



National Candle Association

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108.3% DUTY ON CANDLES FROM CHINA EXTENDED TO BLENDED WAX CANDLES

WASHINGTON, DC (Nov. 6, 2006) -- The U.S. Department of Commerce ruled on October 6 that candles containing any amount of petroleum wax – including candles containing 50 percent or more vegetable-based waxes – are subject to the existing 108.3% duty margin on petroleum wax candles made in China.

U.S. Customs is to apply the duty retroactively to blended candles that entered the United States on or after February 25, 2005. The order covers scented and unscented dinner candles (tapers, spirals and straight-sided), rounds, columns, pillars, votives, and wax-filled containers with paper- or fiber-cored wicks. Birthday and novelty candles are not covered by the order.

The decision was made in response to a petition filed in 2004 by the National Candle Association (NCA), asking the Commerce Department to determine whether the blended wax candles were circumventing the existing antidumping duty order on petroleum wax (paraffin) candles from China.

NCA argued that vegetable-wax candles were not found in the U.S. marketplace in 1985, when Commerce first issued its antidumping duty order on petroleum-wax candles from China, and thus blended candles should be folded into the existing duty order as later-developed products.

“The dumping of candles from the People’s Republic of China has seriously injured the U.S. candle industry for the past 20 years, which is why the antidumping duty has been in effect since 1985, said NCA Executive Vice President Valerie Cooper. “We strongly believe blended candles would have been included in the original order if they had been in the marketplace at the time. We are gratified that the Department of Commerce has agreed with us and closed this loophole.”

In 1985, when the U.S. candle industry first experienced a flood of inexpensive imports from the People’s Republic of China, the NCA filed an antidumping petition with the U.S. Department of Commerce and the International Trade Commission. The action resulted in a 54.21% antidumping duty on Chinese petroleum wax candles. In 2004, Commerce raised the antidumping duty to 108.3%. Dumping, in the case of China, is the practice of selling goods below their cost of production.

The National Candle Association is the major trade association representing U.S. candle manufacturers and their suppliers. ■■■