

U.S. IMPORTERS' QUESTIONNAIRE

SODIUM GLUCONATE, GLUCONIC ACID, AND DERIVATIVE PRODUCTS FROM CHINA AND FRANCE

This questionnaire must be received by the Commission by **December 14, 2017**
See last page for filing instructions.

The information called for in this questionnaire is for use by the United States International Trade Commission in connection with its countervailing duty and antidumping investigations concerning sodium gluconate, gluconic acid, and derivative products ("GNA products") from China and France (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-590 and 731-TA-1397-1398 (Preliminary)). 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 firm's possession (19 U.S.C. § 1333(a)).

Name of firm _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Website _____
Has your firm imported GNA products (as defined on next page) from any country at any time since January 1, 2014?
<input type="checkbox"/> NO (Sign the certification below and promptly return only this page of the questionnaire to the Commission)
<input type="checkbox"/> YES (Complete all parts of the questionnaire, and return the entire questionnaire to the Commission)
Return questionnaire via the U.S. International Trade Commission Drop Box by clicking on the following link: https://dropbox.usitc.gov/oinv/. (PIN: GNAP)

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 proceeding in any other import-injury proceedings conducted by the Commission on the same or similar merchandise.

I, the undersigned, acknowledge that information submitted in response to this request for information and throughout this proceeding or other proceedings may be disclosed to and used: (i) by the Commission, its employees and Offices, and contract personnel (a) for developing or maintaining the records of this or a related proceeding, or (b) in internal investigations, audits, reviews, and evaluations relating to the programs, personnel, and operations of the Commission including under 5 U.S.C. Appendix 3; or (ii) by U.S. government employees and contract personnel, solely for cybersecurity purposes. I understand that all contract personnel will sign appropriate nondisclosure agreements.

Name of Authorized Official

Title of Authorized Official

Date

Phone:

Signature

Email address

PART I.—GENERAL INFORMATION

Background. -- This proceeding was instituted in response to a petition filed on November 30, 2017, by PMP Fermentation Products, Inc., Peoria, Illinois. Countervailing and/or antidumping duties may be assessed on the subject imports as a result of these proceedings if the Commission makes an affirmative determination of injury, threat, or material retardation, and if the U.S. Department of Commerce ("Commerce") makes an affirmative determination of subsidization and/or dumping. Questionnaires and other information pertinent to this proceeding are available at https://www.usitc.gov/investigations/701731/2017/sodium_gluconate_gluconic_acid_and_derivative/preliminary.htm

GNA Products covered by these investigations are defined as "all grades of sodium gluconate, liquid gluconate, and gluconic acid, regardless of physical form (including, but not limited to substrates; solutions; dry granular form or powders, regardless of particle size; or as a slurry). The scope also includes sodium gluconate, liquid gluconate, and gluconic acid that has been blended or is in solution with other product(s) where the resulting mix contains 35 percent or more of sodium gluconate, liquid gluconate, and/or gluconic acid (including glucono delta lactone, in essence dry gluconic acid, commonly referred to as GDL) by dry weight. Sodium gluconate has a molecular formula of $\text{NaC}_6\text{H}_{11}\text{O}_7$; gluconic acid has a molecular formula of $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_7$; liquid gluconate is a blend of gluconic acid and sodium gluconate in an aqueous solution; and GDL has a molecular formula of $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{10}\text{O}_6$. Sodium gluconate has a Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) registry number of 527-07-1, and can also be called "sodium salt of gluconic acid" and/or sodium 2, 3, 4, 5, 6-pentahydroxy-hexanoate. Liquid gluconate has CAS registry numbers of 527-07-1, 526-95-4, and 7732-18-5, and can also be called 2, 3, 4, 5, 6-Pentahydroxycaproic acid-hexanoate. Gluconic acid has a CAS registry number of 526-95-4, and can also be called 2, 3, 4, 5, 6-Pentahydroxycaproic Acid. GDL has a CAS registry number of 90-80-2, and can also be called D-Glucono-1,5-lactone. The merchandise covered by the scope of this investigation is currently classified in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) at subheadings 2918.16.1000, 2918.16.5010, and 2932.20.5020. Although the HTSUS subheadings and CAS registry numbers are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the merchandise is dispositive.

GNA products are currently imported under statistical reporting numbers 2918.16.10 and 2918.16.50 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS). The HTSUS provisions are for convenience and customs purposes; the written description of the scope is dispositive.

Importer.--Any person or firm engaged, either directly or through a parent company or subsidiary, in importing GNA products (as defined above) into the United States from a foreign manufacturer or through its selling agent.

Reporting of information.-- If information is not readily available from your records, provide carefully prepared estimates. If your firm is completing more than one questionnaire (i.e., a producer, importer, and/or purchaser questionnaire), you need not respond to duplicated questions.

Confidentiality.--The commercial and financial data furnished in response to this questionnaire that reveal the individual operations of your firm will be treated as confidential by the Commission to the extent that such data are not otherwise available to the public and will not be disclosed except as may be required by law (see 19 U.S.C. § 1677f). Such confidential information will not be published in a manner that will reveal the individual operations of your firm; however, general characterizations of

numerical business proprietary information (such as discussion of trends) will be treated as confidential business information only at the request of the submitter for good cause shown.

Verification.-- The information submitted in this questionnaire is subject to audit and verification by the Commission. To facilitate possible verification of data, please keep all files, worksheets, and supporting documents used in the preparation of the questionnaire response. Please also retain a copy of the final document that you submit.

Release of information.--The information provided by your firm in response to this questionnaire, as well as any other business proprietary information submitted by your firm to the Commission in connection with this proceeding, may become subject to, and released under, the administrative protective order provisions of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. § 1677f) and section 207.7 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR § 207.7). This means that certain lawyers and other authorized individuals may temporarily be given access to the information for use in connection with this proceeding or other import-injury proceedings conducted by the Commission on the same or similar merchandise; those individuals would be subject to severe penalties if the information were divulged to unauthorized individuals.

Valid number error messages.--If you are completing this form in a country that uses periods (".") to delineate multiples of 1000 (e.g., one million would appear as \$1.000.000 rather than \$1,000,000), you may be unable to enter in numbers greater than 999 in numeric form fields. The solution to this data entry issue is to temporarily change your operating system's number formatting to be consistent with the U.S. number formatting system while you complete this form. Detailed instructions on how to resolve this issue is provided at the end of this questionnaire and is available upon request from Robert Casanova (Robert.casanova@usitc.gov , 202-708-2719).

