



ANTI-DUMPING NOTICE NO 2024/040

Public notice under section 269TC(4) of the *Customs Act 1901*

Interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets

Exported to Australia from the People's Republic of China

Initiation of Investigation No 644 into alleged dumping and subsidisation

*Customs Act 1901 – Part XVB*¹

I, Isolde Lueckenhausen, Acting Commissioner of the Anti-Dumping Commission (the Commissioner),² have initiated an investigation following an application lodged by Abey Australia Pty Ltd, a manufacturer of interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets (the goods) in Australia.

The application seeks the publication of a dumping duty notice and a countervailing duty notice in respect of the goods exported to Australia from the People's Republic of China (China).

The application alleges that the goods have been exported to Australia at prices less than their normal value and were in receipt of countervailable subsidies, and that the dumping and subsidisation has caused material injury to the Australian industry producing like goods through:

- loss of sales volume
- lower production volumes
- reduced market share
- reduced capacity utilisation
- reduced capital investment
- reduced wages.

The non-confidential version of the application, which contains the basis of the alleged dumping, subsidisation, and material injury to the Australian industry, is available on the electronic public record (EPR) for this case.³ The EPR can be found

¹ All legislative references in this notice are to the *Customs Act 1901*(Cth) unless otherwise specified.

² References in this document to individuals holding positions within the Anti-Dumping Commission (commission) are references to whoever occupies the position at the time. This includes when the position is held in an acting capacity.

³ EPR 644, document no 1.

on the commission's website at www.adcommission.gov.au

Reasons for the decision to initiate this investigation are in *Anti-Dumping Commission Consideration Report No 644* (CON 644), which is available on the EPR.⁴ CON 644 outlines the basis upon which dumping and subsidisation is alleged to have occurred. Additionally, the factors upon which the allegation of material injury to the industry is based are also summarised in the report.

In accordance with section 269ZI(3), a copy of this notice and accompanying reasons will be provided to each of the countries whose exporters are affected by the decision to not reject the application.

The date of initiation of this investigation is the date of publication of this notice.

Particulars of the goods

The goods the subject of the application are:

Interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets, whether or not galvanized, whether or not including nut and bolt, including the following brackets:

- light hanging bracket with elongated slot and square hole for interlocking coach bolt and nut
- stand-off bracket with elongated slot and square hole for interlocking coach bolt and nut
- adjustable stand-off bracket with elongated slot for interlocking coach bolt and nut
- all-thread bracket with elongated slot and square hole for interlocking coach bolt and nut, and
- welded nut bracket with elongated slot and square hole for interlocking coach bolt and nut.

Further information in relation to the goods:

The interchangeable bolted clipping system brackets are manufactured from galvanised hot rolled coil ("HRC"). The grade of galvanised HRC is Z275 grade and is of varying thicknesses of 1 mm to 4 mm, dependent upon the model of steel bracket.

Tariff classifications

The goods are generally, but not exclusively, classified to the following tariff classifications in Schedule 3 to the *Customs Tariff Act 1995*:

- 7326.90.90 (statistical code 60)
- 7318.15.00 (statistical codes 51, 52, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 68, 69, 70, 71, 90 (All))

These tariff classifications and statistical codes may include goods that are both subject and not subject to this investigation. The listing of these tariff classifications

⁴ EPR 644, document no 2.

and statistical codes are for convenience or reference only and do not form part of the goods description set out above. Please refer to the goods description for authoritative detail regarding the particulars of the goods the subject of this investigation.

Investigation process

The investigation period is 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. I will examine exports to Australia of the goods during this period to determine whether dumping and subsidisation has occurred. I will examine details of the Australian market from 1 April 2020 for the purposes of injury analysis.

