DRAFT U.S. PURCHASERS' QUESTIONNAIRE

SORBITOL FROM FRANCE

This questionnaire must be received by the Commission by no later than MARCH 8, 2010

See page 4 of the Instruction Booklet for filing instructions.

The information called for in this questionnaire is for use by the United States International Trade Commission in connection with its review of the antidumping duty finding concerning sorbitol from France (Inv. No. 731-TA-44 (Third Review)). The information requested in the questionnaire is requested under the authority of the Tariff Act of 1930, title VII. This report is mandatory and failure to reply as directed can result in a subpoena or other order to compel the submission of records or information in your possession (19 U.S.C. § 1333(a)).

Name of fi	ïrm			
Address _				
			Zip Code	
World Wi	ide Web address			
•	rm purchased sorbitol (as defined in th nce January 1, 1982?	e instruction bo	oklet) from any source (domestic or foreign) at	
NO	(Sign the certification below and pron	(Sign the certification below and promptly return only this page of the questionnaire to the Commission)		
YES	(Read the instruction booklet carefully, complete all parts of the questionnaire, and return the entire questionnaire to the Commission so as to be received by the date indicated above)			

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the information herein supplied in response to this questionnaire is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and understand that the information submitted is subject to audit and verification by the Commission.

By means of this certification I also grant consent for the Commission, and its employees and contract personnel, to use the information provided in this questionnaire and throughout this review in any other import-injury investigations or reviews conducted by the Commission on the same or similar merchandise.

I acknowledge that information submitted in this questionnaire response and throughout this review may be used by the Commission, its employees, and contract personnel who are acting in the capacity of Commission employees, for developing or maintaining the records of this review or related proceedings for which this information is submitted, or in internal audits and investigations relating to the programs and operations of the Commission pursuant to 5 U.S.C. Appendix 3. I understand that all contract personnel will sign non-disclosure agreements.

Name of Authorized Official	Title of Authorized Official	Date	
	Phone: ()		
Signature	<i>Fax</i> ()	E-mail address	

PART I.—GENERAL INFORMATION

The questions in this questionnaire have been reviewed with market participants to ensure that issues of concern are adequately addressed and that data requests are sufficient, meaningful, and as limited as possible. Public reporting burden for this questionnaire is estimated to average 40 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering the data needed, and completing and reviewing the questionnaire. Send comments regarding the accuracy of this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Office of Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20436.

NOTE: REPORT YOUR ANSWERS FOR CRYSTALLINE SORBITOL ONLY.

I-1a. <u>**OMB statistics.--**</u>Please report below the actual number of hours required and the cost to your firm of preparing the reply to this questionnaire and completing the form.

hours dollars

- I-1b. <u>**OMB feedback.--**We are interested in any comments you may have for improving this questionnaire in general or the clarity of specific questions. Please attach such comments to your response or send them to the above address.</u>
- I-2. **Establishments covered.**--Provide the name and address of establishment(s) covered by this questionnaire (see page 3 of the instruction booklet for reporting guidelines). If your firm is publicly traded, please specify the stock exchange and trading symbol.

I-3. **Ownership.--**Is your firm owned, in whole or in part, by any other firm?

No Yes--List the following information.

Firm name	Address	<u>Extent of</u> ownership

I-4. **<u>Related importers/exporters from France</u>.--**Does your firm have any related firms, either domestic or foreign, which are engaged in importing sorbitol from France into the United States or which are engaged in exporting sorbitol from France to the United States?

No Yes--List the following information.

Firm name	<u>Address</u>	Affiliation

PART I.--<u>GENERAL INFORMATION</u>--Continued

either domestic or foreign, which are engaged in importing sorbitol from countries other that France into the United States or which are engaged in exporting sorbitol from countries other France to the United States?			
🗌 No	YesList the foll	owing information.	
<u>Firm na</u>	me and country	<u>Address</u>	Affiliation
	oducersDoes your firm I in the production of sort	have any related firms, either bitol?	domestic or foreign, wh
		No YesList the following information.	
No	YesList the foll	owing information.	
	YesList the foll	owing information. <u>Address</u>	Affiliation
		C .	<u>Affiliation</u>
E Business pl business pla	irm name	C .	a copy of your company ness plan or any internal

Further information on this part of the questionnaire can be obtained from Clark Workman (202-205-3248, <u>clark.workman@usitc.gov</u>). Supply all data requested on a <u>calendar-year</u> basis.