I-1. **OMB statistics.**--Please report below the actual number of hours required and the cost to your firm of completing this questionnaire.

Hours	Dollars

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, gathering data, and completing and reviewing the questionnaire.

We welcome comments regarding the accuracy of this burden estimate, suggestions for reducing the burden, and any suggestions for improving this questionnaire. Please attach such comments to your response or send to the Office of Investigations, USITC, 500 E St. SW, Washington, DC 20436.

I-2. **Establishments covered.**--Provide the name and address of establishment(s) covered by this questionnaire. If your firm is publicly traded, please specify the stock exchange and trading symbol.

“Establishment”--Each facility of a firm involved in the importation of GNA products, including auxiliary facilities operated in conjunction with (whether or not physically separate from) such facilities.

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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	Extent of ownership (percent)

I-4. **Related importers/exporters.**--Does your firm have any related firms, either domestic or foreign, that are engaged in importing GNA products from China or France into the United States or that are engaged in exporting GNA products from China or France to the United States?

No Yes--List the following information.

Firm name	Country	Affiliation

I-5. **Related producers.**--Does your firm have any related firms, either domestic or foreign, that are engaged in the production of GNA products?

No Yes--List the following information.

Firm name	Country	Affiliation

I-6. **Importing operations.**--Please indicate the nature of your firm's importing operations on GNA products. More than one answer may be applicable.

Importer of record	Takes title to the imported product(s)	Consignee of the imported products(s)	Customs broker or freight forwarder
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I-7. **Consignee.**--If your firm is an importer of record of GNA products but is not the consignee, please list the consignees below (firm name, address, telephone number, and individual to contact).

Firm name	Address	Contact person and phone number

I-8. **FTZ, TIB, or bonded warehouses.**--Please indicate whether your firm enters GNA products into, or withdraws such merchandise from, foreign trade zones or bonded warehouses. Also indicate whether your firm imports GNA products under the TIB (temporary importation under bond) program.

“Foreign trade zone” is a designated location in the United States where firms utilize special procedures that allow delayed or reduced customs duty payments on foreign merchandise, as well as other savings. A foreign trade zone must be designed as such pursuant to the rules and procedures set forth in the Foreign-Trade Zones Act.

“Bonded warehouse” is a secured facility supervised by U.S. customs, where dutiable landed imports are stored pending their re-export, or release after payment of import duties, taxes, and other charges. A bonded warehouse must be designed as such pursuant to the rules and procedures set forth in 19 U.S.C. § 1555.

“Temporary Importation under Bond (“TIB”) program” is a procedure whereby imported merchandise may be entered under certain conditions for a limited time into the United States free of duty. Under the program, an importer posts a bond for twice the amount of duty, taxes, etc. that would otherwise be owed on the importation and agrees to export or destroy the merchandise within a specified time or pay liquidated damages. This program is restricted to certain categories of merchandise listed in subheadings 9813.00.05 through 9813.00.75 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS).

	No	Yes
Foreign trade zones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bonded warehouses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Temporary importation under bond	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I-9. **Other trade actions.**--To your knowledge, have the products subject to this proceeding been the subject of any other import relief proceedings in the United States or in any other countries?

No Yes--Please specify.

PART II.--TRADE AND RELATED INFORMATION

Further information on this part of the questionnaire can be obtained from Robert Casanova, robert.casanova@usitc.gov, 202-708-2719). **Supply all data requested on a calendar-year basis.**

II-1. **Contact information.**--Please identify the responsible individual and the manner by which Commission staff may contact that individual regarding the confidential information submitted in part II.

Name	
Title	
Email	
Telephone	

II-2. **Changes in operations.**--Please indicate whether your firm has experienced any of the following changes in relation to the importation of GNA products since January 1, 2016.

<i>(check as many as appropriate)</i>		<i>(If checked, please describe; leave blank if not applicable)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Office/warehouse openings	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Office/warehouse closings	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Relocations	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Expansions	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Acquisitions	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consolidations	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prolonged shutdowns or importation curtailments	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Revised labor agreements	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (e.g., technology)	

II-3a. **Arranged imports.**--Has your firm imported or arranged for the importation of GNA products for delivery after **June 30, 2017**?

“Arranged imports” are imports for which your firm has placed an order with a foreign supplier for subject merchandise, but delivery of those imports is not scheduled to occur until after the date listed above.

No Yes—Fill out the table below.

Quantity (in 1,000 dry pounds)				
Period/Source	Jul-Sept 2017	Oct-Dec 2017	Jan-Mar 2018	Apr-Jun 2018
China				
France				
Other sources				

II-3b. **Imports in the 12 month period preceding the petition.**--Has your firm imported GNA products from any source between November 1, 2016 and October 31, 2017? (i.e., the last two months in 2016 and first ten months in 2017 combined)

No Yes-Report the quantity of such import below by source.

Quantity (in 1,000 dry pounds)	
Source	November 2016 through October 2017
China	
France	
Other sources	

II-4. **Reasons for importing if producer.**--If your firm also produces GNA products in the United States, please indicate the reasons for importing this product. If your firm’s reasons differ by source, please elaborate.

Definitions

“Imports” –Those products identified for Customs purposes as imports for consumption for which your firm was the importer of record (i.e., was responsible for paying any import duty) or consignee (i.e., to which the merchandise was first delivered).

“Import quantities” –Quantities reported should be net of returns.

“Import values” –Values reported should be landed, duty-paid values at the U.S. port of entry, including ocean freight and insurance costs, brokerage charges, and import duties (i.e., all charges except inland freight in the United States).

“U.S. commercial shipments” – Shipments made within the United States as a result of an arm’s length commercial transaction in the ordinary course of business. Report net values (i.e., gross sales values less all discounts, allowances, rebates, prepaid freight, and the value of returned goods) in U.S. dollars, f.o.b. your point of shipment.

“Internal consumption” –Product consumed internally by your firm. Such transactions are valued at fair market value.

“Transfers to related firms” –Shipments made to related domestic firms. Such transactions are valued at fair market value.

“Related firm” –A firm that your firm solely or jointly owns, manages, or otherwise controls.

“Export shipments” – Shipments to destinations outside the United States, including shipments to related firms.

“Inventories” --Finished goods inventory, not raw materials or work in progress.

Note: As requested in Part I of this questionnaire, please keep all supporting documents/records used in the preparation of the trade data, as Commission staff may contact your firm regarding questions on the trade data. The Commission may also request that your company submit copies of the supporting documents/records (such as production and sales schedules, inventory records, etc.) used to compile these data.

