

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20436

**MEMORANDUM ON PROPOSED TARIFF LEGISLATION
of the 109th Congress¹**

[Date approved: January 11, 2007]²

Bill No. and sponsor: S. 3498 (Mr. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania).

Proponent name, location: Armstrong World Industries, Inc., Marietta, PA.

Other bills on product (109th Congress only): None.

Nature of bill: Temporary duty suspension through December 31, 2009.

Retroactive effect: None.

Suggested article description(s) for enactment (including appropriate HTS subheading(s)):

Thin smooth nonwoven fiberglass sheets, approximately .0125 inches thick, comprised principally of glass fibers bound together in a polyvinyl alcohol matrix, of a type primarily used as acoustical facing for ceiling panels (provided for in subheading 7019.32.00).

Check one: Same as that in bill as introduced.
 Different from that in bill as introduced (see Technical comments section).

Product information, including uses/applications and source(s) of imports:

The subject product is used in the production of acoustic ceiling tiles for commercial suspension ceiling systems. The fiberglass sheets provide an acoustically transparent and scratch resistant substrate material on which the producer builds the finished ceiling tile products. Other possible uses for this product include incorporation in soft adhesive roofing systems for vehicles, as a barrier between a composite and aluminum in truck deck-lids, as an outer cover for foam panels used in OEM boat-building applications, and in various other building material applications. The subject product is produced by Owens-Corning in the Netherlands. Owens-Corning supplies Armstrong World Industries, Inc., and their major competitor, USG Corporation. Both Armstrong and USG use the subject product to produce acoustic ceiling tiles.

¹ Industry analyst preparing report: Eric Land (202-205-3449); Tariff Affairs contact: David Michels (202-205-3440).

² Access to an electronic copy of this memorandum is available at http://usitc.gov/tata/hts/other/rel_doc/bill_reports/index.htm.

Estimated effect on customs revenue:

HTS subheading: 7019.32.00					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Col. 1-General rate of duty	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%
Estimated value <i>dutiable</i> imports	\$12,000,000	\$12,000,000	\$12,000,000	\$12,000,000	\$12,000,000
Customs revenue loss	\$516,000	\$516,000	\$516,000	\$516,000	\$516,000

Source of estimated dutiable import data: Compiled from industry estimates and official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Contacts with domestic firms/organizations (including the proponent):

Name of firm/organization	Date contacted	Claim US makes same or competing product(s)?	Submission attached?	Opposition noted?
Armstrong World Industries, Inc. (Proponent) Mary Huwaldt, 717-396-2886	09/7/2006	No	No	No
CertainTeed - Saint Gobain Donna O'Neil, 610-341-7000	09/7/2006	No	No	No
Georgia-Pacific Corporation Alan Thielman, 404-652-3157	09/7/2006	No	No	No
PPG Pat Loper, 412-434-2948	09/7/2006	No	No	No
USG Corporation Chris McElroy, 312-606-3996 Bobbi Skrula, 312-606-3995	09/7/2006	No	No	No

Technical comments:³

The Commission suggests that the article description on page 1 of the bill be used because it is clear and specific. Also, the word "Free" in the special column should be deleted and the words "No change" should be inserted in lieu thereof.

³ The Commission may express an opinion on the HTS classification of a product to facilitate consideration of the bill. However, by law, only the U.S. Customs Service is authorized to issue a binding ruling on this matter. The Commission believes that the U.S. Customs Service should be consulted prior to enactment of the bill.

109TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 3498

To suspend temporarily the duty on certain thin fiberglass sheets.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 13, 2006

Mr. SANTORUM introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To suspend temporarily the duty on certain thin fiberglass sheets.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. CERTAIN FIBERGLASS SHEETS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 99 of
5 the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is
6 amended by inserting in numerical sequence the following
7 new heading:

“	9902.70.19		Certain thin fiberglass sheets, known as 'serim' (provided for in subheading 7019.32.00)		Free		Free		No change		On or before 12/31/2009	”.
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8 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
9 subsection (a) applies to goods entered, or withdrawn from

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- 1 warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day after
- 2 the date of the enactment of this Act.

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