

results of changed circumstances review and intent to revoke the countervailing duty order on certain hot-rolled lead and bismuth carbon steel products from Germany (65 FR 2582). We are now revoking this order, retroactive to January 1, 1998, based on the fact that the domestic producers are no longer interested in its continued maintenance.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 9, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert Copyak, AD/CVD Enforcement Office 6, Group II, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone (202) 482-2786.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Applicable Statute and Regulations

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 codified at 19 CFR Part 351 (April 1999).

Background

On November 24, 1999, Ispat Inland Inc. (Ispat) and Republic Technologies International (RTI) (the successors to the petitioners in this proceeding) and domestic producer Birmingham Steel Corporation (BSC) (collectively, the domestic producers) requested that the Department conduct a changed circumstances review to revoke the countervailing duty order on certain hot-rolled lead and bismuth carbon steel products from Germany retroactive to January 1, 1998. They stated that circumstances have changed such that they no longer have an interest in maintaining the countervailing duty order. They also stated that they represent approximately 85 to 90 percent of the domestic production of the like product to which the order pertains. On January 5, 2000, the domestic producers submitted a letter withdrawing their request for the administrative review of the period January 1, 1998, through December 31, 1998.

On January 7, 2000, we preliminarily determined that the affirmative statement of no interest by the domestic producers constituted changed circumstances sufficient to warrant revocation of this order. Consequently, on January 18, 2000, we published a notice of rescission of countervailing

duty administrative review and initiation and preliminary results of changed circumstances review and intent to revoke the countervailing duty order (65 FR 2581). We invited interested parties to comment on the preliminary results of this changed circumstances review and intent to revoke order. We received no comments.

Scope of Review

The products covered are hot-rolled bars and rods of nonalloy or other alloy steel, whether or not descaled, containing by weight 0.03 percent or more of lead or 0.05 percent or more of bismuth, in coils or cut lengths, and in numerous shapes and sizes. Excluded from the scope are other alloy steels (as defined by the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) Chapter 72, note 1(f)), except steels classified as other alloy steels by reasons of containing by weight 0.4 percent or more of lead, or 0.1 percent or more of bismuth, tellurium, or selenium. Also excluded are semi-finished steels and flat-rolled products. Most of the products covered in this review are provided for under subheadings 7213.20.00.00 and 7214.30.00.00 of the HTSUS. Small quantities of these products may also enter the United States under the following HTSUS subheadings: 7213.31.30.00; 7213.31.60.00; 7213.39.00.30; 7213.39.00.60; 7213.39.00.90; 7213.91.30.00; 7213.91.45.00; 7213.91.60.00; 7213.99.00; 7214.40.00.10, 7214.40.00.30, 7214.40.00.50; 7214.50.00.10; 7214.50.00.30, 7214.50.00.50; 7214.60.00.10; 7214.60.00.30; 7214.60.00.50; 7214.91.00; 7214.99.00; 7228.30.80.00; and 7228.30.80.50. HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and Customs purposes. The written description of the scope of this proceeding is dispositive.

Final Results of Changed Circumstances Review and Revocation of Order

Pursuant to section 751(d)(1) of the Act, the Department may revoke, in whole or in part, a countervailing duty order based on a review under section 751(b) of the Act (*i.e.*, a changed circumstances review). Section 751(b)(1) of the Act requires a changed circumstances review to be conducted upon receipt of a request containing sufficient information concerning changed circumstances.

The Department's regulations at 19 CFR 351.216(d) require the Department to conduct a changed circumstances

review in accordance with 19 CFR 351.221 if it decides that changed circumstances sufficient to warrant a review exist. Section 782(h) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.222(g)(1)(i) provide further that the Department may revoke an order, in whole or in part, if it concludes that the order under review is no longer of interest to producers accounting for substantially all of the production of the domestic like product.

Ispat, RTI, and BSC are domestic interested parties as defined by section 771(9)(E) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.102(b) and represent substantially all of the production of the domestic like product. Based on the affirmative statement by the domestic producers of no interest in the continued application of the order and the fact that no interested parties objected to our preliminary results of this review, we determine that there are changed circumstances sufficient to warrant revocation of the order. Therefore, the Department is revoking the countervailing duty order on certain hot-rolled lead and bismuth carbon steel products from Germany, retroactive to January 1, 1998.