II-5a. **U.S. imports from China.**—Report your firm's imports and your firm's shipments and inventories of GNA products imported from China by your firm during the specified periods.

China

Quantity (in 1,000 dry pounds), value (in \$1,000)					
Item	Calendar years			January-September	
	2014	2015	2016	2016	2017
Beginning-of-period inventories (quantity) (A)					
Imports: ¹ Quantity (B)					
Value (C)					
U.S. shipments: Commercial shipments: Quantity (D)					
Value (E)					
Internal consumption/ company transfers: ² Quantity (F)					
Value ² (G)					
Export shipments: ³ Quantity (H)					
Value (I)					
End-of-period inventories (quantity) (J)					
Channels of distribution: Commercial U.S. shipments: To distributors (quantity) (K)					
To end users (quantity) (L)					
<p>¹ Please identify the foreign producers, if known: _____.</p> <p>² Sales to related firms (including internal consumption) must be valued at fair market value. In the event that your firm uses a different basis for valuing these sales within your company, please specify that basis (e.g., cost, cost plus, etc.) and provide value data using that basis for each of the periods noted above: _____.</p> <p>³ Identify your firm's principal export markets: _____.</p>					

II-5a. U.S. imports from China.--Continued

RECONCILIATION OF SHIPMENTS, IMPORTS, AND INVENTORIES.--Generally, the data reported for the end-of-period inventories (i.e., line J) should be equal to the beginning-of-period inventories (i.e., line A), plus imports (i.e., line B), less total shipments (i.e., lines D, F, and H). Please ensure that any differences are not due to data entry errors in completing this form, but rather actually reflect your firm's records; and also provide any likely explanations for any differences (e.g., theft, loss, damage, record systems issues, etc.) if they exist.

Reconciliation	Calendar years			January-September	
	2014	2015	2016	2016	2017
A + B – D – F – H – J = should equal zero ("0") or provide an explanation. ¹	0	0	0	0	0
¹ Explanation if the calculated fields above are returning values other than zero (i.e., "0") but are nonetheless accurate: _____.					

RECONCILIATION OF CHANNELS.--Please ensure that the quantities reported for channels of distribution (i.e., lines K and L) in each time period equal the quantity reported for commercial U.S. shipments (i.e., line D) in each time period. If the calculated fields below return values other than zero (i.e., "0"), the data reported must be revised prior to submission to the Commission.

Reconciliation item	Calendar years			January-September	
	2014	2015	2016	2016	2017
K + L – D = zero ("0"), if not revise.	0	0	0	0	0

II-5b. **U.S. shipments by market sector: China.**--Report your firm's U.S. shipments (i.e., inclusive of commercial U.S. shipments, internal consumption, and transfers to related firms) of GNA products imported from China by market sector. To the degree any of your firms' shipments go to distributors, please attempt to classify those shipments by likely end use sector (i.e., if you know a distributor serves primarily a certain sector, classify all your firm's shipments to that distributor as for use in that sector). ***Do not*** simply report distribution channel as "other / unknown."

China

Sector / application	Calendar year 2016 Quantity (1,000 pounds dry weight)
U.S. shipments.-- Agricultural (M)	
Construction (N)	
Industrial and institution (O)	
Metal cleaning (P)	
Food additives (Q)	
Chelation (R)	
De-icing (S)	
Other / unknown (T)	
Total	0

RECONCILIATION OF U.S. SHIPMENTS.--Please ensure that the quantity reported for US shipments by sector (i.e., lines M through T) in 2016 equal the quantity reported for U.S. shipments (i.e., lines D and F) in 2016 in part "a" of this question. If the calculated fields below return values other than zero (i.e., "0"), the data reported must be revised prior to submission to the Commission.

Reconciliation	Calendar year 2016
Quantity: M + N + O + P + Q + R + S + T – D – F = zero ("0"), if not revise.	0

II-5c. **U.S. shipments by product type: China.**--Report your firm's U.S. shipments (i.e., inclusive of commercial U.S. shipments, internal consumption, and transfers to related firms) of GNA products from China by product type.

China

Quantity (1,000 pounds dry weight), Value (1,000 dollars)	
Product type	Calendar year 2016
U.S. shipments.-- Sodium gluconate Quantity (U)	
Value (V)	
Gluconic acid Quantity (W)	
Value (X)	
GDL Quantity (Y)	
Value (Z)	
Liquid gluconate Quantity (AA)	
Value (AB)	
Blends ¹ Quantity (AC)	
Value (AD)	
Total Quantity	0
Value	0
¹ Describe the reported blends:	

RECONCILIATION OF U.S. SHIPMENTS.--Please ensure that the quantities and values reported for US shipments by product type (i.e., lines U through AD) in 2016 equal the quantity and value reported for U.S. shipments (i.e., lines D through G) in 2016 in part "a" of this question. If the calculated fields below return values other than zero (i.e., "0"), the data reported must be revised prior to submission to the Commission.

Reconciliation	Calendar year 2016
Quantity: U + W + Y + AA + AC – D – F = zero ("0"), if not revise.	0
Value: V + X + Z + AB + AD – E – G = zero ("0"), if not revise.	0

II-6. **U.S. imports from France.**—Report your firm's imports and your firm's shipments and inventories of GNA products imported from France by your firm during the specified periods.

France

Quantity (in 1,000 dry pounds), value (in \$1,000)					
Item	Calendar years			January-September	
	2014	2015	2016	2016	2017
Beginning-of-period inventories (quantity) (A)					
Imports: ¹ Quantity (B)					
Value (C)					
U.S. shipments: Commercial shipments: Quantity (D)					
Value (E)					
Internal consumption/ company transfers: ² Quantity (F)					
Value ² (G)					
Export shipments: ³ Quantity (H)					
Value (I)					
End-of-period inventories (quantity) (J)					
Channels of distribution: Commercial U.S. shipments: To distributors (quantity) (K)					
To end users (quantity) (L)					
<p>¹ Please identify the foreign producers, if known: _____.</p> <p>² Sales to related firms (including internal consumption) must be valued at fair market value. In the event that your firm uses a different basis for valuing these sales within your company, please specify that basis (e.g., cost, cost plus, etc.) and provide value data using that basis for each of the periods noted above: _____.</p> <p>³ Identify your firm's principal export markets: _____.</p>					

II-6. U.S. imports from France.--Continued

RECONCILIATION OF SHIPMENTS, IMPORTS, AND INVENTORIES.--Generally, the data reported for the end-of-period inventories (i.e., line J) should be equal to the beginning-of-period inventories (i.e., line A), plus imports (i.e., line B), less total shipments (i.e., lines D, F, and H). Please ensure that any differences are not due to data entry errors in completing this form, but rather actually reflect your firm's records; and also provide any likely explanations for any differences (e.g., theft, loss, damage, record systems issues, etc.) if they exist.

