

The Secretariat General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) Bureau
of Technical Secretariat for Anti Injurious Practices in International Trade



Official Gazette

GCC-Bureau of Technical Secretariat for Anti Injurious Practices in International Trade

Volume (33)

Date: 04 Muharram 1443 Hijri

12 August 2021

This Official Gazette is issued by the GCC - Bureau of Technical Secretariat for Anti Injurious Practices in International Trade in accordance with GCC Common Law of Anti-Dumping, Countervailing Measures and Safeguards, and its Regulation

In this Edition (NON-OFFICIAL TRANSLATION)

Initiation Of Anti-Dumping Investigation Against GCC Imports of Semi-Chemical Fluting Paper, Fluting and Test Liner Paper (*recycled liner board*) [Container Board Paper]

Originating in or Exported from Federal Republic of Germany, Republic of India, and Republic of France

(Electronic Gazette)

Subscription Fees

Single Edition: 100 SAR or its equivalent.

Yearly Subscription: 500 SAR or its equivalent

The Official Gazette for the GCC- Bureau of Technical Secretariat for Anti Injurious Practices in
International Trade

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Content

- **Introduction:3**
- **Initiation of anti-dumping investigation against GCC imports of Container Board Paper Originating in or Exported from Germany, India and France.....4**

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Introduction

In compliance with the basic objectives of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, and in conformity with the objectives of the GCC Unified Economic Convention seeking to achieve economic integration among GCC member states, and aware of the crucial role played by GCC industries in the economies of the GCC member states, it becomes vital for the member states to take necessary measures against dumping, subsidy and increase of Imports, which cause injury, threat of injury, or retardation to GCC industries.

Pursuant to Article 86 of the Rules of Implementation of the GCC Common Law on Antidumping, Countervailing Measures and Safeguard Measures which states, "The Technical Secretariat issues an Official Gazette where it publishes all publications required under this Common Law and its Rules of Implementation". Hereby, GCC-Bureau of Technical Secretariat for Anti Injurious Practices in International Trade pleased to publish the Notice Volume No (33) of the Official Gazette of GCC- Bureau of Technical Secretariat for Anti-Injurious Practices in International Trade.

According to current circumstances of the Corona pandemic (COVID 19), GCC-TSAIP will not issue a paper version of this Official Gazette.



**The Secretariat General of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of
the Gulf (GCC)**

**GCC- Bureau of Technical Secretariat for Anti Injurious Practices in
International Trade**

**Initiation Of Anti-Dumping Investigation Against GCC Imports of Semi-
Chemical Fluting Paper, Fluting and Test Liner paper (recycled liner
board)**

[Container Board Paper]

Originating in or exported from Germany, India, and France

In conformity with the GCC Common Law on Anti-Dumping, Countervailing and Safeguard Measures and its Rules of Implementation, (hereinafter referred to as the Regulation), and upon the decision no. (40/AD10/2021) of the Permanent Committee of Anti Injurious practices in the International Trade (hereinafter referred to as the Permanent Committee) regarding accepting the anti-dumping complaint lodged by the GCC industry and approving the initiation of the anti-dumping investigation, the GCC- Bureau of Technical Secretariat for Anti-Injurious Practice in International Trade (hereinafter referred to as the GCC-TSAIP) announces the initiation of anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of Semi-Chemical Fluting Paper, Fluting and Test Liner Paper (recycled liner board) **[Container Board Paper]** (the product under investigation) Originating in or Exported from Germany, India, and France, from the date of the publication of this notice in the Official Gazette of the Bureau of the Technical Secretariat for the Injurious Practices in International Trade (hereinafter referred to as Official Gazette) according to the following:

1. Complaint

The GCC-TSAIP received a properly documented complaint submitted by the Union Paper Mills (UPM) And Al-Dhafra Paper Manufacturing Company L.L.C (hereinafter referred to as "The Complainant") on behalf of the GCC industry according to the provisions of Article (2) of the Regulation, alleging

that the imports of the product under investigation are being imported from Germany, India, and France into the GCC market at dumped prices and are thereby causing material injury, and threat of injury to the GCC industry of the like product.

