

stainless steel wire rod from Taiwan, pursuant to section 736(a) of the Act. Interested parties may contact the Central Records Unit, Room B-099 of the Main Commerce Building, for copies of an updated list of antidumping duty orders currently in effect.

This order is published in accordance with section 736(a) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.211.

Dated: September 10, 1998.

Richard W. Moreland,
Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION

[C-475-821]

Notice of Countervailing Duty Order: Stainless Steel Wire Rod From Italy

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 15, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathleen Lockard or Eric B. Greynolds, Office of CVD/AD Enforcement VI, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230; telephone: (202) 482-2786.

The Applicable Statute and Regulations

Unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the statute are references to the provisions of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act effective January 1, 1995 (the Act). In addition, unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the Department's regulations are to the current regulations codified at 19 CFR 351 and published in the **Federal Register** on May 19, 1997 (62 FR 27295).

Scope of Order

For purposes of this order, stainless steel wire rod (SSWR), comprises products that are hot-rolled or hot-rolled annealed and/or pickled and/or descaled rounds, squares, octagons, hexagons or other shapes, in coils, that may also be coated with a lubricant containing copper, lime or oxalate. SSWR is made of alloy steels containing, by weight, 1.2 percent or less of carbon and 10.5 percent or more of chromium, with or without other elements. These products are

manufactured only by hot-rolling or hot-rolling, annealing, and/or pickling and/or descaling, and are normally sold in coiled form, and are of solid cross-section. The majority of SSWR sold in the United States is round in cross-sectional shape, annealed and pickled, and later cold-finished into stainless steel wire or small-diameter bar.

The most common size for such products is 5.5 millimeters or 0.217 inches in diameter, which represents the smallest size that normally is produced on a rolling mill and is the size that most wire drawing machines are set up to draw. The range of SSWR sizes normally sold in the United States is between 0.20 inches and 1.312 inches in diameter. Two stainless steel grades SF20T and K-M35FL are excluded from the scope of the order. The percentages of chemical make-up for the excluded grades are as follows:

SF20T

- Carbon—0.05 max
- Manganese—2.00 max
- Phosphorous—0.05 max
- Sulfur—0.15 max
- Silicon—1.00 max
- Chromium—19.00/21.00
- Molybdenum—1.50/2.50
- Lead—added (0.10/0.30)
- Tellurium—added (0.03 min)

K-M35FL

- Carbon—0.015 max
- Silicon—0.70/1.00
- Manganese—0.40 max
- Phosphorous—0.04 max
- Sulfur—0.03 max
- Nickel—0.30 max
- Chromium—12.50/14.00
- Lead—0.10/0.30
- Aluminum—0.20/0.35

The products subject to this order are currently classifiable under subheadings 7221.00.0005, 7221.00.0015, 7221.00.0030, 7221.00.0045, and 7221.00.0075 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 is dispositive.

Countervailing Duty Order

In accordance with section 705(d) of the Act, on July 29, 1998, the Department published its final determination in the countervailing duty investigation of certain stainless steel wire rod from Italy (63 FR 40474). On September 8, 1998, in accordance with section 705(d) of the Act, the International Trade Commission (ITC) notified the Department of its final determination, pursuant to section 705(b)(1)(A)(i) of the Act, that an

industry in the United States suffered material injury as a result of subsidized imports of stainless steel wire rod from Italy.

Therefore, countervailing duties will be assessed on all unliquidated entries of SSWR from Italy entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after January 7, 1998, the date on which the Department published its preliminary countervailing duty determination in the **Federal Register**, and before May 7, 1998, the date the Department instructed the U.S. Customs Service to terminate the suspension of liquidation in accordance with section 703(d) of the Act, and on all entries and withdrawals on or after the date of publication of this countervailing duty order in the **Federal Register**. Section 703(d) states that the suspension of liquidation pursuant to a preliminary determination may not remain in effect for more than four months. Entries of SSWR made on or after May 7, 1998, and prior to the date of publication of this order in the **Federal Register** are not liable for the assessment of countervailing duties due to the Department's termination, effective May 7, 1998, of the suspension of liquidation.

In accordance with section 706 of the Act, the Department will direct U.S. Customs officers to reinstitute suspension of liquidation and to assess, upon further advice by the Department pursuant to section 706(a)(1) of the Act, countervailing duties for each entry of the subject merchandise in an amount based on the net countervailable subsidy rate for the subject merchandise.