Reconciliation	Calendar years			January-September	
	2014	2015	2016	2016	2017
A + B – D – F – H – J = should equal zero ("0") or provide an explanation. ¹	0	0	0	0	0
¹ Explanation if the calculated fields above are returning values other than zero (i.e., "0") but are nonetheless accurate: _____.					

RECONCILIATION OF CHANNELS.--Please ensure that the quantities reported for channels of distribution (i.e., lines K and L) in each time period equal the quantity reported for commercial U.S. shipments (i.e., line D) in each time period. If the calculated fields below return values other than zero (i.e., "0"), the data reported must be revised prior to submission to the Commission.

Reconciliation item	Calendar years			January-September	
	2014	2015	2016	2016	2017
K + L – D = zero ("0"), if not revise.	0	0	0	0	0

II-6b. **U.S. shipments by market sector: France.**--Report your firm's U.S. shipments (i.e., inclusive of commercial U.S. shipments, internal consumption, and transfers to related firms) of GNA products imported from France by market sector. To the degree any your firms' shipments go to distributors, please attempt to classify those shipments by likely end use sector (i.e., if you know a distributor serves primarily a certain sector, classify all your firm's shipments to that distributor as for use in that sector). ***Do not*** simply report distribution channel as "other / unknown."

France

Sector / application	Calendar year 2016 Quantity (1,000 pounds dry weight)
U.S. shipments.-- Agricultural (M)	
Construction (N)	
Industrial and institution (O)	
Metal cleaning (P)	
Food additives (Q)	
Chelation (R)	
De-icing (S)	
Other / unknown (T)	
Total	0

RECONCILIATION OF U.S. SHIPMENTS.--Please ensure that the quantity reported for US shipments by sector (i.e., lines M through T) in 2016 equal the quantity reported for U.S. shipments (i.e., lines D and F) in 2016 in part "a" of this question. If the calculated fields below return values other than zero (i.e., "0"), the data reported must be revised prior to submission to the Commission.

Reconciliation	Calendar year 2016
Quantity: M + N + O + P + Q + R + S + T – D – F = zero ("0"), if not revise.	0

II-6c. **U.S. shipments by product type: France.**--Report your firm's U.S. shipments (i.e., inclusive of commercial U.S. shipments, internal consumption, and transfers to related firms) of imports of GNA products from France by product type.

France

Quantity (1,000 pounds dry weight), Value (1,000 dollars)	
Product type	Calendar year 2016
U.S. shipments.-- Sodium gluconate <i>Quantity (U)</i>	
<i>Value (V)</i>	
Gluconic acid <i>Quantity (W)</i>	
<i>Value (X)</i>	
GDL <i>Quantity (Y)</i>	
<i>Value (Z)</i>	
Liquid gluconate <i>Quantity (AA)</i>	
<i>Value (AB)</i>	
Blends ¹ <i>Quantity (AC)</i>	
<i>Value (AD)</i>	
Total <i>Quantity</i>	0
<i>Value</i>	0
¹ Describe the reported blends:	

RECONCILIATION OF U.S. SHIPMENTS.--Please ensure that the quantities and values reported for US shipments by product type (i.e., lines U through AD) in 2016 equal the quantity and value reported for U.S. shipments (i.e., lines D through G) in 2016 in part "a" of this question. If the calculated fields below return values other than zero (i.e., "0"), the data reported must be revised prior to submission to the Commission.

Reconciliation	Calendar year 2016
Quantity: U + W + Y + AA + AC – D – F = zero ("0"), if not revise.	0
Value: V + X + Z + AB + AD – E – G = zero ("0"), if not revise.	0

II-7a. **U.S. imports from all other sources.**—Report your firm’s imports and your firm’s shipments and inventories of GNA products imported from **all other sources** (i.e. all import sources except China or France) by your firm during the specified periods.

All Other Sources

(list sources: _____)

Quantity (in 1,000 dry pounds), value (in \$1,000)					
Item	Calendar years			January- September	
	2014	2015	2016	2016	2017
Beginning-of-period inventories (quantity) (A)					
Imports: ¹ Quantity (B)					
Value (C)					
U.S. shipments: Commercial shipments: Quantity (D)					
Value (E)					
Internal consumption/ company transfers: Quantity (F)					
Value ² (G)					
Export shipments: ³ Quantity (H)					
Value (I)					
End-of-period inventories (quantity) (J)					
Channels of distribution: Commercial U.S. shipments: To distributors (quantity) (K)					
To end users (quantity) (L)					

¹ Please identify the foreign producers, if known: _____.

² Sales to related firms (including internal consumption) must be valued at fair market value. In the event that your firm uses a different basis for valuing these sales within your company, please specify that basis (e.g., cost, cost plus, etc.) and provide value data using that basis for each of the periods noted above: _____.

³ Identify your firm’s principal export markets: _____.

II-7a. U.S. imports from all other sources.–Continued

RECONCILIATION OF SHIPMENTS, IMPORTS, AND INVENTORIES.--Generally, the data reported for the end-of-period inventories (i.e., line J) should be equal to the beginning-of-period inventories (i.e., line A), plus imports (i.e., line B), less total shipments (i.e., lines D, F, and H). Please ensure that any differences are not due to data entry errors in completing this form, but rather actually reflect your firm's records; and also provide any likely explanations for any differences (e.g., theft, loss, damage, record systems issues, etc.) if they exist.

Reconciliation	Calendar years			January-September	
	2014	2015	2016	2016	2017
A + B – D – F – H – J = should equal zero ("0") or provide an explanation. ¹	0	0	0	0	0

¹ Explanation if the calculated fields above are returning values other than zero (i.e., "0") but are nonetheless accurate: _____.

RECONCILIATION OF CHANNELS.--Please ensure that the quantities reported for channels of distribution (i.e., lines K and L) in each time period equal the quantity reported for commercial U.S. shipments (i.e., line D) in each time period. If the calculated fields below return values other than zero (i.e., "0"), the data reported must be revised prior to submission to the Commission.

Reconciliation item	Calendar years			January-September	
	2014	2015	2016	2016	2017
K + L – D = zero ("0"), if not revise.	0	0	0	0	0

II-7b. **U.S. shipments by market sector: All other sources.**--Report your firm's U.S. shipments (i.e., inclusive of commercial U.S. shipments, internal consumption, and transfers to related firms) of GNA products imported from all other sources by market sector. To the degree any your firms' shipments go to distributors, please attempt to classify those shipments by likely end use sector (i.e., if you know a distributor serves primarily a certain sector, classify all your firm's shipments to that distributor as for use in that sector). ***Do not*** simply report distribution channel as "other / unknown."

