

September 9, 1997

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20436

MEMORANDUM TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON PROPOSED TARIFF LEGISLATION<sup>1</sup>

Bill no., sponsor, and sponsor's state: H.R. 1607 (105th Congress), Representative LaHood (IL).

Companion bill: None.

Title as introduced: To suspend temporarily the duty on rimsulfuron.

Summary of bill:<sup>2</sup>

The bill would suspend through December 31, 1998, the column 1-general rate of duty on rimsulfuron. Heading 9902.32.16 would be inserted in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS), with no effect on the special and column 2 rates of duty for this product.

Effective date: 15 days after the bill's date of enactment.

Retroactive effect: None.

Statement of purpose:

The sponsor, Representative LaHood, made no statement concerning the bill in the Congressional Record. An official of E.I. duPont de Nemours & Co., Inc. (DuPont), the proponent firm, stated generally that temporarily suspending the duty on rimsulfuron, the active ingredient used in the formulation of DuPont's BASIS® herbicide, allows U.S. availability of the resultant sulfonylurea herbicide. This type of herbicide requires much less chemical used on the ground, enabling growers to protect both water quality and the environment. BASIS® is the replacement to CYANAZINE®, which was on the EPA Special Review list of compounds, and which DuPont is voluntarily phasing out. It is anticipated the phase-out will be completed by 1999. Further, as a result of importing rimsulfuron into the United States for production and sale of BASIS® herbicide and related products, DuPont estimates that approximately one hundred jobs have been created in the United States.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Industry analyst: Cynthia Trainor (205-3354); attorney: Leo Webb (205-2599).

<sup>2</sup> See appendix A for definitions of tariff and trade agreement terms.

<sup>3</sup> Written submission and educational background materials from Mr. Robert Heine, Director, International Trade and Investment, E.I. duPont de Nemours and Co., Inc., Washington, DC, dated Feb. 1997 and Jan. 1994, respectively.

Product description and uses:

N-[[[(4,6-dimethoxy -2-pyrimidinyl) amino]carbonyl]-3-(ethylsulfonyl) -2-pyridinesulfonamide:<sup>4</sup>

The subject chemical (also known by the common name rimsulfuron) is a synthetic organic chemical produced through a series of complex chemical reactions. The chemical is the active ingredient in BASIS®, a DuPont Agricultural Products' registered and trademarked postemergence herbicide product formulation primarily used for weed control in corn.

Tariff treatment:<sup>5</sup>

<u>Product</u>	<u>HTS subheading</u> <sup>4</sup>	Col. 1-general <u>rate of</u>
N-[[[(4,6-dimethoxy -2- pyrimidinyl)amino] carbonyl]-3-(ethylsulfonyl) -2-pyridinesulfonamide. . . . . ad val.	2935.00.75	11.4%

Structure of domestic industry (including competing products):

N-[[[(4,6-dimethoxy -2-pyrimidinyl) amino]carbonyl]-3-(ethylsulfonyl) -2-pyridinesulfonamide:

According to Commission records and industry sources, there was no U.S. production of the subject chemical during 1994-96. Although there is no chemical directly competitive with the subject chemical when it is used to produce the end-use product, BASIS®, other U.S. herbicide producers manufacture products that compete with BASIS®.

- Competing products:
- Exceed®--this product contains the active ingredient(s) primisulfuron-methyl plus prosulfuron and is a registered trademark selective systemic postemergence herbicide for broad-spectrum control of broadleaved weeds in corn; formulated by Novartis Crop Protection, (St. Gabriel, LA) (formerly Ciba-Geigy Corp.) from imported active ingredients.
  - Permit®--this product contains the active ingredient halosulfuron-methyl and is a registered trademark sulfonyleurea pre- and postemergence herbicide for control of annual broadleaf weeds and nutsedge in corn and other crops. Formulated by Monsanto Corp., St. Louis, MO.
  - Doubleplay®--this product contains an active ingredient with the common name of acetochlor plus EPTC(s-ethyl dipropylthiocarbamate)

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<sup>4</sup> See Technical comments section.

<sup>5</sup> See appendix B for column 1-special and column 2 duty rates.

and is a registered trademark preplant herbicide for field corn and popcorn; produced and formulated by Zeneca Ag Products (Muscatine, Iowa and Cold Creek, AL respectively).

Private-sector views:

The Commission contacted three companies which produce competing products.<sup>6</sup> The companies had not submitted any written comments as of the date of preparation of this report.

