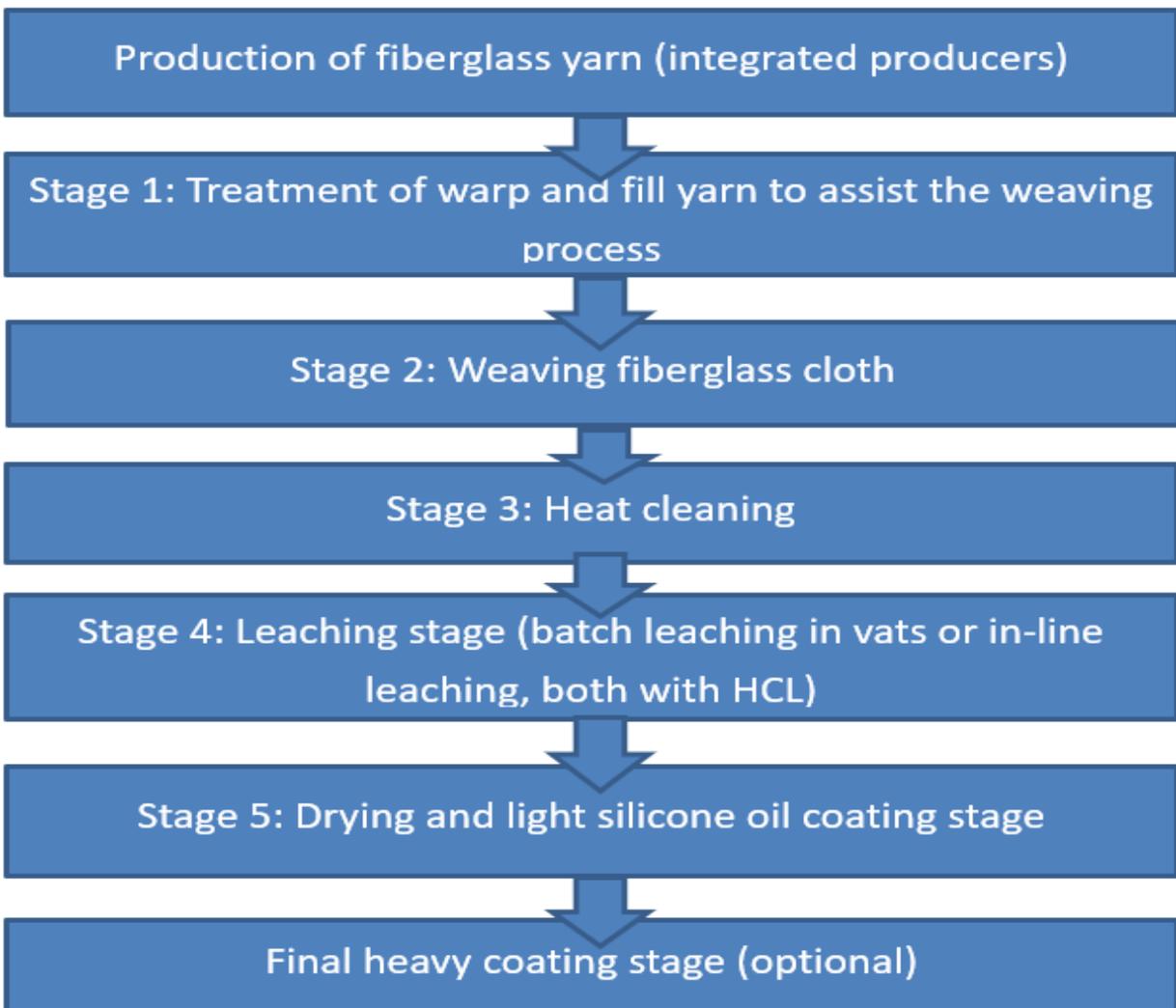
Amorphous silica yarns may also be knitted or braided into nonsubject rope, tubing, and tape, or be woven into nonsubject aerospace grade ASF. ASF rope, tubing, and tape use a larger-diameter, heavier-weight texturized yarn than industrial grade ASF, which is woven with smaller diameter, lighter-weight yarns. Additionally, rope and tubing are round (as opposed to flat like the subject merchandise) and ASF tape is generally woven thicker than industrial grade ASF cloth.

Aerospace grade ASF shares some properties and production processes with industrial grade ASF. However, aerospace grade ASF undergoes an additional heat treatment process to limit its areal shrinkage to 4 percent or less (compared to industrial grade ASF, which has residual shrinkage of 14-16 percent). In addition, aerospace grade ASF has a minimum silica content of 98 percent, compared to industrial grade ASF which has a range of 90-96 percent silica. Finally, aerospace grade ASF typically has much lower breaking strength and abrasion resistance results than industrial grade ASF because of the elevated thermal exposure required to pre-shrink ASF and the absence of a binder or coating in the final product.

Manufacturing process²⁸

There are five major processing steps involved in the production of the basic industrial grade ASF for most producers, which generally begin as purchased fiberglass yarn or sometimes fiberglass fabric. However, it is possible that there may be an integrated producer in China whose production process begins with the production of fiberglass yarn. Figure I-1 presents the ASF production process.

Figure I-1
ASF: ASF production process



Source: Original publication, p. I-12.

²⁸ Unless otherwise noted, this information is based on the original publication, pp. I-11-I-16.

