

International Trade Administration

[A-357-810]

Amended Preliminary Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Oil Country Tubular Goods From Argentina

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 10, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Beck or Jennifer Stagner, Office of Antidumping Investigations, Import Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC. 20230; telephone (202) 482-3464 or (202) 482-1673, respectively.

Scope of Investigation

For purposes of this investigation, OCTG are hollow steel products of circular cross-section, including oil well casing, tubing, and drill pipe, of iron (other than cast iron) or steel (both carbon and alloy), whether seamless or welded, whether or not conforming to American Petroleum Institute (API) or non-API specifications, whether finished or unfinished (including green tubes and limited service OCTG products). This investigation does not cover casing, tubing, or drill pipe containing 10.5 percent or more of chromium. The OCTG subject to this investigation is currently classified in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) under item numbers: 7304.20.10.00, 7304.20.10.10, 7304.20.10.20, 7304.20.10.30, 7304.20.10.40, 7304.20.10.50, 7304.20.10.60, 7304.20.10.80, 7304.20.20.00, 7304.20.20.10, 7304.20.20.20, 7304.20.20.30, 7304.20.20.40, 7304.20.20.50, 7304.20.20.60, 7304.20.20.80, 7304.20.30.00, 7304.20.30.10, 7304.20.30.20, 7304.20.30.30, 7304.20.30.40, 7304.20.30.50, 7304.20.30.60, 7304.20.30.80, 7304.20.40.00, 7304.20.40.10, 7304.20.40.20, 7304.20.40.30, 7304.20.40.40, 7304.20.40.50, 7304.20.40.60, 7304.20.40.80, 7304.20.50.10, 7304.20.50.15, 7304.20.50.30, 7304.20.50.45, 7304.20.50.50, 7304.20.50.60, 7304.20.50.75, 7304.20.60.10, 7304.20.60.15, 7304.20.60.30, 7304.20.60.45, 7304.20.60.50, 7304.20.60.60, 7304.20.60.75, 7304.20.70.00, 7304.20.80.00, 7304.20.80.30, 7304.20.80.45, 7304.20.80.60, 7305.20.20.00, 7305.20.40.00, 7305.20.60.00, 7305.20.80.00, 7306.20.10.30,

7306.20.10.90, 7306.20.20.00, 7306.20.30.00, 7306.20.40.00, 7306.20.60.10, 7306.20.60.50, 7306.20.80.10, and 7306.20.80.50.

Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, our written description of the scope of this investigation is dispositive.

Applicable Statute and Regulations

Unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the statute and to the Department's regulations are in reference to the provisions as they existed on December 31, 1994.

References to the Antidumping and Countervailing Duties: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Request for Public Comments (57 FR 1131, January 10, 1992) (concerning correction of ministerial errors in a preliminary determination), which were withdrawn on January 3, 1995 (60 FR 80), are provided solely for further explanation of the Department's practice and procedures with respect to correction of ministerial errors. The subject matter of these regulations is being considered in connection with an ongoing rulemaking proceeding which, among other things, is intended to conform the Department's regulations to the Uruguay Round Agreements Act.

Amendment of Preliminary Determination

In accordance with section 733(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act) (19 U.S.C. 1673b(b)), on February 2, 1995, the Department of Commerce (the Department) published its preliminary determination that OCTG from Argentina were being sold at less than fair value (60 FR 6503, February 2, 1995).

On February 3, 1995, Siderca S.A.I.C. (Siderca), the respondent in the investigation, timely alleged that the Department had made a ministerial error in its preliminary determination and requested that the Department correct this error. This alleged error involved different U.S. further manufacturing costs associated with the same control number. Siderca stated that the reported control numbers were based on the merchandise as imported into the United States. Certain products that were identical as imported and therefore had identical control numbers were further manufactured into different products with different corresponding costs.

Siderca argued that the Department incorrectly averaged different U.S. manufactured costs by imported product (i.e. control number) instead of matching the individual sales transactions with the submitted costs

applicable to that transaction. Siderca stated that correcting for the error would change the preliminary antidumping margin to 0.42%, a *de minimis* amount, and therefore the preliminary determination would be negative.

Pursuant to 19 CFR 353.28(c)(1994), the Department may correct "ministerial errors" in its calculations. A "ministerial error" is defined in 19 CFR 353.28(d)(1994) as "an error in addition, subtraction, or other arithmetic function, clerical error resulting from inaccurate copying, duplication, or the like, and any other type of unintentional error which the Secretary considers ministerial." We agreed with Siderca that matching sales to further manufacturing costs based on control number was a ministerial error (see the February 27, 1995, memorandum from the team to Barbara R. Stafford).

Furthermore, in accordance with the proposed regulations concerning the correction of ministerial errors, 19 CFR 353.15(g)(4)(ii) (57 FR 1131, 1133, January 10, 1992), the Department will correct ministerial errors in a preliminary determination if the errors constitute "significant ministerial errors." Under the proposed rules, a ministerial error would be "significant" if the correction of the error:

(A) Would result in a change of at least 5 absolute percentage points in, but not less than 25 percent of, the dumping margin calculated in the original (erroneous) preliminary determination; or

(B) Would result in a difference between a dumping margin of zero (or *de minimis*) and a margin of greater than *de minimis*.