U.S. consumption:

N-[[[(4,6-dimethoxy -2-pyrimidinyl) amino]carbonyl]- 3-(ethylsulfonyl)-2-pyridinesulfonamide:	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>
	-----(\$1,000)-----		
U.S. production.....	0	0	0
U.S. imports <sup>1</sup> .....	0	(²)	(²)
U.S. exports.....	0	0	0
Apparent U.S. consumption.....	0	(²)	(²)

<sup>1</sup>Estimated by E.I. duPont de Nemours & Co., Inc.

<sup>2</sup>Not publicly available.

Principal import sources: France.

Principal export markets: None.

Effect on customs revenue:<sup>7</sup>

Future (1998) effect: Actual dutiable imports of this product are not publicly available. However, according to a representative of DuPont,<sup>8</sup> the estimated average revenue loss is expected to be less than \$2 million annually during 1998.

Retroactive effect: Not applicable.

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<sup>6</sup> Telephone conversations with Ms. Tracey Haller, Manager, Trade and International Finance, Novartis Crop Protection, Washington, DC, on July 29 and 30, and Aug. 6 and 7, 1997; with Mr. Thomas Helscher, Manager, Federal Government Relations, Monsanto Corp., Washington, DC on July 23, Aug. 7 and 8, 1997; and with Dr. Edgar L. Ready, III, Manager Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Zeneca Ag Products, Wilmington, DE, on July 22 and Aug. 7, 1997.

<sup>7</sup> Actual revenue loss may be understated in the event of a significant increase in imports over the duty suspension period.

<sup>8</sup> Telephone conversation between Mr. Heine of DuPont and Ms. Trainor of the Commission staff on Aug. 7, 1997.

Technical comments:

The Commission suggests that the chemical nomenclature for rimsulfuron be presented as N-[[[(4,6-dimethoxy-2-pyrimidinyl)amino]carbonyl]-3-(ethylsulfonyl)-2-pyridinesulfonamide in the bill's article description. Inserting the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) registry number for the subject chemical, CAS No. 122931-48-0, in the article description would ease the burden on Customs officials examining import documentation. The U.S. Customs Service suggests that the HTS subheading classification for the subject chemical is 2935.00.75;<sup>9</sup> therefore, the Commission suggests that HTS subheading 2935.00.75 be substituted for HTS subheading 2933.59.10 in the bill's article description.

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<sup>9</sup>Telephone conversations and faxes between Mr. Cornelius Reilly, National Import Specialist, U.S. Customs Service, NY, NY, and Ms. Trainor of Commission staff on July 18, 23, and 29, and Aug. 1, 4, 6, and 7, 1997.

## APPENDIX A

### TARIFF AND TRADE AGREEMENT TERMS

In the **Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States** (HTS), chapters 1 through 97 cover all goods in trade and incorporate in the tariff nomenclature the internationally adopted Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System through the 6-digit level of product description. Subordinate 8-digit product subdivisions, either enacted by Congress or proclaimed by the President, allow more narrowly applicable duty rates; 10-digit administrative statistical reporting numbers provide data of national interest. Chapters 98 and 99 contain special U.S. classifications and temporary rate provisions, respectively. The HTS replaced the **Tariff Schedules of the United States** (TSUS) effective January 1, 1989.

Duty rates in the **general** subcolumn of HTS column 1 are most-favored-nation (MFN) rates, many of which have been eliminated or are being reduced as concessions resulting from the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. Column 1-general duty rates apply to all countries except those enumerated in HTS general note 3(b) (Afghanistan, Cuba, Laos, North Korea, and Vietnam), which are subject to the statutory rates set forth in **column 2**. Specified goods from designated MFN-eligible countries may be eligible for reduced rates of duty or for duty-free entry under one or more preferential tariff programs. Such tariff treatment is set forth in the **special** subcolumn of HTS rate of duty column 1 or in the general notes. If eligibility for special tariff rates is not claimed or established, goods are dutiable at column 1-general rates. The HTS does not enumerate those countries as to which a total or partial embargo has been declared.

The **Generalized System of Preferences** (GSP) affords nonreciprocal tariff preferences to developing countries to aid their economic development and to diversify and expand their production and exports. The U.S. GSP, enacted in title V of the Trade Act of 1974 for 10 years and extended several times thereafter, applies to merchandise imported on or after January 1, 1976 and before the close of June 30, 1998. Indicated by the symbol "A", "A\*", or "A+" in the special subcolumn, the GSP provides duty-free entry to eligible articles the product of and imported directly from designated beneficiary developing countries, as set forth in general note 4 to the HTS.

