



23 September 2020

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Committee on Safeguards

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**NOTIFICATION UNDER ARTICLE 12.1(A) OF THE AGREEMENT
ON SAFEGUARDS ON INITIATION OF AN INVESTIGATION
AND THE REASONS FOR IT**

MALAYSIA

Ceramic Floor and Wall Tiles

The following communication, dated 23 September 2020, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Malaysia.

Pursuant to Article 12.1(a) of the WTO Agreement on Safeguards, Malaysia hereby notifies the Committee on Safeguards that the Government of Malaysia (GOM) has initiated a safeguard investigation on the imports of ceramic floor and wall tiles.

1. The date of initiation

The investigation was initiated on 13 September 2020. The Notice of Initiation was published in the Federal Government Gazette of Malaysia as P.U.(B) 462/2020 ("Notice of Initiation") on 11 September 2020.

2. The product subject to the investigation

The products under investigation are ceramic floor and wall tiles as classified under the Harmonised System Code (H.S. Code) Number and ASEAN Harmonised Tariff Nomenclature (AHTN): 6907.21.21 00, 6907.21.23 00, 6907.21.91 00, 6907.21.93 00, 6907.22.11 00, 6907.22.13 00, 6907.22.91 00, 6907.22.93 00, 6907.23.11 00, 6907.23.13 00, 6907.23.91 00 and 6907.23.93 00.

3. The reasons for the initiation of investigation

(a) The investigation has been initiated pursuant to a petition received from Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers – Malaysian Ceramic Industry Group, acting on behalf of domestic industry in Malaysia producing the like products, requesting the GOM for an initiation of safeguard investigation;

(b) Based on preliminary assessment of the information submitted in the petition, it indicated that:

- i. during 2017 to 2019, there has been an increase in imports of ceramic floor and wall tiles in absolute terms and relative to domestic production of the like products; and
- ii. such increase in imports of ceramic floor and wall tiles has caused serious injury to the domestic industry producing the like products which has been indicated in their declining market share, sales, profitability, production volume, productivity rate and reduction in employment and wages.

4. Time limit for interested parties to submit information

- (a) Any interested parties, who wish to request for a copy of the questionnaires, shall identify themselves and its related business activities to the investigation within 15 days from the date of publication of the Notice of Initiation in the Federal Government Gazette of Malaysia.
- (b) All interested parties shall submit their views and response to the questionnaires in writing within 30 days from the date of publication of the Notice of Initiation in the Federal Government Gazette of Malaysia if such views and submissions of the responses are to be taken into consideration during the investigation, unless otherwise specified by the interested parties in the views and responses.

5. Contact point and preferred means for corresponding

All information, responses to questionnaires, requests and correspondence must be made officially in writing and sent by e-mail, post, facsimile or by hand and with clear indication of the name, address, e-mail address, telephone and facsimile numbers of the interested parties to:

Director
Trade Practices Section
Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI)
Level 9, Menara MITI
No. 7, Jalan Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah
50480 Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia

Telephone Number: (+603) 6208 4632
Facsimile Number: (+603) 6211 4429
E-mail Address: alltps@miti.gov.my
