

PURCHASERS' QUESTIONNAIRE
POLYETHYLENE RETAIL CARRIER BAGS FROM CHINA,
MALAYSIA, AND THAILAND

Return completed questionnaire to:

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
Office of Investigations, Room 615
500 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20436

So as to be received by the Commission by no later than March 15, 2004

The information called for in this questionnaire is for use by the United States International Trade Commission in connection with its antidumping investigations concerning polyethylene retail carrier bags (PRCBs) from China, Malaysia, and Thailand (invs. Nos. 731-TA-1043-1045 (Final)). The information requested in the questionnaire is requested under the authority of the Tariff Act of 1930, title VII. This report is mandatory and failure to reply as directed can result in a subpoena or other order to compel the submission of records or information in your possession (19 U.S.C. § 1333(a)). Further information on this questionnaire can be obtained from William Deese (202-205-2626).

Name of firm _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

World Wide Web address _____

Has your firm purchased PRCBs (as defined in the instruction booklet) from any source (domestic or foreign) at any time since January 1, 2001?

NO (Sign the certification below and promptly return only this page of the questionnaire to the Commission)

YES (Read the instruction booklet carefully, complete all parts of the questionnaire, sign the certification, and return the entire questionnaire to the Commission)

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the information herein supplied in response to this questionnaire is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and understand that the information submitted is subject to audit and verification by the Commission.

By signing this certification I also grant consent for the Commission, and its employees and contract personnel, to use the information provided in this questionnaire and throughout these investigations in any other import-injury investigations conducted by the Commission on the same or similar merchandise. (If you do not consent to such use, please note the certification accordingly.)

I acknowledge that information submitted in this questionnaire response and throughout these investigations may be used by the Commission, its employees, and contract personnel who are acting in the capacity of Commission employees, for developing or maintaining the records of these investigations or related proceedings for which this information is submitted, or in internal audits and investigations relating to the programs and operations of the Commission pursuant to 5 U.S.C. Appendix 3. I understand that all contract personnel will sign non-disclosure agreements.

Name and Title of Authorized Official

Date

Signature of Authorized Official

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Phone

()

Fax

PART I.--GENERAL QUESTIONS

The questions in this questionnaire have been reviewed with market participants to ensure that issues of concern are adequately addressed and that data requests are sufficient, meaningful, and as limited as possible. Public reporting burden for this questionnaire is estimated to average 16 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering the data needed, and completing and reviewing the questionnaire. Send comments regarding the accuracy of this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Office of Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20436.

I-1a. Please report below the actual number of hours required and the cost to your firm of preparing the reply to this questionnaire and completing the form.

_____ hours _____ dollars

I-1b. We are interested in any comments you may have for improving this questionnaire in general or the clarity of specific questions. Please attach such comments to your response or send them to the above address.

I-2. Provide the name and address of establishment(s) covered by this questionnaire (see page 3 of the instruction booklet for reporting guidelines). If your firm is publicly traded, please specify the stock exchange and trading symbol.

I-3. Is your firm owned, in whole or in part, by any other firm?

No Yes--List the following information.

<u>Firm name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Extent of ownership</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

I-4. Does your firm have any related firms, either domestic or foreign, which are engaged in importing PRCBs from China, Malaysia, and/or Thailand into the United States or which are engaged in exporting PRCBs from China, Malaysia, and/or Thailand to the United States?

No Yes--List the following information.

<u>Firm name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

PART I.--GENERAL QUESTIONS--Continued

I-5. Does your firm have any related firms, either domestic or foreign, which are engaged in the production of PRCBs?

No Yes--List the following information.

<u>Firm name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

PART II.--PURCHASES

II-1. Report, as indicated below, your firm's purchases (either directly or through a sales agent or broker) of all PRCBs (high-end and other than high-end); please report separately for high-end PRCB on the following page. See definitions in the instructions booklet. Report based on delivery date, not order date.

