

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Initiation of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Administrative Reviews and Request for Revocation in Part

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of initiation of antidumping and countervailing duty administrative reviews and request for revocation in part.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce has received requests to conduct administrative reviews of various antidumping and countervailing duty

orders and findings with October anniversary dates. In accordance with the Department's regulations, we are initiating those administrative reviews. The Department also received a request to revoke one countervailing duty order in part.

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 30, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Holly A. Kuga, Office of AD/CVD Enforcement, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230, telephone: (202) 482-4737.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Department has received timely requests, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.213(b)(1997), for administrative reviews of various antidumping and countervailing duty orders and findings with October anniversary dates. The Department also received a request to revoke in part the countervailing duty order on certain agricultural tillage tools from Brazil.

Initiation of Reviews

In accordance with section 19 CFR 351.221(c)(1)(i), we are initiating administrative reviews of the following antidumping and countervailing duty orders and findings. We intend to issue the final results of these reviews not later than October 31, 1999.

	Period to be reviewed
Antidumping Duty Proceedings	
Italy: Pressure Sensitive Tape A-475-059 Autoadesivi Magri, Srl	10/1/97-9/30/98
Japan:	
Large Newspaper Printing Presses A-588-837 Tokyo Kikai Seisakusho, Ltd. ¹	9/1/97-8/31/98
Tapered Roller Bearings, Under 4 Inches A-588-054 Fuji Heavy Industries, Ltd. Koyo Seiko Co., Ltd. NSK, Ltd.	10/1/97-9/30/98
Tapered Roller Bearings, Over 4 Inches A-558-604 Koyo Seiko Co., Ltd. NSK Ltd. NTN Corporation	10/1/97-9/30/98
Vector Supercomputers A-588-841 Fujitsu Limited NEC Corporation	10/16/97-9/30/98
Malaysia: Extruded Rubber Thread A-557-805 Filati Lastex Elastofibre Sdn. Bhd. Filmax Sdn. Bhd. Heveafil Sdn. Bhd. Rubberflex Sdn. Bhd. Rubfil Sdn. Bhd.	10/1/97-9/30/98
The People's Republic of China: A-570-007 Barium Chloride ² . Zhang Jia Ba Tangshan Tianjin Chemical Red Star Linshu Ermeishang Hengnan Buohai Kunghan Xinji	10/1/97-9/30/98
Helical Spring Lock Washers ³ A-570-822 Zhejiang Wanxin Group Co., Ltd.	10/1/97-9/30/98
Countervailing Duty Proceedings	
Brazil: Certain Agricultural Tillage Tools C-351-406 Marchesan Implementos e Maquinas, Argicolas "TATU" S.A. ⁴	1/1/97-12/31/97
India: Certain Iron-Metal Castings C-533-063 AGV (or AGV Exports) Agarwal Hardware Ambika Exports Bengal Exports Bengal Iron Corporation Bhagyadevi Calcutta Ferrous Ltd. Carnation Enterprise Pvt. Ltd.	1/1/97-12/31/97

	Period to be reviewed
Carnation Industries Commex Corporation Crescent Foundry Co. Pvt. Ltd. Delta Enterprises Delta Corporation Ltd. Dinesh Brothers (P) Ltd. Dugar International Edcons Castings Essen International Ganapati Suppliers Global Intertrade Hargolal & Sons Hindusthan Malleables & Forgings Ltd. J.K. Udyog Kajaria Iron Castings Pvt. Ltd. Kajaria Iron Castings Ltd. Kauntia Exports Kejriwal Iron & Steel Works Kiswok Industries Pvt. Ltd. Metflow Nandikeshwari Iron Foundry Pvt. Ltd. Orissa Metal Industries Overseas Iron Foundry Rangilal & Sons RBA Exports R.B. Agarwalla & Company R.B. Agarwalla & Co. Pvt. Ltd. RR Enterprises RSI Limited RS Ispat Pvt. Ltd. Samitex (or Samitek) Sammitex (or Sammitek) Shakti Isabgel Ind. Serampore Industries Pvt. Ltd. Shree Hanuman Foundry Shree Rama Enterprise Shree Uma Foundries Siko Exports Sitaram Maohogarhia Sociedad J.B. Nagar SSL Exports Super Iron Foundry Tara Engineering Works Thames Engineering Tirupati International Trident Industries Trident International Uma Iron & Steel Victory Castings Ltd. Sweden: Certain Carbon Steel Products C-401-401 SSAB Svenskt Stal AB	1/1/97-12/31/97

¹ Inadvertently omitted from previous initiation notice.

² If one of the above named companies does not qualify for a separate rate, all other exporters of barium chloride from the People's Republic of China who have not qualified for a separate rate are deemed to be covered by this review as part of the single PRC entity of which the named exporters are a part.

³ If one of the above named companies does not qualify for a separate rate, all other exporters of helical spring lock washers from the People's Republic of China who have not qualified for a separate rate are deemed to be covered by this review as part of the single PRC entity of which the named exporters are a part.

⁴ Marchesan has submitted a request for partial revocation of the order under 19 CFR 351.222(c)(3). The Department will examine the request for revocation to determine whether Marchesan meets the threshold requirements for revocation under 19 CFR 351.222(e)(2)(iii).

Suspension Agreements

None.