An integrated producer of ASF must first make fiberglass yarn. The manufacturing process for glass fibers suitable for reinforcement uses large furnaces to melt silica sand, limestone, kaolin clay, fluorspar, colemanite, dolomite, boron, and other minerals to gradually transform them into liquid form. The resulting mixture is then extruded through titanium bushings to produce fiberglass filaments. These filaments are sized (i.e., coated) with a chemical solution then bundled in large numbers to provide a twisted yarn (i.e., a soft strand of fiber that has been twisted, attenuated, and freed of foreign matter before it is converted into yarn). The diameter of the filaments, and the number of filaments in the yarn, determine its weight, typically expressed in one of two measurement systems (i.e., tex or cotton count). Fiberglass can then be formed into yarn much like wool or cotton.

For non-integrated producers, which include the vast majority of ASF manufacturers in China, production begins with yarn preparation.

Yarn preparation: Before the yarn can be woven, it must be prepared through various processes. Warp yarn used in the weaving process is first treated with a finish to facilitate the weaving process. It is then plied with like-size yarns and wound onto large stainless steel beams with the precise number of yarns required to weave a specific weight and width of fiberglass fabric. Alternatively, it can remain on the individual spools to be run from a creel during weaving.²⁹ Fill (or weft) yarn may also be plied, and then wound onto plastic bobbins. These bobbins are fed into the loom from the side.

Another yarn preparation process is called “texturizing.” This process injects air into a plied yarn bundle, breaking various yarn strands and thereby increasing the yarn diameter. These yarns are also treated with a finish to facilitate the weaving process. Texturized yarns are then either wound onto beams or bobbins.

²⁹ A creel is a rack of bobbins from which the desired number of fiberglass filaments can unwind simultaneously for weaving.

Weaving: Weaving occurs by means of automated looms. The yarn fed into the weaving process may be pulled from one of several different sources. Specifically, yarn may be drawn from bobbins on creels. Alternatively, warp yarn may be drawn from sectional beams, with one bobbin to string a strand of weft or fill yarn cross-sectionally. Finally, warp yarn may be drawn from a warp beam, similarly with one bobbin used to string a strand of weft or fill yarn cross-sectionally. The cloth may be woven in various patterns and to different widths. Standard widths are 60 inches and 36 inches.³⁰ The woven cloth is woven with a selvage edge to prevent fraying. Beyond the selvage are ends of fill yarns that must be trimmed. The edge trimming, according to the petitioner from the original investigations, has no scrap value and therefore is treated as waste material. The finished cloth is wound onto a cardboard core, and then cut, for heat cleaning, which is the next processing stage. The woven cloth at this stage is white.³¹

Heat cleaning: At the heat cleaning stage, the cloth is unwound and run through a heat-cleaning oven at a temperature of approximately 1,300 degrees Fahrenheit. Through the heat cleaning process, the starches and oils present on the cloth are removed.³² The cloth is rewound at the end of this stage, using a specifically designed PVC core containing holes. After finishing this process, the woven cloth is a light brown color.³³ In order to achieve the same visual effect, producers not engaging in heat cleaning may instead coat the cloth in a vermiculite solution.

Leaching: After heat cleaning, the spool of cloth is taken to the hydrochloric acid (“HCL”) vats in the batch leaching process. The spools are attached by the PVC core to a batch-dip platform that normally holds 8 spools of 36-inch-wide fabric. Then, the platform is submerged into an HCL bath containing an HCL solution of between 15 and 17 percent. The HCL is heated to a temperature of approximately 120 degrees Fahrenheit. The HCL solution is also pumped into the PVC core to ensure that the entirety of the spool is leached evenly. The leaching process takes approximately seven hours, with the total time dictated by the nature of the chemical processes that take place.

³⁰ Most of the material produced by the petitioner in the original investigations was 36 inches wide.

³¹ While it is possible that some producers in China may not perform the weaving process (that is, their production may begin with the woven fiberglass cloth), AMI, at the time of the original investigations, believed that the largest exporters were most likely also engaging in weaving.

³² The starches and oils are present on the fiberglass yarn to facilitate the weaving process. However, after the yarn has been turned to cloth, these starches and oils are no longer necessary, and can detract from the performance of the finished product, due to smoke evolution at operating temperatures.

³³ Petitioner, during the original investigations, believed that it was possible that some producers in China may have foregone this stage in the production process.

During the original investigations, petitioner noted that while it uses a batch process to leach its woven cloth, it is also possible to leach the woven cloth through an in-line process.³⁴ As stated above, batch leaching is performed by submerging spools of ASF in a static bath of HCL, while in-line leaching is a continuous, open roll process through the HCL. Regardless, as stated, the chemical process involved dictates that the material spends approximately seven hours in the HCL solution to become 96 percent silica fabric. Prior to leaching, the woven cloth is approximately 55 percent silica.³⁵ After the leaching process, the silica content typically can be 93 percent or higher, with most industrial grade ASF containing at least 96 percent silica. Less time spent leaching will lead to a lower silica content, but a stronger product.

Prior to removing the material from the HCL vats, the spools are rinsed with water to remove the HCL. The leaching process involves storage of HCL in three separate tanks: (1) an HCL storage tank; (2) a neutralization tank; and (3) an acidic rinse water tank. In order to comply with environmental regulations, the production process at AMI incorporates a processing step at which the water is neutralized by the addition of lime prior to disposal.

Coating and drying: After the spools are removed from the leaching bath, they are unspooled and run through a drying and coating machine. At this stage, the product is dried through contact with a series of steam-heated cylindrical metal “cans.” Next, the cloth runs through a trough containing an acrylic latex compound solution, which contains silicone oil. The silicone oil is applied to lubricate the material in order to prevent breakage. AMI applied this light silicone oil coating by dipping, though alternative techniques for applying the light silicone oil coating could include spraying or “kiss-rolling,” in which one side of the cloth runs over the surface of the silicone oil liquid (i.e., the cloth “kisses” the surface).

