

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20436

**MEMORANDUM ON PROPOSED TARIFF LEGISLATION
of the 111th Congress¹**

[Date approved: April 29, 2010]²

Bill No. and sponsor: S. 2135 (Mr. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee et al.).

Proponent name,³ location: Eastman Chemical Co., Kingsport, TN.

Other bills on product (111th Congress only): None.

Nature of bill: Temporary duty suspension through December 31, 2011.

Retroactive effect: None.

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

Sodium carboxymethylcellulose (CAS No. 9004-32-4) (provided for in subheading 3912.31.00).

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, sodium carboxymethylcellulose (“CMC”), is a synthetic organic chemical that is used in a variety of applications. CMC is used in food science as a viscosity modifier or thickener, and to stabilize emulsions in various products including ice cream. In laundry detergents, CMC is used as a soil suspension polymer. CMC may also be used as a lubricant in non-volatile eye drops (artificial tears). It may also be used as a constituent of many non-food products, such as K-Y Jelly, toothpaste, laxatives, diet pills, water-based paints, detergents, textile sizing, and various paper products. According to the proponent, the imported CMC is used as a raw material for the manufacture of polymers. The product is imported principally from the Netherlands, Finland, France, Brazil, China, and Mexico.^{4 5}

¹ Industry analyst preparing report: Eric Land (202-205-3349); Tariff Affairs contact: Dave Michels (202-205-3440).

² Access to an electronic copy of this memorandum is available at http://www.usitc.gov/tariff_affairs/congress_reports/.

³ The sponsor/proponent did not identify any additional beneficiaries of this bill.

⁴ There is an existing antidumping order covering imports of CMC from Finland, Mexico, the Netherlands, and Sweden. See 70 Fed. Reg. 39734 (July 11, 2005) and USITC Pub. No. 3787, Purified Carboxymethylcellulose From Finland, Mexico, Netherlands, and Sweden, Inv. No. 731-TA-1084-1087 (Final) (June 2005).

⁵ Notwithstanding the antidumping order, imports of the subject product from Mexico are eligible for duty-free treatment under NAFTA.

Estimated effect on customs revenue for the subject product classifiable in HTS subheading 3912.31.00:

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Col. 1-General rate of duty	6.4%	6.4%	6.4%	6.4%	6.4%
Estimated value <i>dutiable</i> imports ^a	\$80,000,000	\$80,000,000	\$80,000,000	\$80,000,000	\$80,000,000
Customs revenue loss ^b	\$5,120,000	\$5,120,000	\$5,120,000	\$5,120,000	\$5,120,000

a/ Dutiable import estimates were based on official U.S. Government statistics and import estimates provided by industry sources.

b/ At the request of Congress, customs revenue loss is provided for 5 years, although the effective period of the proposed legislation may differ.

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?
			(Yes/No)	
Eastman Chemical Co. (Proponent) Brent J. Perry, bperry@eastman.com	02/01/2010	No	No	No
Ashland Aqualon Company Mary Jean Cash, mcash@ashland.com Ed Lebow, Ed.Lebow@haynesboone.com	02/03/2010 02/08/2010	Yes	Yes	Yes

Technical comments:⁶ None.

⁶ 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.

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2135

To suspend temporarily the duty on Cellulose, sodium carboxymethyl.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 29, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. CORKER) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To suspend temporarily the duty on Cellulose, sodium
carboxymethyl.

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. CELLULOSE, SODIUM CARBOXYMETHYL.**

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:

“	9902.01.00	Sodium carboxymethylcellulose (CAS No. 9004–32–4) (provided for in subheading 3912.31.00)	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2011	”.
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1 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
2 subsection (a) applies to goods entered, or withdrawn from
3 warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day after
4 the date of enactment of this Act.

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