All other sources

Sector / application	Calendar year 2016 Quantity (1,000 pounds dry weight)
U.S. shipments.-- Agricultural (M)	
Construction (N)	
Industrial and institution (O)	
Metal cleaning (P)	
Food additives (Q)	
Chelation (R)	
De-icing (S)	
Other / unknown (T)	
Total	0

RECONCILIATION OF U.S. SHIPMENTS.--Please ensure that the quantity reported for US shipments by sector (i.e., lines M through T) in 2016 equal the quantity reported for U.S. shipments (i.e., lines D and F) in 2016 in part "a" of this question. If the calculated fields below return values other than zero (i.e., "0"), the data reported must be revised prior to submission to the Commission.

Reconciliation	Calendar year 2016
Quantity: M + N + O + P + Q + R + S + T – D – F = zero ("0"), if not revise.	0

II-7c. **U.S. shipments by product type: All other sources.**--Report your firm's U.S. shipments (i.e., inclusive of commercial U.S. shipments, internal consumption, and transfers to related firms) of GNA products by product type.

All other sources

Quantity (1,000 pounds dry weight), Value (1,000 dollars)	
Product type	Calendar year 2016
U.S. shipments.-- Sodium gluconate Quantity (U)	
Value (V)	
Gluconic acid Quantity (W)	
Value (X)	
GDL Quantity (Y)	
Value (Z)	
Liquid gluconate Quantity (AA)	
Value (AB)	
Blends ¹ Quantity (AC)	
Value (AD)	
Total Quantity	0
Value	0
¹ Describe the reported blends:	

RECONCILIATION OF U.S. SHIPMENTS.--Please ensure that the quantities and values reported for US shipments by product type (i.e., lines U through AD) in 2016 equal the quantity and value reported for U.S. shipments (i.e., lines D through G) in 2016 in part "a" of this question. If the calculated fields below return values other than zero (i.e., "0"), the data reported must be revised prior to submission to the Commission.

Reconciliation	Calendar year 2016
Quantity: U + W + Y + AA + AC – D – F = zero ("0"), if not revise.	0
Value: V + X + Z + AB + AD – E – G = zero ("0"), if not revise.	0

II-8a. **U.S. shipments certified non-GMO.**--Report the share of your firm's U.S. shipments that are certified to be created through a non-GMO production process.

U.S. shipments	Share
Certified non-GMO	%
Not certified	%
Total (should sum to 100.0%)	0.0 %

II-8b. **Non-GMO.**--Is there any physical characteristics of non-GMO and GMO GNA products that limits their interchangeability in a given end use (i.e., disregarding purchaser preference)?

No	Yes	If yes, please describe the physical characteristics that limit this interchangeability between non-GMO and GMO GNA products.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

II-8c. **Importance of non-GMO GNA products.**--Generally, how important is the availability of non-GMO certified GNA products for your U.S. customers?

Very important	Somewhat important	Not at all important
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Does the importance of the availability of non-GMO GNA products vary by market sector?

No	Yes	If yes, please the sectors and how the importance of non-GMO GNA products varies for those sectors.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

II-9. **Other explanations.**--If your firm would like to further explain a response to a question in Part II that did not provide a narrative response box, please note the question number and the explanation in the space provided below. Please also use this space to highlight any issues your firm had in providing the data in this section, including but not limited to technical issues with the MS Word questionnaire.

PART III.--PRICING AND MARKET FACTORS

Further information on this part of the questionnaire can be obtained from Caroline Peters (202-708-1443, caroline.peters@usitc.gov) or Cindy Cohen (202-205-3230, cindy.cohen@usitc.gov).

III-1. **Contact information.**--Please identify the responsible individual and the manner by which Commission staff may contact that individual regarding the confidential information submitted in part III.

Name	
Title	
Email	
Telephone	

PRICE DATA

III-2. This question requests quarterly quantity and value data for your firm's commercial shipments to unrelated U.S. customers since January 1, 2014 of the following products your firm imported from France and China:

Product 1.--Sodium gluconate in 50 lb. to 60 lb. bag

Product 2.--Sodium gluconate in 2,000 lb. to 2,500 lb. bag

Please note that values should be **f.o.b., U.S. point of shipment** and should not include U.S.-inland transportation costs. Values should reflect the *final net* amount paid to your firm (i.e., should be net of all deductions for discounts or rebates).

During January 2014-September 2017, did your firm import from France and China and sell to unrelated U.S. customers any of the above listed products (or any products that were competitive with these products)?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes. --Please complete the following pricing data tables as appropriate.
<input type="checkbox"/>	No. --Skip to question III-3.

III-2(a). **Price data.**--Report below the quarterly price data¹ for pricing products² imported from China and sold by your firm.

China

Report data in actual **dry pounds** (not 1,000s) and actual **dollars** (not 1,000s).

<i>(Quantity in dry pounds, value in dollars)</i>				
Period of shipment	Product 1 Sodium gluconate in 50 lb. to 60 lb. bag		Product 2 Sodium gluconate in 2,000 lb. to 2,500 lb. bag	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
2014:				
January-March				
April-June				
July-September				
October-December				
2015:				
January-March				
April-June				
July-September				
October-December				
2016:				
January-March				
April-June				
July-September				
October-December				
2017:				
January-March				
April-June				
July-September				

¹ Net values (i.e., gross sales values less all discounts, allowances, rebates, prepaid freight, and the value of returned goods), f.o.b. your firm's U.S. point of shipment.

² Pricing product definitions are provided on the first page of Part III.

Note.--If your firm's product does not exactly meet the product specifications but is competitive with the specified product, provide a description of your firm's product. Also, please explain any anomalies in your firm's reported pricing data.

Product 1:

Product 2:

III-2(a). **Price data.**--Report below the quarterly price data¹ for pricing products² imported from France and sold by your firm.

France

Report data in actual ***dry pounds*** (not 1,000s) and actual ***dollars*** (not 1,000s).