ALL PRCBs			
	2001	2002	2003
Purchases of Product Produced in the United States:			
Quantity (1,000s of bags)			
Quantity (1,000s of pounds)			
Value (1,000s of \$)			
Purchases of Product Produced in China:			
Quantity (1,000s of bags)			
Quantity (1,000s of pounds)			
Value (1,000s of \$)			
Purchases of Product Produced in Malaysia:			
Quantity (1,000s of bags)			
Quantity (1,000s of pounds)			
Value (1,000s of \$)			
Purchases of Product Produced in Thailand:			
Quantity (1,000s of bags)			
Quantity (1,000s of pounds)			
Value (1,000s of \$)			
Purchases of Product Produced in Other Countries:¹			
Quantity (1,000s of bags)			
Quantity (1,000s of pounds)			
Value (1,000s of \$)			
¹ Please identify these countries: _____			

PART II.--PURCHASES--Continued

II-1-Continued

HIGH-END PRCBs			
	2001	2002	2003
Purchases of Product Produced in the United States:			
Quantity (1,000s of bags)			
Quantity (1,000s of pounds)			
Value (1,000s of \$)			
Purchases of Product Produced in China:			
Quantity (1,000s of bags)			
Quantity (1,000s of pounds)			
Value (1,000s of \$)			
Purchases of Product Produced in Malaysia:			
Quantity (1,000s of bags)			
Quantity (1,000s of pounds)			
Value (1,000s of \$)			
Purchases of Product Produced in Thailand:			
Quantity (1,000s of bags)			
Quantity (1,000s of pounds)			
Value (1,000s of \$)			
Purchases of Product Produced in Other Countries:¹			
Quantity (1,000s of bags)			
Quantity (1,000s of pounds)			
Value (1,000s of \$)			
¹ Please identify these countries: _____			

II-2. Please describe the high-end PRCBs that you purchase, including whether they vary by source.

PART II.--PURCHASES--Continued

II-3. If the relative shares of your firm's total purchases of PRCBs from different sources (both domestic and foreign) have changed in the last three years, please list the country, state whether the relative share from that country has increased or decreased, and state the reason.

Country	Increase/decrease	Reason

II-4. If your firm purchased PRCBs from only one country, please explain the reasons for doing so.

PART III.--MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES

The questions in this section refer to all types of PRCBs. If your response to any question varies depending on the type of PRCB (i.e., high-end bags versus other than high-end bags) then please note this and respond separately for the different types of PRCBs.

III-1. Which of the following best describes your firm as a purchaser of PRCBs (check all that apply, noting the specific end uses if known)?

- Retailer (_____)
- Food Distributor (_____)
- Other Distributor (_____)
- Other (_____)

III-2. (a) If your firm is a distributor or reseller of PRCBs what are the major types of consumers to which you sell PRCBs?

PART III.--MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES--Continued

The questions in this section refer to all types of PRCBs. If your response to any question varies depending on the type of PRCB (i.e., high-end bags versus other than high-end bags) then please note this and respond separately for the different types of PRCBs.

(b) Do you compete for sales to your customers with the manufacturers or importers from which you purchase PRCBs?

III-3. (a) If your firm is an end user of PRCBs, has the demand for your firm's final products changed since January 1, 2001?

Increased

Unchanged

Decreased

(b) Has this had any effect on your firm's demand for PRCBs?

III-4. Please estimate the percentages of your firm's purchases of PRCBs in 2003 that were of the following type.

a)	High-end bags	_____
	Other than high-end bags	_____
		100 %

b)	T-shirt bags	_____
	Die cut handle bags	_____
	Patch handle bags	_____
	Drawstring style bags	_____
	Flat-bottom plastic/string loop handle	_____
	Other PRCBs	_____
		100%

PART III.--MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES--Continued

The questions in this section refer to all types of PRCBs. If your response to any question varies depending on the type of PRCB (i.e., high-end bags versus other than high-end bags) then please note this and respond separately for the different types of PRCBs.

III-5. Are paper bags, whether laminated or not, substitutes for PRCBs?

No Yes--Please discuss the substitutability between paper bags and PRCBs, including the relative prices of paper bags and PRCBs and whether your firm shifts purchases between paper bags and PRCBs. If your response differs by type of paper bag, please indicate and explain.

III-6. (a) Please list in order of importance any products that may be substituted for PRCBs.

(1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____

(b) For each possible substitute product, please give examples of applications and end uses for which they are substitutes.

(c) Have changes in the prices of these products affected the price for PRCBs?

No Yes--Please explain.

III-7. Since January 1, 2001, has your firm purchased/requested PRCBs that are (check where appropriate)

_____ Thinner _____ Same _____ Thicker
_____ Smaller _____ Same _____ Larger
_____ Les printing/graphics _____ Same _____ More printing/graphics

III-8. Are you aware whether the PRCBs you are purchasing are U.S.-produced or imported?

Always Usually Sometimes Never

PART III.--MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES--Continued

The questions in this section refer to all types of PRCBs. If your response to any question varies depending on the type of PRCB (i.e., high-end bags versus other than high-end bags) then please note this and respond separately for the different types of PRCBs.

III-9. Do you know the manufacturer of the PRCBs that you purchase?