During the original investigations, AMI noted that abrasion resistant (“AR”) ASF achieves its defining character by undergoing a second pass through the drying/coating stage, in which a heavier silicone oil coating is applied. AR products are often tinted a different color, by adding a dye into the dip for the second pass, visually distinguishing the product. ASF products are digitally printed or stenciled in accordance with military specifications, or with the proper FM approvals markings, as described below.

³⁴ According to the respondents in the final investigations, there were two known ASF manufacturers in China that have used an in-line leaching process. While faster and less costly, this process is more difficult to control and results in product with a silica content range from 70 to 93 percent.

³⁵ Fiberglass yarn may range from 50-55 percent silica.

Final coatings: Industrial grade ASF may be finished after stage five. However, if the production order demands the application of a final coating, then the material must undergo an additional production step. Final coatings that may be applied to ASF include silicone, pressure-sensitive adhesive (“PSA”), and aluminum foil. The silicone coating used for the final coating process is not to be confused with the light silicone oil treatment at the previous stage. Rather, the silicone applied in this final coating stage is a highly viscous material that is applied to the surface of the cloth, after which the coated material is run through an oven to cure the material. Pigments are added to the silicone coating prior to application to the cloth, to achieve the final color. Industrial grade ASF may be silicone-coated on either one or both sides.

PSA may also be applied to industrial grade ASF in order to firmly affix the final product to a surface. PSA is only applied on one side. Finally, aluminum foil may be applied on one side of the industrial grade ASF.³⁶

Labeling/packaging: After industrial grade ASF is manufactured, it is labeled and packaged for shipment. Industrial grade ASF is generally sold in rolls but may be referred to as cut-to-length if the fabric has been shortened from its original length after weaving. Standard packaging includes spooling the finished product onto a cardboard core (i.e., roll forming); wrapping the spool in bubble wrap, covering that with Kraft paper, and then binding the spool with three plastic binding strips. The product is then placed in a cardboard box, which also includes cardboard filler at each end of the box. For the standard 36-inch product, usually the boxes are loaded 12 per pallet. AMI noted that the finished product generally would not simply be stacked, without packaging, into a container, because the finished fabric would likely be damaged during transit.³⁷

Fabrication: Fabrication may occur before packaging and shipping. Fabrication includes cutting and sewing welding blankets, curtains, or pads or inserting grommets on a finished product. During the original investigations, AMI noted that it may fabricate ASF to a customer’s specifications, although it also sells subject ASF to downstream fabricators for finishing.

³⁶ While aluminum foil can theoretically be applied on both sides of the cloth, AMI believed at the time of the original investigations that there was no current application for industrial grade ASF that would require that the product contain aluminum foil on both sides.

³⁷ The surface of industrial grade ASF generally is highly susceptible to significant marring through casual contact. It is for this reason that the finished spools are bubble-wrapped, covered in Kraft paper, and individually boxed.

The industry in the United States

U.S. producers

During the final phase of the original investigations, the Commission received U.S. producer questionnaires from two firms, which accounted for all known U.S. production of ASF during 2015.³⁸

In response to the Commission's notice of institution in these current reviews, the two responding firms, AMI and SGL, identified themselves as the only two U.S. producers of ASF, both stating that together they accounted for all (100.0 percent) of domestic production of ASF during 2021.³⁹

Recent developments⁴⁰

There were no major developments in the domestic ASF industry since the imposition of the antidumping and countervailing duty orders identified by interested parties in this proceeding.

³⁸ Original publication, pp. I-4 and III-1. The two domestic producers that participated in the original investigations, AMI and SGL (formerly HITCO), are also participating in these reviews. See the "Individual responses" section of this report for more information.

³⁹ AMI's response to the notice of institution, March 3, 2022, p. 9; SGL's response to the notice of institution, March 3, 2022, p. 1.

⁴⁰ For additional information from purchasers on demand and supply considerations, see app. D.

U.S. producers' trade and financial data

The Commission asked domestic interested parties to provide trade and financial data in their response to the notice of institution in the current five-year reviews.⁴¹ Table I-4 presents a compilation of the trade and financial data submitted from all responding U.S. producers in the original investigations and the current five-year reviews.

Table I-4
ASF: Trade and financial data submitted by U.S. producers, by period

Quantity in kilograms; value in 1,000 dollars; unit value in dollars per kilogram; ratio is in percent

Item	Measure	2013	2014	2015	2021
Capacity	Quantity	***	***	***	***
Production	Quantity	***	***	***	***
Capacity utilization	Ratio	***	***	***	***
U.S. shipments	Quantity	***	***	***	***
U.S. shipments	Value	***	***	***	***
U.S. shipments	Unit value	***	***	***	***
Net sales	Value	***	***	***	***
COGS	Value	***	***	***	***
COGS to net sales	Ratio	***	***	***	***
Gross profit or (loss)	Value	***	***	***	***
SG&A expenses	Value	***	***	***	***
Operating income or (loss)	Value	***	***	***	***
Operating income or (loss) to net sales	Ratio	***	***	***	***

Source: For the years 2013-15, data are compiled using data submitted to the Commission in the original investigations. For the year 2021, data are compiled using data submitted by domestic interested parties. AMI's response to the notice of institution, March 3, 2022, p. 11; SGL's response to the notice of institution, March 3, 2022, p. 2; SGL's supplemental response to the notice of institution, April 1, 2022, p. 2 and exh. C.

