

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigations Nos. 701-TA-373 (Final) and 731-TA-769-775 (Final)]

### Stainless Steel Wire Rod<sup>1</sup> From Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Spain, Sweden, and Taiwan

#### Determinations

On the basis of the record<sup>2</sup> developed in the subject investigations, the United States International Trade Commission determines,<sup>3</sup> pursuant to section 705(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (the Act) (19 U.S.C. 1671d(b)), that an industry in the United States is materially injured by reason of imports from Italy of stainless steel wire rod, provided for in subheading 7221.00.00 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, that have been found by the Department of Commerce to be subsidized by the Government of Italy and the European Union.

Also, the Commission determines,<sup>4</sup> pursuant to section 735(b) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1673d(b)), that an industry in the United States is materially injured by reason of imports from Italy, Japan, Korea, Spain, Sweden, and Taiwan of stainless steel wire rod that have been

<sup>1</sup> For purposes of these investigations, stainless steel wire rod is defined as stainless steel products that are hot-rolled or hot-rolled annealed 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. Stainless steel wire rod 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. Stainless steel wire rod is manufactured only by hot-rolling or hot-rolling, annealing, and/or pickling and/or descaling, is normally sold in coiled form, and is of solid cross section. Most stainless steel wire rod 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 stainless steel wire rod is 5.5 millimeters (0.217 inch) 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 stainless steel wire rod sizes normally sold in the United States is between 0.20 inch and 1.312 inches in diameter. Stainless steel wire rod grades SF20T and K-M35FL are excluded from the scope of these investigations; additionally, grades Kanthal A-1, Kanthal AF, Kanthal A, Kanthal D, Kanthal DT, Alkrothal 14, Alkrothal 720, and Nikrothal 40 are excluded from the investigation concerning Sweden. Stainless steel wire rod is provided for in subheading 7221.00.00 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) with a 1998 column 1-general tariff rate of 2.8 percent *ad valorem*, applicable to products of each of the subject countries.

<sup>2</sup> The record is defined in sec. 207.2(f) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR § 207.2(f)).

<sup>3</sup> Commissioners Carol T. Crawford and Thelma J. Askey dissenting and Commissioner Jennifer A. Hillman not participating.

<sup>4</sup> Commissioners Carol T. Crawford and Thelma J. Askey dissenting and Commissioner Jennifer A. Hillman not participating.

found by the Department of Commerce to be sold in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV).

Further, the Commission determines, pursuant to sections 735(b) and 771(24) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1673d(b) and 1677(24)), that an industry in the United States is not threatened with material injury by reason of imports from Germany of stainless steel wire rod that have been found by the Department of Commerce to be sold in the United States at LTFV.<sup>5 6 7 8</sup>

#### Background

The Commission instituted these investigations effective July 30, 1997, following receipt of a petition filed with the Commission and the Department of Commerce by counsel on behalf of AL Tech Specialty Steel Corp., Dunkirk, NY; Carpenter Technology Corp., Reading, PA; Republic Engineered Steels, Inc., Massillon, OH; Talley Metals Technology, Inc., Hartsville, SC; and the United Steelworkers of America, AFL-CIO/CLC. The final phase of the investigations was scheduled by the Commission following notification of preliminary determinations by the Department of Commerce that imports of stainless steel wire rod from Italy were being subsidized within the meaning of section 703(b) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1671b(b)) and imports of stainless steel wire rod from Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Spain, Sweden, and Taiwan were being sold at LTFV within the meaning of section 733(b) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1673b(b)). Notice of the scheduling of the Commission's investigations and of a public hearing to be held in connection therewith was given by posting copies of the notice in the Office of the Secretary, U.S. International Trade Commission, Washington, DC, and by publishing the notice in the **Federal Register** of March 23, 1998 (63 FR 13872). The hearing was held in Washington, DC, on July 22, 1998, and all persons who requested the opportunity were permitted to appear in person or by counsel.

<sup>5</sup> Pursuant to 19 U.S.C. § 1677(24)(A)(i) and (iv), the Commission also finds that subject imports from Germany account for less than 3 percent of the volume of all such merchandise imported into the United States in the most recent 12-month period preceding the filing of the petition, but (Commissioner Carol T. Crawford dissenting) that there is a potential that such imports from Germany will imminently account for more than 3 percent of total import volume of all such merchandise.

<sup>6</sup> Commissioner Carol T. Crawford finds subject imports from Germany to be negligible.

<sup>7</sup> Chairman Lynn M. Bragg finds a threat of material injury by reason of subject German imports.

<sup>8</sup> Commissioner Jennifer A. Hillman not participating.

The Commission transmitted its determinations in these investigations to the Secretary of Commerce on September 8, 1998. The views of the Commission are contained in USITC Publication 3126 (September 1998), entitled Stainless Steel Wire Rod From Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Spain, Sweden, and Taiwan: Investigations Nos. 701-TA-373 (Final) and 731-TA-769-775 (Final).

By order of the Commission.

Issued: September 10, 1998.

**Donna R. Koehnke,**

Secretary.

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## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

### Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration

[Prohibited Transaction Exemption 98-43; Exemption Application No. D-10547, et al.]

**Grant of Individual Exemptions; Individual Retirement Accounts (the IRAs) for Marcia A. Hendrichsen, Larry L. Hendrichsen, Lawrence D. Hendrichsen, Located in Burlington, IA; William H. Napier, George Rashid, Jr., Jake E. Rashid, Carl A. Saunders, and John C. Schuldt, Located in Fort Madison, IA (Collectively, the Participants), et al.**

**AGENCY:** Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration, Labor.

**ACTION:** Grant of individual exemptions.

**SUMMARY:** This document contains exemptions issued by the Department of Labor (the Department) from certain of the prohibited transaction restrictions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (the Act) and/or the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the Code).

Notices were published in the **Federal Register** of the pendency before the Department of proposals to grant such exemptions. The notices set forth a summary of facts and representations contained in each application for exemption and referred interested persons to the respective applications for a complete statement of the facts and representations. The applications have been available for public inspection at the Department in Washington, D.C. The notices also invited interested persons to submit comments on the requested exemptions to the Department. In addition the notices stated that any interested person might submit a written request that a public hearing be held (where appropriate). The