<i>(Quantity in dry pounds, value in dollars)</i>				
Period of shipment	Product 1 Sodium gluconate in 50 lb. to 60 lb. bag		Product 2 Sodium gluconate in 2,000 lb. to 2,500 lb. bag	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
2014:				
January-March				
April-June				
July-September				
October-December				
2015:				
January-March				
April-June				
July-September				
October-December				
2016:				
January-March				
April-June				
July-September				
October-December				
2017:				
January-March				
April-June				
July-September				

¹ Net values (i.e., gross sales values less all discounts, allowances, rebates, prepaid freight, and the value of returned goods), f.o.b. your firm's U.S. point of shipment.

² Pricing product definitions are provided on the first page of Part III.

Note.--If your firm's product does not exactly meet the product specifications but is competitive with the specified product, provide a description of your firm's product. Also, please explain any anomalies in your firm's reported pricing data.

Product 1:

Product 2:

III-2 (b). **Price data checklist.**--Please check that the pricing data in question III-2(a) has been correctly reported.

Is the price data reported above:	v if Yes
In actual dollars (not \$1,000)?	<input type="checkbox"/>
In actual dry pounds (not 1,000 dry pounds)?	<input type="checkbox"/>
F.o.b. U.S. point of shipment (i.e., does not include U.S. transport costs)?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Net of all discounts and rebates?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have returns credited to the quarter in which the sale occurred?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Less than reported commercial shipments in questions II-5 and II-6 in each year?	<input type="checkbox"/>

III-2(c). **Pricing data methodology.**--Please describe the method and the kinds of documents/records that were used to compile your price data.

Note: As requested in Part I of this questionnaire, please keep all supporting documents/records used in the preparation of the price data, as Commission staff may contact your firm regarding questions on the price data. The Commission may also request that your company submit copies of the supporting documents/records (such as sales journal, invoices, etc.) used to compile these data.

III-3. **Price setting.**--How does your firm determine the prices that it charges for sales of GNA products (*check all that apply*)? If your firm issues price lists, please submit sample pages of a recent list.

Transaction by transaction	Contracts	Set price lists	Other	If other, describe
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-4. **Discount policy.**--Please indicate and describe your firm's discount policies (*check all that apply*).

Quantity discounts	Annual total volume discounts	No discount policy	Other	Describe
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-5. **Pricing terms.--**

(a) What are your firm's typical sales terms for GNA products imported from China and France?

Net 30 days	Net 60 days	2/10 net 30 days	Other	Other (specify)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

(b) On what basis are your firm's prices of imported GNA products from China and France usually quoted (*check one*)?

Delivered	F.o.b.	If f.o.b., specify point
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-6. **Contract versus spot.--**Approximately what share of your firm's sales of GNA products imported from France and China in 2016 was on a (1) long-term contract basis, (2) annual contract basis, (3) short-term contract basis, and (4) spot sales basis?

	Type of sale				Total (should sum to 100.0%)
	Long-term contracts (multiple deliveries for more than 12 months)	Annual contracts (multiple deliveries for 12 months)	Short-term contracts (multiple deliveries for less than 12 months)	Spot sales (for a single delivery)	
Share of 2016 sales	%	%	%	%	0.0 %

III-7. **Contract provisions.**—Please fill out the table regarding your firm’s typical sales contracts for GNA products from France and China (or check “not applicable” if your firm does not sell on a long-term, short-term and/or annual contract basis).

Typical sales contract provisions	Item	Short-term contracts (multiple deliveries for less than 12 months)	Annual contracts (multiple deliveries for 12 months)	Long-term contracts (multiple deliveries for more than 12 months)
Average contract duration	<i>No. of days</i>		365	
Price renegotiation (during contract period)	<i>Yes</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>No</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fixed quantity and/or price	<i>Quantity</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Price</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Both</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meet or release provision	<i>Yes</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>No</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not applicable		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

III-8. **Lead times.**--What is your firm’s share of sales of GNA products imported from France and China from inventory and produced to order and what is the typical lead time between a customer’s order and the date of delivery for your firm’s sales of GNA products?

Source	Share of 2016 sales	Lead time (Average number of days)
From your firm’s U.S. inventory	%	
From foreign manufacturers’ inventory	%	
Produced to order	%	
Total (should sum to 100.0%)	0.0 %	

III-9. Shipping information.—

- (a) What is the approximate percentage of the cost of GNA products imported from France and China that is accounted for by U.S. inland transportation costs? _____ percent.
- (b) Who generally arranges the transportation to your firm's customers' locations?
 Your firm Purchaser *(check one)*
- (c) When your firm sells GNA products imported from France and China, from where is it shipped?
 Point of importation Storage facility *(check one)*
- (d) Indicate the approximate percentage of your firm's sales of GNA products imported from France and China that are delivered the following distances from your firm's U.S. point of shipment.

Distance from your firm's U.S. point of shipment	Share
Within 100 miles	%
101 to 1,000 miles	%
Over 1,000 miles	%
Total (should sum to 100.0%)	0.0 %

III-10. Geographical shipments.—In which U.S. geographic market area(s) has your firm sold GNA products imported from subject countries since January 1, 2014 (check all that apply)?

Geographic area	China	France
Northeast. —CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, and VT.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midwest. —IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, and WI.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Southeast. —AL, DE, DC, FL, GA, KY, MD, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, and WV.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Central Southwest. —AR, LA, OK, and TX.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mountains. —AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, and WY.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pacific Coast. —CA, OR, and WA.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other. —All other markets in the United States not previously listed, including AK, HI, PR, and VI.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

III-11. **End uses.**--List the end uses of the GNA products that your firm imports. For each end-use product, what percentage of the total cost is accounted for by GNA products and other inputs?

End use product	Share of total cost of end-use product accounted for by		Total (should sum to 100.0% across)
	GNA products	Other inputs	
	%	%	0.0 %
	%	%	0.0 %
	%	%	0.0 %

III-12. **Substitutes.**--Can other products be substituted for GNA products?

No Yes--Please fill out the table.

Substitute	End use in which this substitute is used	Have changes in the price of this substitute affected the price for GNA products?		
		No	Yes	Explanation
1.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-13. **Demand trends.**--Indicate how demand within the United States and outside of the United States (if known) for GNA products has changed since January 1, 2014. Explain any trends and describe the principal factors that have affected these changes in demand.

Market	Overall increase	No change	Overall decrease	Fluctuate with no clear trend	Explanation and factors
Within the United States	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Outside the United States	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-14. **Product changes.**--Have there been any significant changes in the product range, product mix or marketing of GNA products since January 1, 2014?

No	Yes	If yes, please describe.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-15. **Conditions of competition.**—

(a) Is the GNA products market subject to business cycles (other than general economy-wide conditions) and/or other conditions of competition distinctive to GNA products?

