

**Notification to Interested Parties**

This determination is issued and published pursuant to sections 703(f) and 777(i) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(c).

Dated: August 7, 2017.

**Carole Showers,**

*Executive Director, Office of Policy, performing the duties of Deputy Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.*

**Appendix I****Scope of the Investigation**

The scope of this investigation covers all forms and sizes of silicon metal, including silicon metal powder. Silicon metal contains at least 85.00 percent but less than 99.99 percent silicon, and less than 4.00 percent iron, by actual weight. Semiconductor grade silicon (merchandise containing at least 99.99 percent silicon by actual weight and classifiable under Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) subheading 2804.61.0000) is excluded from the scope of these investigations.

Silicon metal is currently classifiable under subheadings 2804.69.1000 and 2804.69.5000 of the HTSUS. While HTSUS numbers are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the scope remains dispositive.

**Appendix II****List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum**

- I. Summary
- II. Background
- III. Scope Comments
- IV. Alignment
- V. Injury Test
- VI. Use of Facts Otherwise Available
- VII. Subsidies Valuation
- VIII. Analysis of Programs
- IX. Conclusion

[FR Doc. 2017-17117 Filed 8-11-17; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****International Trade Administration**

[C-602-811]

**Silicon Metal From Australia: Preliminary Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination and Alignment of Final Determination With Final Antidumping Duty Determination**

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

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce (the Department) preliminarily determines that countervailable subsidies are being provided to a producer/exporter of silicon metal from Australia. The period of investigation is January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

**DATES:** Effective August 14, 2017.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Katherine Johnson or John Anwesen, AD/CVD Operations, Office VIII, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-4929 or (202) 482-0131, respectively.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background**

This preliminary determination is made in accordance with section 703(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act). The Department published the notice of initiation of this investigation on April 4, 2017.<sup>1</sup> On May 16, 2017, the Department postponed the preliminary determination of this investigation and the revised deadline is now August 7, 2017.<sup>2</sup> For a complete description of the events that followed the initiation of this investigation, see the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.<sup>3</sup> A list of topics discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum is included as Appendix II to this notice. The Preliminary Decision Memorandum is a public document and is on file electronically via Enforcement and Compliance's Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Service System (ACCESS). ACCESS is available to registered users at <http://access.trade.gov>, and is available to all parties in the Central Records Unit, room B8024 of the main Department of Commerce building. In addition, a complete version of the Preliminary Decision Memorandum can be accessed directly at <http://enforcement.trade.gov/frn/>. The signed and electronic versions of the Preliminary Decision Memorandum are identical in content.

**Scope of the Investigation**

The product covered by this investigation is silicon metal from Australia. For a complete description of the scope of this investigation, see Appendix I.

<sup>1</sup> See *Silicon Metal from Australia, Brazil, and Kazakhstan: Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigations*, 82 FR 16356 (April 4, 2017) (*Initiation Notice*).

<sup>2</sup> See *Silicon Metal from Australia, Brazil, and Kazakhstan: Postponement of Preliminary Determinations of Countervailing Duty Investigations*, 82 FR 22490 (May 16, 2017).

<sup>3</sup> See Memorandum, "Decision Memorandum for the Preliminary Determination in the Countervailing Duty Investigation of Silicon Metal from Australia," dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice (Preliminary Decision Memorandum).

**Scope Comments**

In accordance with the preamble to the Department's regulations,<sup>4</sup> the *Initiation Notice* set aside a period of time for parties to raise issues regarding product coverage, (*i.e.*, scope).<sup>5</sup> Certain interested parties commented on the scope of the investigation as it appeared in the *Initiation Notice*. For a summary of the product coverage comments and rebuttal responses submitted to the record for this preliminary determination, and accompanying discussion and analysis of all comments timely received, see the Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum.<sup>6</sup> The Department preliminarily is not modifying the scope language as it appeared in the *Initiation Notice*. See Appendix I.

**Methodology**

The Department is conducting this investigation in accordance with section 701 of the Act. For each of the subsidy programs found countervailable, the Department preliminarily determines that there is a subsidy, *i.e.*, a financial contribution by an "authority" that gives rise to a benefit to the recipient, and that the subsidy is specific.<sup>7</sup>

**Alignment**

On March 28, 2017, the Department initiated this countervailing duty (CVD) investigation of silicon metal from Australia.<sup>8</sup> On the same day, the Department also initiated antidumping duty (AD) investigations of silicon metal from Australia, Brazil, and Norway.<sup>9</sup> This CVD investigation and the AD investigations of Australia, Brazil, and Norway cover the same class or kind of merchandise.

