SAFEGUARD / INITIATION

DGTR initiates safeguard quantitative restrictions investigation on soda ash imports

DGTR's notice of March 16, 2026 opens a safeguard investigation into soda ash imports; the applicant seeks quantitative restrictions for four years.

THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has initiated a safeguard (quantitative restrictions) investigation concerning imports of soda ash into India. The notification is dated March 16, 2026 and was issued under Rule 5 of the Safeguard Measures (Quantitative Restrictions) Rules, 2012, having regard to Section 9A of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992.

KEY FACTS

MEASURE
Safeguard

STAGE
Initiation

DATED
March 16, 2026

REFERENCES

Case ID - QR/OI/001/2026

F. No. 22/01/2026-DGTR

CG-DL-E-18032026-271033

HS CODES 1

283620

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Case ID - QR/OI/001/2026 · Initiation · March 16, 2026

The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has initiated a safeguard (quantitative restrictions) investigation concerning imports of soda ash into India. The notification is dated March 16, 2026 and was issued under Rule 5 of the Safeguard Measures (Quantitative Restrictions) Rules, 2012, having regard to Section 9A of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992.

The application was filed by the Alkali Manufacturers Association of India on behalf of DCW Limited, RSPL Limited, Nirma Limited, GHCL Limited and Tata Chemicals Limited, which are treated as the domestic industry. The product is disodium carbonate (Na2CO3) in all types and forms, including light and dense soda ash, natural or synthetic, imported under code 283620.

The period of investigation is April 2020 to September 2025, with January to September 2025 as the most recent period. The notice records that imports in April 2023-March 2024 rose by 89% over the previous year and that their share of total demand rose from 13% to 24%. The applicant states that the increase came mainly from the US, Turkey and Russia and links it to unforeseen developments in those and other markets.

DGTR finds, prima facie, that imports increased in 2023-24 as a result of unforeseen developments and remained at that level, causing serious injury to the domestic industry. The investigation will determine whether imports increased suddenly and sharply and whether they caused or threaten serious injury. The applicant has asked for quantitative restrictions for four years. Interested parties are to file submissions on the SETU portal within 37 days from circulation of the non-confidential version of the application.

Measure	Safeguard
Stage	Initiation
Case number	Case ID - QR/OI/001/2026
File number	F. No. 22/01/2026-DGTR
Dated	March 16, 2026
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Product	Soda Ash (Disodium Carbonate)

What it covers	The product is Disodium Carbonate, also known as Soda Ash, with the formula Na2CO3: a white, crystalline, water-soluble material produced in India in two forms, Light Soda Ash and Dense Soda Ash, which differ in bulk density. It may be natural or synthetic soda ash, and the investigation includes all types and forms of Soda Ash.
Customs codes	283620
Applicant	Alkali Manufacturers Association of India (AMAI), on behalf of DCW Limited, RSPL Limited, Nirma Limited, GHCL Limited and Tata Chemicals Limited
Period of investigation	April, 2020 to September, 2025 (most recent period: January 2025-September 2025)
Findings	• The applicant alleges a sudden, sharp and significant increase in imports of soda ash beginning in 2023-24 and continuing until September 2025, in absolute and relative terms. • The notice records that imports in April 2023-March 2024 increased by 89% compared with April 2022-March 2023, and that the share of imports in total demand rose from 13% to 24% between those two periods. • The applicant states that imports increased mainly from the US, Turkey and Russia, and attributes this to unforeseen developments including the Russia–Ukraine conflict, weaker demand in Europe and Turkey, capacity additions in Turkey, the US and China, and lower demand in Mexico. • The applicant claims price undercutting, price depression since 2022-23, declines in profit, cash profit and ROI, and loss of market share despite increased domestic capacity. • The Authority finds, prima facie, that imports increased in 2023-24 as a result of unforeseen developments and remained at the increased level during the most recent period, causing serious injury to the domestic industry.
Recommendation	The Authorised Officer initiates a safeguard investigation under Rule 5 of the Safeguard Measures (Quantitative Restrictions) Rules, 2012 to determine whether imports have increased suddenly and sharply as a result of unforeseen developments and whether they have caused or threaten serious injury to the domestic industry. The applicant has requested safeguard measures in the form of quantitative restrictions for a period of four years.
Time limits	• Interested parties to upload submissions (confidential and non-confidential versions) on the SETU portal: within 37 days from the date on which the non-confidential version of the application filed

by the domestic industry would be circulated by the Authorised Officer or transmitted to the appropriate diplomatic representative of the major exporting countries

- Requests for extension of time: at least three days before the original deadline
- Comments on issues of confidentiality: within 7 days from the date of circulation of the non-confidential version of the documents

The notification (PDF, 817 KB)

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