

HEPTANOIC ACID

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JULY 24, 1963.—Ordered to be printed
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Mr. BYRD of Virginia, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 5712]

The Committee on Finance, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 5712) to suspend for a temporary period the import duty on heptanoic acid, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE

The purpose of H.R. 5712 is to continue the existing suspension of the import duty on heptanoic acid for a period of 3 years from the date of enactment.

GENERAL STATEMENT

Section 1 of Public Law 86-795, approved September 15, 1960, suspended the duty on heptanoic acid for a period of 3 years. H.R. 5712 would continue this treatment for 3 years from the date of enactment.

Heptanoic acid is used in making special lubricants and brake fluids for use particularly in military aircraft. The Department of Commerce has advised that "at the present time there is no U.S. production of this acid, and U.S. consumption is dependent entirely on imports."

Heptanoic acid is classified under paragraph 1 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, and is dutiable at a rate of 12½ percent ad valorem. The dollar value of present imports is low.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

U.S. TARIFF COMMISSION,
Washington, D.C., July 5, 1963.

Hon. HARRY F. BYRD,
Chairman, Committee on Finance,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your request for a report on H.R. 5712, 88th Congress, to suspend for a temporary period the import duty on heptanoic acid, passed by the House of Representatives on June 27.

The bill, if enacted, would suspend the import duty on heptanoic acid for a period of 3 years beginning on the day after enactment.

Heptanoic acid is classifiable under a provision for acids, not specifically provided for, in paragraph 1 of the Tariff Act of 1930. The original rate of 25 percent ad valorem was reduced to 12½ percent ad valorem pursuant to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, effective June 6, 1951. The rate has been suspended from September 16, 1960, through September 15, 1963, by Public Law 86-795. Heptanoic acid would be dutiable under item 425.98 of the revised tariff schedules of the United States at the rate of 12½ percent ad valorem.

Heptanoic (enanthic, heptoic) acid is a straight-chain 7-carbon organic acid. It is an oily liquid with a rancid odor.

The methods of preparation of heptanoic acid are by the oxidation of heptanal with oxygen, sulfuric acid, or potassium permanganate. It is formed during the cracking of cottonseed oil, and from the oxidation of high-molecular synthetic paraffin. It has growth-inhibiting properties against fungi and other micro-organisms. Its principal use is as an intermediate in organic synthesis.

There was no production of heptanoic acid in the United States in 1961. Invoice analysis shows that slightly more than 500,000 pounds were imported in 1961, at a value in excess of \$145,000. Imports were chiefly from West Germany, with a nominal amount from France. Importers were two large chemical firms and an import firm.

Heptanoic acid is a definite identifiable compound, and could not be confused in such a way as to open the way to the imports of any other materials.

Sincerely yours,

BEN DORFMAN, *Chairman.*

Also, favorable reports were received from the Bureau of the Budget, Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, State, Treasury, and Interior.

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