Background

On March 31, 1997, the Department of Commerce (the Department) received a request from Aceros Camesa, S.A. de C.V. (Camesa) for an antidumping duty administrative review of carbon steel wire rope from Mexico. On May 21, 1997, the Department published its initiation of this antidumping duty administrative review covering the period of March 1, 1996 through February 28, 1997 (62 FR 27721). Preliminary results were published on April 7, 1998 (63 FR 16967). A hearing was held on May 28, 1998.

Extension of Time Limit for Preliminary Results

Because of the complexities enumerated in the Memorandum from Joseph A. Spetrini to Robert S. LaRussa, Extension of Time Limit for the Final Results of Review of Steel Wire Rope from Mexico, dated August 3, 1998, it is not practicable to complete this review within the time limit mandated by section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Act.

Therefore, in accordance with section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Act, the Department is extending the time limit for the final results by 30 days to September 2, 1998.

Dated: August 3, 1998.

Roland L. MacDonald,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for AD/CVD Enforcement III.

[FR Doc. 98–21381 Filed 8–10–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A–570–501]

Natural Bristle Paintbrushes and Brush Heads From the People's Republic of China: Extension of Time Limits for Preliminary Results of Antidumping Administrative Review

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

ACTION: Notice of Extension of Time Limits For Preliminary Results of Antidumping Administrative Review.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 11, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eric Scheier or Maureen Flannery, AD/CVD Enforcement, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230; telephone: (202) 482–4052 or (202)482–3020, respectively.

The Applicable Statute

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.

Background

The Department of Commerce (the Department) received a request from petitioner and a respondent to conduct an administrative review of the antidumping duty order on natural bristle paintbrushes and brush heads from the People's Republic of China. On March 23, 1998 (63 FR 13837), the Department published its initiation of this administrative review covering the period February 1, 1997 through January 31, 1998.

Extension of Time Limits for Preliminary Results

By law, the Department is required to verify the Hebei Animal By-Products I/E Corp. *See* 19 CFR 351.307(b)(5)(A) and (B). At this time, it is not practicable to schedule a verification within the time limits set for the completion of an administrative review mandated by section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Act. *See* Memorandum from Joseph A. Spetrini to Robert S. LaRussa, Extension of Time Limit for the Administrative Review of Natural Bristle Paintbrushes and Brush Heads from The PRC., dated July 24, 1998.

Therefore, in accordance with section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Act, the Department is extending the time limits for the preliminary results an additional sixty days to December 31, 1998. The final results continues to be due 120 days after the publication of the preliminary results.

Dated: July 24, 1998.

Joseph A. Spetrini,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for AD/CVD Enforcement III.

[FR Doc. 98–21530 Filed 8–10–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[C–559–001]

Preliminary Results of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review; Certain Refrigeration Compressors From the Republic of Singapore

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 11, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maria K. Dybczak or Rick Johnson, Office of Antidumping/Countervailing Duty Enforcement, Group III, Office IX, Import Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 1874, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230; telephone (202) 482–1398, or 482–3818, respectively.

SUMMARY: In response to requests by the Government of the Republic of Singapore (GOS), Matsushita Refrigeration Industries (Singapore) Pte. Ltd. (MARIS), Asia Matsushita Electric (Singapore) Pte. Ltd. (AMS), and the petitioner, Tecumseh Products Company (Tecumseh), the Department of Commerce (the Department) is conducting an administrative review of the agreement suspending the countervailing duty investigation on certain refrigeration compressors from the Republic of Singapore. This review covers the GOS, MARIS, and AMS. AMS was the sole exporter of the subject merchandise to the United States during the period April 1, 1996, through March 31, 1997, the period of review (POR). We preliminarily determine that the signatories have complied with the terms of the suspension agreement during the POR.

Interested parties are invited to comment on these preliminary results. Parties who submit arguments in this proceeding are requested to submit with their argument (1) a statement of the issue and (2) a brief summary of the argument.

Applicable Statute

Unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (''the Act''), are references to the provisions effective January 1, 1995, the effective date of the amendments made to the Act by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (''URAA''). In addition, unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the Department's regulations are to the regulations set forth at 19 C.F.R. part 351 (62 FR 27296, May 19, 1997).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On November 25, 1997, the GOS, MARIS, and AMS, requested an administrative review of the agreement suspending the countervailing duty investigation on certain refrigeration compressors from the Republic of Singapore (*Certain Refrigeration Compressors from the Republic of Singapore: Suspension of Countervailing Duty Investigation,* (''*Refrigeration Compressors*'') 48 FR 51167, 51170 (November 7, 1983)). On

November 26, 1997, petitioner also requested an administrative review of the agreement suspending the countervailing duty investigation on certain refrigeration compressors from the Republic of Singapore. We initiated the review on December 23, 1997 (*Initiation of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Administrative Reviews,* 62 FR 67044 (December 23, 1997)). The Department is now conducting this review in accordance with section 751 of the Tariff Act and 19 CFR 351.221. The Department issued a questionnaire on January 23, 1998, and received a joint questionnaire response from the GOS, MARIS, and AMS, on March 23, 1998. The Department sent out two supplemental questionnaires on April 10, and May 8, 1998, and received joint supplemental questionnaire responses to each questionnaire on April 24, and May 22, 1998, respectively.

