

III - U.S. IMPORTS OF CHEMICAL SPECIALTIES

This chapter provides information on recent levels and trends of U.S. imports and a summary of short-term prospects for this sector. Where there are differences in sector definitions between these sources, or between them and definitions generally used in Canada, such differences are noted, along with any known implications. In order to improve the usefulness of the information, a definition of which products within the sector are being reported on and how they were selected is also provided.

SECTOR DEFINITION

The products being discussed in this report were selected on the basis of the customs value of U.S. imports from Japan, Europe and Canada, as reported by the U.S. Department of Commerce (USDOC). The sector definitions used by USDOC effectively defined the products available for inclusion in this report. The selection of products was achieved by first screening all the USDOC broad product groupings, as expressed in 4-digit codes (e.g., surface-active agents, detergents and washing preparations, ns^{pf}* [Schedule A 554.2]). Where combined imports from Japan, Europe and Canada were significant, the list of products was further refined at the more detailed and specific 7-digit level (e.g., surface active agents and washing preparations, but not including fatty acids, alcohols and their salts [Schedule A 5542040]).

Appendix 2 displays 1988 U.S. imports of all 7-digit products or product groups belonging to the 4-digit categories selected for the chemical specialties report. The initial selection of products or product groups was based on a minimum of \$80 million (U.S.) of 1986 imports into the United States from Japan, Western Europe and Canada. Following consultation with industry and government officials with expertise in the chemical specialties sector, other products and product groups which did not meet the above criteria were included where there appeared to be significant commercial interest. Some products and product groups were deleted because there was insufficient commercial interest. Further details on this selection process are provided in Chapter V, Background. Due to refinements of sector definitions and other adjustments, there may be some differences between figures in this report and those in the Overview report published in June 1988. In such cases, the numbers in this report take precedence.

* not specifically provided for