

and contract bundling by Federal agencies. Accordingly, they asked that the Committee not add these services or any others performed by 8(a) contractors to the Procurement List.

The Committee adds services performed by 8(a) contractors to the Procurement List upon graduation of the contractors from the 8(a) Program, in order to avoid having an impact on the contractors while they remain eligible to perform services which would continue in the 8(a) Program after the contractors' graduation if they were not added to the Procurement List. For Fiscal Year 1998, the JWOD Program's Federal revenues were less than seven percent of the 8(a) Program's Federal revenues, so the Committee does not believe that its Procurement List additions are having a severe adverse impact on the 8(a) Program. The changes in 8(a) contracting processes and opportunities which the commenters mentioned are the result of actions by the Small Business Administration and Federal contracting activities, which are beyond the control of the Committee.

The following material pertains to all of the items being added to the Procurement List

After consideration of the material presented to it concerning capability of qualified nonprofit agencies to provide the commodities and services and impact of the additions on the current or most recent contractors, the Committee has determined that the commodities and services listed below are suitable for procurement by the Federal Government under 41 U.S.C. 46-48c and 41 CFR 51-2.4.

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the commodities and services to the Government.

2. The action will not have a severe economic impact on current contractors for the commodities and services.

3. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the commodities and services to the Government.

4. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the commodities and services proposed for addition to the Procurement List.

Accordingly, the following commodities and services are hereby added to the Procurement List:

Commodities

Sachet Bag Assorted Scents & Oil Crystal Assorted, M.R. 1733 (Sachet Bag), M.R. 1779 (Oil)

Services

Facilities Management, Federal Center, Defense Logistics Information Services (DLIS), 74 North Washington Street, Battle Creek, Michigan
Family Housing Maintenance, Travis Air Force Base, California
Grounds Maintenance, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Western Ecology Division, Environmental Effects Laboratory, 200 SW 35th Street, Willamette Research Station, 1350 SE Goodnight Ave, Corvallis, Oregon

Janitorial/Custodial

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS), Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), 214 North Andes Avenue, Orlando, Florida

Janitorial/Custodial

U.S. Army Reserve Center, Building 213, Fort Hamilton, New York

Janitorial/Custodial

Basewide, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas

Janitorial/Custodial

Basewide (excluding Gymnasium), Fort Sam Houston, Texas

Janitorial/Custodial

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Morgantown, West Virginia
Laundry and Dry Cleaning Service, Fort Belvoir, Virginia,

This action does not affect current contracts awarded prior to the effective date of this addition or options that may be exercised under those contracts.

Beverly L. Milkman,

Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 99-22353 Filed 8-26-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6353-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-570-857, A-560-809]

Initiation of Antidumping Investigations: Paintbrushes and Paintbrush Heads, Other Than Natural Bristle Paintbrushes and Paintbrush Heads, From the People's Republic of China and Paintbrushes and Paintbrush Heads From Indonesia

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 27, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sunkyu Kim, AD/CVD Enforcement Group I, Office 2, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-2613.

INITIATION OF INVESTIGATIONS:

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 of Commerce's (the Department's) regulations are to the current regulations at 19 CFR part 351 (April 1998).

The Petitions

On August 2, 1999, the Department received petitions filed in proper form by The Paintbrush Trade Action Coalition (PATAC) which is comprised of the following companies: EZ Paint Corporation; The Wooster Brush Company; Purdy Corporation; Bestt Liebco; and Tru*Serv Manufacturing, collectively referred to hereinafter as the petitioner. On August 11 and August 16, 1999, the Department received supplemental information to these petitions that it had requested from the petitioner.

In accordance with section 732(b) of the Act, the petitioner alleges that imports of paintbrushes, other than natural bristle paintbrushes, from the People's Republic of China (PRC), and paintbrushes from Indonesia are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value within the meaning of section 731 of the Act, and that such imports are materially injuring an industry in the United States.

The Department finds that the petitioner filed the petitions on behalf of the domestic industry because it is an interested party as defined in sections 771(9) (C) and (D) of the Act and it has demonstrated sufficient industry support. See "Determination of Industry Support for the Petitions" section, below.