Scope of the Review

Imports covered by this review are shipments of hermetic refrigeration compressors rated not over one-quarter horsepower from Singapore. This merchandise is currently classified under *Harmonized Tariff Schedule* (HTS) item number 8414.30.40. The HTS item number is provided for convenience and Customs purposes. The written description remains dispositive.

The review period is April 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997, and includes 2 programs. The review covers one producer and one exporter of the subject merchandise, MARIS and AMS, respectively. These two companies, along with the GOS, are the signatories to the suspension agreement.

Under the terms of the suspension agreement, the GOS agrees to offset completely the amount of the net bounty or grant determined to exist by the Department in this proceeding with respect to the subject merchandise. The offset entails the collection by the GOS of an export charge applicable to the subject merchandise exported on or after the effective date of the agreement. *See Refrigeration Compressors,* 48 FR 51167, 51170 (November 7, 1983).

Analysis of Programs

(1) The Economic Expansion Incentives Act—Part VI

The Production for Export Programme under Part VI of the Economic Expansion Incentives Act allows a 90-percent tax exemption on a company's export profit if the GOS designates a company as an export enterprise. In the investigation, the Department preliminarily found this program to be countervailable because ''this tax exemption is provided only to certified export enterprises.'' *See Preliminary Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination: Certain Refrigeration Compressors from the Republic of Singapore,* 48 FR 39109, 39110 (August 29, 1983). MARIS is designated as an export enterprise and used this tax exemption during the period of review. AMS was not designated an export enterprise under Part VI of this Economic Expansion Incentives Act for this period of review.

According to the Export Enterprise Cettificate awarded to MARIS in a letter dated May 12, 1981, MARIS is to receive this benefit on the production of compressors, electrical parts and accessories for refrigerators, and plastic refrigerators. To calculate the benefit, we divided the tax savings claimed by MARIS under this program by the f.o.b. value of total exports of products receiving the benefit for the period of review.

MARIS' response to the Department's countervailing duty questionnaire for this review shows that MARIS deducted export charges levied pursuant to the suspension agreement in arriving at an adjusted profit figure, which was then used to calculate exempt export profit for the review period. In the 90–91 administrative review, the Department determined that the amount of the export charge deduction must be added ''back to MARIS' export profit in calculating MARIS' tax savings in order to offset the deduction of the export charges in the review period.'' *See Preliminary Results of Countervailing Duty Review: Certain Refrigeration Compressors from Singapore,* 57 FR 31175 (July 14, 1992), affirmed in *Final Results of Countervailing Duty Review: Certain Refrigeration Compressors from Singapore,* 57 FR 46539 (October 9, 1992). Therefore, as the Department did in the 92–93 administrative review, in calculating the benefit from this program, we have added back this deduction, as we have since the 92–93 period of review. On this basis, we preliminarily determine the benefit from this program during the review period to be 0.56 percent of the f.o.b. value of the merchandise.

(2) Financing Through the Monetary Authority of Singapore

Under the terms of the suspension agreement, MARIS and AMS agreed not to appy for or receive any financing provided by the rediscount facility of the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) for shipments of the subject merchandise to the United States. In their response, respondents reported that, during the period of review, neither MARIS nor AMS received any financing through the MAS on subject merchandise exported to the United States. Therefore, we preliminarily determine that both companies have complied with this clause of the agreement.

Preliminary Results of Review

The suspension agreement states that the GOS will offset completely with an export charge the net bounty or grant calculated by the Department. We preliminarily determine that the signatories have complied with the terms of the suspension agreement, including the payment of the provisional export charges in effect for the period April 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997. We also preliminarily determine the net bounty or grant to be 0.56 percent of the f.o.b. value of the merchandise for the April 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997 review period.

Following the methodology outlined in section B.4 of the agreement, the Department preliminarily determines that, for the period April 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997, a negative adjustment may be made to the provisional export charge rate in effect. The adjustments will equal the difference between the provisional rate in effect during the review period and the rate determined in this review, plus interest. The provisional rate, established in the notice of the final results of the 10th administrative reviews of the suspension agreement (*See Certain Refrigeration Compressors from the Republic of Singapore: Final Results of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review,* 61 FR 10315 (March 13, 1996)) was 3.00 percent. This rate was in effect from April 1, 1996 through August 27, 1996. The provisional rate, established in the notice of the final results of the 11th administrative reviews of the suspension agreement (*See Certain Refrigeration Compressors from the Republic of Singapore: Final Results of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review,* 61 FR 44296 (August 28, 1996)) was 2.22 percent. This rate was in effect from August 28, 1996 through March 31, 1997. If the Department's preliminary results do not change in the final, we will notify the GOS that it may refund or credit, in accordance with section B.4.c of the agreement, the difference between the two provision rates noted above and the 0.56 percent, plus interest, calculated in accordance with section 778(b) of the Tariff Act, within 30 days of notification by the Department. The Department will notify

the GOS of these adjustments after publication of the final results of this review.

