

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**International Trade Administration**

[A-570-504]

Petroleum Wax Candles from the People's Republic of China: Request for Comments on the Scope of the Antidumping Duty Order and the Impact on Scope Determinations

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce ("Department") has considered certain novelty candles (*i.e.*, candles in the shape of an identifiable object or with holiday-specific design both being discernable from multiple angles) outside the scope of the Order. *See Antidumping Duty Order: Petroleum Wax Candles from the People's Republic of China*, 51 Fed. Reg. 30686 (August 28, 1986) ("Order"). These exclusions were made in accordance with 19 C.F.R. § 351.225(k)(1) and past Department practices. However, given the extremely large number of scope determinations requested by outside parties, the Department now seeks comments from the interested parties on the best method to consider whether novelty candles should or should not be included within the scope of the Order given the extremely large number of scope determinations requested by outside parties.

DATES: Comments must be submitted no later than September 16, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Written comments (original and six copies) should be sent to the Secretary of Commerce; Attn: Alex Villanueva, Import Administration, APO/Dockets Unit, Room 1870, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street & Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alex Villanueva, Program Manager, AD/CVD Operations, Office 9, Import Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street & Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20230, telephone: (202) 482-3208.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

The regulations governing the Department's scope determinations are found at 19 C.F.R. § 351.225. On matters concerning the scope of an antidumping duty order, the Department first examines the descriptions of the merchandise contained in the petition, the initial investigation, and the determinations of the Secretary (including prior scope determinations)

and the U.S. International Trade Commission ("ITC"). A determination may take place with or without a formal inquiry. If the Department determines that these descriptions are dispositive of the matter, the Department will issue a final scope ruling as to whether or not the subject merchandise is covered by the order. *See* 19 C.F.R. § 351.225(k)(1).

Conversely, where the descriptions of the merchandise are not dispositive, the Department will consider the five additional factors set forth at 19 C.F.R. § 351.225(k)(2). These criteria are: (1) the physical characteristics of the merchandise; (2) the expectations of the ultimate purchasers; (3) the ultimate use of the product; (4) the channels of trade in which the product is sold; and (5) the manner in which the product is advertised and displayed. The determination as to which analytical framework is most appropriate in any given scope inquiry is made on a case-by-case basis after consideration of all evidence before the Department.

In past scope determinations under the Order, the Department has relied on the scope of the Petition, prior scope determinations and documents from the ITC as guidance. We have noted that in its Antidumping Petition on Behalf of the National Candle Association ("NCA"), dated September 4, 1985 ("Antidumping Petition"), the NCA requested that the investigation cover:

{c}andles {which} are made from petroleum wax and contain fiber or paper-cored wicks. They are sold in the following shapes: tapers, spirals, and straight-sided dinner candles; rounds, columns, pillars; votives; and various wax-filled containers. These candles may be scented or unscented ... and are generally used by retail consumers in the home or yard for decorative or lighting purposes.

See Antidumping Petition at 7.

The Department adopted this scope language in its notice of initiation. This scope language carried forward without change through the preliminary and final determinations of sales at less than fair value and the eventual antidumping duty order:

{c}ertain scented or unscented petroleum wax candles made from petroleum wax and having fiber or paper-cored wicks. They are sold in the following shapes: tapers, spirals, and straight-sided dinner candles; rounds, columns, pillars; votives; and various wax-filled containers.

See Petroleum Wax Candles from the People's Republic of China: Initiation of Antidumping Duty Investigation, 50 Fed. Reg. 39743 (September 30, 1985);

Petroleum Wax Candles from the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value, 51 Fed. Reg. 6016 (February 19, 1986); *Petroleum Wax Candles from the People's Republic of China: Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value*, 51 Fed. Reg. 25085 (July 10, 1986); and *Order*. However, while the ITC adopted a similar definition of the "domestic like product" subject to its determinations, it noted that the investigations did not include "birthday, birthday numeral and figurine type candles." *See Candles from the People's Republic of China: Determination of the Commission in Investigation No. 731-TA-282 (Final)*, Publication 1888 (August 1986) at 4, note 5, and A-2.