Scope of Investigations

There is an existing antidumping duty order on natural bristle paintbrushes from the PRC. See *Antidumping Duty Order; Natural Bristle Paintbrushes and Brush Heads from the People's Republic of China*, 51 FR 5580 (February 14, 1986). The scope of the petition on

paintbrushes from the PRC covers all paintbrushes and paintbrush heads imported from the PRC, except those that are already covered by the existing order. For Indonesia, the scope of the petition includes all paintbrushes and paintbrush heads (*i.e.*, natural bristle, synthetic filament, and natural-synthetic filament blended paintbrushes).

People's Republic of China

The scope of the PRC investigation includes all paintbrushes and paintbrush heads that are used to apply paint, stain, varnish, shellac, or any other type of protective coating, other than natural bristle paintbrushes and paintbrush heads that are classifiable under 9603.40.4040 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS). The scope of the investigation includes paintbrushes and paintbrush heads with a blend of natural bristle and synthetic filaments, provided that the synthetic filaments comprise over 50 percent of the total filler material in the finished paintbrush or paintbrush head.

The merchandise subject to this investigation is classifiable under 9603.40.4060 of the HTSUS. Although the HTSUS subheading is provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the merchandise under investigation is dispositive.

Excluded from the scope of this investigation are artists' brushes classifiable under 9603.30.2000, 9603.30.4000, or 9603.30.6000 of the HTSUS or other non-paintbrush products classifiable under 9603.40.4060 of the HTSUS, such as foam applicators, sponge applicators, or any other type of non-brush paint applicator.

Indonesia

The scope of the Indonesian investigation includes all paintbrushes and paintbrush heads that are used to apply paint, stain, varnish, shellac, or any other type of protective coating, including natural bristle paintbrushes and paintbrush heads, synthetic filament paintbrushes and paintbrush heads, and paintbrushes and paintbrush heads made with a blend of natural bristle and synthetic filament.

The merchandise subject to this investigation is classifiable under 9603.40.4040 and 9603.40.4060 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS). Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the merchandise under investigation is dispositive.

Excluded from the scope of this investigation are artists' brushes

classifiable under 9603.30.2000, 9603.30.4000, or 9603.30.6000 of the HTSUS or other non-paintbrush products classifiable under 9603.40.4060 of the HTSUS, such as foam applicators, sponge applicators, or any other type of non-brush paint applicator.

During our review of the petitions, we discussed the definitions of the scope of the investigations with the petitioner to ensure that the definitions accurately reflect the products for which it is seeking relief. As we discussed in the preamble to the Department's regulations, we are setting aside a period for parties to raise issues regarding product coverage. See Antidumping Duties; Countervailing Duties: Final Rule, 62 FR 27296, 27323 (May 19, 1997). The Department encourages all parties to submit such comments by September 13, 1999. Comments should be addressed to Import Administration's Central Records Unit at Room 1870, U.S. Department of Commerce, Pennsylvania Avenue and 14th Street, NW., Washington, DC, 20230. This scope consultation period is intended to provide the Department with ample opportunity to consider all comments and consult with parties prior to the issuance of the preliminary determinations.

Determination of Industry Support for the Petitions

Section 732(b)(1) of the Act requires that a petition be filed on behalf of the domestic industry. Section 732(c)(4)(A) of the Act provides that a petition meets this requirement if the domestic producers or workers who support the petition account for: (1) At least 25 percent of the total production of the domestic like product; and (2) more than 50 percent of the production of the domestic like product produced by that portion of the industry expressing support for, or opposition to, the petition.

Section 771(4)(A) of the Act defines the "industry" as the producers of a domestic like product. Thus, to determine whether the petition has the requisite industry support, the statute directs the Department to look to producers and workers who account for production of the domestic like product. The International Trade Commission (ITC), which is responsible for determining whether the domestic industry has been injured, must also determine what constitutes a domestic like product in order to define the industry. While both the Department and the ITC must apply the same statutory provision regarding the

domestic like product (section 771(10) of the Act), they do so for different purposes and pursuant to separate and distinct authority. In addition, the Department's determination is subject to limitations of time and information. Although this may result in different definitions of the domestic like product, such differences do not render the decision of either agency contrary to the law.¹ Section 771(10) of the Act defines domestic like product as "a product which is like, or in the absence of like, most similar in characteristics and uses with, the article subject to an investigation under this title." Thus, the reference point from which the domestic like product analysis begins is "the article subject to an investigation," *i.e.*, the class or kind of merchandise to be investigated, which normally will be the scope as defined in the petition.