- Always Usually Sometimes Never

III-10. To your knowledge, are your retail customers aware of and/or interested in the country of origin of the PRCBs that you supply them?

- Always Usually Sometimes Never

III-11. Have you made significant changes in your purchasing patterns (e.g., frequency) for PRCBs in the last three years?

- No Yes--Please explain.
-

III-12. How many suppliers of PRCBs do you generally contact before making a purchase?

III-13. Have you changed suppliers for PRCBs since January 1, 2001?

- No Yes--Please list the suppliers, indicate whether each firm was added or dropped as a supplier, and give the reasons for the change.
-
-

III-14. Are you aware of any new suppliers, either foreign or domestic, of PRCBs that have entered the market in the last 3 years?

- No Yes--Please identify the firms.
-

III-15. a) Do you require your suppliers to become certified or prequalified with respect to the quality, strength, or other performance characteristic of the PRCBs they sell to your firm?

- No Yes-- ____ percent of purchases in 2003 Yes--all purchases

PART III.--MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES--Continued

The questions in this section refer to all types of PRCBs. If your response to any question varies depending on the type of PRCB (i.e., high-end bags versus other than high-end bags) then please note this and respond separately for the different types of PRCBs.

b) Please provide a general description of the certification or qualification process and the time required.

III-16. Briefly describe the factors that you consider when qualifying a new supplier of PRCBs (e.g., quality of product, reliability of supplier, etc.) and estimate the time it takes to certify or qualify a new supplier.

III-17. How important are the qualities of PRCBs as a means for portraying your store as a place where others should shop (i.e., “bagvertising”) as compared with a means for your customers to simply carry purchases out of the store?

- Much more Somewhat more Equally important Somewhat less
 Less Much less Not at all important

III-18. Since January 1, 2001, have any domestic or foreign producers failed in their attempts to certify or qualify their PRCBs with your firm or have any producers lost their approved status?

- No Yes--Please identify these firms, the countries where they are located, and the reasons why they failed the certification/qualification process.

PART III.--MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES--Continued

The questions in this section refer to all types of PRCBs. If your response to any question varies depending on the type of PRCB (i.e., high-end bags versus other than high-end bags) then please note this and respond separately for the different types of PRCBs.

III-19. (a) For the factors listed below, please rate each in terms of its importance in your purchase decision for PRCBs.

	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT
Availability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delivery terms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delivery time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Discounts offered	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Extension of credit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Price	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minimum qty requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Packaging	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Product consistency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality meets industry standards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality exceeds industry standards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Product range	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reliability of supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Technical support/service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
U.S. transportation costs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify): _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PART III.--MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES--Continued

The questions in this section refer to all types of PRCBs. If your response to any question varies depending on the type of PRCB (i.e., high-end bags versus other than high-end bags) then please note this and respond separately for the different types of PRCBs.

III-20. (b) Please list, in order of their importance, the three major factors generally considered by your firm in deciding from whom to purchase PRCBs for any one order (examples include current availability, extension of credit, prearranged contracts, price, quality exceeding specifications or industry standards, range of supplier's product line, traditional supplier, etc.).

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Other factors or comments: _____

III-21. What characteristics does your firm consider when determining the quality of PRCBs?

III-22. How often does your firm purchase the PRCBs that are offered at the lowest price?

Always Usually Sometimes Never

III-23. Please list the names of any firms you considered price leaders in the PRCBs market during January 2001-December 2003. A price leader is defined as (1) one or more firms that initiate a price change, either upward or downward, that is followed by other firms, or (2) one or more firms that have a significant impact on prices. A price leader does not necessarily have to be the lowest priced supplier. For those firms identified as a price leader, please specify the time period in which a price change was communicated, whether the price change was upward or downward, and whether it covered a specific geographic region or a specific product type.

III-24. Please describe how the above firm(s) exhibited price leadership.

PART III.--MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES--Continued

The questions in this section refer to all types of PRCBs. If your response to any question varies depending on the type of PRCB (i.e., high-end bags versus other than high-end bags) then please note this and respond separately for the different types of PRCBs.

III-25. Does your firm purchase PRCBs over the internet?

No

Yes--Please answer the following questions.

For each internet purchase/reverse auction in which your firm participated, please provide the following information (attach additional pages if necessary):

a) When did the auction take place? _____

b) What suppliers participated in the auction? _____

c) Which PRCB products were being purchased through the auction? _____

d) When was the PRCB product to be shipped to your firm? _____

e) What were the quantities of each PRCB product being purchased? _____

f) Was there a pre-bidding price established before the auction began? Yes _____ No _____ If so, what was the pre-bidding price? _____

g) Who was the winning firm or firms and what was the winning bid on each PRCB product? _____

h) Please discuss the reasons for choosing the supplier or suppliers of the PRCB products.