2. GCC Industry

The Complainant is Union Paper Mills (UPM) And Al-Dhafra Paper Manufacturing Company L.L.C, The complaint was supported by Middle East Paper Company (MEPCO) and Arab paper manufacturing (WARAQ) from Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The complainant with supporters represent 79% of the GCC total production of the like product. Therefore, the standing of the GCC industry has been fulfilled in accordance with Article (6-1) of the Regulation.

3. Product under Investigation and GCC Like Product

Semi-Chemical Fluting Paper, Fluting and Test Liner paper (*recycled liner board*) [**Container Board Paper**], classified under the following GCC-Unified Tariff Codes from items: (48051910 48051920 48051990 48052400 48052500 48051100), originating in or exported from Germany, India, and France.

The Test Liner paper is used to produce the corrugated cardboard which is used in manufacturing carton boxes with weights ranging from less than 150 g/m² to more than 150 g/m², Fluting Paper is used to produce the fluting layer inside the carton box which provides the strength and toughness with weights ranging from less than 150 g/m² to more than 150 g/m².

The complainant clarified that the GCC like product is alike in all respects to the product under investigation and they have the same end uses, and substitutability.

4. Allegation of Dumping

The Complainant based its allegation of the existence of dumping on a comparison between the export prices of the product under investigation with the normal value in the domestic market for each country of the concerned countries at the same level of trade. This comparison resulted in the existence of

dumping margins higher than 2% of the export price and thus could not be ignored.

5. Allegation of the material Injury, and threat of injury

The Complainant alleged that there has been a significant increase in the volume of the allegedly dumped imports of the product under investigation from Germany, India, and France, exceeding, in absolute terms and relative to the domestic production, which caused material injury to the GCC industry that was represented in the following factors:

- There is a price undercutting & Depression & Suppression.
- Decline in sales volume & the share market,
- Decline in production volume and capacity utilization,
- Decline in wages,
- Decline in productivity,
- Decline in Profits & Return On Investment,
- Decline in Cash Flow.

The Complainant also alleged that the significant increase in the volume of the allegedly dumped imports of the product under investigation may cause threat of injury to the GCC industry that is represented in the following factors:

- A significant rate of increased volume of dumped imports towards the Gulf market, which indicates the likelihood of a substantially increase in imports.
- Existence of sufficient freely disposable production capacity, and imminent significant increase in the production capacity and export capacity of the countries under complaint, indicating the likelihood of substantially increased in dumped exports to the GCC market.
- The impact of dumped imports on domestic prices through the existence of price depression and price suppression, which would likely increase the demand for imports.

6. Procedures

The GCC-TSAIP examined the accuracy and adequacy of the data contained in the complaint and prepared the initiation report that has been submitted to the Permanent Committee according to Article 3 of the Regulation, which in turn

approved the initiation of the investigation and the publication of the notice of initiation in the Official Gazette according to Article 4 of the Regulation as they are satisfied that the information, data, evidences, and facts reported in the complaint appear to be sufficient to justify the initiation as per the provisions of the Common Law and its Regulation. Therefore, according to Article 9 of the Regulation, the notice of initiation is published in this Official Gazette while its publishing date is considered to be the effective date for the initiation of this investigation. Furthermore, the Embassies of the concerned countries in the country of headquarters were notified after receiving the complaint and before proceeding to initiate the investigation according to Article (7-1) of the Regulation.

7. Investigation Period

The dumping investigation period is from 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020.

The injury investigation period covers the period from 1st January 2018 to 31st December 2020.

According to Article 23 of the Regulation, the investigation shall be completed within 12 months from its date of initiation. This period may be extended in special circumstances for no more than (6) months.

8. Questionnaires and Collecting Information

In order to obtain necessary information for the investigation, the GCC-TSAIP will send questionnaires to the known foreign exporting producers (regarding the unknown foreign exporting producers, the questionnaires will be submitted through the diplomatic representative of the concerned countries in the Country of headquarters).

