SAFEGUARD / FINAL FINDINGS

DGTR recommends two-year safeguard quota on soda ash imports

DGTR's final findings recommend two-year country-wise quotas on soda ash imports: 7,54,992 MT in Year 1 and 7,92,740 MT in Year 2.

THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL of Trade Remedies has issued final findings dated November 4, 2026 in the safeguard (quantitative restrictions) investigation concerning imports of soda ash into India (Case No. QR (OI) – 001/2026). The investigation was initiated on March 16, 2026 on an application by the Alkali Manufacturers Association of India on behalf of DCW Limited, GHCL Limited, Nirma Limited, RSPL Limited and Tata Chemicals Limited, which sought quantitative restrictions for four years. The period of investigation is April 2020 to September 2025, with January to September 2025 as the most recent period. The findings are signed by Amitabh Kumar, Authorised Officer.

KEY FACTS

MEASURE

Safeguard

STAGE

Final findings

COUNTRIES

USA, Turkey, Iran/UAE, Russia, European Union, Kenya, China, Others (all other countries, except the excluded developing countries)

DATED

November 4, 2026

REFERENCES

Case No. QR (OI) – 001/2026

F. No. 22/01/2026-DGTR

CG-DL-E-07112026-277795

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The Authorised Officer found that imports rose by 89% in 2023-24, from 5,17,653 MT to 9,79,996 MT, and stayed at that level, reaching 10,12,024 MT (annualized) in the most recent period, and that the increase resulted from unforeseen developments: the contraction of European demand after the Russia-Ukraine conflict and new US capacity coinciding with falling demand in Mexico. Requests to exclude natural soda ash and a specialty grade of light soda ash were not accepted.

No determination of present serious injury was made, as the domestic industry's volumes recovered and it stayed profitable. The findings hold, however, that its position deteriorated steadily since 2022-23, with lost market share, prices falling faster than costs and declining returns, and that the increased imports threaten serious injury, given the expiry of the minimum import price on December 31, 2025, surplus capacity abroad and falling world prices. A causal link was found, and the effects of other factors were not attributed to imports.

The Authorised Officer recommends country-wise import quotas for two years: 7,54,992 MT in Year 1 and 7,92,740 MT in Year 2, released in quarterly tranches, for the USA, Turkey, Iran/UAE, Russia, the European Union, Kenya, China and others. Developing countries with small shares, including Indonesia, Vietnam and Romania, are excluded, as are imports under the Advance Authorisation Scheme. The measure was found not to be against the public interest, and the Central Government is to decide on giving it effect.

Measure	Safeguard
Stage	Final findings
Case number	Case No. QR (OI) – 001/2026
File number	F. No. 22/01/2026-DGTR
Dated	November 4, 2026
Published in the Gazette	November 4, 2026

Put online	November 7, 2026
Gazette ID	CG-DL-E-07112026-277795
Product	Soda Ash (Disodium Carbonate)
What it covers	Disodium Carbonate, also popularly known as Soda Ash (Na2CO3), in all forms (light and dense) and of all types (natural and synthetic): a white, crystalline, water-soluble material whose light and dense forms differ in bulk density. The scope is as defined in the initiation notification. Requests to exclude natural soda ash, to give natural soda ash for float glass a separate quota, and to exclude a specialty grade of light soda ash were not accepted; the goods made in India are held to be like goods and, in any event, directly competitive goods. It falls under sub-heading 2836 20 of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975; the customs classification is indicative only and not binding on the scope.
Customs codes	2836 20
Countries	• USA • Turkey • Iran/UAE • Russia • European Union • Kenya • China • Others (all other countries, except the excluded developing countries)
Applicant	Alkali Manufacturers Association of India (AMAI), on behalf of DCW Limited, GHCL Limited, Nirma Limited, RSPL Limited and Tata Chemicals Limited
Period of investigation	April 2020 to September 2025 (most recent period: January to September 2025)
Findings	• The five applicants, DCW Limited, GHCL Limited, Nirma Limited, RSPL Limited and Tata Chemicals Limited, account for about 98% of Indian production (36,91,985 MT of 37,50,415 MT in the most recent period) and constitute the domestic industry. The relationship of Tata Chemicals Limited and Nirma Limited with producers in the USA, and of Tata Chemicals Limited with the producer in Kenya, does not take them outside the domestic industry, as the safeguard law has no related-party exclusion. • Imports fell in 2021-22 and 2022-23 and then rose by 4,62,343 MT, or 89%, in 2023-24, from 5,17,653 MT to 9,79,996 MT, and reached

10,12,024 MT (annualized) in the most recent period, the highest of the period. Imports relative to Indian production rose from 14% in 2022-23 to 29% in 2023-24 and were 27% in the most recent period, and imports took 4,94,371 MT, or 85%, of the 5,80,857 MT growth in demand between 2022-23 and the most recent period. The Authorised Officer finds the increase recent, sudden, sharp and significant.