**PART IV.--COMPARISONS BETWEEN IMPORTED AND U.S.-PRODUCED
PRODUCT--Continued**

IV-3. Do you ever specifically order PRCBs from one country in particular over other possible sources of supply?

- No Yes--Please identify all relevant countries (including the United States and both subject and nonsubject foreign countries) from which you or your customers prefer to order, and indicate why PRCBs from these countries are preferred over product from other countries (please note the specific product in your response).

IV-4. Are certain grades/types/sizes of PRCBs available from only a single source (domestic or foreign, including both subject and nonsubject countries)?

- No Yes--Please identify the source and the grade/type/size.

IV-5. If you purchased PRCBs from one source although a comparable product was available from another source at a lower price, please explain your reasons for doing so (please specify by country, including the United States and both subject and nonsubject foreign countries). Possibilities might include transaction characteristics such as length of time to fill orders, minimum order size, reliability of supply, etc.

PART IV.--COMPARISONS BETWEEN IMPORTED AND U.S.-PRODUCED PRODUCT--Continued

IV-6. For the factors listed below, please rate how PRCBs produced in each country you identified in your response to the first question in Part IV compares with PRCBs produced in each of the other countries you identified (including the United States and both subject and nonsubject foreign countries). Copy this page as necessary to cover all possible country combinations and please attach any comments you care to make concerning your responses, especially in comparisons where you rate product from one country superior or inferior to product from another.

_____ compared to _____
(specify country) (specify country)

	SUPERIOR	COMPARABLE	INFERIOR
Availability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delivery terms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delivery time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Discounts offered	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Extension of credit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lower price	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minimum qty requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Packaging	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Product consistency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality meets industry standards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality exceeds industry standards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Product range	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reliability of supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Technical support/service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lower U.S. transportation costs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify):			
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PART IV.--COMPARISONS BETWEEN IMPORTED AND U.S.-PRODUCED PRODUCT--Continued

IV-7. (a) How often do domestically-produced PRCBs meet minimum quality specifications for your uses or your customers' uses?

- Always Usually Sometimes Rarely or never

(b) How often do imported subject PRCBs meet minimum quality specifications for your uses or your customers' uses?

- Always Usually Sometimes Rarely or never

(c) How often do imported nonsubject PRCBs meet minimum quality specifications for your uses or your customers' uses?

Country _____ Always Usually Sometimes Rarely or never

Country _____ Always Usually Sometimes Rarely or never

Country _____ Always Usually Sometimes Rarely or never

PART V.--COMPARABILITY OF PRODUCTS.

In making its determination on what is the "domestic like product" in these and other antidumping investigations, the Commission generally considers a number of factors, including (1) physical characteristics and uses; (2) interchangeability; (3) channels of distribution; (4) customer and producer perceptions of the products; (5) common manufacturing facilities, production processes, and production employees; and, where appropriate, (6) price. **If you have firsthand knowledge concerning the similarities and/or differences between (1) high-end PRCBs; (2) PRCBs other than high-end PRCBs; (3) high-end (i.e., high-end bags versus other than high-end bags) laminated paper shopping bags; or (4) high-end non-laminated paper shopping bags in terms of the six factors listed above, please give us your views concerning such similarities and/or differences.** Please indicate clearly which product(s) you are comparing, and only compare those products that are produced in the United States. Photocopy this page and complete separate pages for each combination of products, as needed.

V-1. Physical characteristics and uses:

V-2. Interchangeability:

PART V.--COMPARABILITY OF PRODUCTS--Continued

V-3. Channels of distribution:

V-4. Customer and producer perceptions of the products:

V-5. Common manufacturing facilities, production processes, and production employees:

V-6. Price:

V-7. Comparability of products.—What domestically-produced products are most similar to imports of high-end PRCBs from China, Thailand, and Malaysia?

VI.--SUPPLIER IDENTIFICATION

Please provide the names and addresses of your firm's five largest suppliers of PRCBs purchased during 2001-2003. Please also provide the name and telephone number of a contact person and the share of the quantity of your firm's total purchases of PRCBs that each of these suppliers accounted for in 2003.

Please fax this page to William Deese at 202-205-2340 by March 1, 2004.

	Supplier's name	Street address (not P.O. box), state, and zip code	Contact person	Area code and telephone number	Share of 2003 purchases (%)
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					