NOTE: REPORT YOUR ANSWERS FOR CRYSTALLINE SORBITOL ONLY.

II-1. <u>Contact information (Purchases)</u>.--Who should be contacted regarding the requested information?

Company contact:

Name and title

() Phone number

E-mail address

II-2. **<u>Purchases.--</u>**Report, as indicated below, your firm's purchases (either directly or through a sales agent or broker) of sorbitol. Report based on delivery date, not order date.

Purchases of <u>crystalline</u> sorbitol produced in	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
The United States:						
Quantity						
Value						l
France:						
Quantity						
Value						1
All other countries: ¹						
Quantity						
Value						1
¹ Please identify these countries:	•	•				

U.S. Purchasers' Questionnaire - Sorbitol

PART II.--PURCHASES AND RELATED INFORMATION--Continued

II-3. Purchases before and after order.--

(a) Did your firm purchase sorbitol from France before 1982?

No--skip to (c) Yes

(b) If yes, has your pattern of purchasing sorbitol from France changed since 1982?

No, our pattern of purchasing is essentially unchanged.

Yes, we discontinued purchases from France because of the order.

- Yes, we reduced purchases from France because of the order.
- Yes, but we changed the pattern of purchases from France for reasons other than the order (please explain below).
- (c) Has your pattern of purchasing sorbitol from nonsubject foreign sources (i.e., countries other than France) changed since 1982?
 - We did not purchase from nonsubject foreign sources before or after the order.
 - No, our pattern of purchasing is essentially unchanged.
 - Yes, we increased purchases from nonsubject countries because of the order.

Yes, but we changed our pattern of purchases from nonsubject countries for reasons other than the order (please explain below).

II-4. <u>Changes in purchasing patterns</u>.--If the relative levels of your firm's purchases of sorbitol from different sources (both domestic and foreign) have changed since 1982 (the year the antidumping duty finding under review became effective), please list the relative share from that country has increased or decreased, and state the reason.

Source of purchases	Trend	Explanation for trend
	Decreased	
	Increased	
	Constant	
The United States	Fluctuated	
	Decreased	
	Increased	
	Constant	
France	Fluctuated	
	Decreased	
	Increased	
	Constant	
All other countries	Fluctuated	

PART II.--PURCHASES AND RELATED INFORMATION--Continued

II-5. Supplier identification.--Please identify below the names and addresses of your firm's <u>FIVE</u> largest suppliers for sorbitol since 1982. Please also provide the name and telephone number of a contact person and the share of the quantity of your firm's total shipments of sorbitol that each of these customers accounted for in 2009.

No.	Supplier's name	Street address (<u>not</u> P.O. box), city, state, and zip code	Contact person	Telephone number or e-mail address	Share of 2009 purchases (%)
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					

PART III.-- MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES

III-1. **<u>Firm type</u>.--**Which of the following best describes your firm as a purchaser of sorbitol (check all that apply, noting the specific end uses if known)?

Gum producer	
Other food or confection producer	
Hygiene product or cosmetics producer	
End user (other than those above, Describe:)
Distributor	
Other (Describe:)

III-2. <u>**Competition of sales.--**</u>If you are a <u>distributor</u> or <u>reseller</u> of sorbitol, do you compete for sales to your customers with the manufacturers or importers from which you purchase sorbitol?

	No	YesPlease	1
	INU	i esriease	describe

III-3. <u>**Types of customers.--**</u>If your firm is a <u>distributor</u> or <u>reseller</u> of sorbitol, what are the major types of consumers to which you sell sorbitol?