Note: The 2021 capacity figure was adjusted from *** kilograms to *** kilograms following ***. *** response to ***.

Note: For a discussion of data coverage, please see "U.S. producers" section.

⁴¹ Individual company trade and financial data are presented in app. B.

Definitions of the domestic like product and domestic industry

The domestic like product is defined as the domestically produced product or products which are like, or in the absence of like, most similar in characteristics and uses with, the subject merchandise. The domestic industry is defined as the U.S. producers as a whole of the domestic like product, or those producers whose collective output of the domestic like product constitutes a major proportion of the total domestic production of the product. Under the related parties provision, the Commission may exclude a U.S. producer from the domestic industry for purposes of its injury determination if “appropriate circumstances” exist.⁴²

In its original determinations, the Commission defined a single domestic like product consisting of all industrial grade amorphous silica fabric that is coextensive with Commerce’s scope and defined a single domestic industry consisting of all U.S. producers of ASF.^{43 44}

⁴² Section 771(4)(B) of the Tariff Act of 1930, 19 U.S.C. § 1677(4)(B).

⁴³ 87 FR 5511, February 1, 2022; original publication, p. 8.

⁴⁴ AMI states that it agrees with the Commission’s definition of the domestic like product and the definition of the domestic industry but reserves the right to comment on the appropriate definitions during these reviews. AMI’s response to the notice of institution, March 3, 2022, p. 13. ***.

U.S. imports

U.S. importers

During the final phase of the original investigations, the Commission received usable questionnaire responses from seven companies believed to represent the majority of U.S. imports from China during 2015.⁴⁵ Import data presented in the original investigations were based on questionnaire responses and supplemented with official Commerce statistics with respect to nonsubject imports from Latvia.⁴⁶

Although the Commission did not receive responses from any respondent interested parties in these current reviews, in its response to the Commission's notice of institution, the domestic interested parties provided a list of 19 potential U.S. importers of ASF from China.⁴⁷

⁴⁵ Original publication, pp. I-4 and IV-1.

⁴⁶ Investigation Nos. 701-TA-555 and 731-TA-1310 (Final): Amorphous Silica Fabric from China, Confidential Report, INV-PP-017, February 2, 2017, ("Original confidential report"), pp. I-5 and IV-1. During the original investigations, Latvia was believed to be a substantial nonsubject source of ASF exports to the United States. Accordingly, Commission staff worked with representatives of JSC Valmiera Stikla Skiedra, the exporter and *** of ASF from Latvia, as well as its U.S. subsidiary and *** PD Valmiera. These representatives were cooperative, but ultimately the data provided were incomplete. However, because Valmiera accounted for *** exports of ASF from Latvia, and company representatives stated repeatedly that ***, staff used official Commerce statistics to represent import quantity and value of imports from Latvia. *Id.*

⁴⁷ AMI's response to the notice of institution, March 3, 2022, p. 10 and exh. 5. SGL stated that it is unaware of anyone who may have exported or imported ASF since 2017 from China. SGL's response to the notice of institution, March 3, 2022, p. 1.

U.S. imports

Table I-5 presents the quantity, value, and unit value of U.S. imports from China as well as the other top sources of U.S. imports (shown in descending order of 2021 imports by quantity).

Table I-5
ASF: U.S. imports, by source and period

Quantity in kilograms; value in 1,000 dollars; unit value in dollars per kilograms

U.S. imports from	Measure	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
China	Quantity	6,377,127	5,601,691	4,478,281	2,654,248	1,282,407	2,222,030
United Kingdom	Quantity	444,647	420,383	260,341	273,805	222,747	403,407
Canada	Quantity	387,115	344,054	153,643	161,783	104,277	140,659
Latvia	Quantity	172,470	431,482	108,291	41,904	40,689	122,766
Belarus	Quantity	26,484	15,339	2,670	195,645	178,924	60,107
Russia	Quantity	---	---	---	---	1,188	---
Nonsubject	Quantity	1,030,716	1,211,258	524,945	673,137	547,825	726,939
All import sources	Quantity	7,407,843	6,812,949	5,003,226	3,327,385	1,830,232	2,948,969
China	Value	21,579	19,290	19,584	15,186	7,465	12,541
United Kingdom	Value	7,379	5,531	3,473	3,788	3,137	4,255
Canada	Value	4,247	4,601	3,567	4,523	3,648	4,412
Latvia	Value	2,010	4,107	1,382	540	500	1,361
Belarus	Value	258	134	41	1,657	1,553	566
Russia	Value	---	---	---	---	4	---
Nonsubject	Value	13,895	14,373	8,463	10,508	8,842	10,595
All import sources	Value	35,474	33,662	28,047	25,694	16,308	23,136

Table continued.

