



Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science

Anti-Dumping
Commission

Questionnaires, information-gathering and verification

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3 October 2016

Overview

- (1) Parties to whom questionnaires are sent
- (2) Format of questionnaires and information requested
- (3) Use of preliminary questionnaires for exporters
- (4) Timing of questionnaire responses and requests for extensions
- (5) Circumstances in which deficiency letters are sent
- (6) Verification of questionnaire responses and verification procedures

(1) Parties to whom questionnaires are sent

- Questionnaires are usually sent to exporters and importers of the goods the subject of the application.
- In some cases, questionnaires may be sent to foreign governments and/or the Australian industry.

(2) Format of questionnaires and information requested

- Both importer and exporter questionnaires are comprised of a Word document and an Excel spreadsheet.
- The information requested from exporters relates to:
 - for dumping cases, export price and normal value;
 - in some circumstances, information relating to a particular market situation is also sought.
 - for subsidy cases, export price, the existence of subsidy programs and the amount of subsidy.
- The information that importers are asked to provide is used to assist the Commission in determining export prices, the non-injurious price, the Australian market for the goods and assessing injury claims.

(3) Use of preliminary questionnaires for exporters

- In some circumstances (for example, where there are a large number of exporters) preliminary questionnaires may be used.
- These assist the Commission with case planning.

(4) Timing of questionnaire responses and requests for extensions

- 37 days for exporter and foreign government questionnaires and 21 days for importer questionnaires.
- Requests for extensions of time to provide a response to a questionnaire must be considered in accordance with section 5 of the *Customs (Extensions of Time and Non-cooperation) Direction 2015*.
- The same considerations apply when considering whether to grant an extension of time for an interested party to give any response to an anti-dumping investigation (e.g. a submission).

(5) Circumstances in which deficiency letters are sent

- Deficiency letters are sent when parties provide an insufficient response to a questionnaire.
- Where there are minor deficiencies, the party must be notified of the deficiencies and be requested to address them in a further response within a reasonable specified timeframe.
- Where there are major deficiencies, the party must be notified of this view.
 - In this case, there is no requirement for a further extension of time to be provided and the party could be found to have significantly impeded the investigation. This may mean that the exporter is deemed uncooperative or that an entity (i.e. an exporter, importer or foreign government) is a non-cooperative entity.

(6) Verification of questionnaire responses and verification procedures

Background

- Verification of financial and other data is a central part of the Commission's investigative rigour.
- The Commission typically undertakes verification exercises in relation to:
 - data submitted by Australian industry in an application for anti-dumping measures;
 - data submitted by cooperating exporters and importers in response to questionnaires.
- The Commission seeks the explicit agreement of entities before a verification visit is scheduled.

(6) Verification of questionnaire responses and verification procedures

On-site verification

- In the last financial year, the Commission significantly increased the number of on-site verifications it undertook:

	2014-15	2015-16
Co-operating Exporters	32	47
On-site Verifications (%)	15 (47%)	35 (74%)
Exports by value covered	74%	83%

(6) Verification of questionnaire responses and verification procedures

Verification procedures

- Review a selected cross-section of data.
- Verification of sales and cost data to establish that the data is:
 - Relevant
 - Complete
 - Accurate
- Verification of relevance and completeness is conducted by reconciling selected data submitted “upwards” through management accounts up to audited financial accounts.
- The accuracy of data is verified by reconciling selected data submitted “downwards” to source documents.