Check all that apply.	Please describe.
<input type="checkbox"/> No	Skip to question III-16.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes-Business cycles (e.g. seasonal business)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes-Other distinctive conditions of competition	

(b) If yes, have there been any changes in the business cycles or conditions of competition for GNA products since January 1, 2014?

No	Yes	If yes, describe.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-16. **Supply constraints.**--Has your firm refused, declined, or been unable to supply GNA products since January 1, 2014 (examples include placing customers on allocation or “controlled order entry,” declining to accept new customers or renew existing customers, delivering less than the quantity promised, being unable to meet timely shipment commitments, etc.)?

No	Yes	If yes, please describe.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-17. **Product quality issues.**--Have any of your customers returned GNA products or canceled orders due to quality issues such as product impurities or caking issues, since January 1, 2014?

No	Yes	If yes, please describe.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-18. **Raw materials.**--How have GNA products raw material prices changed since January 1, 2014?

Overall increase	No change	Overall decrease	Fluctuate with no clear trend	Explain, noting how raw material price changes have affected your firm's selling prices for GNA products.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-19. **Interchangeability.**--Are GNA products produced in the United States and in other countries interchangeable (i.e., can they physically be used in the same applications)?

Please indicate A, F, S, N, or 0 in the table below:

A = the products from a specified country-pair are *always* interchangeable

F = the products are *frequently* interchangeable

S = the products are *sometimes* interchangeable

N = the products are *never* interchangeable

0 = *no familiarity* with products from a specified country-pair

Country-pair	China	France	Other countries
United States			
China			
France			

For any country-pair producing GNA products that is *sometimes* or *never* interchangeable, identify the country-pair and explain the factors that limit or preclude interchangeable use:

--

III-20. **Factors other than price.**--Are differences other than price (e.g., quality, availability, transportation network, product range, technical support, *etc.*) between GNA products produced in the United States and in other countries a significant factor in your firm's sales of the products?

Please indicate A, F, S, N, or O in the table below:

A = such differences are *always* significant

F = such differences are *frequently* significant

S = such differences are *sometimes* significant

N = such differences are *never* significant

O = *no familiarity* with products from a specified country-pair

Country-pair	China	France	Other countries
United States			
China	X		
France	X	X	
For any country-pair for which factors other than price <i>always</i> or <i>frequently</i> are a significant factor in your firm's sales of GNA products, identify the country-pair and report the advantages or disadvantages imparted by such factors:			

III-21. **Customer identification.**--List the names and contact information for your firm's 10 largest U.S. customers for GNA products since January 1, 2016. Indicate the share of the quantity of your firm's total shipments of GNA products that each of these customers accounted for in 2016.

	Customer's name	Contact person	Email	Telephone	City	State	Share of 2016 sales (%)
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							

III-22. **Other explanations.**--If your firm would like to further explain a response to a question in Part III that did not provide a narrative response box, please note the question number and the explanation in the space provided below. Please also use this space to highlight any issues your firm had in providing the data in this section, including but not limited to technical issues with the MS Word questionnaire.

PART V – ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTS

IV-1. **Comparability of GNA products**--For each of the following product pairs indicate whether the GNA products produced in the United States are:

- F: fully comparable or the same, *i.e.*, have no differentiation between them;
- M: mostly comparable or similar;
- S: somewhat comparable or similar;
- N: never or not-at-all comparable or similar; or
- O: no familiarity with products.

(a) **Physical Characteristics and Uses**--The differences and similarities in the physical characteristics and uses.

Product-pair	Gluconic acid (GA)	Liquid gluconate (LG)	Glucono delta lactone (GDL)	Blends
Sodium gluconate (GNA)				
Gluconic acid (GA)				
Liquid gluconate (LG)				
Glucono delta lactone (GDL)				
For any product-pair for which you indicated "S" or "N", please provide a narrative discussion for the comparability ratings you provided in terms of their <i>physical characteristics and uses</i> :				

IV-1. **Comparability of GNA products.**--*Continued*

(b) **Interchangeability.**--The ability to substitute the products in the same application.

Product-pair	Gluconic acid (GA)	Liquid gluconate (LG)	Glucono delta lactone (GDL)	Blends
Sodium gluconate (GNA)				
Gluconic acid (GA)				
Liquid gluconate (LG)				
Glucono delta lactone (GDL)				
For any product-pair for which you indicated "S" or "N", please provide a narrative discussion for the comparability ratings you provided in terms of their <i>interchangeability</i> :				

(c) **Common manufacturing facilities, production processes, and production employees.**-

-Whether manufactured in the same facilities, from the same inputs, on the same machinery and equipment, and using the same employees.

Product-pair	Gluconic acid (GA)	Liquid gluconate (LG)	Glucono delta lactone (GDL)	Blends
Sodium gluconate (GNA)				
Gluconic acid (GA)				
Liquid gluconate (LG)				
Glucono delta lactone (GDL)				
For any product-pair for which you indicated "S" or "N", please provide a narrative discussion for the comparability ratings you provided in terms of their <i>manufacturing facilities, production processes, and production employees</i> :				

IV-1. **Comparability of GNA products.**--Continued

(d) **Channels of distribution.**--Channels of distribution/market situation through which the products are sold (i.e., sold direct to end users, through wholesaler/distributors, etc.).

Product-pair	Gluconic acid (GA)	Liquid gluconate (LG)	Glucono delta lactone (GDL)	Blends
Sodium gluconate (GNA)				
Gluconic acid (GA)				
Liquid gluconate (LG)				
Glucono delta lactone (GDL)				
For any product-pair for which you indicated "S" or "N", please provide a narrative discussion for the comparability ratings you provided in terms of their <u>channels of distribution</u> :				

(e) **Customer and producer perceptions.**--Perceptions as to the differences and/or similarities.

Product-pair	Gluconic acid (GA)	Liquid gluconate (LG)	Glucono delta lactone (GDL)	Blends
Sodium gluconate (GNA)				
Gluconic acid (GA)				
Liquid gluconate (LG)				
Glucono delta lactone (GDL)				
For any product-pair for which you indicated "S" or "N", please provide a narrative discussion for the comparability ratings you provided in terms of their <u>customer and product perceptions</u> :				

IV-1. **Comparability of GNA products**--*Continued*

(f) **Price**--Whether prices are comparable or differ between the products.