Table I-5 continued
ASF: U.S. imports, by source and period

Quantity in kilograms; value in 1,000 dollars; unit value in dollars per kilograms

U.S. imports from	Measure	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
China	Unit Value	3.38	3.44	4.37	5.72	5.82	5.64
United Kingdom	Unit Value	16.60	13.16	13.34	13.84	14.08	10.55
Canada	Unit Value	10.97	13.37	23.21	27.96	34.98	31.37
Latvia	Unit Value	11.66	9.52	12.76	12.88	12.30	11.09
Belarus	Unit Value	9.76	8.71	15.51	8.47	8.68	9.42
Russia	Unit Value	---	---	---	---	3.56	---
Nonsubject	Unit Value	13.48	11.87	16.12	15.61	16.14	14.57
All import sources	Unit Value	4.79	4.94	5.61	7.72	8.91	7.85

Source: Compiled from official Commerce statistics for HTS statistical reporting numbers 7019.59.4021, 7019.59.4096, 7019.59.9021, and 7019.59.9096, accessed March 31, 2022. These data may be overstated as each of the HTS statistical reporting numbers contains products outside the scope of these reviews. As noted in AMI's response to the notice of institution, the utility of these import statistics is limited by the fact that these four primary HTS statistical reporting numbers include various out-of-scope glass fiber and fiberglass products. Further, AMI notes that based on data from U.S. Customs and Border Protection ("CBP"), released in each administrative review of the antidumping and countervailing duty orders, it appears that virtually no imports are entering the United States as "Type 3" (i.e., imports that are subject to the antidumping and countervailing duty orders). AMI's response to the notice of institution, March 3, 2022, p. 4 and exh. 2.

Note: During the original investigations, Belarus, Latvia, Russia, and the United Kingdom were identified as the only known nonsubject sources of ASF. Original publication, pp. 16, II-5, IV-2, and VII-4. AMI and SGL reported no new known nonsubject sources of ASF since the original investigations in their responses to the notice of institution. Accordingly, Commission staff included only nonsubject imports for Belarus, Latvia, Russia, and the United Kingdom in the table above. Commission staff further included Canada as a nonsubject source, as AMI has recently made an allegation that a firm has evaded the antidumping and countervailing duty orders on ASF from China by importing Chinese-origin silica fabric into the United States that was misclassified and/or transshipped through Canada. See Commerce's Notice of Initiation of Circumvention Inquiry, 86 FR 67022, November 24, 2021; and CBP's Notice of Initiation of Investigation, EAPA Case 7675, March 28, 2022.

Note: Effective January 27, 2022, the Commission updated the HTSUS. In this version of the schedule, HTS codes 7019.59.4021, 7019.59.4096, 7019.59.9021, and 7019.59.9096 are no longer listed. However, because the review period for this proceeding is 2016-21, Commission staff were able to use the same HTS codes used during the original investigations to compile the U.S. import data above. See the sections "Commerce's scope" and "U.S. tariff treatment" for more information.

Note: Shares and ratios shown as "0.0" percent represent non-zero values less than "0.05" percent. Zeros, null values, and undefined calculations are suppressed and shown as "---".

Note: Because of rounding, figure may not add to total shown.

Apparent U.S. consumption and market shares

Table I-6 presents data on U.S. producers' U.S. shipments, U.S. imports, apparent U.S. consumption, and market shares.

Table I-6
ASF: Apparent U.S. consumption and market shares, by source and period

Quantity in kilograms; value in 1,000 dollars; shares in percent

Source	Measure	2013	2014	2015	2021
U.S. producers	Quantity	***	***	***	***
China	Quantity	***	***	***	2,222,030
Nonsubject sources	Quantity	***	***	***	726,939
All import sources	Quantity	***	***	***	2,948,969
Apparent U.S. consumption	Quantity	***	***	***	***
U.S. producers	Value	***	***	***	***
China	Value	***	***	***	12,541
Nonsubject sources	Value	***	***	***	10,595
All import sources	Value	***	***	***	23,136
Apparent U.S. consumption	Value	***	***	***	***
U.S. producers	Share of quantity	***	***	***	***
China	Share of quantity	***	***	***	***
Nonsubject sources	Share of quantity	***	***	***	***
All import sources	Share of quantity	***	***	***	***
U.S. producers	Share of value	***	***	***	***
China	Share of value	***	***	***	***
Nonsubject sources	Share of value	***	***	***	***
All import sources	Share of value	***	***	***	***

Source: For the years 2013-15, data are compiled from data submitted in the Commission's original investigations. During 2013-15, the Commission also relied on official Commerce statistics under HTS statistical reporting numbers 7019.59.4021, 7019.59.4096, 7019.59.9021, and 7019.59.9096 for evaluating imports from nonsubject country Latvia. See original publication, pp. 14-15, fn. 57, and p. 16, fn. 66. For the year 2021, U.S. producers' U.S. shipments are compiled from the domestic interested parties' responses to the Commission's notice of institution and U.S. imports are compiled using official Commerce statistics under HTS statistical reporting numbers 7019.59.4021, 7019.59.4096, 7019.59.9021, and 7019.59.9096, accessed March 31, 2022. The import data may be overstated as each of the four primary HTS statistical reporting numbers contains products outside the scope of these reviews.

Note: Share of quantity is the share of apparent U.S. consumption by quantity in percent; share of value is the share of apparent U.S. consumption by value in percent.

Note: For the years 2013-15, apparent U.S. consumption is derived from U.S. shipments of imports, rather than U.S. imports.

Note: For a discussion of data coverage, please see "U.S. producers" and "U.S. importers" sections.

The industry in China

During the final phase of the original investigations, the Commission received one foreign producer/exporter questionnaire from Access China Industrial Textile, Inc. (“ACIT Pinghu”), which accounted for *** percent of reported imports from China in 2015.⁴⁸

Although the Commission did not receive responses from any respondent interested parties in these five-year reviews, domestic interested parties provided a list of 90 possible producers of ASF in China.⁴⁹

In its response to the notice of institution, AMI noted that there has been a shift towards imports of out-of-scope ASF products from China with a silica range between 70 and 90 percent in order to circumvent the orders.⁵⁰ This matter is subject to an ongoing circumvention inquiry at Commerce.⁵¹

Table I-7 presents events in the ASF industry in China since the original investigations.