III-4. <u>End uses</u>.--If your firm is an end user of sorbitol, list in order of quantity of sorbitol consumed, the top 3 products for which your firm purchases sorbitol as a component part or input. Please indicate what percentage of the <u>total cost</u> is accounted for by sorbitol (and NOTE: this percentage should not add to 100 percent).

Product(s) you produce	Share of cost accounted for by sorbitol (<i>percent</i>)
1.	
2.	
3.	

PART III.--<u>MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES</u>--Continued

III-5.	Deman	d for end use products					
	(a)	If your firm is an end user of sorbitol, has the demand for your firm's final products incorporating sorbitol changed since the imposition of the finding in 1982?					
	Increased Decreased Fluctuated No change						
	(b)	Has this had any effect on your firm's demand for sorbitol?					
		No YesPlease describe					
III-6.	Changes in end uses Have there been any changes in the end uses of sorbitol since the imposition of the finding in 1982?						
	🗌 No	No YesPlease describe.					
III-7.		pated changes in end uses Do you anticipate any changes in terms of the end uses of l in the future?					
	No YesPlease describe and identify the time period.						

PART III.-- MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES--Continued

III-8. <u>Substitutes</u>.--Please list in order of importance any products that may be substituted for sorbitol. For each possible substitute product, please give examples of applications and end uses for which they are substitutes and indicate whether changes in the price of the substitute affect the price for sorbitol, and to what degree, and the length of any time lag of such an effect.

Substitute	Application(s)	Have changes in the prices of this substitute affected the price for sorbitol?
1.		No YesPlease explain.
2.		No YesPlease explain.
3.		No YesPlease explain.
4.		No YesPlease explain.
5.		No YesPlease explain.

III-9. <u>Forms</u>.--Is sorbitol in liquid a substitute for crystalline sorbitol? No Yes Please explain why or why not.

III-10. <u>Changes in substitutes</u>.--Have there been any changes in the number or types of products that can be substituted for sorbitol since the imposition of the finding in 1982?

No Yes--Please explain.

PART III.--<u>MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES</u>--Continued

III-11.			ubstitutesDo you oducts for sorbitol i	anticipate any chang n the future?	ges in terms of the
	🗌 No	YesF	Please describe.		
III-12.	Demai	nd trends			
	(a)			d States for sorbitol factors affect change	changed since the imposition of s in demand?
			Decreased	Fluctuated	No change
	(b)				for sorbitol changed since the affect changes in demand?
			Decreased	Fluctuated	No change

PART III.-- MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES--Continued

III-13. Anticipated demand trends.--

III-

III-

	(a) How do you anticipate demand will change within the United States for sorbitol ir future? What principal factors will affect these changes in demand?					
			Decrease	Fluctuate	☐ No change	
	(b)			ange outside the Uni ect these changes in	ited States for sorbitol in the demand?	
14.	that you capacit product	u are aware of that q y and capacity utiliz	uantify and/or other ation) and demand i tries, including Fran	wise discuss sorbito n (1) the United Stat ce, and (3) the work	quest any studies, surveys, etc. l supply (including production tes, (2) each of the other major d as a whole. Of particular	
15.						

No Yes--Please note the time period(s) of any such changes, the factors(s) involved, and the impact such changes had on your shipment volumes and prices.

PART III.-- MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES--Continued

- III-16. **Importance of supply source.--**Is buying a product that is produced in the United States an important factor in your firm's purchases of sorbitol (please check ALL that apply)?
 - No
 - Yes--Purchases of domestic product are required by law or regulation (for example, government purchases under "Buy American" provisions). This involves percent of all purchases of sorbitol.
 - Yes--Purchases of domestic product are not required by law or regulation, but are by your customers. This involves _____ percent of all purchases of sorbitol.
 - Yes--Purchases of domestic product are required for other reasons (please specify these reasons below). This involves _____ percent of all purchases of sorbitol.

III-17. Conditions of competition.--

(a) Is the sorbitol market subject to business cycles or conditions of competition distinctive to sorbitol?

🗌 No	YesPlease explain and provide estimates of the duration of any such
	cycle.

