DGTR

Anti-dumping probe into 6-APA from China and EU

DGTR initiates an anti-dumping investigation into 6-amino penicillanic acid (6-APA) from China and the European Union, on an application by Qule Pharma.

THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL of Trade Remedies (DGTR), Department of Commerce, has initiated an anti-dumping investigation concerning imports of 6-Amino Penicillanic Acid (6-APA) originating in or exported from China and the European Union (EU). The initiation notification, F. No. 6/58/2026-DGTR, SETU Case ID AD/OI/059/2026, is dated September 25, 2026 and signed by Amitabh Kumar, Designated Authority. It was published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part I, Section 1, No. 279, dated September 25, 2026.

KEY FACTS

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DGTR · September 25, 2026

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The product under consideration is 6-APA, an organic chemical compound and a direct derivative of Penicillin-G. The notification describes it as a drug intermediate used in the synthesis of beta-lactam antibiotics, principally consumed in making life-saving pharmaceutical products including Amoxycillin, Ampicillin, Cloxacillin, Dicloxacillin, Flucloxacillin and Oxacillin. It is classifiable under Customs Tariff Heading 2941 10 50, a classification the notification calls indicative only and not binding on the scope of the investigation, and quantities are measured in metric tonnes (MT). The notification excludes no grade or form of 6-APA, and it does not set out the proposed product control numbers (PCNs).

The application was filed by Qule Pharma Private Limited, which claims to be the sole producer of 6-APA in India. It says 6-APA was made in India before but the industry shut down completely under dumped imports, and that it began production in FY 2024-25; on the evidence on record, it accounts for 100% of Indian production. Its related entity Apitoria Pharma Private Limited and its holding company Aurobindo Pharma Limited, which make downstream products, imported 6-APA from the subject countries during the injury period; the Authority considers that these imports, consumed in manufacturing and not resold, do not change the applicant's status as a manufacturer. The applicant alleges that dumped imports are causing material retardation to the establishment of the domestic industry, citing production and sales below its projections, low capacity utilization, imports priced below its cost of sales, price cuts to match them, losses, cash losses and accumulated negative returns. It has asked for preliminary findings and a provisional anti-dumping duty, which the Authority will consider, if and to the extent warranted, at the appropriate stage.

The period of investigation is April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026 (12 months), and the injury investigation period covers 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and the period of investigation. For initiation, the normal value for both China and the EU was based on the domestic industry's cost of production, duly adjusted, with a reasonable addition for selling, general and administrative expenses and profit; the applicant had proposed using raw material and utility prices in Germany, but other cost data was not available. The export price was based on CIF prices in DG Systems transaction-wise import data. The comparison prima facie shows a dumping margin above the de minimis level, and the Authority notes that the subject countries account for virtually all imports of 6-APA into India in the period of investigation.

Interested parties must register on the SETU Portal (http://setu.dgtr.gov.in) and file everything there under case ID AD/OI/059/2026; the notification sets no separate date for registration. It asked parties to intimate their interest and gave 37 days from the intimation letters, sent to known interested parties and the subject countries' diplomatic representatives, for questionnaire responses, in confidential and non-confidential versions, and 15 days, running at the same time, for comments on the product scope and the proposed PCN methodology. DGTR's notice F.No. 6/58/2026-DGTR of October 16, 2026 says the letters were sent on October 1, 2026 and extended the time for scope comments by 7 days, until October 23, 2026. A DGTR letter under the same file number, dated November 4, 2026 and signed by Vivek Singh, Director, records that no registered interested party commented on the scope or proposed a PCN methodology by that date, and that the applicant proposed none either. So the scope stays as defined in the initiation notification, and no PCN methodology is adopted. Parties may still make submissions on scope during the investigation, including a request to exclude a product, if backed by information and evidence; DGTR will decide the scope of any recommended measure on the evidence. After several requests, the same letter extends the questionnaire deadline of November 7, 2026 by 15 days, to November 22, 2026, and says no further extension will be granted. Responses must follow the scope in the initiation notification. Under the initiation, a request for extension must be made on the SETU portal at least one day before the original deadline, and comments on confidentiality claims are due within 7 days of circulation of the non-confidential version. A party that does not provide necessary information in time may be declared non-cooperative, with findings based on the facts available.

A further DGTR letter, F. No. 6/58/2026-DGTR dated November 20, 2026 and signed by Vivek Singh, Director, extends the deadline for questionnaire responses from November 22, 2026 to November 30, 2026. DGTR says it received further requests from several interested parties seeking more time, and all interested parties are requested to file their responses by November 30, 2026. The letter says no further extension of time shall be granted. Where an interested party fails to furnish the necessary information within the stipulated period or otherwise does not cooperate, DGTR may record its findings on the basis of facts available under Rule 6(8) of the AD Rules, 1995, read with Section N of the initiation notification. Parties are asked to monitor the DGTR website and the SETU portal for further updates.

Issued by	Directorate General of Trade Remedies, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Document	Initiation Notification, F. No. 6/58/2026-DGTR
Case	SETU Case ID AD/OI/059/2026
Dated	September 25, 2026
Published	Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part I, Section 1, No. 279, September 25, 2026

Product	6-Amino Penicillanic Acid (6-APA)
Tariff heading	2941 10 50, indicative only
Countries	China and the European Union
Applicant	Qule Pharma Private Limited, which claims to be the sole producer in India
Basis claimed	Material retardation to the establishment of the domestic industry
Period of investigation	April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026
Injury period	2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and the period of investigation
Deadlines	Questionnaire responses within 37 days of the intimation letters, now November 30, 2026; comments on product scope and PCN methodology within 15 days, running at the same time, extended to October 23, 2026
Related	Notice F.No. 6/58/2026-DGTR, October 16, 2026: intimation letters sent on October 1, 2026; time for comments on product scope and PCN methodology extended by 7 days, until October 23, 2026; no further extension of that time
Scope of the product	As defined in the initiation notification, unchanged; no PCN methodology adopted (letter of November 4, 2026)
Questionnaire responses	Due November 30, 2026 (was November 7, 2026, then November 22, 2026); no further extension of time shall be granted (letter of November 20, 2026)
Later letter	F. No. 6/58/2026-DGTR, November 4, 2026, signed by Vivek Singh, Director
Latest letter	F. No. 6/58/2026-DGTR, November 20, 2026, signed by Vivek Singh, Director

The initiation notification (PDF, 964 KB)

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IndusDesk

hello@indusdesk.com · +91 11 4141 3939

9th Floor, Hemkunt House, Rajendra Place, New Delhi, Delhi 110008, India

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