

Paper and Paper Products Newscast

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Anti-dumping Duty Recommended on Uncoated Paper Imports

The DGAD which had earlier announced a probe has concluded that the uncoated paper has been exported to India from Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore below their normal values and consequently, the domestic industry has been adversely affected. The period of probe was April 2016-June 2017 (15 months).

JK Paper Limited, The West Coast Paper Mills Limited, Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited and Ballarpur Industries Limited/ BILT Graphic Paper Products Ltd. had originally filed the petition for imposition of Anti-dumping duty on imports of “Uncoated Copier Paper” originating in or exported from these countries.

Market Share in Demand

Particulars	FY14	FY15	FY16	Period of Interest
Domestic Industry	39%	43%	45%	43%
Other Indian Producers	60%	54%	53%	46%
Total Market Share of all Domestic Producers	99%	98%	98%	89%
Imports from above three countries	1.18%	2.38%	2.29%	10.54%
Other Imports	0.2%	0.02%	0.11%	0.21%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

DGAD has recommended the following course of action

- Anti-dumping duty of difference between the landed value and USD 855 per tonne
- The duty should continue for a period of three years from the date of notification by the central government

The Ministry of Finance is expected to decide on the imposition of the duty.

CARE's view

Anti-dumping steps are taken to warrant fair trade and provide a level-playing pitch to the domestic industry. The steps also protect domestic players in the sector against cheap imports.

The overall imports had witnessed a substantial increase till FY17, primarily due to 1) higher local cost of wood/pulp, 2) FTAs which made importing raw material cost effective from certain countries, and 3) significant output from China. However, imports reduced in FY18 as the increase in international pulp price vis a vis the domestic price reduced the economics of imports. ***Despite the fall, imports continue to account for more than 20% of the overall annual demand.***

Going forward, this anti-dumping duty if imposed will address the concerns related to the dumping of cheap uncoated paper in the Indian market providing an additional boost to the domestic paper and paper industry.

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