Questionnaires will also be sent to the GCC producers and to the known GCC importers of the product under investigation, and Consumer Protection Entities in GCC.

All interested parties shall submit their responses to the questionnaires either in Arabic or in English to the GCC-TSAIP within **40 days** from the date on which the questionnaires were sent to them or to the diplomatic representative of the country concerned according to the provisions of Article 12 of the Regulation

provided that such responses have to be submitted during the GCC-TSAIP working hours from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm KSA local time.

Without prejudice to the specified time limit for responding to the questionnaires, all interested parties shall make themselves known to the GCC-TSAIP within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Interested parties who wish to submit comments on either the complaint or the initiation report shall do so in Arabic within no later than 20 days from the date of publication of this notice and within the specified working hours as indicated above.

9. Sampling Techniques

Pursuant to Article 13 of the Regulation, the GCC-TSAIP may resort to apply sampling technique in case of the existence of large number of interested parties or types of products under investigation.

a) Sampling for Foreign Exporting Producers

All known and unknown foreign exporting producers, or legal representatives acting on their behalf, are requested to confirm their willingness to participate in the investigation as interested parties, make themselves known to the GCC-TSAIP as interested parties, and to provide the following information of their company or companies as per the requested format in attachment (1) within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice in the *Official Gazette* provided that such information has to be provided within the specified working hours of the GCC-TSAIP From 8:00 am To 3:00 pm KSA local time :

- Names, addresses, e-mail addresses, telephones, fax and contact person;
- Sales volume (Ton) and value of the product under investigation manufactured and exported to the GCC by the concerned company during the period from 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020;
- Sales volume (Ton) and value of the like product manufactured and sold by the company concerned in the domestic market of the country of origin during the period from 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020;
- Activities of the company with regard to the production and sale of the product under investigation;

- Names and precise activities of all related companies involved in any activity related to the product under investigation; and
- Any other relevant information that would assist the GCC-TSAIP in the selection of the sample.

By submitting all the above-mentioned information, the concerned company agrees to its inclusion in the sample, and if the company is selected as part of the sample, this implies replying to questionnaires and accepting a possible on-the-spot verification visit (if decided). If the concerned company is unwilling to be included in the sample, it will be deemed as non-cooperating with the GCC-TSAIP.

b) Sampling for Importers

All known and unknown importers, or legal representatives acting on their behalf, are requested to confirm their willingness to participate in the investigation as interested parties, make themselves known to the GCC-TSAIP, and to provide the following information of their company or companies as per the requested format in attachment (2) within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice in the *Official Gazette* provided that such information has to be provided within the specified working hours of the GCC-TSAIP:

- Names, addresses, e-mail addresses, telephones, fax numbers and contact person;
- Sales volume (Ton) and value of the product under investigation in the GCC market during the period from 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020;
- Activities of the company with regard to the product under investigation;
- Imports volume (Ton) and value in Saudi Riyal or the local currency of the GCC importing member state for the product under investigation

from the concerned countries during the period from 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020;

- Names and activities of all related companies involved in any activity related to the product under investigation;
- Any other relevant information that would assist the GCC-TSAIP in the selection of the sample.

By submitting all the above-mentioned information, the concerned company agrees to its inclusion in the sample. If the company is chosen as a part of the sample, that implies replying to questionnaires and accepting a possible on-the-spot verification visit (if decided). If the concerned company is unwilling to be included in the sample, it will be deemed non-cooperating with the Investigating Authority.

c) Final Selection of Samples

The GCC-TSAIP will inform all interested parties by the final result of the sampling within 3 working days from the due date for submitting the related sampling data, and any interested party wishing to submit any relevant information regarding the selection of the samples shall do so within 2 days after the announcement of the sampling result.

Companies included in the samples shall reply to the questionnaire within the specified time limits in this notice and shall cooperate with the Investigating Authority. If there is insufficient cooperation, the GCC-TSAIP may base its conclusions on the information available.