Table I-7
ASF: Recent developments in the industry in China

Item	Firm	Event
Expansion	HuaTek New Material Inc.	On March 5, 2018, HuaTek announced plans to expand its manufacturing capacity of fiberglass products to 2,400 metric tons by the end of 2018.

Source: HuaTek, “HuaTek® Company Plans to Expand Production Capacity,” <http://www.huatekfiberglass.com/news/huatek-company-plans-to-expand-production-cap-12650969.html>, accessed on April 6, 2022.

⁴⁸ Original confidential report, p. VII-3. An estimate was not provided for the percentage of ASF production in China that ACIT Pinghu accounted for during the original investigations, but ACIT Pinghu estimated that it was the *** producer of ASF in China as well as the *** exporter of ASF from China to the United States. *Id.*

⁴⁹ AMI’s response to the notice of institution, March 3, 2022, p. 10 and exh. 6. SGL stated that it is unaware of anyone who may have exported or imported ASF since 2017 from China. SGL’s response to the notice of institution, March 3, 2022, p. 1.

⁵⁰ AMI’s response to the notice of institution, pp. 5-8 and p. 11.

⁵¹ 86 FR 67022, November 24, 2021.

Table I-8 presents export data for Harmonized System (“HS”) 7019.59, a category that includes ASF and out-of-scope products, from China (by export destination in descending order of value for 2021).

Table I-8
Other Woven Fabrics of Glass Fibers, Nesoi: Value of exports from China, by destination and period

Value in 1,000 dollars

Destination market	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Turkey	39,159	34,591	30,441	28,422	40,325	76,949
United States	21,443	20,836	20,741	18,931	18,982	28,736
Russia	17,784	19,189	19,207	16,831	14,963	24,147
South Korea	15,157	14,871	15,488	13,919	15,921	21,228
Canada	3,724	4,451	4,178	3,935	4,361	15,820
Ukraine	14,029	10,858	14,970	11,876	10,667	13,825
India	6,615	6,357	8,131	9,207	7,235	11,942
Indonesia	1,416	1,484	1,589	2,343	2,668	10,217
Malaysia	2,055	1,885	1,733	2,890	9,896	10,211
Japan	8,510	8,378	8,431	8,248	7,482	8,926
All other markets	90,041	97,294	104,045	111,983	121,097	162,974
All markets	219,932	220,193	228,954	228,587	253,596	384,975

Source: Global Trade Information Services, Inc., Global Trade Atlas, HS subheading 7019.59, accessed April 6, 2022. These data may be overstated as HS subheading 7019.59 may contain products outside the scope of these reviews.

Note: Because of rounding, figures may not add to totals shown. Value data was presented because reporting countries may report quantity as area or weight, which are not consistent.

Third-country trade actions

According to the World Trade Organization's online documents database, the following country and custom union have trade actions on certain amorphous silica fabric products.

The European Union has active antidumping and countervailing orders on certain woven and/or stitched glass fiber fabrics imported under HS 7019.59 from China.⁵² Final antidumping duty margins range between 37.6 to 69.0 percent. Final countervailing duty margins range from 17.0 and 30.9 percent. These orders went into final effect on June 15, 2020.

India has active an antidumping order on faced glass wool in rolls imported under HS 7019.59 from China with final duty margins between 20 and 60 percent.⁵³ The final findings were published on December 22, 2020.

⁵² The EU defined certain woven and/or stitched glass fiber fabrics as: " fabrics of woven and/or stitched continuous filament glass fibre rovings and/or yarns with or without other elements, excluding products which are impregnated or pre-impregnated (pre-preg), and excluding open mesh fabrics with cells with a size of more than 1,8 mm in both length and width and weighing more than 35 g/m² ('GFF'), originating in the PRC and Egypt, currently falling under CN codes ex 7019 39 00, ex 7019 40 00, ex 7019 59 00 and ex 7019 90 00 (TARIC codes 7019 39 00 80, 7019 40 00 80, 7019 59 00 80 and 7019 90 00 80)." European Union, "Semi-Annual Report Under 16.4 of the Agreement," G/ADP/N/342/EU, June 8, 2020; European Union, "Semi-Annual Report under Article 25.11 of the Agreement," G/SCM/N/363/EU, June 6, 2020; Official Journal of the European Union, L 189, June 15, 2020, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020R0776&from=EN>.

⁵³ The faced glass wool in rolls is defined as follows: "Faced Glass Wool in Rolls" also referred as Fiberglass Wool (Insulation Material) or Resin Bonded Glass Wool. The product finds major uses in construction of metal and concrete building, heating, ventilation and air conditioning system to provide cooling services to buildings, acoustic application, shipbuilding, transport industry including railways and automobiles. The product has inherent strength of superior thermal and acoustic performance in addition to non-combustible and fire safe properties. Buildings achieve high energy efficiency by using this product and applications of this product have been increasing for different purposes. Government of India, Directorate General of Trade Remedies, "Anti-Dumping investigation concerning imports of Faced Glass Wool in Rolls originating in or exported from China PR," <https://www.dgtr.gov.in/anti-dumping-cases/anti-dumping-investigation-concerning-imports-faced-glass-wool-rolls-originating>, accessed on April 18, 2022.

