May 27, 2026

DGTR

DGTR backs a two-year safeguard on Korean DOTP and DEHCH

DGTR's final findings of May 27, 2026 recommend withdrawing the India-Korea CEPA concession on DOTP and DEHCH plasticizers from South Korea for two years.

THESE ARE THE FINAL Findings of the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), Department of Commerce, in the bilateral safeguard investigation concerning imports of Non-Phthalate Plasticizers in the form of Dioctyl Terephthalate (DOTP) and Diethylhexyl Cyclohexane (DEHCH) from South Korea (Case No. (SG)-01/2025, F. No. 22/01/2025-DGTR). The investigation ran under the India-Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (Bilateral Safeguard Measures) Rules, 2017. The findings are dated May 27, 2026, signed by Amitabh Kumar, Director General, and published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part I, Section 1, No. 146 of that date. DGTR's own copy leaves the day blank and is digitally signed on May 27, 2026. The applicant, KLJ Plasticizers Limited, holds a 62% share of Indian production and was supported by Payal Plastichem Private Limited and Payal Polyplast Private Limited.

KEY FACTS

AUTHORITY

DGTR

PUBLISHED

May 27, 2026

ISSUED BY

Directorate General of Trade Remedies, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry

DOCUMENT

Final Findings, Case No. (SG)-01/2025 (F. No. 22/01/2025-DGTR)

DGTR backs a two-year safeguard on Korean DOTP and DEHCH

DGTR · May 27, 2026

These are the Final Findings of the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), Department of Commerce, in the bilateral safeguard investigation concerning imports of Non-Phthalate Plasticizers in the form of Dioctyl Terephthalate (DOTP) and Diethylhexyl Cyclohexane (DEHCH) from South Korea (Case No. (SG)-01/2025, F. No. 22/01/2025-DGTR). The investigation ran under the India-Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (Bilateral Safeguard Measures) Rules, 2017. The findings are dated May 27, 2026, signed by Amitabh Kumar, Director General, and published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part I, Section 1, No. 146 of that date. DGTR's own copy leaves the day blank and is digitally signed on May 27, 2026. The applicant, KLJ Plasticizers Limited, holds a 62% share of Indian production and was supported by Payal Plastichem Private Limited and Payal Polyplast Private Limited.

The product is DOTP (CAS No. 6422-86-2) and DEHCH (CAS No. 84731-70-4), which the findings describe as a hydrogenated form of DOTP. It is classified under HS codes 2917 20 00 and 2917 39 20, and is also imported under 2917 13 90, 2917 32 00, 2917 33 00, 2917 39 30, 2917 39 50 and 2917 39 90; the findings call the classification indicative only. Other interested parties asked for DEHCH to be excluded. DGTR kept it in scope: it found that DOTP and DEHCH are not like articles but are directly competitive, used for overlapping applications by the same set of users. Under the CEPA, the duty on imports of the product from Korea fell from 10.94% in 2010 to 0.00% since 2017.

The period of investigation was April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2025, with 2024-25 as the most recent period. Imports from South Korea rose from 6,484 MT in 2021-22 to 42,157 MT in 2024-25, an increase of 550%, while demand rose 262%; imports from other countries were 2,532 MT in 2024-25. DGTR found that the elimination of customs duty contributed significantly to the increase: with the duty added, Korean imports would have been priced above the domestic industry's selling price in every year but 2023-24. It found serious injury. The domestic industry's selling price fell 24% against a 10% fall in its cost of sales, it lost market share, and its cash profits fell 86% and its return on capital employed 95% over the period. It found no other factor causing the injury.

DGTR recommends a bilateral safeguard measure under Rule 10: "withdrawal of concessions and imposition of customs duty on imports of subject goods originating in Korea RP" at the lower of the "Most Favoured Nation" (MFN) applied rate on the date the measure is applied and the MFN applied rate on the day immediately preceding the entry into force of the CEPA. The measure is recommended for two years from the date of the notification to be issued by the Ministry of Finance. For Year 1 the findings say "Increase the rate of customs duty @100% to the level of Most Favoured Nation applied rate of customs duty", and for Year 2 "Increase the rate of customs duty @75% to the level of Most Favoured Nation applied rate of customs duty". Imports from other sources are unaffected. Two Korean producers, LG Chem Co., Ltd and Aekyung

Chemical Co., Ltd., filed questionnaire responses. Hanwha Solutions Corporation, which makes DEHCH by hydrogenating DOTP, also made submissions.

The findings are a recommendation, and the two years run from the date of the Ministry of Finance's notification. DGTR does not state either MFN rate or the resulting duty as a percentage; among the other parties' submissions, one says "the imposition of 7.5% duty" would raise the cost of PVC compound used in medical devices by 2.5-2.8%. Other parties argued that no measure could be imposed or kept after the CEPA's transition period. DGTR describes that period as up to ten years from the completion of tariff elimination or reduction, and held that a measure imposed during it may be maintained for up to two years. The findings give no date on which the period ends. No notification on these goods had appeared on CBIC's lists as of October 24, 2026.

Issued by	Directorate General of Trade Remedies, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Document	Final Findings, Case No. (SG)-01/2025 (F. No. 22/01/2025-DGTR)
Dated	May 27, 2026
Published	Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part I, Section 1, No. 146, May 27, 2026 (CG-DL-E-01062026-273034)
Rules	India-Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (Bilateral Safeguard Measures) Rules, 2017
Product	Non-phthalate plasticizers: DOTP (CAS No. 6422-86-2) and DEHCH (CAS No. 84731-70-4) from South Korea
Tariff lines	2917 20 00 and 2917 39 20; also imported under 2917 13 90, 2917 32 00, 2917 33 00, 2917 39 30, 2917 39 50 and 2917 39 90 (indicative)
Period of investigation	April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2025
Imports from South Korea	6,484 MT in 2021-22 to 42,157 MT in 2024-25, up 550%
Applies to	Imports of DOTP and DEHCH originating in South Korea
Recommended measure	Withdrawal of the CEPA concession; customs duty at the lower of the MFN applied rate when the measure is applied and the MFN applied rate on the day before the CEPA entered into force
Duration	Two years
Takes effect	From the date of the notification to be issued by the Ministry of Finance; none had appeared on CBIC's lists as of October 24, 2026
Applicant	KLJ Plasticizers Limited, 62% of Indian production, supported by Payal Plastichem Private Limited and Payal Polyplast Private Limited

Korean producers that responded	LG Chem Co., Ltd; Aekyung Chemical Co., Ltd.
Signed by	Amitabh Kumar, Director General

Recommended measure on DOTP and DEHCH from South Korea

Year	Details of measures recommended
Year 1	Increase the rate of customs duty @100% to the level of Most Favoured Nation applied rate of customs duty
Year 2	Increase the rate of customs duty @75% to the level of Most Favoured Nation applied rate of customs duty

The final findings (PDF, 2.0 MB)

Source: Gazette of India, CG-DL-E-01062026-273034.

Checked against the official copy on October 20, 2026.

IndusDesk

hello@indusdesk.com · +91 11 4141 3939

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

Read online: indusdesk.com/dgtr/insights/dgtr-backs-a-two-year-safeguard-on-korean-dotp-and-dehch/