

U.S. PURCHASERS' QUESTIONNAIRE

LARGE RESIDENTIAL WASHERS

This questionnaire must be received by the Commission by **September 15, 2020**
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 Investigation No. TA-201-076 (Extension), Large Residential Washers, under section 204 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. § 2254). The information requested in the questionnaire is needed to supplement data available to the Commission from other sources and is requested under the authority of section 204 of the Tariff Act of 1974. 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)). Further information on this questionnaire can be obtained from Lauren Gamache (lauren.gamache@usitc.gov, 202-205-3489).

Name of firm _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Website _____
Has your firm purchased large residential washers (as defined on the next page) <u>from any source</u> (domestic or foreign) at any time since January 1, 2017?
<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 Commission Drop Box by clicking on the following link: https://dropbox.usitc.gov/oinv/ . (PIN: LRWS)

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, reviews, or general fact finding investigations 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. I understand that the confidential business information that is furnished may be transmitted to the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) and may be included in a confidential version of the report that the Commission transmits to the President and USTR for use in decision-making related to this proceeding.

Name of Authorized Official

Title of Authorized Official

Date

Signature

Phone

Email address

PART I.—GENERAL INFORMATION

Background.--

On January 23, 2018, the President, pursuant to section 203 of the Trade Act of 1974, issued Proclamation 9694, imposing a safeguard measure on imports of certain residential washers and parts thereof in the form of a tariff-rate quota, effective February 7, 2018. Following receipt of a petition filed on behalf of Whirlpool Corporation, the Commission, effective August 3, 2020, instituted investigation No. TA-201-076, *Large Residential Washers: Extension of Action*, under section 204(c) of the Trade Act to determine whether action under section 203 of the Trade Act of 1974 with respect to imports of large residential washers continues to be necessary to prevent or remedy serious injury and whether there is evidence that the domestic LRW industry is making a positive adjustment to import competition. Questionnaires and other information pertinent to this proceeding are available at https://www.usitc.gov/investigations/safeguard/2020/large_residential_washers_extension/extension.htm.

Products covered by this investigation

Large residential washers.—The products covered by the investigation are all large residential washers and certain parts thereof.

The term “large residential washers” denotes all automatic clothes washing machines, regardless of the orientation of the rotational axis, with a cabinet width (measured from its widest point) of at least 24.5 inches (62.23 cm) and no more than 32.0 inches (81.28 cm), except as noted below.

Covered parts.-- Also covered are certain parts used in large residential washers, namely: (1) all cabinets, or portions thereof, designed for use in large residential washers; (2) all assembled tubs¹ designed for use in large residential washers which incorporate, at a minimum: (a) a tub; and (b) a seal; (3) all assembled baskets² designed for use in large residential washers which incorporate, at a minimum: (a) a side wrapper;³ (b) a base; and (c) a drive hub;⁴ and (4) any combination of the foregoing parts or subassemblies.

Products excluded from this investigation

(1) Stacked washers-dryers & commercial washers

Excluded are stacked washer-dryers and commercial washers. The term “stacked washer-dryers” denotes distinct washing and drying machines that are built on a unitary frame and share a common console that controls both the washer and the dryer. The term “commercial washer” denotes an automatic clothes washing machine designed for the “pay per use” segment meeting either of the following two definitions:

¹ A “tub” is the part of the washer designed to hold water.

² A “basket” (sometimes referred to as a “drum”) is the part of the washer designed to hold clothing or other fabrics.

³ A “side wrapper” is the cylindrical part of the basket that actually holds the clothing or other fabrics.

⁴ A “drive hub” is the hub at the center of the base that bears the load from the motor.