The ITC's statement regarding birthday, birthday numeral and figurine type candles was echoed in the Department's instructions to the U.S. Customs Service¹ issued in connection with a July 1987 scope determination concerning an exception from the Order for novelty candles (CBP Notice), which states:

The Department of Commerce has determined that certain novelty candles, such as Christmas novelty candles, are not within the scope of the antidumping duty order on petroleum-wax candles from the People's Republic of China (PRC). Christmas novelty candles are candles specially designed for use only in connection with the Christmas holiday season. This use is clearly indicated by Christmas scenes and symbols depicted in the candle design. Other novelty candles not within the scope of the order include candles having scenes or symbols of other occasions (*e.g.*, religious holidays or special events) depicted in their designs, figurine candles, and candles shaped in the form of identifiable objects (*e.g.*, animals or numerals).

See CBP Notice.

In November 2001, the Department changed its practice on the issue of candle shapes. *See Final Scope Ruling Antidumping Duty Order on Petroleum Wax Candles From the People's Republic of China (A-570-504); JC Penney Purchasing Corporation*, (November 9, 2001) ("JC Penney"). In this ruling, the Department reviewed the

¹ On July 28, 2006, the United States Customs Service since was renamed as the United States Bureau of Customs and Border Protection. *See Homeland Security Act of 2002*, Pub. L. 107-296, § 1502, 116 Stat. 2135, 2308-09 (2002); Reorganization Plan Modification for the Department of Homeland Security, H.R. Doc. No. 108-32, at 4 (2003).

text of the scope of the Order, beginning with the text of the first sentence of the scope which covers “{c}ertain scented or unscented petroleum wax candles made from petroleum wax and having fiber or paper-cored wicks.” *See Order*. The Department stated in JC Penney that: {t}he text following this broad inclusive sentence provides a list of shapes, which list is not modified by any express words of exclusivity. The result of our prior practice of excluding candles of a shape other than those listed was arguably inconsistent with the fact that such candles were scented or unscented petroleum wax candles made from petroleum wax and having fiber or paper-cored wicks.’ *See JC Penney* at 4–5, footnote 1. Furthermore, in JC Penney, the Department stated that:

We now determine that this practice was incorrect because it had the effect of narrowing the broad coverage of the first sentence of the Order’s scope. The list of shapes in the second sentence of the Order’s scope does not provide a textual basis for such a narrowing of the coverage of the first sentence of the Order’s scope. Accordingly, in order to give full effect to the first sentence of the inclusive language of the scope, the Department in this and future cases normally will evaluate whether candles of a shape not listed by the inclusive language of the Order’s scope are scented or unscented petroleum wax candles made from petroleum wax and having fiber or paper-cored wicks. *See JC Penney* at 5, footnote 1. Since 2001, the Department has determined that if the candle is made from petroleum wax and has a fiber or paper-cored wick it falls within the scope of the Order regardless of shape unless the candle possesses the characteristics set out in the CBP Notice, in which case a candle falls within the Department’s novelty candle exception and is not within the scope of the *Order*.

Issue of Concern

The Department is reconsidering the JC Penney methodology, given the large number of candles scope request submitted each year, many of which have claimed exclusion on the grounds that they are novelty candles. Since the JC Penney ruling in 2001, the Department has issued 596 scope determinations for this *Order*. Currently, there are 308 pending candles scope determinations. *See Scope Requests* submitted by Trade Associates Group, Ltd., dated June 11, 2009, and Sourcing International, LLC, dated June 25, 2009, July 28, 2009. The volume of requests in

this *Order* is greater than any other antidumping duty order. It is evident that the methodology adopted in JC Penney has resulted in uncertainty as to what candles fall within the scope of the *Order*, because this methodology requires that the Department examine each individual candle in order to reach a determination as to whether it qualifies as a novelty candle. This methodology has resulted in parties submitting an extremely large number of scope requests, hindering the Department’s ability to conduct a timely analysis of these requests.