In this case, the petitioner claims that all paintbrushes including natural bristle, synthetic filament, and natural-synthetic filament blended paintbrushes, constitute one class or kind of merchandise. In addition, the petitioner notes that the ITC, in its determination in the original investigation on natural bristle paintbrushes from the PRC, defined the domestic like product as all paintbrushes, both natural bristle and synthetic filament paintbrushes. See *Natural Bristle Paint Brushes from the People's Republic of China*, Inv. No. 731-TA-244 (Final), USITC Pub.1805 at 7 (January 1986).

Based on our analysis of the information and arguments presented to the Department, we have determined that for purposes of initiation of these investigations there is a single domestic like product which is defined in the "Scope of Investigations" section, above, with respect to Indonesia.

Moreover, the Department has determined that the petitions and supplemental information contained adequate evidence of sufficient industry support. See August 23, 1999, Initiation Checklist (public version on file in the Central Records Unit of the Department of Commerce, Room B-099). To the best of the Department's knowledge, the producers who support the petitions account for more than 50 percent of the production of the domestic like product. Additionally, no person who would qualify as an interested party pursuant to section 771(9) (C), (D), (E) or (F) of the

¹ See *Algoma Steel Corp., Ltd. v. United States*, 688 F. Supp. 639, 644 (CIT 1988); *High Information Content Flat Panel Displays and Display Glass Therefor from Japan: Final Determination; Rescission of Investigation and Partial Dismissal of Petition*, 56 Fed. Reg. 32376, 32380-81 (July 16, 1991).

Act expressed opposition to the petitions on the record. Accordingly, the Department determines that these petitions are filed on behalf of the domestic industry within the meaning of section 732(b)(1) of the Act.

Export Price and Normal Value

The following describes the allegations of sales at less than fair value upon which our decision to initiate these investigations is based. Should the need arise to use any of this information in our preliminary or final determinations for purposes of facts available under section 776 of the Act, we may re-examine the information and revise the margin calculations, if appropriate.

People's Republic of China

The petitioner identified 42 potential PRC exporters and/or producers of paintbrushes. The petitioner based export price (EP) on offers for sale of the subject merchandise by three PRC exporters. The petitioner made no adjustments to the starting prices.

Because the PRC is considered a nonmarket economy (NME) country under section 771(18) of the Act, the petitioner based normal value (NV) on the factors of production valued in a surrogate country, in accordance with section 773(c)(3) of the Act. For purposes of the petition, the petitioner selected Indonesia as the most appropriate surrogate market economy. For the factors of production, the petitioner analyzed sample paintbrushes provided by the PRC exporters that correspond to the price quotations. The petitioner disassembled and weighed each of the inputs in order to derive the consumption amount of each raw material used. For labor and electricity, the petitioner estimated the consumption amounts based on its own experience.

Materials were valued based on Indonesian prices obtained from the petitioner's market research. For wood handles, the petitioner stated that it was unable to obtain any publicly available information specific to wood handles for paintbrushes. Therefore, wood handles were valued using prices obtained from an Indonesian supplier. The remaining materials, including packing materials, were valued based on publicly available information which consisted principally of prices published in official Indonesian government import statistics (*i.e.*, *Foreign Trade Statistical Bulletin: Imports*) for the period January 1997 through October 1997. Labor, including direct and packing labor, was valued using the regression-based wage rate for

the PRC provided by the Department, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.408(c)(3). To value electricity, the petitioner used the value used by the Department in the 1996-1997 administrative review of the antidumping duty order on natural bristle paintbrushes and brush heads from the PRC. This value is based on rates published in *A Brief Guide for Investors 1995*, issued by the Indonesian government's Investment Coordinating Board. The petitioner adjusted the rate for inflation using the wholesale price indices (WPI) published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). For factory overhead, selling, general, and administrative expenses (SG&A) and profit, the petitioner used information from financial statements pertaining to the Indonesian industrial grouping which includes manufacturers of paintbrushes, as reported in the Indonesian government's *Large and Medium Manufacturing Statistics: Volume I* (1997).