In accordance with 19 CFR 351.222(g)(4), we will instruct the Customs Service to end the suspension of liquidation and to refund any estimated countervailing duties collected for all unliquidated entries of certain hot-rolled lead and bismuth carbon steel products from Germany on or after, January 1, 1998. We will also instruct the Customs Service to pay interest on such refunds in accordance with section 778 of the Act.

This changed circumstances review, revocation of the countervailing duty order, and notice are in accordance with sections 751(b), 751(d) and 782(h) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.216 and 351.222.

Dated: March 1, 2000.

Joseph A. Spetrini

Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 00-5804 Filed 3-8-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

North American Free-Trade Agreement, Article 1904 NAFTA Panel Reviews; Request for Panel Review

AGENCY: NAFTA Secretariat, United States Section, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of First Request for Panel Review.

SUMMARY: On February 29, 2000, Stelco, Inc. filed a First Request for Panel Review with the United States Section of the NAFTA Secretariat pursuant to Article 1904 of the North American Free Trade Agreement. Panel review was requested of the final antidumping duty administrative review determination made by the International Trade Administration, respecting Certain Corrosion-Resistant Carbon Steel Flat Products from Canada. This determination was published in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 9243) on February 24, 2000. The NAFTA Secretariat has assigned Case Number USA-CDA-00-1904-02 to this request.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caratina L. Alston, United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat, Suite 2061, 14th and Constitution Avenue, Washington, DC 20230, (202) 482-5438.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Chapter 19 of the North American Free-Trade Agreement ("Agreement") establishes a mechanism to replace domestic judicial review of final determinations in antidumping and countervailing duty cases involving imports from a NAFTA country with review by independent binational panels. When a Request for Panel Review is filed, a panel is established to act in place of national courts to review expeditiously the final determination to determine whether it conforms with the antidumping or countervailing duty law of the country that made the determination.

Under Article 1904 of the Agreement, which came into force on January 1, 1994, the Government of the United States, the Government of Canada and the Government of Mexico established *Rules of Procedure for Article 1904 Binational Panel Reviews* ("Rules"). These Rules were published in the **Federal Register** on February 23, 1994 (59 FR 8686).

A first Request for Panel Review was filed with the United States Section of the NAFTA Secretariat, pursuant to Article 1904 of the Agreement, on February 29, 2000, requesting panel review of the final antidumping duty administrative review described above.

The Rules provide that:

(a) A Party or interested person may challenge the final determination in whole or in part by filing a Complaint in accordance with Rule 39 within 30 days after the filing of the first Request for Panel Review (the deadline for filing a Complaint is March 30, 2000);

(b) A Party, investigating authority or interested person that does not file a Complaint but that intends to appear in

support of any reviewable portion of the final determination may participate in the panel review by filing a Notice of Appearance in accordance with Rule 40 within 45 days after the filing of the first Request for Panel Review (the deadline for filing a Notice of Appearance is April 14, 2000); and

(c) The panel review shall be limited to the allegations of error of fact or law, including the jurisdiction of the investigating authority, that are set out in the Complaints filed in the panel review and the procedural and substantive defenses raised in the panel review.

Dated: March 1, 2000.

Caratina L. Alston,

United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat.
[FR Doc. 00-5609 Filed 3-8-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-GT-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

North American Free-Trade Agreement, Article 1904 NAFTA Panel Reviews; Request for Panel Review

AGENCY: NAFTA Secretariat, United States Section, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of first request for panel review.

SUMMARY: On February 29, 2000, Stelco, Inc. filed a First Request for Panel Review with the United States Section of the NAFTA Secretariat pursuant to Article 1904 of the North American Free Trade Agreement. Panel review was requested of the final antidumping duty administrative review determination made by the International Trade Administration, respecting Certain Cut-to-Length Carbon Steel Plate from Canada. This determination was published in the **Federal Register** (65 FR 9243) on February 24, 2000. The NAFTA Secretariat has assigned Case Number USA-CDA-00-1904-01 to this request.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Caratina L. Alston, United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat, Suite 2061, 14th and Constitution Avenue, Washington, DC 20230, (202) 482-5438.

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(c) The panel review shall be limited to the allegations of error of fact or law, including the jurisdiction of the investigating authority, that are set out in the Complaints filed in the panel review and the procedural and substantive defenses raised in the panel review.

Dated: March 1, 2000.

Caratina L. Alston,

United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat.
[FR Doc. 00-5608 Filed 3-8-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-GT-P