

EU extends biodiesel anti-dumping measures

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London, 9 May (Argus) — The EU has extended its regime of punitive anti-dumping duties on US biodiesel to include most Canadian exports following a year-long investigation into allegations that imports of disguised, subsidised US biodiesel have been reaching the EU through third countries. A similar circumvention investigation into biodiesel imports from Singapore has been dropped.

Extended EU anti-dumping legislation will also apply retroactively to US diesel imports containing 20pc biodiesel or less — so-called B20.

The year-long EU investigation follows a complaint by EU biodiesel industry association the European Biodiesel Board on behalf of EU biodiesel producers. It was also backed by EU member states.

It concluded that anti-dumping and countervailing duties imposed on imports of biodiesel originating in the US since 2009 had been circumvented by trans-shipment via Canada. Trade figures detail a rise in Canadian biodiesel exports following the introduction of duties on US exports, with imports of Canadian biodiesel to the EU outstripping Canadian producers' ability to supply physical material, the EU said.

Imports of biodiesel from the US dropped from 1.48mn t in 2008 to 381,330t in 2009 and close to zero the year after. At the same time, total imports of biodiesel from Canada to the EU increased significantly, according to Eurostat data.

Revised retroactive legislation will apply duties to all biodiesel exported to the bloc from Canada, whether it has been declared as being of Canadian origin or not. Just two Canadian biodiesel producers, Biox and Rothsay Biodiesel, have been exempted from the new duty regime.

In another investigation, the EU concluded that anti-dumping duties imposed on imports of biodiesel originating in the US were circumvented by imports in a blend containing 20pc or less biodiesel by weight.

The anti-circumvention measures will apply retroactively to Canadian exports of biodiesel and qualifying blends delivered since August 2010, according to the European Biodiesel Board (EBB). This could mean a maximum combined anti-dumping and countervailing duty of €409/t, the EBB said.

For companies already investigated in 2009, anti-dumping and countervailing duties to all imports of US biodiesel blends below the 20pc threshold duties could range from €213/t to €409/t, while other companies may be subject to the highest combined duty of €409/t in proportion to the biodiesel content in the blend, according to the EBB.

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