During any administrative review covering all or part of a period falling between the first and second or third and fourth anniversary of the publication of an antidumping duty order under section 351.211 or a determination under section 351.218(d) (sunset

review), the Secretary, if requested by a domestic interested party within 30 days of the date of publication of the notice of initiation of the review, will determine whether antidumping duties have been absorbed by an exporter or producer subject to the review if the subject merchandise is sold in the United States through an importer that

is affiliated with such exporter or producer. The request must include the name(s) of the exporter or producer for which the inquiry is requested.

For transition orders defined in section 751(c)(6) of the Act, the Secretary will apply paragraph (j)(1) of the Department's Regulations to any

administrative review initiated in 1998 (19 CFR 351.213(j)(1-2)).

Interested parties must submit applications for disclosure under administrative protective orders in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305.

These initiations and this notice are in accordance with section 751(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1675(a)), and 19 CFR 351.221(c)(1)(i).

Dated: November 23, 1998.

Holly A. Kuga,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 98-31841 Filed 11-27-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-588-846 and A-821-809]

Preliminary Determinations of Critical Circumstances: Certain Hot-Rolled Flat-Rolled Carbon-Quality Steel Products From Japan and the Russian Federation

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 30, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lyn Baranowski (Russian Federation) at (202) 482-3208; and Nithya Nagarajan (Japan) at (202) 482-4243, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

Preliminary Determination of Critical Circumstances

The Applicable Statute and Regulations

Unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the statute are references to the provisions effective January 1, 1995, the effective date of the amendments made to the Tariff Act of 1930 (the Act) by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA). In addition, unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the Department's regulations are references to the provisions codified at 19 CFR Part 351 (1998).

Critical Circumstances

On October 15, 1998, the Department of Commerce ("the Department") initiated investigations to determine whether imports of certain hot-rolled flat-rolled carbon-quality steel products ("hot-rolled steel") from Brazil, Japan, and the Russian Federation ("Russia") are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value (63

FR 56607, October 22, 1998). In the petition filed on September 30, 1998, petitioners alleged that there is a reasonable basis to believe or suspect that critical circumstances exist with respect to imports of hot-rolled steel from Brazil, Japan, and Russia. On November 13, 1998, the International Trade Commission ("ITC") preliminarily determined that there was threat of material injury to the domestic industry from imports of hot-rolled steel from Brazil, Japan, and Russia.

In accordance with 19 CFR 351.206(c)(2)(i), because petitioners submitted a critical circumstances allegation more than 20 days before the scheduled date of the preliminary determination, the Department must issue a preliminary critical circumstances determination not later than the date of the preliminary determination. In a policy bulletin issued on October 8, 1998, the Department stated that it has determined that it may issue a preliminary critical circumstances determination prior to the date of the preliminary determination of dumping, assuming adequate evidence of critical circumstances is available (*see Change in Policy Regarding Timing of Issuance of Critical Circumstances Determinations*, 63 FR 55364). In accordance with this policy, we are issuing preliminary critical circumstances decisions in the investigations of imports of hot-rolled steel from Japan and Russia.

Section 733(e)(1) of the Act provides that the Department will determine that critical circumstances exist if there is a reasonable basis to believe or suspect that: (A)(i) there is a history of dumping and material injury by reason of dumped imports in the United States or elsewhere of the subject merchandise, or (ii) the person by whom, or for whose account, the merchandise was imported knew or should have known that the exporter was selling the subject merchandise at less than its fair value and that there was likely to be material injury by reason of such sales, and (B) there have been massive imports of the subject merchandise over a relatively short period.

Japan

History of Dumping and Importer Knowledge

We are not aware of any antidumping order in any country on hot-rolled steel from Japan. Therefore, we examined whether there was importer knowledge. In determining whether there is a reasonable basis to believe or suspect that an importer knew or should have

known that the exporter was selling hot-rolled steel at less than fair value and thereby causing material injury, the Department must rely on the facts before it at the time the determination is made. The Department normally considers margins of 25 percent or more and a preliminary ITC determination of material injury sufficient to impute knowledge of dumping and the likelihood of resultant material injury.

In the present case, since we have not yet made a preliminary finding of dumping, the most reasonable source of information concerning knowledge of dumping is the petition itself. In the petition, petitioners calculated estimated dumping margins of 27.20 and 28.25 percent, which both exceed the 25 percent threshold. Therefore, we preliminarily determine importers knew or should have known that the exporters were dumping the subject merchandise.

As to the knowledge of likely injury from such dumped imports, we considered the information regarding injury to the domestic industry in the petition. We also considered other sources of information, including numerous press reports from early to mid-1998 regarding rising imports, falling domestic prices resulting from rising imports, and domestic buyers shifting to foreign suppliers. In addition to this information, the ITC preliminarily found threat of material injury to the domestic industry due to imports of hot-rolled steel from Japan. Therefore, with respect to Japan, we preliminarily find that there is a reasonable basis to believe or suspect that importers knew or should have known that material injury from the dumped merchandise was likely.

Massive Imports

In determining whether there are "massive imports" over a "relatively short time period," the Department ordinarily bases its analysis on import data for at least the three months preceding (the "base period") and following (the "comparison period") the filing of the petition. Imports normally will be considered massive when imports during the comparison period have increased by 15 percent or more compared to imports during the base period. However, as stated in the Department's regulations, at section 351.206(i), if the Secretary finds that importers, exporters, or producers had reason to believe, at some time prior to the beginning of the proceeding, that a proceeding was likely, then the Secretary may consider a time period of not less than three months from that earlier time.