(b) Has the emergence of new markets for sorbitol since the imposition of the finding in 1982 affected the business cycles or conditions of competition distinctive to sorbitol?

No No	YesPlease explain any such changes.
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PART III.--<u>MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES</u>--Continued

III-18.	Decisions based on producer. Does your firm, and to the extent that you know, do your customers make purchasing decisions involving sorbitol based on the producer of the sorbitol you purchase?						
	Your firm:	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	
	Your customers:	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	
	If at least sometimes why this information	·	s how your fir	m or your custom	ers determine	the producer and	
	Your firm:						
	Your customers:						
III-19.	Decisions based on country-of-origin Does your firm, and to the extent that you know, do your customers make purchasing decisions involving sorbitol based on the country of origin of the sorbitol you purchase?						
	Your firm:	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	
	Your customers:	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	
	If at least sometimes, please discuss how your firm or your customers determine the source and why this information is important.						
	Your firm:						
	Your customers:						

PART III.-- MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES--Continued

III-20. Purchasing frequency.--

	(a)	How frequently do you make purchases?				
		 Daily Weekly Monthly Quarterly Annually Other ((specify)) 				
	(b)	Do you expect this purchasing pattern to change in the next two years?				
		No Yes How and why do you expect these changes to occur?				
III-21.	<u>Numb</u> purcha	er of suppliers contacted How many suppliers do you generally contact before making a se?				
III-22.	Supplier negotiations					
	(a)	Do purchases of sorbitol usually involve negotiations between supplier and purchaser?				
		No YesPlease describe these negotiations. In your response, please comment on whether purchasers generally quote competing prices as part of the negotiation process.				
	(b)	Does your firm tend to vary its purchases from a given supplier within a specified time period based on the price offered for that period?				
		No YesSpecify the time period.				

U.S. Pı	urchaser	s' Questionna	ire – Sorbitol	Page 15				
PART	III <u>M</u>	IARKET CH	ARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PR	ACTICESContinued				
III-23.	<u>Chang</u>	e in suppliers	sHave you changed suppliers since the imposi-	ition of the finding in 1982?				
	🗌 No		icate whether the firm was the reasons for the change					
III-24.	<u>New sı</u>	<u>ıppliers</u>						
	(a)		tre of any new suppliers, either foreign or domes the imposition of the finding in 1982?	stic, that have entered the				
		🗌 No	YesPlease identify the firms and indication them.	ate how you became aware of				
	(b)	Do you expe	ect new sorbitol suppliers to enter the market in	the future?				
	 No YesPlease provide details, noting the specific future time pyour response. 							
III-25.	Suppli	er qualificati	on					
	(a) Do	you require y	our suppliers to become USP certified for the so	orbitol they sell to your firm?				
	🗌 No		Yes percent of purchases in 2009	Yesall purchases				
	certific	(b) Do you require your suppliers to become certified or prequalified in any form other than USP certification with respect to the quality, chemistry, strength, or other performance characteristic of the sorbitol they sell to your firm?						
	🗌 No		Yes percent of purchases in 2009	Yesall purchases				
	(c) Plea	(c) Please provide a general description of the certification or qualification process.						
	(d) Ple	ase estimate tl	ne time required for certification or qualification	n days				

PART III.--<u>MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES</u>--Continued

III-26.	Factors considered vis-à-vis suppliers. (a) Briefly describe the factors that you consider when qualifying a new supplier (e.g., quality of product, reliability of supplier, etc.).						
III-27.	 (b) Please estimate the time it takes to certify or qualify a new supplier days II-27. Failure to certifySince the imposition of the finding in 1982, have any domestic or foreign producers failed in their attempts to certify or qualify their sorbitol with your firm or have any 						
	producers lo	st their approved statu	is?				
	🗌 No		•	, the countries where he certification/qualif	they are located, and the fication.		
Fir	m name	Firm country	Why the	firm failed certificat	tion/gualification		
					•		
III-28.	III-28. <u>Purchasing factors</u> For the factors listed below, please rate each in terms of its importance in your purchase decision for sorbitol.						
			Very importar	Somewhat important	Not important		
	Availability.						
	Availability	in crystalline form					
	Availability	in solution form					
			_	_	_		

	important	important	important
Availability			
Availability in crystalline form			
Availability in solution form			
Delivery terms			
Delivery time			
Discounts offered			
Extension of credit			
Price			
Minimum quantity requirements			
Packaging			
Product consistency			
Quality is USP certified			
Quality exceeds USP certification			
Product range			
Reliability of supply			
Technical support/service			
U.S. transportation costs			
Other (specify):			