As noted in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum, in accordance with section 705(a)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.210(b)(4), the Department is aligning the final CVD determination in this investigation with the final determinations in the companion AD investigations of silicon metal from Australia, Brazil, and Norway based on

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

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

<sup>6</sup> See Memorandum, "Silicon Metal from Australia, Brazil, Kazakhstan, and Norway: Scope Comments Decision Memorandum for the Preliminary Determinations," dated June 27, 2017 (Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum).

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

<sup>8</sup> See *Initiation Notice*.

<sup>9</sup> See *Silicon Metal from Australia, Brazil and Norway: Initiation of Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigations*, 82 FR 16352 (April 4, 2017).

a request made by the petitioner.<sup>10</sup> Consequently, the final CVD determination will be issued on the same date as the final AD determinations for Australia, Brazil, and Norway, which are currently scheduled to be issued no later than December 18, 2017, unless postponed.

**All-Others Rate**

Sections 703(d) and 705(c)(5)(A) of the Act provide that in the preliminary determination, the Department shall determine an estimated all-others rate for companies not individually examined. This rate shall be an amount equal to the weighted average of the estimated subsidy rates established for those companies individually examined, excluding any zero and *de minimis* rates and any rates based entirely under section 776 of the Act.

The Department calculated an individual estimated countervailable subsidy rate for Simcoa Operations Pty. Ltd. (Simcoa), the only individually examined producer/exporter in this investigation. Because the only individually calculated rate is not zero, *de minimis*, or based entirely on facts otherwise available, the estimated weighted-average rate calculated for Simcoa is the rate assigned to all-other producers and exporters, pursuant to section 705(c)(5)(A)(i) of the Act.

**Preliminary Determination**

The Department preliminarily determines that the following estimated countervailable subsidy rates exist:

Company	Subsidy rate (percent)
Simcoa Operations Pty Ltd <sup>11</sup> .....	16.23
All-Others .....	16.23

**Suspension of Liquidation**

In accordance with section 703(d)(1)(B) and (d)(2) of the Act, the Department will direct U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to suspend liquidation of entries of subject merchandise as described in the scope of the investigation section entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal**

<sup>10</sup> See Letter from the petitioner, "Silicon Metal from Australia, Brazil, and Kazakhstan; Countervailing Duty Investigations; Request for Alignment of Final Determinations," dated July 10, 2017.

<sup>11</sup> As discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum, the Department has found the following companies to be cross-owned with Simcoa: Silicon Metal Company of Australia Pty Ltd., Microsilica Pty Ltd., and Simcoa International Pty Ltd.

**Register.** Further, pursuant to 19 CFR 351.205(d), the Department will instruct CBP to require a cash deposit equal to the rates indicated above.

**Disclosure**

The Department intends to disclose to interested parties its calculations and analysis performed in this preliminary determination within five days of its public announcement, or if there is no public announcement, within five days of the publication date of this notice in accordance with 19 CFR 351.224(b).

**Verification**

As provided in section 782(i)(1) of the Act, the Department intends to verify the information relied upon in making its final determination.

**Public Comment**

Case briefs or other written comments may be submitted to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance at a date to be determined. Rebuttal briefs, limited to issues raised in case briefs, may be submitted no later than five days after the deadline date for case briefs.<sup>12</sup> Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2) and (d)(2), parties who submit case briefs or rebuttal briefs in this investigation are encouraged to submit with each argument: (1) A statement of the issue; (2) a brief summary of the argument; and (3) a table of authorities.

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.310(c), interested parties who wish to request a hearing, limited to issues raised in the case and rebuttal briefs, must submit a written request to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance, U.S. Department of Commerce within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice. Requests should contain the party's name, address, and telephone number, the number of participants, whether any participant is a foreign national, and a list of the issues to be discussed. If a request for a hearing is made, the Department intends to hold the hearing at the U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230, at a time and date to be determined. Parties should confirm by telephone the date, time, and location of the hearing two days before the scheduled date.

**International Trade Commission Notification**

In accordance with section 703(f) of the Act, the Department will notify the International Trade Commission (ITC) of

<sup>12</sup> See 19 CFR 351.309; see also 19 CFR 351.303 (for general filing requirements).

its determination. If the final determination is affirmative, the ITC will make its final injury determination before the later of 120 days after the date of this preliminary determination or 45 days after the final determination.

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Dated: August 7, 2017.

**Carole Showers,**

*Executive Director, Office of Policy, performing the duties of Deputy Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.*

**Appendix I**

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**International Trade Administration**

[C-570-054]

**Certain Aluminum Foil From the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination**

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

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce (the Department) preliminarily determines that countervailable subsidies are being provided to