Trade Remedies Authority

NOTICE OF INITIATION

Investigation No. SG0094

Safeguard Investigation into Imports of Poly(ethylene Terephthalate) (PET)

The Trade Remedies Authority ("TRA") makes the following Notice under paragraph 7(6) of Schedule 5 to the Taxation (Cross-border Trade) Act 2018 (the Act) to initiate an investigation into increased quantities of imports into the United Kingdom of PET.

The date of initiation of the investigation is **05 August 2026.**

The decision to initiate the investigation follows an Application (the Application) lodged by ALPEK Polyester Limited (the Applicant), (company number 07108602) of Davies Offices, Wilton International, Redcar, Cleveland, TS10 4XZ.

A non-confidential copy of the Application is available on our public file relating to this investigation.

HOW TO TAKE PART IN THE INVESTIGATION

Registration period

Anyone who wants to participate in the investigation can register their interest through the Trade Remedies Service by **23:59 GMT on 19 August 2026**.

Please contact SG0094@traderemedies.gov.uk if you have any difficulties using this service.

Anyone registering their interest after **19 August 2026** may not be able to participate fully in the investigation process.

Interested parties and contributors

Once registered, interested parties and contributors can submit comments on any issues relevant to the investigation through the Trade Remedies Service.

Interested parties include:

- the governments of the relevant foreign countries and territories;
- any overseas exporter, overseas producer or importer of the goods concerned;
- any trade or business association of overseas producers, overseas exporters or importers of the goods concerned;
- any producer of like and/or directly competitive goods in the UK; and
- any trade or business association of UK producers of like and/or directly competitive goods.

Contributors are those, other than interested parties, who have notified us that they would like to participate in the investigation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVESTIGATION

The Goods

The goods subject to investigation (the Goods Concerned) are:

> *Poly(ethylene Terephthalate) resin, whether virgin produced poly(ethylene terephthalate) ("vPET") having a viscosity number of 74 ml/g or higher or recycled poly(ethylene terephthalate) ("rPET") of the same viscosity range.*

The Goods Concerned are subject to the following commodity codes. These commodity codes are provided for information only:

3907 6100	3907 6900

Like goods

In this investigation we will refer to goods which are **like** the goods concerned. Any reference to '**like goods**' in the investigation refers to goods produced in the UK which are like the goods concerned in all respects, or with characteristics closely resembling them.

UK produced vPET is like the goods concerned as described above, whether imported vPET or imported rPET.

Directly competitive goods

In this investigation we may refer to goods which are **directly competitive** with the goods concerned**.** Any reference to '**directly competitive goods**' in this investigation refers to goods produced and sold in the UK which, although not 'like goods', directly compete with the goods concerned.

At this stage, we have not identified any goods which are directly competitive with the goods concerned which are not like goods.

Allegations

The Application alleges that the Goods Concerned have been imported into the United Kingdom in increased quantities, that these increased quantities are significant and that the increase in imports has caused and is causing serious injury to the UK PET producer(s).

Increased Quantities

The Applicant provided evidence that there has been clear, sustained and significant year-on-year increases to import volumes of the goods concerned to the UK. UK official customs statistics at a 6-digit commodity code level appear to support this claim.

The Applicant provided its domestic production and sales data for the period between 2021 and 2025, in which it demonstrated that there has also been a significant increase in the quantity of imports of the goods concerned relative to the total domestic UK production.

Significant Increase

The Applicant provided evidence that the increase in quantities of imports was significant, by reference to the rate and volume of imports of the goods concerned, and in that the increase was a result of unforeseen developments. Official UK customs statistics appear to support the allegation of a significant increase in the rate of imports from 2021 to 2025, and the considerable increase in the absolute volume within the same period.

The Applicant provided evidence that the importation of the goods concerned in increased quantities was not foreseeable, citing several factors including but not limited to:

- Russia’s conflict with Ukraine;
- Accelerated increases in excess global PET capacity; and
- Fundamental changes to the PET resin market in Asia.

Serious Injury

The Applicant provided evidence that the aforementioned increased quantity of imports of the goods concerned, have caused and are causing serious injury to the UK producer. The Applicant has provided data which indicates:

- The UK market has been penetrated by a significant increase in the quantity of imports of the goods concerned, which is reflected in the changing market share held by overseas exporters;
- Negative changes to the UK producers’ economic factors, including;
  - Decline in domestic sales;
  - Decline in productivity;
  - Decline in production;

- Reduction in capacity utilisation;
- Deterioration in financial performance, including prices and profitability; and
- Decline in employment levels.