PART III.-- MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES--Continued

III-29. <u>Major purchasing factors</u>.--Please list, in order of their importance, the three major factors generally considered by your firm in deciding from whom to purchase sorbitol for any one order (examples include current availability, extension of credit, prearranged contracts, price, quality exceeding specifications or industry standards, range of supplier's product line, traditional supplier, etc.).

1	
2.	
3.	
Other factors or comments:	

III-30. **Quality characteristics.--**What characteristics does your firm consider when determining the quality of sorbitol?

III-31. <u>Choice of product not based on price</u>.--If you purchased sorbitol from one source although a comparable product was available from another source at a lower price, please explain your reasons for doing so (please specify by country, including the United States and both subject and nonsubject foreign countries). Possibilities might include transaction characteristics such as length of time to fill orders, minimum order size, reliability of supply, etc.

III-32. **Frequency of decisions based on price.--**How often does your firm purchase the sorbitol that is offered at the lowest price?

Always

Usually

Sometimes Rarely

Never

PART III.-- MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES--Continued

III-33. <u>Price leaders</u>.--Please list the names of any firms you consider price leaders in the sorbitol market. A price leader is defined as (1) one or more firms that initiate a price change, either upward or downward, that is followed by other firms, or (2) one or more firms that have a significant impact on prices. A price leader does not necessarily have to be the lowest priced supplier.

III-34. **Frequency of price changes.--**How frequently does the price of the sorbitol you are purchasing change?

III-35. Changes in U.S. industry.--

(a) Please identify and discuss any improvements/changes in the U.S. sorbitol industry since the imposition of the finding in 1982 and explain fully, to the extent possible, the factor(s), including the order under review, that was/(were) responsible for each improvement/change.

PART III.-- MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES--Continued

III-36. Changes in U.S. industry.--Continued

(b) Please also discuss fully, to the extent possible, any improvements/changes that you anticipate in the future in the U.S. sorbitol industry. Identify the specific future time period covered in your response, and discuss the factors that you believe would be responsible for each improvement/change.

III-37. <u>Effect of revocation</u>.--What do you think will be the likely effects of any revocation of the antidumping duty order for imports of sorbitol from France? As appropriate, please discuss any potential effects of revocation of the antidumping duty order on (1) the future activities of your firm and (2) the U.S. market as a whole. Please note the future time period to which you are referring. Attach additional pages if necessary.

PART IV.-- PRODUCT COMPARISIONS

IV-1. <u>**Country knowledge.--**</u>Please indicate the countries of origin for sorbitol for which your firm has actual marketing/pricing knowledge.

United States

France

Other countries (Please specify _____)

IV-2. **Interchangeability by country-pair**.--Is sorbitol produced in the United States and in other countries interchangeable (*i.e.*, can they physically be used in the same applications)? Please indicate below, using "A" to indicate that the products from a specified country-pair are *always* interchangeable, "F" to indicate that the products are *frequently* interchangeable, "S" to indicate that the products are *never* interchangeable, and "0" to indicate *no familiarity* with products from a specified country-pair.¹

France	Other countries
oducing sorbitol which is <i>sometimes</i> or <i>ne</i> ude interchangeable use:	ever interchangeable, please explain
	ducing sorbitol which is sometimes or ne