Request for Comments

As a result of the uncertainty driving the growing number of requests for candles scope determinations and an evaluation of the resources needed to complete these analyses, the Department is requesting that interested parties, as defined by 19 U.S.C. § 1677(9), provide comments on whether it is proper to continue analyzing whether novelty candles are outside the scope of the *Order* pursuant to the JC Penney methodology.

The Department will consider all comments proposed by interested parties. However, we are proposing the following two options:

Option A

The Department would consider all candle shapes identified in the scope of the *Order*, (*i.e.*, tapers, spirals, and straight-sided dinner candles; rounds, columns, pillars, votives; and various wax-filled containers) to be *within* the scope of the *Order*, regardless of etchings, prints, moldings or other artistic or decorative enhancements including any holiday-related art. All other candle shapes would be considered outside the scope of the *Order*.

Option B

The Department would consider all candle shapes, including novelty candles, to be within the scope of the *Order* including those not in the shapes listed in the scope of the *Order*, as that is not an exhaustive list of shapes, but simply an illustrative list of common candle shapes.

The Department is not limiting its consideration to only these two options and welcomes all interested parties to submit comments and proposals for conducting the increasing number of requests for candle scope determinations. We also invite interested parties to consider the historical context in which the novelty exclusion was created and whether the basis for that exclusion should be

reconsidered given the increasing number of requests for candle scope determinations.

The Department intends to issue a preliminary determination with respect to this issue 60 days after September 16, 2009. Parties will then be able to file a brief 30 days after the issuance of the preliminary determination and rebuttal briefs 10 days later. The Department intends to issue a final determination within 60 days after the receiving the comments to the draft response.

Pending Scope Determinations

Given the overwhelming number of scope requests, we will not issue a determination on the pending scope requests until we have completed our analysis of the comments submitted by interested parties.

Submission of Comments

Persons wishing to comment should file one signed original and six copies of each set of comments by the date specified above. The Department will consider all comments received before the close of the comment period. Comments received after the end of the comment period will be considered, if possible, but their consideration cannot be assured. The Department will not accept comments accompanied by a request that a part or all of the material be treated confidentially because of its business proprietary nature or for any other reason. The Department will return such comments and materials to the persons submitting the comments and will not consider them. All comments responding to this notice will be a matter of public record and will be available for inspection and copying at Import Administration’s Central Records Unit, Room 1117. The Department requires that comments be submitted in written form. The Department recommends submission of comments in electronic form to accompany the required paper copies.

Comments filed in electronic form should be submitted either by e-mail to the Webmaster below, or on CD ROM, as comments submitted on diskette is likely to be damaged by postal radiation treatment. Comments received in electronic form will be made available to the public in Portable Document Format (PDF) on the Internet at the Import Administration Web site at the following address: <http://www.ia.ita.doc.gov>. Any questions concerning file formatting, document conversion, access on the Internet, or other electronic filing issues should be addressed to Andrew Lee Beller, Import Administration Webmaster, at (202) 482

0866, e-mail address:
webmastersupport@ita.doc.gov.

Dated: August 14, 2009.

John M. Andersen,

*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Antidumping and Countervailing Duty
Operations.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XQ40

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; General Provisions for Domestic Fisheries; Application for Exempted Fishing Permits

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries
Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),
Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Regional
Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries,
Northeast Region, NMFS, has made a
preliminary determination that the
subject exempted fishing permit (EFP)
application contains all the required
information and warrants further
consideration. Therefore, NMFS
announces that the Assistant Regional
Administrator proposes to recommend
that an EFP be issued that would allow
commercial fishing vessels to conduct
fishing operations that are otherwise
restricted by the regulations governing
the fisheries of the Northeastern United
States. Regulations under the
Magnuson-Stevens Fishery
Conservation and Management Act
require publication of this notification
to provide interested parties the
opportunity to comment on applications
for proposed EFPs.