Based on comparisons of EP to NV, the petitioner estimates dumping margins from 10.82 percent to 148.91 percent.

Indonesia

The petitioner identified the following four exporters and producers of paintbrushes from Indonesia: PT Ace Oldfields; PT Eterna Jayatama Industries; PT Kata Perkasa J/V; and PT Sentosa Hastareksa. For EP, the petitioner used price quotes offered by one of the producers, PT Ace Oldfields, as obtained from its foreign market research.

The petitioner adjusted these prices by subtracting amounts for foreign inland freight and brokerage and handling expenses. The movement expenses were based on information obtained from the petitioner's market research report.

With respect to NV, the petitioner used price quotations obtained from the foreign market researcher for paintbrushes manufactured by Ace Oldfields and sold to customers in Indonesia. The petitioner adjusted these prices by subtracting foreign inland freight amounts which were calculated by using information obtained by the market researcher. In addition, the petitioner made a circumstance of sale adjustment for imputed credit expenses by subtracting home market credit expenses from the starting prices. The petitioner calculated home market imputed credit expenses based on an estimated credit period and the average short-term lending rate in Indonesia during the first quarter of 1999, as published in the *International Financial Statistics*.

Based on comparisons of EP to home market prices, the petitioner estimates margins of 0.00 to 53.12 percent.

Allegation of Sales Below Cost

Pursuant to section 773(b) of the Act, the petitioner alleged that home market sales of the foreign like product in Indonesia were made at prices below the cost of production (COP) and requested that the Department initiate a country-wide sales-below-cost investigation.

Pursuant to section 773(b)(3) of the Act, COP consists of cost of manufacturing (COM), SG&A and packing costs. The petitioner calculated the COP for a sample paintbrush manufactured in Indonesia by PT Ace Oldfields in the following manner: (1) the petitioner calculated the cost of materials by weighing the various material inputs, including packing materials, and valuing the cost of each material using publicly available data; (2) for labor and electricity, the petitioner estimated the consumption amounts based on its analysis of the product and the production experience of its members; and (3) for factory overhead and SG&A, the petitioner used information from publicly available 1997 financial statements pertaining to the Indonesian industrial grouping which includes manufacturers of paintbrushes.

With the exception of the values for labor and natural bristle, the petitioner relied on the information used to value the factors of production of paintbrushes from the PRC, as described above, to calculate the COP of the analyzed paintbrush. To value labor, the petitioner used the April 1999 regional minimum wage rate applicable in West Java, Indonesia, as obtained from the February 1999 issue of the *Indonesian Commercial Newsletter*. The petitioner calculated the cost of natural bristles based on values obtained from the October 1997 issue of the *Foreign Trade Statistical Bulletin: Imports* for the period January 1997 through October 1997.

Based upon the comparison of the adjusted prices from the petition of the foreign like product in Indonesia to the COP calculated in the petition, we do not find "reasonable grounds to believe or suspect" that sales of these foreign like products were made below their respective COP within the meaning of section 773(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Act. Accordingly, based on information currently on the record, the Department is not initiating a country-wide cost investigation for Indonesia, as requested by the petitioner.

Fair Value Comparisons

Based on the data provided by the petitioner, there is reason to believe that imports of paintbrushes and paintbrush heads, other than natural bristle paintbrushes and paintbrush heads, from the PRC and paintbrushes and paintbrush heads from Indonesia are being, or are likely to be, sold at less than fair value.