PART IV.-- PRODUCT COMPARISIONS--Continued

IV-3. **Factors other than price.--**Are differences other than price (*i.e.*, quality, availability,

transportation network, product range, technical support, *etc.*) between sorbitol produced in the United States and in other countries a significant factor in your firm's purchases of the products? Please indicate below, using "A" to indicate that such differences are *always* significant, "F" to indicate that such differences are *frequently* significant, "S" to indicate that such differences are *sometimes* significant, "N" to indicate that such differences are *never* significant, and "0" to indicate *no familiarity* with products from a specified country-pair.¹

Country-pair	France	Other countries
United States		
France		
	r which factors other than price <i>always</i> of bitol, identify the country-pair and report	

PART IV.-- PRODUCT COMPARISIONS--Continued

IV-4.	Country preferences Do you or your customers ever specifically order sorbitol from one country in particular over other possible sources of supply?						
	No YesPlease identify all relevant countries (including the United States and both subject and nonsubject foreign countries) from which you or your customers prefer to order, and indicate why sorbitol from these countries is preferred over product from other countries (please note the specific product in your response).						
IV-5.	Availability of merchandise Are certain grades/types/sizes of sorbitol available from only a single source (domestic or foreign, including both subject and nonsubject countries)?						
	No YesPlease identify the source and the grade/type/size.						

PART IV.-- PRODUCT COMPARISIONS--Continued

IV-6. <u>Factor country comparisons</u>.--For the factors listed below, please rate how sorbitol produced in each country you identified in your response to the first question in Part IV compares with sorbitol produced in each of the other countries you identified (including the United States and both subject and nonsubject foreign countries).

	product from United States compared to product from France		product from <u>United States</u> compared to product from			product from United States compared to product from			
Quality	Superior	Comparable	Inferior	Superior	Comparable	Inferior	Superior	Comparable	Inferior
Availability									
Availability in crystalline form									
Availability in solution form									
Delivery terms									
Delivery time									
Discounts offered									
Extension of credit									
Price ¹									
Minimum quantity requirements									
Packaging									
Product consistency									
Quality is USP certified									
Quality exceeds USP certification									
Product range									
Reliability of supply									
Technical support/service									
U.S. transportation costs ¹									
Other (specify):									

¹ A rating of superior on price and U.S. transportation costs indicates that the United States generally has lower prices/U.S. transportation costs than the second country.

PART IV.-- PRODUCT COMPARISIONS--Continued

IV-6. Factor country comparisons.--Continued.

	product from France compared to product from		product from France compared to product from			product from France compared to product from		l to	
Quality	Superior	Comparable	Inferior	Superior	Comparable	Inferior	Superior	Comparable	Inferior
Availability									
Availability in crystalline form									
Availability in solution form									
Delivery terms									
Delivery time									
Discounts offered									
Extension of credit									
Price ¹									
Minimum quantity requirements									
Packaging									
Product consistency									
Quality is USP certified									
Quality exceeds USP certification									
Product range									
Reliability of supply									
Technical support/service									
U.S. transportation costs ¹									
Other (specify):									

¹ A rating of superior on price and U.S. transportation costs indicates that the France generally has lower prices/U.S. transportation costs than the second country.

PART IV.-- PRODUCT COMPARISIONS--Continued

IV-7. Minimum quality.--

(a) How often does domestically produced sorbitol meet minimum quality specifications for your uses or your customers' uses?

Always Usually	☐ Sometimes	Rarely	Never
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(b) How often does imported subject sorbitol meet minimum quality specifications for your uses or your customers' uses?

Source	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
France					

(c) How often does imported sorbitol (from nonsubject sources including sorbitol from countries other than France) meet minimum quality specifications for your uses or your customers' uses?

Source (specify country)	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Rarely	Never

IV-8. Change in price.--

(a) Since the imposition of the finding in 1982, has there been a change in the price of sorbitol? If so, has the price of U.S.-produced sorbitol changed more or less than the price of imported sorbitol from France?

No change in price

Prices have changed by the same amount

- Price of U.S.-produced sorbitol has changed relative to the price of sorbitol from France
- (b) If the price of U.S.-produced sorbitol has changed relative to the price of sorbitol from France, the price of U.S.-produced sorbitol is now relatively

Higher Lower