DATES: Comments must be received on
or before September 8, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be
submitted by email to
NERO.EFP@noaa.gov. Written
comments should be sent to Patricia A.
Kurkul, Regional Administrator, NMFS,
Northeast Regional Office, 55 Great
Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930.
Mark the outside of the envelope
"Comments on the SNE Flatfish Discard
Mortality EFP." Comments may also be
sent via facsimile (fax) to (978) 281-
9135.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Melissa Vasquez, Fishery Management
Specialist, (978) 281-9166, fax (978)
281-9135.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: An EFP is
being requested for eight vessels
participating in the Southern New
England (SNE) Flatfish Discard
Mortality Study conducted by the
NOAA/University of Massachusetts
Dartmouth School for Marine Science
and Technology (SMAST) Cooperative
Marine Education and Research
program. The primary objective of this
study is to assess the effects of different
stressors on the mortality of flatfish
discarded in the SNE and Mid-Atlantic
trawl fisheries. The researchers would
conduct field and lab observations of
flatfish captured during regular
commercial fishing operations for Reflex
Action Mortality Predictors (RAMP)
under different stressors to assess the
discard mortality rates of five flatfish
species: SNE yellowtail flounder; SNE
winter flounder; summer flounder;
northern windowpane flounder; and
southern windowpane flounder. In
addition, the applicants would use the
results of their study to assess the use
of RAMP in estimating the mortality of
each species within the flatfish
complex.

The study would be conducted aboard
eight commercial fishing vessels in the
SNE and Mid-Atlantic mixed trawl
fishery beginning the date of issuance of
the EFP and continuing for a full year.
All vessels would utilize otter trawl gear
with gear configuration and mesh size
dictated by current fishery regulations.
NOAA/University of Massachusetts
technicians and/or commercial
fishermen would collect 100 fish of each
species per month, during regular
commercial fishing operations, for a
maximum catch of 6,000 fish over the
course of the 12-month study (Table 1).
Fish would be landed and transported
live to the SMAST seawater lab facility
for testing and would not be sold. The
applicants have requested an exemption
from NE multispecies possession
restrictions for SNE yellowtail flounder,
SNE winter flounder, and northern
windowpane flounder, specified at
§§ 648.86(g)(1), 648.86(n)(1), and
648.86(n)(2), respectively, in order to
land the live specimens in excess of
possession limits. The applicants have
also requested an exemption from NE
multispecies minimum fish sizes
specified at § 648.83 and the summer
flounder minimum fish size at
§ 648.103(a) in order to test a
representative sample of the age
composition of discarded flatfish.

TABLE 1: ESTIMATED SAMPLE SIZE

Species	#fish/month	#fish total
SNE Yellowtail Flounder	100	1200
SNE Winter Flounder	100	1200
Summer Flounder	100	1200
Northern Window- pane Floun- der	100	1200
Southern Window- pane Floun- der	100	1200

For the field-based portion of the
study, technicians would observe a
minimum of 100 fish of each species on
commercial fishing trips for RAMP
before they are discarded at-sea. The
applicants would require a temporary
exemption from the summer flounder
commercial minimum fish size
restriction at § 648.103(a), the NE
multispecies minimum fish size
restrictions at § 648.83, and the NE
multispecies possession restrictions at
§§ 648.86(g)(1), 648.86(n)(1), and
648.86(n)(2), for the time period when
trained technicians or crew are
sampling fish. To ensure that monthly
sampling is not disrupted, the
applicants have also requested vessels
be exempt from the summer flounder
closure specified at § 648.101(a) for the
purposes of collecting the 100 live
specimens of each species each month.

The applicants may request minor
modifications and extensions to the EFP
throughout the course of research. EFP
modifications and extensions may be
granted without further public notice if
they are deemed essential to facilitate
completion of the proposed research
and result in only a minimal change in
the scope or impacts of the initially
approved EFP request.

In accordance with NAO
Administrative Order 216-6, a
Categorical Exclusion or other
appropriate National Environmental
Policy Act document would be
completed prior to the issuance of the
EFP. Further review and consultation
may be necessary before a final
determination is made to issue the EFP.
After publication of this document in
the **Federal Register**, the EFP, if
approved, may become effective
following the public comment period.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*