Product-pair	Gluconic acid (GA)	Liquid gluconate (LG)	Glucono delta lactone (GDL)	Blends
Sodium gluconate (GNA)				
Gluconic acid (GA)				
Liquid gluconate (LG)				
Glucono delta lactone (GDL)				
For any product-pair for which you indicated "S" or "N", please provide a narrative discussion for the comparability ratings you provided in terms of their <i>price</i> :				

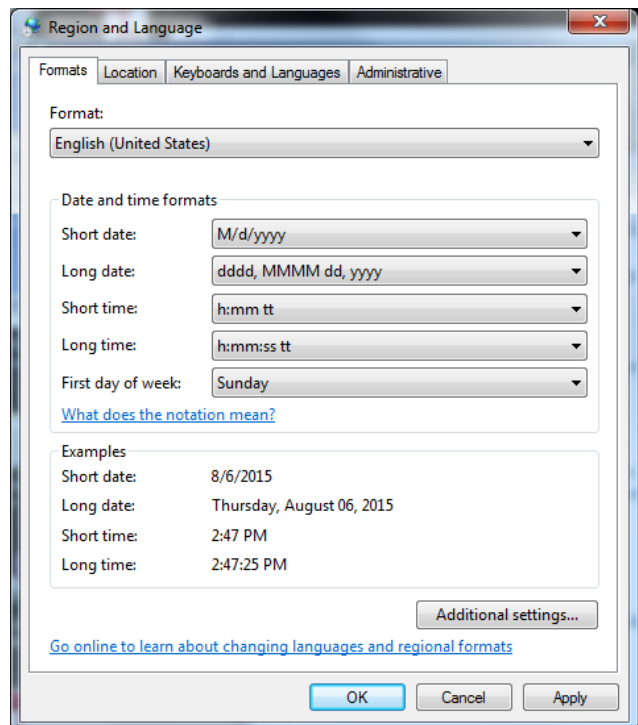
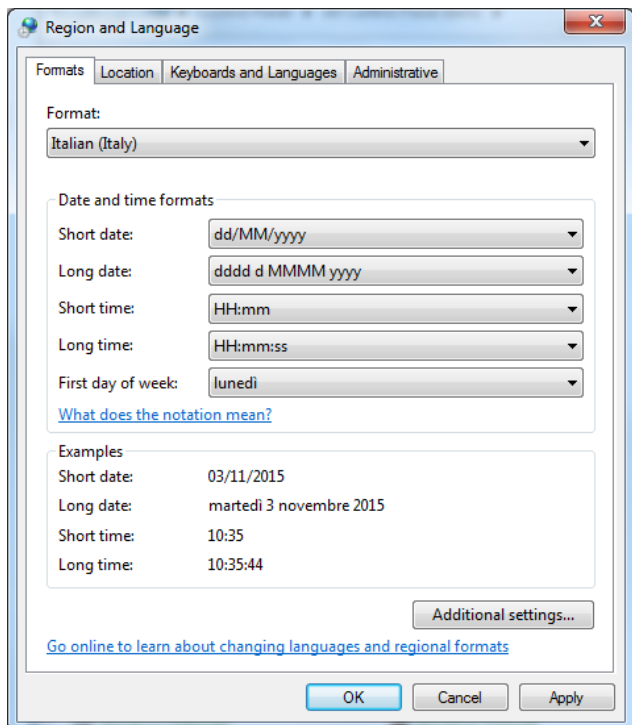
Correcting Valid number error messages.--If you are completing a Commission questionnaire in a country that uses periods (“.”) to delineate multiples of 1000 (e.g., one million would appear as \$1.000.000 instead of as \$1,000,000), you may be unable to enter in numbers greater than 999 in numeric form fields. This issues stem from your computer number formatting setting (e.g., not the MS Word document itself, but the computer from which you are opening up the document). In the United States commas (,) delineate multiples of 1000 and periods (.) delineate fractions less than one. Many EU countries use the reverse where multiples of 1000 are delineated with periods (.) and fractions less than one are delineated with commas (,). The US International Trade Commission’s questionnaires are set-up in the United States with the U.S. number formatting. When this formatting interacts with a computer set to EU number formatting, we believe this may cause this issue.

The solution to this data entry issue is to temporarily change your operating system’s number formatting to be consistent with the U.S. number formatting system while you complete the questionnaire.

To temporarily change your computer’s number settings to U.S. settings, please do the following (for Microsoft Windows Operating system):

- START
- Control Panel
- Region and Language (under Clock, Language, and Region category)
- Format tab
- Change the Format from your existing one (e.g. “Italian (Italy)”) to “English (United States)” (see screen shots below)

When you do this the number “twelve million dollars and thirty five cents” would change from \$12.000.000,35 (Italy format) to \$12,000,000.35 (U.S. format), and then there will be no conflict with the questionnaire. When you finish reporting the data then you can close the questionnaire and switch back to Italy settings.



HOW TO FILE YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE

This questionnaire is available as a “fillable” form in MS Word format on the Commission’s website at:

https://www.usitc.gov/investigations/701731/2017/sodium_gluconate_gluconic_acid_and_derivative/preliminary.htm

Please do not attempt to modify the format or permissions of the questionnaire document. Please submit the completed questionnaire using one of the methods noted below. If your firm is unable to complete the MS Word questionnaire or cannot use one of the electronic methods of submission, please contact the Commission for further instructions.

- **Upload via Secure Drop Box.**—Upload the MS Word questionnaire along with a scanned copy of the signed certification page (page 1) through the Commission’s secure upload facility:

Web address: <https://dropbox.usitc.gov/oinv/> **Pin:** **GNAP**

- **E-mail.**—E-mail the MS Word questionnaire to robert.casanova@usitc.gov; include a scanned copy of the signed certification page (page 1). *Submitters are strongly encouraged to encrypt nonpublic documents that are electronically transmitted to the Commission to protect your sensitive information from unauthorized disclosure. The USITC secure drop-box system and the Electronic Document Information System (EDIS) use Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) 140-2 cryptographic algorithms to encrypt data in transit. Submitting your nonpublic documents by a means that does not use these encryption algorithms (such as by email) may subject your firm’s nonpublic information to unauthorized disclosure during transmission. If you choose a non-encrypted method of electronic transmission, the Commission warns you that the risk of such possible unauthorized disclosure is assumed by you and not by the Commission.*

If your firm did not import this product, please fill out page 1, print, sign, and submit a scanned copy to the Commission.

Parties to this proceeding.—If your firm is a party to this proceeding, it is required to serve a copy of the completed questionnaire on parties to the proceeding that are subject to administrative protective order (see 19 CFR § 207.7). A list of such parties may be obtained from the Commission’s Secretary (202-205-1803). A certificate of service must accompany the completed questionnaire you submit (see 19 CFR § 207.7). Service of the questionnaire must be made in paper form.