- The increase is found to result from unforeseen developments: the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the resulting contraction of demand in Europe and loss of the European market for Russian supplies, and the start-up of about 1.2 million MT of new US capacity in 2023 at a time of falling demand in Mexico. Imports from Turkey, Russia and the USA together rose by 4,75,507 MT between 2022-23 and 2023-24. The requirement on the effect of GATT obligations is held to be met through India's bound duty of 40% under Article II and the prohibition of quantitative restrictions under Article XI:1.
- The Authorised Officer makes no determination of present serious injury: sales, production and capacity utilization recovered after a decline in 2023-24, employment was the highest of the period, and the domestic industry stayed profitable throughout. It finds, however, that the industry's position deteriorated steadily since 2022-23: its market share fell from 85% to 74% in 2023-24 and was 76% in the most recent period, its selling price fell by 34% against an 18% fall in its cost of sales, profits and returns declined in every period after 2023-24, and closing inventory was the highest of the period with about 6.7 lakh MT of capacity unused.
- The increased imports are found to threaten serious injury to the domestic industry, citing imports at nearly double their 2022-23 level, the expiry of the minimum import price on December 31, 2025, surplus capacity in the exporting countries, exports of soda ash from China rising from about 12.2 lakh MT in 2024 to about 21.9 lakh MT in 2025 at export prices that fell from US$ 241/MT to US$ 182/MT, and stocks of imported soda ash in India.
- There is found to be a genuine and substantial causal link between the increased imports and the threat of serious injury. The effects of the normalization of prices after 2022-23, the plant outages of 2023-24 and the domestic industry's capacity expansion were separated and not attributed to imports, and other factors raised, including demand, costs, exports, captive consumption, freight and the minimum import price, were found not to explain the deterioration or the threat.

- The developing countries listed in the Annexure other than Turkey, Kenya, Bulgaria and Iran are excluded from the measure, including Georgia, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Indonesia, Vietnam and Romania, whose collective share was nil in the most recent period and 0.33% over the period of investigation. Turkey (28.19%), Bulgaria (5.77%, within the European Union quota), Kenya (5.50%) and Iran/UAE (13.43%) each exceed 3% of imports in the most recent period and are subject, imports declared as of Iranian and UAE origin being treated as a single source. Mexico, listed as a developing country with no imports in the period, is also not subject to the quota.
- The domestic industry's adjustment plan is found to be specific, largely quantified and directed at cost reduction, utilization and logistics, with savings of 6% to 10% of cost of sales expected from the measures of its constituents. The plan does not state the investment required or intermediate milestones, which limits the extent to which it can justify a longer measure.
- The measure is found not to be against the public interest. The first-year quota of 7,54,992 MT is about 15% of projected demand, set on the 2020-21 to 2022-23 average and raised by 30.76% for demand growth; a 10% rise in the price of soda ash would raise the cost of container glass by about 1.5% to 2% and of detergents by about 1% to 1.5%. Imports under the Advance Authorisation Scheme are kept outside the quota. The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals stated that the measure is not likely to have any adverse impact on user industries.
- A quantitative restriction is chosen as the form of measure because the threat arises from volume, and imports reached their highest level while the minimum import price was in force. The duration is limited to two years, against the four sought by the domestic industry and the not more than one year sought in the common submissions of other interested parties, with the Year 2 quota raised by 5% as progressive liberalization. Requests to exclude imports from the European Union, to reserve quota for critical users, to give natural soda ash a separate quota and to reallocate the quotas of Kenya, Iran and Russia were not accepted.

Recommendation

The Authorised Officer recommends safeguard measures in the form of quantitative restrictions on imports of soda ash for two years from the date of publication of the notification in the Official Gazette, permitting imports within country-wise annual quotas totalling 7,54,992 MT in Year 1 and 7,92,740 MT in Year 2, released in quarterly tranches with unused quota carried forward up to Quarter 8 and

	distributed by the Central Government. Imports must enter through EDI ports and are counted against the quota of the country of origin; imports from the excluded developing countries (on a certificate of origin) and under the Advance Authorisation Scheme for physical export are outside the quota.
Duty expressed as	Country-wise annual quota (quantitative restriction) in MT, allotted in four quarterly tranches each year
For how long	Two years from the date of publication of the notification in the Official Gazette
What happens next	The recommendation may be given effect by the Central Government under Section 9A(1) of the Act read with Rule 10. Before the measure is applied, the Central Government may notify the findings to the WTO Committee on Safeguards and hold prior consultations with Members having a substantial interest, and may modify the allocation among supplying countries by agreement with them. The domestic industry is to report its production, domestic despatches, exports and inventories every quarter, and the measure may be reviewed under Rule 15, including on evidence of shortage of supply. The Authorised Officer also recommends that the Central Government notify, together with the measure, the revised list of developing countries (Notification No. 19/2016-Customs (N.T.) dated February 5, 2016) for the purposes of Section 9A(4)(a).

The duty table

Country	Duty
USA	Quota: 1,59,388 MT in Year 1 and 1,67,357 MT in Year 2 (total 3,26,745 MT)
Turkey	Quota: 1,28,697 MT in Year 1 and 1,35,132 MT in Year 2 (total 2,63,829 MT)
Iran/UAE (imports originating in Iran or in the United Arab Emirates)	Quota: 1,10,948 MT in Year 1 and 1,16,495 MT in Year 2 (total 2,27,443 MT)
Russia	Quota: 70,289 MT in Year 1 and 73,803 MT in Year 2 (total 1,44,092 MT)
European Union (all Member States, including Bulgaria, other than Romania)	Quota: 1,17,179 MT in Year 1 and 1,23,038 MT in Year 2 (total 2,40,217 MT)
Kenya	Quota: 1,21,847 MT in Year 1 and 1,27,939 MT in Year 2 (total 2,49,786 MT)
China PR	Quota: 46,487 MT in Year 1 and 48,811 MT in Year 2 (total 95,298 MT)

Others (all other countries, except developing countries excluded under condition (v))	Quota: 157 MT in Year 1 and 165 MT in Year 2 (total 322 MT)
Total	Quota: 7,54,992 MT in Year 1 and 7,92,740 MT in Year 2 (total 15,47,732 MT)

The notification (PDF, 2.7 MB)

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