For those interested parties who have expressed their willingness to be included in the sample and provided the relevant sampling data within the specified time limits but not included in the sample, they will be considered as cooperating parties without prejudice to the provisions of Article (30-6) of the Regulation. Consequently, according to the provisions of Article (30-5) of the Regulation, any anti-dumping measures if applied to imports from these non-sampled exporting producers shall not exceed the weighted average dumping margin established with respect to the sampled exporting producers.

Furthermore, according to the provisions of Article (30-6) of the Regulation, individual determinations of the dumping margin may be determined for any exporting producer, not initially sampled, who submits the response to the questionnaire within the specified time-limit in this notice except where the number of exporting producers is so large that individual examinations would be unduly burdensome to the GCC-TSAIP and prevent timely completion of the investigation.

10.Hearings

Pursuant to Article (14) of the Regulation, hearings may be held (if possible) with for all interested parties to present their views and arguments, provided that they submit a written request to the GCC-TSAIP that includes specific reasons as to why they should be heard. Interested parties must express their wish to hold a hearing within a 30 days' period from the date of publication of this notice in the Official Gazette. Due to the consequences of the COVID-19, please refer to Attachment no. (3).

11.On-the-Spot Verification Visits

Pursuant to Article (18) of the Regulation, the GCC-TSAIP may conduct verification visits at the premises of the interested parties inside or outside GCC countries to verify the accuracy of the information submitted and to collect any additional information or data required for the investigation. Due to the consequences of the COVID-19, please refer to Attachment no. (3).

12.Confidentiality

Any information provided by interested parties on a confidential basis, upon a reasonable cause, shall be treated as confidential and shall not be disclosed without the specific permission of the party submitting it pursuant to Article (12) of the Regulation.

Interested parties providing confidential information shall furnish a non-confidential summary with sufficient details to permit a reasonable understanding of the substance of the information submitted in confidence. If that information is not susceptible of summary, the concerned parties shall provide a statement of the reason according to Article (19) of the Regulation

13. Non-cooperation

In cases any interested party refuses access to or otherwise does not provide necessary information or does not submit them within the specified time limits or in the prescribed form or impedes the course of the investigation, the GCC-TSAIP will make its preliminary and final determinations based on the information available pursuant to Article (26) of the Regulation.

In cases any interested party provided any misleading or wrong information, it will not be considered and best information available may be used.

14. Public File

The GCC-TSAIP makes available all relevant non-confidential information submitted by the interested parties through its public file. This information is available, upon written request, for all interested parties during the investigation and before reaching the final determinations pursuant to Article (14-3) of the Regulation.

15. Submission of Information

All relevant information including the information requested in this notice, questionnaire replies and correspondences provided by interested parties, must be communicated to GCC-TSAIP in electronic format and must indicate the name, address, e-mail address and telephone of the interested parties.

All interested parties participating in the Investigation shall submit their comments and arguments in the Arabic language. Any translation to Arabic Shall be provided through a licensed office operating in one of GCC countries, provided that this translation is acceptable by GCC-TSAIP.

Correspondences to the GCC-TSAIP shall be emailed to the following address:

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General Director Of GCC- TSAIP
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Bureau of Technical Secretariat of Anti Injurious Practices in the International Trade

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Attachement No. 1¹

Information for the selection of the sample of exporting producers in the Concerned Country.

A- Company details

Company Name <i>(Write the official name that is recorded in the official documents and used when exporting the PUI)</i>	
Address	
Activities of the company with regard to the product under investigation*	
Contact Person	
E-mail Address	
Telephone/Fax	

* Specify in details the activity related to the product under investigation-PUI (i.e. Production, Domestic sales, Exporting,etc)

B- Total Turnover and Sales Volume of the Product under Investigation² During the period from 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020

Data ³	Country	Volume (Ton)	Value (specify Currency)
Export Sales of the Product under Investigation manufactured by the company	United Arab of Emirates		
	Kingdom of Bahrain		
	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia		
	Sultanate of Oman		
	State of Qatar		
	State of Kuwait		
	Total		
Total Domestic Sales of the like product manufactured by the company	Domestic Market of Concerned Country		

¹ This attachment has to be submitted in two versions (Confidential and non-Confidential)

² Sales include the related companies' sales of the product under investigation manufactured by the company.

