

## RLA Market Insights – Wednesday, 30 April 2025

### China Proposes Tariff Exemptions on Selected US Shipments

China is considering exempting 131 US products, about 28% of total imports from its additional 125% tariffs, according to the First Batch List of Reciprocal Tariff Exempted Commodities. While this provides no timeline for implementation, it highlights key items proposed for exemption, including polyethylene (PE) and feedstock ethane, which are vital to the US chemical sector. All main grades of PE are included in the exemption list, offering potential relief for US producers heavily impacted by the tariffs. However, ethylene glycol (EG), another major US chemical export to China, is notably absent from the proposed list. The move comes amid escalating trade tensions, with the US raising tariffs on Chinese imports to 145%. The proposed exemptions could signal a step toward easing trade friction between the two countries, especially in critical industrial sectors like chemicals. See the full list of chemicals proposed to be exempted below along with total imports since 2022 below.





| Chemical   | Imported Quantity From the | Imported Quantity From the |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|
|  | US 2022 - 2025             | World 2022 - 2025          |
| *Ethane  | 12305                      | 12419                      |
| *Other saturated acyclic hydrocarbons  |                            |                            |
| 2,3,3,3-Tetrafluoropropene (HFO-1234yf), 1,3,3,3-tetrafluoropropene (HFO-1234ze) and (Z)-1,1,1,  | 1                          | 2                          |
| Other halogenated derivatives of aromatic hydrocarbons   | 11                         | 60                         |
| Other diols  | 56                         | 363                        |
| Other organo-sulphur compounds   | 63                         | 204                        |
| Other heterocyclic compounds with oxygen hetero-atom(s) only                                     | 3                          | 15                         |
| Other compounds containing an unfused pyridine ring (whether or not hydrogenated) in the struct  | 12                         | 30                         |
| Other compounds containing a pyrimidine ring or piperazine ring (whether or not hydrogenated) in | 8                          | 25                         |
| Other lactams  | 7                          | 35                         |
| Other heterocyclic compounds with nitrogen hetero-atom(s) only                                   | 1                          | 79                         |
| Other heterocyclic compounds   | 1                          | 37                         |
| Dexamethasone  | 0                          | 0                          |
| Cefalexin and its salts  | 0                          | 0                          |
| Other antibiotics  | 1                          | 1                          |
| Polyethylene glycol waxes  | 14                         | 49                         |
| Polyethylene having a specific gravity of less than 0.94, in primary forms                       | 1253                       | 8562                       |
| Polyethylene having a specific gravity of 0.94 or more, in primary forms                         | 1711                       | 15388                      |
| Linear low density polyethylene  | 2592                       | 13524                      |
| Other polymers of ethylene, in primary forms   | 173                        | 2277                       |
| Other polymers of styrene, in primary forms  | 48                         | 1350                       |
| Chemical wood pulp, dissolving grades  | 588                        | 10472                      |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>18850</b>               | <b>64893</b>               |

\* Sum of imported quantities of Ethane and Other saturated acyclic hydrocarbons



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A monthly report covering the next four months and including trends in oil supply, demand and trade, tanker demand and supply, spot, and time charter rates for MRs up to VLCCs, comparisons with FFAs plus the latest news on developments impacting the oil and tanker sectors.

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#### SINGAPORE OFFICE

10 Anson Road  
#10-11 International Plaza  
SINGAPORE 079903  
T: +65-6950 7561

#### LONDON OFFICE

Terminal House  
52 Grosvenor Gardens  
London, UK SW1W 0AU  
T: +44-20-3386 9413

#### INDIA OFFICE

SCO 10, First Floor  
Sector - 79, Mohali,  
Punjab, INDIA 140308  
T: +91-172-4105887

E: [info@wademaritime.com](mailto:info@wademaritime.com) | [research@richardsonlawrie.com](mailto:research@richardsonlawrie.com)

w: [www.wademaritime.com](http://www.wademaritime.com) | [www.richardsonlawrie.com](http://www.richardsonlawrie.com)