The global market⁵⁴

As of the original investigations, ASF was produced in four nonsubject countries: Belarus, Latvia, Russia, and the United Kingdom. Only Latvia is believed to be a substantial source of ASF exports to the United States, although, according to the respondents, the industry in Latvia produces a lower silica product (94 percent rather than 96 percent). Belarus was, in the past, a substantial source of exports to the United States and reportedly produces ASF with 98 percent silica content. However, imports of ASF from Belarus were sanctioned by the United States until October 30, 2015. On April 8, 2022, the United States revoked most favored nation status for Russia and Belarus.⁵⁵ The Russian company JSC NPO Stekloplastic is a producer of lower silica content fabric (95 percent silica). The two leading exporters of ASF from the United Kingdom are Fothergill Engineered Fabrics, Ltd. and Valmiera Glass UK Ltd.

Table I-9 presents global export data for HS 7019.59, a category that includes ASF and out-of-scope products, (by source in descending order of value for 2021). HS 7019.59 is substantially broader than the subject HTS provisions, which are themselves broad product categories, and therefore contain many nonsubject articles. However, China is the largest exporter of these woven glass fiber fabrics by value each year during 2016-21.

⁵⁴ This information is based on the original publication, pp. VII-4-VII-5. See the “U.S. imports” section of this report for more information.

⁵⁵ The White House Briefing Room, “Bills Signed: H.R. 6968 and H.R. 7108,” April 8, 2022, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/legislation/2022/04/08/bills-signed-h-r-6968-and-h-r-7108/>, accessed on April 22, 2022.

Table I-9
Other Woven Fabrics of Glass Fibers, Nesoi: Value of global exports by country and period

Value in 1,000 dollars

Exporting country	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
China	219,932	220,193	228,954	228,587	253,596	384,975
Germany	166,467	166,852	179,662	169,742	154,702	169,188
Czech Republic	116,428	138,257	155,924	151,926	154,679	186,504
United States	118,483	111,657	120,435	138,324	96,238	111,578
Taiwan	89,516	95,814	105,193	100,234	112,574	132,953
France	81,216	83,971	89,660	93,972	71,702	86,623
Latvia	62,463	63,649	57,796	59,807	54,741	63,054
United Kingdom HMRC	59,562	57,797	65,651	66,544	48,714	56,322
Belgium	37,400	46,134	53,026	55,284	62,656	84,844
Netherlands	39,615	38,162	44,516	45,193	37,783	40,500
All other exporters	318,947	336,400	403,268	371,299	354,308	418,084
All exporters	1,310,030	1,358,887	1,504,085	1,480,913	1,401,692	1,734,626

Source: Global Trade Information Services, Inc., Global Trade Atlas, HS subheading 7019.59. These data may be overstated as HS subheading 7019.59 may contain products outside the scope of these reviews.

Note: Because of rounding, figures may not add to total shown. Value data was presented because reporting countries may report quantity as area or weight, which are not consistent.

APPENDIX A
FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICES

The Commission makes available notices relevant to its investigations and reviews on its website, www.usitc.gov. In addition, the following tabulation presents, in chronological order, Federal Register notices issued by the Commission and Commerce during the current proceeding.

Citation	Title	Link
87 FR 5467, February 1, 2022	<i>Initiation of Five-Year (Sunset) Reviews</i>	https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-02-01/pdf/2022-02026.pdf
87 FR 5511, February 1, 2022	<i>Amorphous Silica Fabric From China; Institution of Five-Year Reviews</i>	https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2022-02-01/pdf/2022-01896.pdf

APPENDIX B
COMPANY-SPECIFIC DATA

* * * * *

APPENDIX C
SUMMARY DATA COMPILED IN PRIOR PROCEEDINGS

Table C-1
ASF: Summary data concerning the U.S. market, 2013-15, January to September 2015, and
January to September 2016

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APPENDIX D
PURCHASER QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

As part of their response to the notice of institution, interested parties were asked to provide a list of three to five leading purchasers in the U.S. market for the domestic like product. A response was received from domestic interested parties and they named the following nine firms as top purchasers of certain amorphous silica fabric: ***. Purchaser questionnaires were sent to these nine firms and two firms (***) provided responses, which are presented below.

1. Have there been any significant changes in the supply and demand conditions for ASF that have occurred in the United States or in the market for ASF in China since March 18, 2017?

Purchaser	Yes / No	Changes that have occurred
***	***	***
***	***	***

2. Do you anticipate any significant changes in the supply and demand conditions for ASF in the United States or in the market for ASF in China within a reasonably foreseeable time?

Purchaser	Yes / No	Anticipated changes
***	***	*** .
***	***	*** .

APPENDIX E

ALTERNATIVE TABLES FOR

U.S. IMPORTS AND APPARENT U.S. CONSUMPTION

Table E-1 presents the quantity, value, and unit value of U.S. imports from China as well as leading known sources of U.S. imports. Table E-2 presents data on U.S. producers' U.S. shipments, U.S. imports, apparent U.S. consumption, and market shares.