(1) (a) it contains payment system electronics;⁵ (b) it is configured with an externally mounted steel frame at least six inches high that is designed to house a coin/token operated payment system (whether or not the actual coin/token operated payment system is installed at the time of importation); (c) it contains a push button user interface with a maximum of six manually selectable wash cycle settings, with no ability of the end user to otherwise modify water temperature, water level, or spin speed for a selected wash cycle setting; and (d) the console containing the user interface is made of steel and is assembled with security fasteners;⁶ or

(2) (a) it contains payment system electronics; (b) the payment system electronics are enabled (whether or not the payment acceptance device has been installed at the time of importation) such that, in normal operation,⁷ the unit cannot begin a wash cycle without first receiving a signal from a bona fide payment acceptance device such as an electronic credit card reader; (c) it contains a push button user interface with a maximum of six manually selectable wash cycle settings, with no ability of the end user to otherwise modify water temperature, water level, or spin speed for a selected wash cycle setting; and (d) the console containing the user interface is made of steel and is assembled with security fasteners.

(2) Top load residential washers with PSC/belt drive/clutch

Also excluded are automatic clothes washing machines that meet all of the following conditions: (1) have a vertical rotational axis; (2) are top loading;⁸ (3) have a drive train consisting, inter alia, of (a) a permanent split capacitor (PSC) motor,⁹ (b) a belt drive,¹⁰ and (c) a flat wrap spring clutch.¹¹

(3) Front load residential washers with CIM/Belt Drive

Also excluded are automatic clothes washing machines that meet all of the following conditions: (1) have a horizontal rotational axis; (2) are front loading;¹² and (3) have a drive train consisting, inter alia, of (a) a controlled induction motor (CIM),¹³ and (b) a belt drive.

⁵ "Payment system electronics" denotes a circuit board designed to receive signals from a payment acceptance device and to display payment amount, selected settings, and cycle status. Such electronics also capture cycles and payment history and provide for transmission to a reader.

⁶ A "security fastener" is a screw with a non-standard head that requires a non-standard driver. Examples include those with a pin in the center of the head as a "center pin reject" feature to prevent standard Allen wrenches or Torx drivers from working.

⁷ "Normal operation" refers to the operating mode(s) available to end users (*i.e.*, not a mode designed for testing or repair by a technician).

⁸ "Top loading" means that access to the basket is from the top of the washer.

⁹ A "PSC motor" is an asynchronous, alternating current (AC), single phase induction motor that employs split phase capacitor technology.

¹⁰ A "belt drive" refers to a drive system that includes a belt and pulleys.

¹¹ A "flat wrap spring clutch" is a flat metal spring that, when engaged, links abutted cylindrical pieces on the input shaft with the end of the concentric output shaft that connects to the drive hub.

¹² "Front loading" means that access to the basket is from the front of the washer.

¹³ A "controlled induction motor" is an asynchronous, alternating current (AC), polyphase induction motor.

(4) "Extra-wide" residential washers

Also excluded are automatic clothes washing machines that meet all of the following conditions: (1) have a horizontal rotational axis; (2) are front loading; and (3) have cabinet width (measured from its widest point) of more than 28.5 inches (72.39 cm).

Large residential washers are currently classifiable under subheading 8450.20.00 (statistical reporting numbers 8450.20.0040 and 8450.20.0080) of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS). They may also be imported under HTSUS 8450.11.0040, 8450.11.0080, 8450.90.2000, and 8450.90.6000.¹⁴ The HTSUS provisions are for convenience and customs purposes; the written description of the scope is dispositive.

Purchaser.--Any firm engaged, either directly or through a parent company or subsidiary, in purchasing large residential washers from another firm that produces, imports, or otherwise distributes large residential washers.

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, purchaser and/or foreign producer 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 CFR §§ 206.17(a)(1) and 206.52(c)). 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 confidential business 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 Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. § 2252(i)) and sections 206.17 and 206.52 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR §§ 206.17(a)(1) and 206.52(c)). 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.

¹⁴ Large residential washers and parts and certain subassemblies covered by the scope are currently subject to tariff-rate quotas under a safeguard measure imposed effective February 7, 2018, under subheadings 9903.45.01 and 9903.45.02 (large residential washers) and 9903.45.05 and 9903.45.06 (covered parts) and related legal notes.

I-1. **Establishments covered.**--Provide the name and address of establishment(s) covered by this questionnaire, if different from that listed on the cover page. **Firms operating more than one establishment should combine the data for all establishments into a single response.**

"Establishment"--Each facility of a firm involved in the purchase of large residential washers, including auxiliary facilities operated in conjunction with (whether or not physically separate from) such facilities.