Where the Minister for Industry and Science (the Minister) is satisfied, as to goods of any kind, that:

- (a) the amount of the export price of the goods that have been exported to Australia is less than the normal value of those goods, and the amount of the export price of like goods that may be exported to Australia in the future may be less than the normal value of the goods, and
- (b) because of that, material injury to an Australian industry producing like goods has been or is being caused or is threatened, or the establishment of an Australian industry producing like goods has been or may be materially hindered,

the Minister may, by public notice, impose interim dumping duties.⁵

Where the Minister is satisfied, as to goods of any kind, that:

- (a) a countervailable subsidy has been received in respect of the goods that have been exported to Australia, and (if applicable) may be received in respect of like goods that may be exported to Australia in the future; and
- (b) because of that, material injury to an Australian industry producing like goods has been or is being caused or is threatened, or the establishment of an Australian industry producing like goods has been or may be materially hindered,

the Minister may, by public notice, impose interim countervailing duties.⁶

Where there are grounds for the Minister to publish a dumping duty notice and/or countervailing duty notice in respect of the goods, I will examine whether the trade in the dumped or subsidised goods give rise to retrospective notices being published pursuant to section 269TN, and make recommendations to the Minister accordingly.⁷

⁵ In accordance with section 269TG(2).

⁶ In accordance with section 269TJ(2).

⁷ In accordance with sections 269TG(1) and 269TJ(1).

Proposed model control code structure

The commission undertakes model matching using a Model Control Code (MCC) structure to identify key characteristics that will be used to compare the goods exported to Australia and the like goods sold domestically in the country of export.⁸

The table below outlines the commission’s proposed MCC structure for this investigation.

Item	Category	Sub-category	Identifier	Sales data	Cost data	Key category
1	Type	Stand-off bracket	A	Mandatory	Mandatory	Yes
		Adjustable stand-off bracket	B			
		Adjustable stand-off bracket (hanging)	C			
		Light hanging bracket	D			
		Stainless steel hanging bracket	E			
		All thread bracket	F			
		Welded nut bracket	G			
		Welded nut standoff bracket	H			
		V Legs	I			
		Bolted clip shanks	J			
		Other	K			
2	Product code (specific to relevant company)	XXX	XXX	Mandatory	Mandatory	Yes
3	Finish	Galvanised	A	Mandatory	Mandatory	Yes
		Non-galvanised	B			

Proposals to modify the proposed MCC structure should be raised as soon as is practicable, but no later than **1 August 2024**, being the day submissions concerning the publication of the dumping duty notice and countervailing duty notice sought in the application are due.

Any proposed changes to the MCC structure will be considered by the commission and reported in verification reports or in the statement of essential facts (SEF).

⁸ Guidance on the commission’s approach to model matching is in the Dumping and Subsidy Manual, available at www.adcommission.gov.au.

Public record

I must maintain a public record of each investigation. Documents included in the public record are available at www.adcommission.gov.au

The public record will contain, among other things, a copy of the application, CON 644,⁹ and copies of all non-confidential submissions from interested parties. Letters and emails are generally regarded as submissions if they contain information relevant to the investigation.

Lodgement of submissions

Interested parties, as defined by section 269T(1), are invited to lodge submissions concerning the publication of the dumping duty notice and /countervailing duty notice sought in the application, no later than **1 August 2024**, addressed to:

The Director
Investigations
GPO Box 2013
Canberra ACT 2601
Australia

or by email to investigations@adcommission.gov.au

Interested parties wishing to participate in the investigation must ensure that submissions are lodged by the due date. Interested parties should note that I am not obliged to have regard to a submission received after the date above if to do so would, in my opinion, prevent the timely placement of the SEF on the public record.

Interested parties should also note that I am directed to consider the matters set out in the *Customs (Extensions of Time and Non-cooperation) Direction 2015* in certain circumstances.¹⁰ This is available at: www.legislation.gov.au

Interested parties may reply to matters raised by other parties during the investigation and in response to the SEF.

Interested parties claiming that information contained in their submission is confidential, or that the publication of the information would adversely affect their business or commercial interests, must:

- (i) provide a summary containing sufficient detail to allow a reasonable understanding of the substance of the information that does not breach that confidentiality or adversely affect those interests, or
- (ii) satisfy me that there is no way such a summary can be given to allow a reasonable understanding of the substance of the information.

