

ITC Notification

We will notify the ITC of our initiation, as required by section 702(d) of the Act.

Preliminary Determinations by the ITC

The ITC will preliminarily determine, within 45 days after the date on which the Petitions were filed, whether there is a reasonable indication that imports of rubber bands from Thailand, China, and Sri Lanka are materially injuring, or threatening material injury to, a U.S. industry.⁴¹ A negative ITC determination for any country will result in the investigation being terminated with respect to that country.⁴² Otherwise, these investigations will proceed according to statutory and regulatory time limits.

Submission of Factual Information

Factual information is defined in 19 CFR 351.102(b)(21) as: (i) Evidence submitted in response to questionnaires; (ii) evidence submitted in support of allegations; (iii) publicly available information to value factors under 19 CFR 351.408(c) or to measure the adequacy of remuneration under 19 CFR 351.511(a)(2); (iv) evidence placed on the record by Commerce; and (v) evidence other than factual information described in (i)–(iv). 19 CFR 351.301(b) requires any party, when submitting factual information, to specify under which subsection of 19 CFR 351.102(b)(21) the information is being submitted⁴³ and, if the information is submitted to rebut, clarify, or correct factual information already on the record, to provide an explanation identifying the information already on the record that the factual information seeks to rebut, clarify, or correct.⁴⁴ Time limits for the submission of factual information are addressed in 19 CFR 351.301, which provides specific time limits based on the type of factual information being submitted. Interested parties should review the regulations prior to submitting factual information in these investigations.

Extensions of Time Limits

Parties may request an extension of time limits before the expiration of a time limit established under 19 CFR 351.301, or as otherwise specified by the Secretary. In general, an extension request will be considered untimely if it is filed after the expiration of the time limit established under 19 CFR 351.301. For submissions that are due from

multiple parties simultaneously, an extension request will be considered untimely if it is filed after 10:00 a.m. ET on the due date. Under certain circumstances, we may elect to specify a different time limit by which extension requests will be considered untimely for submissions which are due from multiple parties simultaneously. In such a case, we will inform parties in the letter or memorandum setting forth the deadline (including a specified time) by which extension requests must be filed to be considered timely. An extension request must be made in a separate, stand-alone submission; under limited circumstances we will grant untimely-filed requests for the extension of time limits. Parties should review *Extension of Time Limits; Final Rule*, 78 FR 57790 (September 20, 2013), available at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-09-20/html/2013-22853.htm>, prior to submitting factual information in these investigations.

Certification Requirements

Any party submitting factual information in an AD or CVD proceeding must certify to the accuracy and completeness of that information.⁴⁵ Parties must use the certification formats provided in 19 CFR 351.303(g).⁴⁶ Commerce intends to reject factual submissions if the submitting party does not comply with the applicable revised certification requirements.

Notification to Interested Parties

Interested parties must submit applications for disclosure under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305. On January 22, 2008, Commerce published *Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings: Documents Submission Procedures; APO Procedures*, 73 FR 3634 (January 22, 2008). Parties wishing to participate in these investigations should ensure that they meet the requirements of these procedures (e.g., the filing of letters of appearance as discussed at 19 CFR 351.103(d)).

This notice is issued and published pursuant to sections 702 and 777(i) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.203(c).

⁴⁵ See section 782(b) of the Act.

⁴⁶ See *Certification of Factual Information to Import Administration During Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings*, 78 FR 42678 (July 17, 2013) (“*Final Rule*”); see also frequently asked questions regarding the *Final Rule*, available at http://enforcement.trade.gov/tlei/notices/factual_info_final_rule_FAQ_07172013.pdf.

Dated: February 20, 2018.

Christian Marsh,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

Appendix

Scope of the Investigations

The products subject to these investigations are bands made of vulcanized rubber, with a flat length, as actually measured end-to-end by the band lying flat, no less than ½ inch and no greater than 10 inches; with a width, which measures the dimension perpendicular to the length, actually of at least 3/64 inch and no greater than 2 inches; and a wall thickness actually from 0.020 inch to 0.125 inch. Vulcanized rubber has been chemically processed into a more durable material by the addition of sulfur or other equivalent curatives or accelerators. Subject products are included regardless of color or inclusion of printed material on the rubber band's surface, including but not limited to, rubber bands with printing on them, such as a product name, advertising, or slogan, and printed material (e.g., a tag) fastened to the rubber band by an adhesive or another temporary type of connection. The scope includes vulcanized rubber bands which are contained or otherwise exist in various forms and packages, such as, without limitation, vulcanized rubber bands included within a desk accessory set or other type of set or package, and vulcanized rubber band balls. The scope excludes products that consist of an elastomer loop and durable tag all-in-one, and bands that are being used at the time of import to fasten an imported product. Merchandise covered by these investigations is currently classified in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) under subheading 4016.99.3510. Merchandise covered by the scope may also enter under HTSUS subheading 4016.99.6050. While the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the scope of the investigations is dispositive.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Notice of Request for Applicants for Appointment to the United States-Mexico Energy Business Council

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In 2016, agencies of the Governments of the United States and Mexico established the U.S.-Mexico Energy Business Council (the “Council”). This notice announces 10 membership opportunities for appointment as U.S. representatives to

⁴¹ See section 703(a)(2) of the Act.