After correcting for the ministerial error, the margin for Siderca changed to 0.42%, a *de minimis* amount. Therefore, this error is "significant" as defined in the Department's proposed regulations. Thus, the Department is hereby amending its preliminary determination to correct for this ministerial error.

Discontinuation of Suspension of Liquidation

Since the amended margin for Siderca is now *de minimis*, we are directing the Customs Service to discontinue suspending liquidation of all entries of OCTG from Argentina, as defined in the "Scope of Investigation" section of this notice, that are entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after February 2, 1995, the date of publication of the original preliminary determination in the **Federal Register**. Furthermore, we are directing the Customs Service to refund all cash deposits or postings of a bond which

have been collected on the subject merchandise from Argentina.

ITC Notification

In accordance with section 733(f) of the Act, we have notified the ITC of our amended preliminary determination.

In accordance with section 735(b)(3), if our final determination is affirmative, the ITC will determine whether these imports are materially injuring, or threaten material injury to, the U.S. industry within 75 days after the date of that affirmative final determination.

Public Comment

In accordance with 19 CFR 353.38, case briefs or other written comments in at least ten copies may be submitted by any interested party to the Assistant Secretary for Import Administration no later than May 2, 1995, and rebuttal briefs no later than May 9, 1995. We request that parties in this case provide an executive summary of no more than two pages in conjunction with case briefs on the major issues to be addressed. Further, briefs should contain a table of authorities. Citations to Commerce determinations and court decisions should include the page number where cited information appears. In preparing the briefs, please begin each issue on a separate page. In accordance with 19 CFR 353.38(b), we will hold a public hearing to give interested parties an opportunity to comment on arguments raised in case or rebuttal briefs. Tentatively, the hearing will be held on May 19, 1995, at 10:00 a.m. at the U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 1414, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230. Parties should confirm the time, date, and place of the hearing 48 hours before the scheduled time.

This determination is published pursuant to section 733(f) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1673b(f)) and 19 CFR 353.15(a)(4).

Dated: March 6, 1995.

Susan G. Esserman,

Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 95-6011 Filed 3-9-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

(A-570-839)

Notice of Postponement of Preliminary Antidumping Duty Determination: Certain Partial-Extension Steel Drawer Slides With Rollers From the People's Republic of China

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 10, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Brinkmann (202-482-5288) or Michelle Frederick (202-482-0186), Office of Antidumping Investigations, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230.

POSTPONEMENT OF PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION:

On November 21, 1994, the Department of Commerce ("the Department") initiated an antidumping duty investigation of certain partial-extension steel drawer slides with rollers ("drawer slides") from the People's Republic of China (PRC) (59 FR 60773, November 28, 1994). The notice of initiation stated that if this investigation proceeds normally, the Department would issue its preliminary determination on or before April 9, 1995.

On December 15, 1994, the U.S. International Trade Commission determined that there is a reasonable indication that a U.S. domestic industry is threatened with material injury by reason of imports of drawer slides from the PRC (59 FR 65787, December 21, 1994).

This investigation is rendered extraordinarily complicated by the novel issue of government ownership of exporters of subject merchandise. Furthermore, information available to the Department indicates that there are many producers/exporters of the subject merchandise. The process of identifying all exporters who sold subject merchandise to the United States during the POI caused significant delays in issuing our questionnaire. In addition, we determine at this time that respondent parties in this investigation appear to be cooperating.

For these reasons, pursuant to sections 733(c)(1)(B)(i) (II) and (III) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), we determine that this investigation is extraordinarily complicated and that additional time is necessary to make the preliminary determination in accordance with 733(c)(1)(B)(ii) of the Act. Therefore, we are postponing our preliminary determination in this investigation until no later than May 30, 1995.

This notice is published pursuant to section 733(c)(2) of the Act of 1930, as amended, and 19 CFR 353.15(d).

Dated: March 3, 1995.

Barbara R. Stafford,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Investigations, Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 95-6012 Filed 3-9-95; 8:45 am]

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National Institute of Standards and Technology

Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award's Board of Overseers

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, DOC.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the Board of Overseers of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award on Wednesday, April 5, 1995, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Board of Overseers consists of nine members prominent in the field of quality management and appointed by the Secretary of Commerce, assembled to advise the Secretary of Commerce on the conduct of the Baldrige Award. The purpose of the meeting on April 5, 1995, will be for the Board of Overseers to receive and then discuss reports from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Judges Panel of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. These reports and discussions will cover the following topics: overview of the Award process; status of the 1994/1995 Award cycles and application trends; update on pilot programs; status of legislation; the responsibility of Judges and Overseers; and technology transfer discussions regarding the Conference Board regional series, the Quest for Excellence Conference and State and local networks.

DATES: The meeting will convene April 5, 1995, at 8:30 a.m., and adjourn at 5 p.m. on April 5, 1995.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Administration Building Conference Room (seating capacity 36, includes 24 participants), Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dr. Curt W. Reimann, Director for Quality Programs, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, telephone number (301) 975-2036.