⁹ EPR 644, document no 2.

¹⁰ Certain powers and functions under the *Customs (Extensions of Time and Non-cooperation) Direction 2015* have been delegated to the commission's Deputy Commissioners (Anti-Dumping Notice (ADN) No 2017/10, available at: www.adcommission.gov.au refers).

Submissions containing confidential information must be clearly marked "OFFICIAL: Sensitive".

Interested parties must lodge a non-confidential version or a summary of their submission in accordance with the requirement above (clearly marked "PUBLIC RECORD").

Lodgement of exporter questionnaires

Exporters of the goods to Australia are invited to participate in this investigation by completing the exporter questionnaire and the associated spreadsheets by **1 August 2024**.

The exporter questionnaire and the associated spreadsheets are available on the EPR case information page for case number 644 (which can be found under 'current cases and the electronic public record' on the commission website). Alternatively, exporters can email investigations@adcommission.gov.au and the commission will forward the exporter questionnaire and spreadsheets for completion.

Provisional measures

Pursuant to section 269TD, I will make a preliminary affirmative determination (PAD) provided I am satisfied that there appears to be sufficient grounds for the publication of a dumping or countervailing duty notice or there appears that there will be sufficient grounds for the publication of a dumping or countervailing duty notice subsequent to the importation of the goods into Australia. This can occur no earlier than day 60 of an investigation.

In accordance with section 269TD, the Commonwealth may apply provisional measures, including the taking of securities under section 42, in respect of interim dumping and/or countervailing duty that may become payable on the goods, where: a PAD has been made; and the Commissioner is satisfied that it is necessary to do so to prevent material injury to an Australian industry occurring while the investigation continues.

Where a PAD is not made 60 days after initiation of the investigation, the *Customs (Preliminary Affirmative Determinations) Direction 2015* (the PAD Direction) directs me to publish a status report providing reasons why a PAD was not made. The PAD Direction is available on the Federal Register of Legislation website, www.legislation.gov.au

Statement of Essential Facts

The dates specified in this notice for lodging submissions must be observed to enable me to report to the Minister within the legislative timeframe. In accordance with section 269TDAA of the Act, a SEF will be placed on the public record by **14 October 2024**,¹¹ or by such later date as allowed in accordance with

¹¹ The due date is 13 October 2024, however, as this falls on a Sunday, the effective due date is the following business day.

section 269ZHI.¹² The SEF will set out the essential facts on which I propose to base my recommendations to the Minister. Interested parties are invited to lodge submissions in response to the SEF within 20 days of it being placed on the public record.

Submissions received in response to the SEF within 20 days of that statement being placed on the EPR will be taken into account in completing the report and recommendations to the Minister.

Report to the Minister

Recommendations to the Minister will be made in a report on or before **27 November 2024** (or such later date as allowed under section 269ZHI), based on the examination of exportations of the goods to Australia during the investigation period, unless I terminate the investigation.

The Minister must make a declaration within 30 days after receiving the report, or such longer period as the Minister considers appropriate.

Anti-Dumping Review Panel

Certain persons will have the right to seek review with the Anti-Dumping Review Panel in accordance with Division 9 of Part XVB in relation to a decision by me to terminate the investigation or a decision of the Minister to publish or not to publish a dumping duty notice and countervailing duty notice after considering my report.

Interested party list

Throughout the investigation, the commission will maintain an internal list of interested parties. Updates on the investigation will be sent to parties on this list. If you would like to be added to the interested party list, please email investigations@adcommission.gov.au

Anti-Dumping Commission contact

Enquiries about this notice may be directed to the client services on telephone number 02 6213 6000, or investigations@adcommission.gov.au

Isolde Lueckenhausen
Acting Commissioner
Anti-Dumping Commission

25 June 2024

¹² On 14 January 2017, certain powers and functions of the Minister under section 269ZHI were delegated to the Commissioner. Refer to ADN No 2017/10 for further information.