⁴² See section 703(a)(1) of the Act.

⁴³ See 19 CFR 351.301(b).

⁴⁴ See 19 CFR 351.301(b)(2).

the U.S. Section of the Council for a term beginning in June 2018 and ending in June 2020.

DATES: All applications must be received by the Office of North America by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) on April 30, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Please submit applications to Leslie Wilson, International Trade Specialist, Office of North America, U.S. Department of Commerce either by email at Leslie.Wilson@trade.gov (preferred method) or by mail to U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 30014, Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Leslie Wilson, Office of North America, U.S. Department of Commerce, telephone: (202) 482-0704, email: Leslie.Wilson@trade.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Department of Energy, the Ministry of Economy of the United Mexican States, and the Ministry of Energy of the United Mexican States established the Council in March 2016. The objective of the Council is to bring together representatives of the respective energy industries of the United States and Mexico to discuss issues of mutual interest, particularly ways to strengthen the economic and commercial ties between energy industries in the two countries, and communicating actionable, non-binding recommendations to the U.S. and Mexican Governments.

For more information, please consult the Terms of Reference of the Council (copy and paste link into browser): [https://www.trade.gov/hled/documents/Signed%20US-MEX%20Energy%20Business%20Council%20Terms%20\(May%202016%20-%20English\).pdf](https://www.trade.gov/hled/documents/Signed%20US-MEX%20Energy%20Business%20Council%20Terms%20(May%202016%20-%20English).pdf).

The Department of Commerce is seeking applicants for membership on the U.S. Section of the Council. Each applicant must be a senior representative (e.g., Chief Executive Officer, Vice President, Regional Manager, Senior Director, or holder of a similar position) of a U.S.-owned or controlled individual company, trade association, or private sector organization that is incorporated in and has its main headquarters in the United States and whose activities include a focus on the manufacture, production, commercialization and/or trade in goods and services for the energy industry in Mexico. Each applicant must also be a U.S. citizen, or otherwise legally authorized to work in the United States, and be able to travel to Mexico or locations in the United States to attend Council meetings, as well as U.S.

Section and Committee meetings. In addition, the applicant may not be a registered foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938, as amended.

Applications for membership in the U.S. Section by eligible individuals, including applications by current U.S. section members for reappointment, will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- A demonstrated commitment by the entity to be represented to the Mexican market, including as applicable either through exports or investment.
 - A demonstrated strong interest in Mexico and its economic development.
 - The ability to offer to the work of the Council a broad perspective and business experience specific to the energy industry.
 - The ability to address cross-cutting issues that affect the entity's entire energy industry sub-sector.
 - The ability to dedicate organizational resources to initiate and be responsible for activities in which the Council will be active.
- U.S. Section members will also be selected on the basis of who is best qualified to carry out the objectives of the Council to:
- Promote increased two-way investment in the energy industry;
 - Promote two-way trade in goods and services produced by and used in the energy industry, including the oil and gas, renewable energy, electricity, nuclear energy, and energy efficiency sub-sectors;
 - Promote the development of binational value chains in the production of goods and services in the energy sector;
 - Promote the development of modern energy infrastructure and bolster energy efficiency and security;
 - Foster an enabling environment for the rapid development, deployment, and integration of new energy industry technologies—including clean renewable energy technologies—into the marketplace;
 - Improve competitiveness through innovation and entrepreneurship in the energy industry, to include the promotion of technology exchanges and research partnerships; and
 - Partner in skills development to create solutions in training and education to address evolving energy industry workforce needs.

In selecting members of the U.S. Section, the U.S. Government selection committee, composed of representatives from the Department of Commerce and

the Department of Energy, will attempt to ensure that the Section represents a cross-section of small, medium-sized and large firms.

U.S. Section members will receive no compensation for their participation in Council-related activities. They shall not be considered as special government employees. Individual U.S. Section members will be responsible for all travel and related expenses associated with their participation in the Council, including attendance at Committee and Section meetings. Only appointed U.S. Section members may participate in Council meetings; substitutes and alternates may not be designated. U.S. Section members are expected to serve for two-year terms, but may be reappointed.

To apply for membership in the U.S. Section, please submit the following information as instructed in the **ADDRESS** and **DATES** captions above:

- Name(s) and title(s) of the applicant;
- Name and address of the headquarters of the entity that employs the applicant;
- Location of incorporation or establishment;
- Size of the represented entity, in terms of annual sales and number of employees;
- As applicable, the size of the entity's export trade, investment, and nature of operations or interest in Mexico; and
- A brief statement of why the applicant should be considered, including information about the applicant's ability to initiate and be responsible for activities in which the Council will be active.

All applicants will be notified of whether they have been selected once the application window closes and selection of U.S. Section members has been made.

Dated: February 21, 2018.

Geri Word,

Director for the Office of North America.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

The Department of Commerce will submit to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance the following proposal for collection of information under the provisions of the