Furthermore, if the final results of this review remain the same as these preliminary results, the Department intends to notify the GOS that the provisional export charge rate on all exports to the United States with Outward Declarations filed on or after the date of publication of the final results of this administrative review shall be 0.56 percent of the f.o.b value of the merchandise.

The agreement can remain in force only as long as shipments from the signatories account for at least 85 percent of imports of the subject refrigeration compressors into the United States. Our information indicates that the two signatory companies accounted for 100 percent of imports into the United States from Singapore of this merchandise during the review period.

Parties to the proceeding may request disclosure within 5 days of the date of publication of this notice. Any interested party may request a hearing within 10 days of publication. Case briefs and/or written comments from interested parties may be submitted no later than 30 days after the date of publication. Rebuttal briefs and rebuttals to written comments, limited to issues raised in the case briefs and comments, may be filed not later than 37 days after the date of publication of this notice. Any hearing, if requested, will be held 44 days after the date of publication, or the first workday thereafter. The Department will publish the final results of this administrative review including the results of its analysis of issues raised in any such written comments or at a hearing.

These requirements, when imposed, shall remain in effect until publication of the final results of the next administrative review. This administrative review and this notice are in accordance with section 751(a)(1) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1675(a)(1)) and 19 CFR 351.221.

Dated: August 3, 1998.

Robert S. LaRussa,

Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 98–21531 Filed 8–10–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 080498A]

Advisory Committee and Species Working Group Technical Advisor Appointments

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Nominations.

SUMMARY: NMFS is soliciting nominations to the Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) as established by the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA). NMFS is also soliciting nominations for technical advisors to the Advisory Committee's species working groups.

DATES: Nominations are due by September 25, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Nominations to the Advisory Committee or to a species working group should be sent to: Mr. Rolland A. Schmitten, Assistant Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Department of Commerce, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, with a copy sent to Kim Blankenbeker, International Fisheries Division, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Room 13114, NMFS, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kim Blankenbeker, 301–713–2276.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 971b of the ATCA (16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*) requires that an advisory committee be established that shall be composed of (1) not less than five nor more than 20 individuals appointed by the U.S. Commissioners to ICCAT who shall select such individuals from the various groups concerned with the fisheries covered by the ICCAT Convention; and (2) the chairs (or their designees) of the New England, Mid-Atlantic, South Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf Fishery Management Councils. Each member of the Advisory Committee appointed under item (1) above shall serve for a term of 2 years and shall be eligible for reappointment. Members of the Advisory Committee may attend all public meetings of the ICCAT Commission, Council, or any Panel and any other meetings to which they are invited by the ICCAT Commission, Council, or any Panel. The Advisory Committee shall be invited to attend all nonexecutive meetings of the U.S. Commissioners to ICCAT and, at such meetings, shall be given the opportunity to examine and to be heard on all proposed programs of investigation, reports, recommendations, and regulations of the ICCAT Commission. Members of the Advisory Committee shall receive no compensation for their services as such members. The Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of State may pay the necessary travel expenses of members of the Advisory Committee.

There are currently 20 appointed Advisory Committee members. The terms of these members expire on December 31, 1998. New appointments will be made this Fall, but will not take effect until January 1, 1999.

Section 971b–1 of the ATCA specifies that the U.S. Commissioners may establish species working groups for the purpose of providing advice and recommendations to the U.S. Commissioners and the Advisory Committee on matters relating to the conservation and management of any highly migratory species covered by the ICCAT Convention. Any species working group shall consist of no more than seven members of the Advisory Committee and no more than four scientific or technical personnel, as considered necessary by the Commissioners. Currently, there are four species working groups advising the Committee and the U.S. Commissioners. Specifically, there is a Bluefin Tuna Working Group, a Swordfish Working Group, a Billfish Working Group, and a BAYS (Bigeye, Albacore, Yellowfin, and Skipjack) Working Group. Technical Advisors to species working groups serve at the pleasure of the U.S. Commissioners; therefore, the Commissioners can choose to alter appointments at any time.

Nominations to the Advisory Committee or to a species working group should include a letter of interest and a resume or curriculum vitae. Letters of recommendation are useful but not required. Self-nominations are acceptable. When making a nomination, please clearly specify which appointment (Advisory Committee member or technical advisor to a species working group) is being sought. Requesting consideration for placement on both the Advisory Committee and a species working group is acceptable. Those interested in a species working group technical advisor appointment should indicate which of the four working groups is preferred. Placement on the requested species working group, however, is not guaranteed.