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I-2. **External counsel.**-- If your firm or parent firm is represented by external counsel in relation to this proceeding, please specify the name of the law firm and the lead attorney(s).

Law firm:	
Lead attorney(s):	

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

No Yes--List the following information, relating to the ultimate parent/owner.

Firm name	Country	Extent of ownership (percent)

I-4. **Related importers/exporters.**--Does your firm have any related firms, either domestic or foreign, that import large residential washers into the United States or that export large residential washers 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 produce large residential washers?

No Yes--List the following information.

Firm name and country	Country	Affiliation

I-6. **Business plan.**--Does your company or any related firm have a business plan or any internal documents that describe, discuss, or analyze expected market conditions for large residential washers?

No	Yes	If yes, please provide these documents. If you are not providing the requested documents, please explain why not.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

PART II.—PURCHASE INFORMATION

Contact information.--Please identify the responsible individual and the manner by which Commission staff may contact that individual regarding the confidential information submitted in this questionnaire.

Name	
Title	
Email	
Telephone	

II-1. **Changes in purchasing patterns.**--Please indicate how the shares of your firm's purchases of large residential washers from different sources have changed since February 7, 2018.

Source of purchases	Did not purchase	Decreased	Increased	Constant	Fluctuated	Explanation for trend
United States	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Imports from all countries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sources unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

II-2. **Availability of supply.**--Has the availability of large residential washers in the U.S. market changed since February 7, 2018? *Please also note any changes resulting from COVID-19 pandemic.*

Availability in the U.S. market	No	Yes	Please explain, noting the countries and reasons for the changes.
Changes since February 7, 2018:			
U.S.-produced product	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Imports from all countries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

II-3. **Availability of specific product types.**--Are certain grades/types/sizes of large residential washers only available from certain country sources? *Please also note any changes resulting from COVID-19 pandemic.*

No	Yes	If yes, please identify the countries and the grade/type/size.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

II-4. **Supply constraints.**--Has any firm refused, declined, or been unable to supply your firm with large residential washers since February 7, 2018 (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"/>	

II-5. **Change in suppliers.**--Has your firm changed suppliers since February 7, 2018?

No	Yes	If yes, please list the supplier(s), whether the firm was added or dropped, and the reasons for the change.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

II-6. **Demand trends.**-- Indicate how demand within the United States and outside of the United States (if known) for large residential washers has changed since February 7, 2018, and how you anticipate demand will change in the future. Explain any trends and describe the principal factors that have affected, and that you anticipate will affect, these changes in demand. *Please also note any changes resulting from COVID-19 pandemic.*

Market	Overall increase	No change	Overall decrease	Fluctuate with no clear trend	Explanation and factors
Demand since February 7, 2018					
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"/>	
Anticipated future demand					
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"/>	

II-7. **Conditions of competition.**--Have there been any changes in the business cycles or conditions of competition for large residential washers since February 7, 2018? *Please also note any changes resulting from COVID-19 pandemic.*

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

II-8. Based on your firm's experience, have domestic producers taken the following actions since February 7, 2018? If so, please specify the producer(s) and product(s) involved.

Action	No	Yes	Please explain, noting the producer(s) and product(s) involved.
Introduction of new or innovative product	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Improved product quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Expansion of marketing efforts, including e-commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Improvements in customer service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other efforts to make a positive adjustment to import competition (please identify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

II-9. **Effect of safeguard measure.**--Describe the significance of the tariff-rate quota imposed by the President effective February 7, 2018, in terms of its effect on your firm's purchasing operations relating to large residential washers. You may wish to compare your firm's operations before and after the imposition of the measure.

II-10. **Other explanations.**--If your firm would like to further explain a response to any question that for which a narrative response box was not provided, please note the question number and the explanation in the space provided below.

OMB INFORMATION

II-11. **OMB statistics.**--Please report 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.

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/safeguard/2020/large_residential_washers_extension/extension.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:** **LRWS**

- **E-mail.**—E-mail the MS Word questionnaire to lauren.gamache@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 does not purchase 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.