The **Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act** (CBERA) affords nonreciprocal tariff preferences to developing countries in the Caribbean Basin area to aid their economic development and to diversify and expand their production and exports. The CBERA, enacted in title II of Public Law 98-67, implemented by Presidential Proclamation 5133 of November 30, 1983, and amended by the Customs and Trade Act of 1990, applies to merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after January 1, 1984. Indicated by the symbol "E" or "E\*" in the special subcolumn, the CBERA provides duty-free entry to eligible articles, and reduced-duty treatment to certain other articles, which are the product of and imported directly from designated countries, as set forth in general note 7 to the HTS.

Free rates of duty in the special subcolumn followed by the symbol "IL" are applicable to products of Israel under the **United States-Israel Free Trade Area Implementation Act** of 1985 (IFTA), as provided in general note 8 to the HTS.

Preferential nonreciprocal duty-free or reduced-duty treatment in the special subcolumn followed by the symbol "J" or "J\*" in parentheses is afforded to eligible articles the product of designated beneficiary countries under the **Andean Trade Preference Act** (ATPA), enacted as title II of Public Law 102-182 and implemented by Presidential Proclamation 6455 of July 2, 1992 (effective July 22, 1992), as set forth in general note 11 to the HTS.

Preferential or free rates of duty in the special subcolumn followed by the symbol "CA" are applicable to eligible goods of Canada, and rates followed by the symbol "MX" are applicable to eligible goods of Mexico, under the **North American Free Trade Agreement**, as provided in general note 12 to the HTS and implemented effective January 1, 1994 by Presidential Proclamation 6641 of December 15, 1993. Goods must originate in the NAFTA region under rules set forth in general note 12(t) and meet other requirements of the note and applicable regulations.

Other special tariff treatment applies to particular **products of insular possessions** (general note 3(a)(iv)), **products of the West Bank and Gaza Strip** (general note 3(a)(v)), goods covered by the **Automotive Products Trade Act (APTA)** (general note 5) and the **Agreement on Trade in Civil Aircraft (ATCA)** (general note 6), **articles imported from freely associated states** (general note 10), **pharmaceutical products** (general note 13), and **intermediate chemicals for dyes** (general note 14).

The **General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994** (GATT 1994), pursuant to the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization, is based upon the earlier GATT 1947 (61 Stat. (pt. 5) A58; 8 UST (pt. 2) 1786) as the primary multilateral system of disciplines and principles governing international trade. Signatories' obligations under both the 1994 and 1947 agreements focus upon most-favored-nation treatment, the maintenance of scheduled concession rates of duty, and national treatment for imported products; the GATT also provides the legal framework for customs valuation standards, "escape clause" (emergency) actions, antidumping and countervailing duties, dispute settlement, and other measures. The results of the Uruguay Round of multilateral tariff negotiations are set forth by way of separate schedules of concessions for each participating contracting party, with the U.S. schedule designated as Schedule XX.

Pursuant to the **Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC)** of the GATT 1994, member countries are phasing out restrictions on imports under the prior "Arrangement Regarding International Trade in Textiles" (known as the **Multifiber Arrangement (MFA)**). Under the MFA, which was a departure from GATT 1947 provisions, importing and exporting countries negotiated bilateral agreements limiting textile and apparel shipments, and importing countries could take unilateral action in the absence or violation of an agreement. Quantitative limits had been established on imported textiles and apparel of cotton, other vegetable fibers, wool, man-made fibers or silk blends in an effort to prevent or limit market disruption in the importing countries. The ATC establishes notification and safeguard procedures, along with other rules concerning the customs treatment of textile and apparel shipments, and calls for the eventual complete integration of this sector into the GATT 1994 over a ten-year period, or by Jan. 1, 2005.

Rev. 8/12/97

**APPENDIX B**

**SELECTED PORTIONS OF THE  
HARMONIZED TARIFF SCHEDULE OF THE UNITED STATES**

(Appendix not included in the electronic version of this report.)

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1607

To suspend temporarily the duty on rimsulfuron.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 14, 1997

Mr. LAHOOD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Ways and Means

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## A BILL

To suspend temporarily the duty on rimsulfuron.

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. TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF DUTY.**

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:

“	9902.32.16	N-[(4,6-Dimethoxypyrimidin-2-yl)aminocarbonyl]-3-(ethylsulfonyl)-2-pyridine-sulfonamide (EPA Reg. No. 352-555) (provided for in subheading 2933.59.10) .....	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/98	”.
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1       (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
2 this section applies with respect to goods entered, or with-  
3 drawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the  
4 15th day after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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