Allegations and Evidence of Material Injury and Causation

The petitioner alleges that the U.S. industry producing the domestic like product is being materially injured, and is threatened with material injury, by reason of imports of the subject merchandise sold at less than NV. The allegations of injury and causation are supported by relevant evidence including business proprietary data from the members of PATAC and U.S. Customs import data. The Department assessed the allegations and supporting evidence regarding material injury and causation and determined that these allegations are sufficiently supported by accurate and adequate evidence and meet the statutory requirements for initiation. See Initiation Checklist (public version on file in the Central Records Unit of the Department of Commerce, Room B-099).

Initiation of Antidumping Investigations

We have examined the petitions on paintbrushes and paintbrush heads, other than natural bristle paintbrushes and paintbrush heads, from the PRC and paintbrushes and paintbrush heads from Indonesia and have found that they meet the requirements of section 732 of the Act. Therefore, we are initiating antidumping duty investigations to determine whether imports of paintbrushes and paintbrush heads, other than natural bristle paintbrushes and paintbrush heads, from the PRC and paintbrushes and paintbrush heads from Indonesia are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value. Unless extended, we will make our preliminary determinations for the antidumping duty investigations by January 10, 2000.

Distribution of Copies of the Petitions

In accordance with section 732(b)(3)(A) of the Act, a copy of the public version of each petition has been provided to the representatives of the governments of the PRC and Indonesia. We will attempt to provide a copy of the public version of each petition to each exporter named in the petition (as appropriate).

International Trade Commission Notification

We have notified the ITC of our initiations, as required by section 732(d) of the Act.

Preliminary Determinations by the ITC

The ITC will determine by September 16, 1999, whether there is a reasonable indication that imports of paintbrushes and paintbrush heads, other than natural bristle paintbrushes and paintbrush heads, from the PRC and paintbrushes and paintbrush heads from Indonesia are causing material injury, or threatening to cause material injury, to a U.S. industry. Negative ITC determinations will result in the particular investigations being terminated; otherwise, the investigations will proceed according to statutory and regulatory time limits.

This notice is published in accordance with section 777(i)(1) of the Act.

Dated: August 23, 1999.

Richard W. Moreland,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 99-22354 Filed 8-26-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

District Export Council Nomination Opportunity

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Opportunity to Serve as a Member of One of the Fifty-five District Export Councils.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Commerce is currently seeking expressions of interest from individuals in serving as a member of one of the fifty-five District Export Councils (DECs) nationwide. The DECs are closely affiliated with the Export Assistance Centers (EACs) of the Commercial Service. DECs combine the energies of more than 1,500 exporters and private and public export service providers who volunteer their time to supply specialized expertise to small and medium-sized businesses in their local communities who are interested in exporting. DEC members volunteer at their own expense.

DATES: Applications for nomination to a DEC must be received by the designated local DEC representative by September 10, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Stone, International Trade

Specialist, the Commercial Service, tel. 202-482-6298. Additional information about the DECs is also found on the National DEC Homepage at <http://www.ita.doc.gov/dec>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Providing their expertise and mentoring services, DEC members help local firms move from their first international business plan to their first export sale. The DECs create seminars that simplify trade finance, host international buyer delegations, design breakthrough exporting guides, put exporters on the Internet, and help build local partnerships that strengthen export assistance programs. Because DEC members represent both the users and providers of local export assistance services, they can identify gaps in the export services that EACs provide to U.S. businesses and thus shape EAC international trade programs to better meet local business needs.

Selection Process

About half of the approximately 30 positions on each of the 55 DECs will be open for nominations for the term that begins January 1, 2000, and ends December 31, 2003. Nominees are recommended by the local DEC Executive Secretary in consultation with the DEC and with other local export promotion partners. After undergoing a review process, DEC nominees are then selected and appointed to DEC membership by the Secretary of Commerce.

Membership Criteria

Each DEC is interested in nominating highly-motivated people active in the local exporting community. Membership composition on the DECs include: exporters (such as representatives from manufacturing, the services industry, and export trading companies); bankers; U.S. Small Business Administration representatives; state and local officials; and other "partners" including international lawyers and accountants as well as representatives from world trade centers, chambers of commerce, export management companies, labor and freight forwarders.

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 1501 *et seq.*, 15 U.S.C. 4721.

Dated: August 19, 1999.

Daniel J. McLaughlin,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Domestic Operations, U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service.

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