British Glass

Supporting information

Transition reviews TD0008 and TS0009

6 January 2022

Introduction

British Glass is the representative body for the UK glass industry, representing the glass fibre sector, in addition to the container and flat glass sectors. Glass fibre products are used for multiple innovative, high-value applications, including wind turbine blades and light-weighting vehicles.

Electric Glass Fiber UK Ltd, known as Nippon Electric Glass (NEG), is the sole UK producer of glass fibre and a British Glass member. British Glass fully support their case in these transition reviews.

The UK glass fibre sector produce products under two of the three commodity codes subject to review – Group A (7019 11 00 00) and Group B (7019 12 00 00). The UK glass fibre sector does not produce all PCN's within Groups A and B, but has the capacity to. British Glass support the view of the UK fibre sector that all products under the codes in groups A and B should remain subject to measures to maintain a level playing field for UK manufacturers.

Group A – 7019 11 00 00 – Chopped glass fibre strands

There is minimal distinction between the two PCNs in this group – CSDU and CSWU. CSWU is produced in the UK. CDSU is a like product which the UK sector has the capacity to produce, but does not at present. In order to prevent circumvention, measures must be retained on all products under this commodity code. Like goods – those which are similar in appearance or function, or could be used interchangeably – present a high risk of circumvention where importers wrongly declare goods under codes not subject to measures. All like goods should remain subject to measures to uphold the integrity of the trade remedies system.

Group B – 7019 12 00 00 – Glass fibre rovings

As with Group A, there is minimal distinction between products under the 7019 12 heading. RODI is produced in the UK. ROAS and ROVD are like products, both of which the UK sector has the capacity to produce, but does not at present. The same argument applies that were measures to be lifted on some – but not all – products in this group, there is a high likelihood of circumvention.

Furthermore, the UK glass fibre industry note that RODI is a more advanced, innovative product than ROAS and ROVD. To lift measures on the latter two PCN's, and only retain them on RODI would allow older technology to undercut RODI. Cheaper imports of an older technology could reduce demand or put price pressure on the newer generation technology. This reduces the likelihood of continued research and innovation in the UK. RODI is of particular use in innovative applications such as wind turbine blades – essential to the UK's Net Zero journey and future economic prosperity.