The Applicant has further alleged that the increased quantities of imports are threatening to cause serious injury, through the effect of increased global PET capacity.

SUMMARY OF THE INVESTIGATION PROCESS

The period of investigation is **01 January 2021 to 31 December 2025**.

The investigation will involve the following process:

- Notifying the WTO Committee on Safeguards;
- inviting parties to register their interest in the investigation;
- issuing questionnaires, where practicable, to:
  - all UK producers; and
  - any other party that the TRA considers to be appropriate.
- conducting authentication visits in the UK to better understand the industry, and/or further assess, examine and authenticate information supplied by interested parties;
- analysing information gathered;
- making a Provisional Determination (this can be done at any time during the investigation process);
- gathering comments on the Provisional Determination - interested parties will have no longer than 30 days to provide responses;
- publishing a Statement of Intended Final Determination, which will set out a summary of the facts considered during the investigation, how evidence submitted by interested parties has been used, and the recommendation which will be put forward for a Final Determination;
- gathering comments on the Statement of Intended Final Determination - interested parties will have no longer than 30 days to provide responses; and
- making a Final Determination on applying an additional rate of import duty or tariff rate quota, taking into account whether it is in the public interest of the United Kingdom.

Our Trade Remedies Guidance provides more information about the investigations process.

Provisional Affirmative Determination

If, at any time during the investigation, we are satisfied that there are sufficient grounds for recommending imposition of a safeguarding amount or tariff rate quota, we may make a provisional affirmative determination under paragraph 11 of Schedule 5 to the Act and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State under paragraph 12 or 13 of that Schedule.

Limited examination

Depending on the number of parties registering an interest in the investigation, we may consider it appropriate in the investigation to limit examination to a sample of:

- categories of goods;
- United Kingdom producers;

- transactions for the purchase of the like goods and directly competitive goods in the United Kingdom; or
- anything else the TRA considers it appropriate to sample.

Hearings

Interested parties can request a hearing by using the Trade Remedies Service. For further information about hearings during an investigation, please see our Meetings, Hearings and Visits Guidance.

Confidential Information

Information provided during an investigation may be treated as confidential. Anyone requesting that information be treated as confidential must demonstrate why, and provide:

- a non-confidential summary of that information; or
- In exceptional circumstances, a statement of reasons explaining why the information should be treated as confidential and why it cannot be summarised.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Our Trade Remedies Guidance provides more information about the investigations process, including our requirements for submitting and summarising confidential information.

Annex 1: Developing Country Exemption List

The TRA will use the UK's Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS), including countries that would otherwise qualify for the scheme but for their preferential trading arrangements with the UK, to identify WTO developing country Members eligible for consideration under Regulation 43 and Article 9.1 of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards. The list is set out below:

Afghanistan	Egypt	Madagascar	Sierra Leone
Algeria	Eritrea	Malawi	Solomon Islands
Angola	Eswatini	Mali	Somalia
Bangladesh	Ethiopia	Mauritania	South Sudan
Benin	Federated States of Micronesia	Mongolia	Sri Lanka
Bhutan	Gambia	Morocco	Sudan
Bolivia	Ghana	Mozambique	Syria
Burkina Faso	Guinea	Myanmar	Tajikistan
Burundi	Guinea-Bissau	Namibia	Tanzania
Cambodia	Haiti	Nepal	Togo
Cameroon	Honduras	Nicaragua	Tunisia
Cape Verde	India	Niger	Tuvalu
Central African Republic	Indonesia	Nigeria	Uganda
Chad	Jordan	Niue	Uzbekistan
Comoros	Kenya	Pakistan	Vanuatu
Congo, Rep.	Kiribati	Palestinian Authority	Vietnam
Cook Islands	Kyrgyz Republic	Papua New Guinea	Yemen
Côte D'Ivoire	Laos	Philippines	Zambia
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Lebanon	Rwanda	Zimbabwe
Djibouti	Lesotho	Sao Tome & Principe	
East Timor	Liberia	Senegal	