³ This information is required for the purpose of sampling, and all the information provided will be treated as highly confidential by GCC-TSAIP according to Article 12 of the GCC Common Law.

C- Production Volume of the product under investigation⁴ during the period from 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020.

Type/Model	Total production (Ton)	Total cost of production (specify Currency)	Exported to GCC (Yes / No)

D- Related Companies' Information:

Company Name <i>(Write the official name that is recorded in the official documents and used when exporting the PUI)</i>	Address	E-mail	Telephone/Fax	Company's Activity*	Relationship **

*Specify in details the activity of your company whether it participates in the production process, or sells the product under investigation domestically or export it to the GCC, or purchase the raw materials or any other relevant activities to the product under investigation

** Indicate all details on the nature of the relationship with the concerned company using diagrams if possible.

E- Financial Statements of the company.

Indicate the accounting year for the company. Furthermore, indicate whether its financial statements are audited and If audited, provide the contact details of the auditor.

⁴ Specify the production of each type/model of the product under investigation during the POI and indicate whether or not it is exported to the GCC countries.

Attachment (2)⁵

Information for the selection of the sample of Unrelated Importers in the GCC

A- Company details

Company Name <i>(Write the official name that is recorded in the official documents and used when importing the PUI)</i>	
Activities of the company with regard to the product under investigation	
GCC country name	
Address	
Contact Person	
E-mail Address	
Telephone	
Fax	
Name of Related Companies	
Activities of all related companies regarding the product under investigation.	

B- Imports volume and Sales Volume of the Product under Investigation⁶ During the period from 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2020

	Volume (Ton)	Value (specify Currency)
Total imports of the Product under Investigation into GCC		
Total Sales of the Product under Investigation within GCC		

⁵ This attachment has to be submitted in two versions (Confidential and non-Confidential)

⁶ This information is required for the purpose of sampling, and all the information provided will be treated as highly confidential by GCC- TSAIP according to Article 12 of the GCC common law.

Attachment (3)⁷

Investigations' procedures due to COVID-19 pandemic

Due to the critical circumstances and consequences of COVID-19 pandemic, and In line with the Preventive measures followed in this regard and until these measures are elevated , the GCC-TSAIP decided some procedures that have to be followed by all interested parties in the investigations conducted during this pandemic:

1- Filing of submissions/responses:

- a- All interested parties should file their responses to the questionnaire or their comments on the reports of the investigation electronically according to the required format indicated in the questionnaire provided that any narrative part has to be searchable rather than scanned image.
- b- All interested parties should follow the specified time limits and working hours indicated in the notice of initiation for providing their responses or comments, provided that such responses have to be submitted during the GCC-TSAIP working hours from 8:00 am to 15:00 KSA local time.

2- Verification of information

All interested parties should attach with their replies to the questionnaire all the supporting documents including but not limited to the accounting and management records, audited financial statements, relevant records from the internal system of the company, and all the working documents (usually MS Excel) used for the preparation of the data submitted in the questionnaire reply. Furthermore, clear clarification has to be made for how to reconcile and link all the data submitted in reply to the questionnaire with all the supporting documents indicated above including the formulas used in the Excel attachments of the working documents. If such necessary information cannot be provided by interested parties as indicated above, the GCC-TSAIP may make its findings on the basis of the facts available in accordance with Article 26 of the regulation.

3- Hearing

All requests for hearings can be provided electronically via emails and the relevant details shall be communicated later on to the interested parties. Written submissions and comments of hearings can also be provided electronically via emails in a searchable format such as MS word, excel, and PDF.

⁷ This attachment designed for the GCC-TSAIP procedures due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Design by The GCC - Bureau of Technical Secretariat for Anti Injurious Practices in International Trade