November 4, 2026

DGTR

DGTR recommends two years of import quotas on soda ash

DGTR's final findings recommend country-wise soda ash import quotas of 7,54,992 MT in Year 1 and 7,92,740 MT in Year 2, for two years.

THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL of Trade Remedies (DGTR), Department of Commerce, issued its Final Findings in the safeguard (quantitative restrictions) investigation concerning imports of "Soda Ash" into India (Case No. QR (OI)-001/2026, F. No. 22/01/2026-DGTR), dated November 4, 2026 on DGTR's document list. Amitabh Kumar issued them as Authorised Officer under section 9A of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992, read with the Safeguard Measures (Quantitative Restrictions) Rules, 2012. The copy leaves the day blank ("Dated: November, 2026"); DGTR's document list dates it November 4, 2026. The Alkali Manufacturers Association of India (AMAI) applied for DCW Limited, GHCL Limited, Nirma Limited, RSPL Limited and Tata Chemicals Limited, asking for quantitative restrictions for four years. DGTR started the case on March 16, 2026.

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Final Findings, Case No. QR (OI)-001/2026 (F. No. 22/01/2026-DGTR)

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The product is "Disodium Carbonate", known as "Soda Ash" (Na_2CO_3), in light and dense forms and of natural and synthetic types, under sub-heading 2836 20; the findings call the classification indicative only. DGTR refused to exclude natural soda ash, a speciality grade of light soda ash, or imports from the European Union. The period of investigation was April 2020 to September 2025. Imports rose 89% in 2023-24, from 5,17,653 MT to 9,79,996 MT, and reached 10,12,024 MT (annualised) in January to September 2025. DGTR found that these imports threaten serious injury to the domestic industry, but made no finding of serious injury itself.

DGTR recommends quantitative restrictions for two years from the date the notification is published in the Official Gazette, not the four years asked. The quota is 7,54,992 MT in Year 1 and 7,92,740 MT in Year 2, 5% more by way of progressive liberalisation, split among the USA, Turkey, Iran/UAE, Russia, the European Union, Kenya, China and "Others". Each country's yearly quota comes in four quarterly tranches. Unused quota carries forward to the next quarter, up to Quarter 8, for the Central Government to share out by use, and anything left after Quarter 8 lapses. Imports may come only through EDI ports and count against the quota of the country of origin.

Imports under the Advance Authorisation Scheme for goods that are physically exported don't count against the quota, under paragraph 4.18(iv) of the Foreign Trade Policy 2023, subject to the export obligation. Imports from Georgia, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Indonesia, Vietnam and Romania, developing countries below 3% each and 9% together, stay outside the quota on a certificate of origin, and so do imports from Mexico. Iran and the UAE share one quota. The domestic industry must report its production, domestic despatches, exports and inventories to the Central Government every quarter.

The findings are a recommendation. The quotas apply only once the Central Government notifies them, and the findings leave it to the Central Government to decide how quota is licensed or allocated among importers within each country quota and to notify any further modalities. The findings don't set out that method. The Central Government may also change the split among

countries, within each year's total, by agreement with the WTO Members that have a substantial interest in supplying soda ash, after consultations under Article 12.3 of the Agreement on Safeguards. No notification imposing the quotas had appeared in DGFT's notifications by November 7, 2026.

Issued by	Directorate General of Trade Remedies, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Document	Final Findings, Case No. QR (OI)-001/2026 (F. No. 22/01/2026-DGTR)
Dated	November 4, 2026, per DGTR's document list; the copy prints "Dated: November, 2026"
Issued by officer	Amitabh Kumar, Authorised Officer
Legal basis	Section 9A, Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992; Safeguard Measures (Quantitative Restrictions) Rules, 2012
Product	Soda ash (disodium carbonate, Na_2CO_3), light and dense, natural and synthetic, sub-heading 2836 20 (indicative)
Applicant	Alkali Manufacturers Association of India (AMAI) for DCW Limited, GHCL Limited, Nirma Limited, RSPL Limited and Tata Chemicals Limited
Period of investigation	April 2020 to September 2025
Recommended measure	Country-wise annual import quotas, released in quarterly tranches
Total quota	7,54,992 MT in Year 1; 7,92,740 MT in Year 2
Duration	Two years from the date the notification is published in the Official Gazette (four years were asked)
Outside the quota	Advance Authorisation imports for physical export; imports from Georgia, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Indonesia, Vietnam, Romania and Mexico
Ports	EDI ports only
Takes effect	When the Central Government notifies the measure; none had appeared in DGFT's notifications by November 7, 2026

Recommended soda ash import quotas by country (MT)

Country	Year 1 (MT)	Year 2 (MT)	Total (MT)
USA	1,59,388	1,67,357	3,26,745

Turkey	1,28,697	1,35,132	2,63,829
Iran/UAE	1,10,948	1,16,495	2,27,443
Russia	70,289	73,803	1,44,092
European Union	1,17,179	1,23,038	2,40,217
Kenya	1,21,847	1,27,939	2,49,786
China PR	46,487	48,811	95,298
Others	157	165	322
Total	7,54,992	7,92,740	15,47,732

The final findings (PDF, 810 KB)

Source: DGTR's own copy.

Checked against the official copy on November 7, 2026.

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