Table E-1
ASF: U.S. imports, by source and period

Quantity in kilograms; value in 1,000 dollars; unit value in dollars per kilograms

U.S. imports from source	Measure	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
China (subject)	Quantity	***	---	---	---	---	---
Latvia	Quantity	172,470	431,482	108,291	41,904	40,689	122,766
Belarus	Quantity	26,484	15,339	2,670	195,645	178,924	60,107
Nonsubject sources	Quantity	198,954	446,821	110,961	237,549	219,613	182,873
All import sources	Quantity	***	446,821	110,961	237,549	219,613	182,873
China (subject)	Value	***	---	---	---	---	---
Latvia	Value	2,010	4,107	1,382	540	500	1,361
Belarus	Value	258	134	41	1,657	1,553	566
Nonsubject sources	Value	2,269	4,241	1,424	2,197	2,054	1,928
All import sources	Value	***	4,241	1,424	2,197	2,054	1,928
China (subject)	Unit Value	***	---	---	---	---	---
Latvia	Unit Value	11.65	9.52	12.76	12.89	12.29	11.09
Belarus	Unit Value	9.74	8.74	15.36	8.47	8.68	9.42
Nonsubject	Unit Value	11.40	9.49	12.83	9.25	9.35	10.54
All import sources	Unit Value	***	9.49	12.83	9.25	9.35	10.54

Source: For 2016, imports from China are compiled from the original investigations. Original confidential report, p. IV-2, table IV-II and p. VII-8. Imports from China during 2017-21 are derived from information provided to the Commission by AMI. AMI's response to the notice of institution, March 3, 2022, p. 4 and exh. 2. Imports from Latvia and Belarus during 2016-21 are compiled from official Commerce statistics for HTS statistical reporting numbers 7019.59.4021, 7019.59.4096, 7019.59.9021, and 7019.59.9096, accessed March 31, 2022. The import data may be overstated as each of the four primary HTS statistical reporting numbers contains products outside the scope of these reviews.

Table continued.

Table E-1 continued
ASF: U.S. imports, by source and period

Note: The data on imports from China during 2016 are for January-September 2016, however no U.S. importer reported arranged imports from China after October 2016. Original publication, p. VII-4. As a result, these data effectively represent all imports from China during 2016.

Note: In addition to the absence of reported arranged imports from China after October 2016, AMI reported that there were no recorded imports of subject merchandise from March 1, 2020, through February 28, 2021. AMI's response to the notice of institution, March 3, 2022, p. 4 and exh. 2. Consequently, this presentation treats U.S. imports from China as effectively zero during 2017-21.

Note: During the original investigations, *** nonsubject imports of ASF were from Latvia. Original confidential report, p. I-5, fn.6 and pp. IV-1-IV-3. This presentation includes Latvia as well as Belarus, as it was noted in the original investigations that imports from Belarus may increase in the near future due to the expiration of U.S. sanctions. *Id.* p. IV-3.

Note: Effective January 27, 2022, the Commission updated the HTSUS. In this version of the schedule, HTS codes 7019.59.4021, 7019.59.4096, 7019.59.9021, and 7019.59.9096 are no longer listed. However, because the review period for this proceeding is 2016-21, Commission staff were able to use the same HTS codes used during the original investigations to compile the U.S. import data above. See the sections "Commerce's scope" and "U.S. tariff treatment" for more information.

Note: Shares and ratios shown as "0.0" percent represent non-zero values less than "0.05" percent. Zeros, null values, and undefined calculations are suppressed and shown as "---".

Note: Because of rounding, figure may not add to total shown.

Table E-2
ASF: Apparent U.S. consumption and market shares, by source and period

Quantity in kilograms; value in 1,000 dollars; shares in percent

Source	Measure	2013	2014	2015	2021
U.S. producers	Quantity	***	***	***	***
China (subject)	Quantity	***	***	***	---
Nonsubject sources	Quantity	***	***	***	182,873
All import sources	Quantity	***	***	***	182,873
Apparent U.S. consumption	Quantity	***	***	***	***
U.S. producers	Value	***	***	***	***
China (subject)	Value	***	***	***	---
Nonsubject sources	Value	***	***	***	1,928
All import sources	Value	***	***	***	1,928
Apparent U.S. consumption	Value	***	***	***	***
U.S. producers	Share of quantity	***	***	***	***
China (subject)	Share of quantity	***	***	***	---
Nonsubject sources	Share of quantity	***	***	***	***
All import sources	Share of quantity	***	***	***	***
U.S. producers	Share of value	***	***	***	***
China (subject)	Share of value	***	***	***	---
Nonsubject sources	Share of value	***	***	***	***
All import sources	Share of value	***	***	***	***

Source: For the years 2013-15, data are compiled from data submitted in the Commission's original investigations. During 2013-15, the Commission also relied on official Commerce statistics under HTS statistical reporting numbers 7019.59.4021, 7019.59.4096, 7019.59.9021, and 7019.59.9096 for evaluating imports from nonsubject country Latvia. See original publication, pp. 14-15, fn. 57, and p. 16, fn. 66. For the year 2021, U.S. producers' U.S. shipments and imports from China are compiled from the domestic interested parties' responses to the Commission's notice of institution. U.S. imports for nonsubject sources Latvia and Belarus are compiled using official Commerce statistics under HTS statistical reporting numbers 7019.59.4021, 7019.59.4096, 7019.59.9021, and 7019.59.9096, accessed March 31, 2022. The import data may be overstated as each of the four primary HTS statistical reporting numbers contains products outside the scope of these reviews.

Note: Share of quantity is the share of apparent U.S. consumption by quantity in percent; share of value is the share of apparent U.S. consumption by value in percent.

Note: For the years 2013-15, apparent U.S. consumption is derived from U.S. shipments of imports, rather than U.S. imports.

Note: For a discussion of data coverage, please see "U.S. producers" and "U.S. importers" sections.

Note: Shares and ratios shown as "0.0" percent represent non-zero values less than "0.05" percent. Zeros, null values, and undefined calculations are suppressed and shown as "---".

Note: Because of rounding, figure may not add to total shown.

