

U.S. Department of Commerce, Export Assistance Center, 615 Chestnut St., Suite 1501, Philadelphia, PA 19106
Office of the Executive Secretary, Foreign-Trade Zones Board, Room 4008, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230

Dated: November 17, 2000.

Dennis Puccinelli,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 00-30563 Filed 11-29-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Docket 63-2000]

Foreign-Trade Zone 185C—Culpeper County Chamber of Commerce Expansion of Facilities and Manufacturing Authority—Subzone 185C, Merck & Co., Inc. Plant (Pharmaceuticals), Elkton, Virginia

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) by the Culpeper County Chamber of Commerce, grantee of FTZ 185, pursuant to § 400.32(b)(1) of the Board's regulations (15 CFR Part 400), requesting on behalf of Merck & Co., Inc. (Merck), to add capacity and to expand the scope of manufacturing authority under zone procedures at Subzone 185C, at the Merck pharmaceutical plant in Elkton, Virginia, was formally filed on November 17, 2000.

Subzone 104A was approved by the Board in 1994 at a single site (1,333 acres, 624,221 sq. ft., 82 bldgs.) located on Route 340S, in Elkton (Rockingham County), Virginia, some 20 miles east of Harrisonburg. The facility (900 employees) is used to produce a range of human health products. Merck is now proposing to add 15 buildings and additional capacity to existing buildings (totaling 262,904 sq. ft). The proposed subzone would then include 97 bldgs. consisting of 887,125 sq. ft. (a 42% increase) on 1,333 acres.

The application also requests to expand the scope of authority for manufacturing activity conducted under FTZ procedures at Subzone 185C to include additional general categories of inputs that have recently been approved by the Board for other pharmaceutical plants. They include chemically pure sugars, empty capsules for pharmaceutical use, protein concentrates, natural magnesium

phosphates and carbonates, gypsum, anhydrite and plasters, petroleum jelly, paraffin and waxes, sulfuric acid, other inorganic acids or compounds of nonmetals, ammonia, zinc oxide, titanium oxides, fluorides, chlorates, sulfates, salts of oxometallic acids, radioactive chemical elements, compounds of rare earth metals, acyclic hydrocarbons, derivatives of phenols or peroxides, acetals and hemiacetals, phosphoric esters and their salts, diazo-compounds, glands for therapeutic uses, wadding, gauze and bandages, pharmaceutical glaze, hair preparations, lubricating preparations, albumins, prepared glues and adhesives, catalytic preparations, diagnostic or laboratory reagents, prepared binders, acrylic polymers, self-adhesive plates and sheets, other articles of vulcanized rubber, plastic cases, cartons, boxes, printed books, brochures and similar printed matter, carboys, bottles, and flasks, stoppers, caps, and lids, aluminum foil, tin plates and sheets, taps, cocks and valves, and medical instruments and appliances.

FTZ procedures would exempt Merck from Customs duty payments on the foreign components used in export activity. On its domestic sales, the company would be able to elect the duty rates that applies to finished products (primarily duty-free for finished pharmaceuticals and up to 14.6% for intermediates) for the foreign materials noted above (duty rates ranging from duty-free to 14.5%). The application indicates that the expanded use of FTZ procedures will help improve Merck's international competitiveness.

The application has requested review under § 400.32(b)(1) of the FTZ Board regulations on the basis that the proposed activity is the same, in terms of products involved, to activity recently approved by the Board and similar in circumstances.

Public comment on the application is invited from interested parties. Submissions (original and three copies) shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their receipt is January 2, 2001. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period (to January 16, 2001).

Copies of the applications will be available for public inspection at the following locations:

Culpeper County Chamber of Commerce, 133 West Davis Drive, Culpeper, Virginia 22701
Office of the Executive Secretary, Foreign-Trade Zones Board, Room 4008, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230

Dated: November 17, 2000.

Dennis Puccinelli,

Executive Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Initiation of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Administrative Reviews

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

ACTION: Notice of Initiation of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Administrative Reviews.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (the Department) has received requests to conduct administrative reviews of various antidumping and countervailing duty orders and findings with October anniversary dates. In accordance with the Department's regulations, we are initiating those administrative reviews.

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 30, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Holly A. Kuga, Office of AD/CVD Enforcement, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20230, telephone: (202) 482-4737.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Department has received timely requests, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.213(b)(2000), for administrative reviews of various antidumping and countervailing duty orders and findings with October anniversary dates.

Initiation of Reviews

In accordance with section 19 CFR 351.221(c)(1)(i), we are initiating administrative reviews of the following antidumping and countervailing duty orders and findings. We intend to issue the final results of these reviews not later than October 31, 2001.