On or after the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, U.S. Customs officers must require, at the same time as importers would normally deposit estimated duties on this merchandise, a cash deposit equal to the countervailable subsidy rates noted below. The All Others rate applies to all producers and exporters of SSWR from Italy not specifically listed below. The cash deposit rates are as follows:

AD VALOREM RATE

Producer/Exporter	Net Subsidy Rate %
Cogne Acciai Speciali S.r.l.	22.22
Acciaierie Valbruna S.r.l./Acciaierie di Bolzano S.p.A.	1.28
All Others	13.85

This notice constitutes the countervailing duty order with respect to stainless steel wire rod from Italy, pursuant to section 706(a) of the Act.

Interested parties may contact the Central Records Unit, Room B-099 of the Main Commerce Building, for copies of an updated list of countervailing duty orders currently in effect.

This countervailing duty order is published in accordance with section 706(a) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.211.

Dated: September 10, 1998.

Richard W. Moreland,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Judges Panel of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award; Meeting

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of closed meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, notice is hereby given that there will be a closed meeting of the Judges Panel of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award on Thursday, September 24, 1998. The Judges Panel is composed of nine members prominent in the field of quality management and appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. The purpose of this meeting is to review the consensus process, determine possible conflict of interest for site visited companies, select applicants for site visits, begin stage III of the judging process, and review of feedback to first stage applicants. The applications under review contain trade secrets and proprietary commercial information submitted to the Government in confidence.

DATE: The meeting will convene September 24, 1998 at 8:00 a.m. and adjourn at 4:00 p.m. on September 24, 1998. The entire meeting will be closed.

ADDRESS: The meeting will be held at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Administration Building Conference Room, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Harry Hertz, Director, National Quality Program, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, telephone number (301) 975-2361.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the General

Counsel, formally determined on May 22, 1998, that the meeting of the Judges Panel will be closed pursuant to Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, as amended by Section 5(c) of the Government in the Sunshine Act, P.L. 94-409. The meeting, which involves examination of records and discussion of Award applicant data, may be closed to the public in accordance with Section 552b(c)(4) of Title 5, United States Code, since the meeting is likely to disclose trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential.

Dated: September 10, 1998.

Robert E. Hebner,

Acting Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. 98-24740 Filed 9-14-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 090498C]

Endangered Species; Permits

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

ACTION: Receipt of application for a scientific research permit (1178); Issuance of a scientific research permit (1155).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following actions regarding permits for takes of endangered and threatened species for the purposes of scientific research and/or enhancement: NMFS has received a permit application from Michael P. Sissenwine, Ph.D., Science and Research Director, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, NMFS (NEFSC) (1178); and NMFS has issued a scientific research permit to Dr. Tim King, of US Geological Survey - BRD - Leetown Science Center (LSC) (1155).

DATES: Written comments or requests for a public hearing on the application must be received on or before October 15, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The applications, permit, and related documents are available for review in the following offices, by appointment:

Director, Northeast Region, NMFS, NOAA, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA, 01930-2298 (978-281-9250); and

Office of Protected Resources, F/PR3, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226 (301-713-1401).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For permit 1155: Terri Jordan, Endangered Species Division, Silver Spring, MD (301-713-1401).

For permit 1178: Michelle Rogers, Endangered Species Division, Silver Spring, MD (301-713-1401).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority

Permits are requested and issued under the authority of section 10 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543) and the NMFS regulations governing ESA-listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR parts 217-227).

Those individuals requesting a hearing on the request for a permit should set out the specific reasons why a hearing would be appropriate (see **ADDRESSES**). The holding of such a hearing is at the discretion of the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA. All statements and opinions contained in the below application summaries are those of the applicant and do not necessarily reflect the views of NMFS.

New Application Received

NEFSC (1178) has requested a 5-year scientific research permit for listed sea turtles incidentally taken in fisheries in the Northwest Atlantic. The work will be conducted by scientific observers aboard such vessels. The following species and take numbers have been requested: 300 loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), 85 leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), 10 Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempi*), 10 hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and 10 green (*Chelonia mydas*) turtles. The applicant has requested authorization to measure, photograph, flipper tag, scan for PIT tags, resuscitate (if necessary) and release turtles taken in foreign and domestic commercial fishing vessels operating in state waters and the Exclusive Economic Zone. Further, the applicant has requested authority to bring to shore, when feasible, dead sea turtles for necropsy. Necropsy will only be performed by personnel currently permitted to conduct such research. This research supports the National Marine Fisheries Service's mission of assessing the impacts of commercial fisheries on marine resources of interest to the United States.

Permit Issued

Notice was published on June 3, 1998 (63 FR 30199), that an application had been filed by LSC for a 5-year permit to possess the DNA of listed shortnose surgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*).