

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 23, 2001, Gerdau MRM Steel 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 results of the final Determination of Circumvention of the Antidumping order: Cut-To-Length Carbon Steel Plate From Canada made by the United States International Trade Administration. These determinations were published in the **Federal Register**, (66 FR 7627) on January 24, 2001. The NAFTA Secretariat has assigned Case Number USA-CDA-01-1904-01 to this request.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Caratina L. Alston, United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat, Suite 2061, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., 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 23, 2001, requesting panel

review of the final determination 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 26, 2001);

(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 9, 2001); 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 5, 2001.

Caratina L. Alston,

United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**International Trade Administration****Notice of Solicitation of Applications for Allocation of Tariff Rate Quotas on the Import of Certain Worsted Wool Fabrics**

AGENCY: Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration

ACTION: The Department of Commerce is soliciting applications for an allocation of the 2001 tariff rate quotas on certain worsted wool fabric.

DATES: To be considered, applications must be received or postmarked by 5:00 p.m. on April 13, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Applications must be submitted to: Industry Assessment Division, Office of Textiles and Apparel, Room 3100, United States Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230 (telephone: (202) 482-4058).

Application forms may be obtained from that office (via facsimile or mail) or from the following internet address: <http://web.ita.doc.gov/tacgi/wooltrq.nsf/TRQApp>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sergio Botero, Office of Textiles and

Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4058.

The Department of Commerce (Department) hereby solicits applications from persons (including firms, corporations, or other legal entities) who cut and sew men's and boys' worsted wool suits and suit-like jackets and trousers for an allocation of the 2001 tariff rate quotas on certain worsted wool fabric. Interested persons must submit an application on the form provided to the address listed above by 5:00 p.m. on April 13, 2001. Application forms may be obtained from that office (via facsimile or mail) or from the following internet address: <http://web.ita.doc.gov/tacgi/wooltrq.nsf/TRQApp>.

The Department will cause to be published in the Federal Register its determination to allocate the 2001 tariff rate quotas and will notify applicants of their respective allocation as soon as possible after that date. Promptly thereafter, the Department will issue licenses to eligible applicants. The 2002 and 2003 tariff rate quotas will be allocated at a later date.

BACKGROUND: Title V of the Trade and Development Act of 2000 (the Act) created two tariff rate quotas, providing for temporary reductions in the import duties on limited quantities of two categories of worsted wool fabrics suitable for use in making suits, suit-type jackets, or trousers: (1) for worsted wool fabric with average fiber diameters greater than 18.5 microns (new Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) heading 9902.51.11); and (2) for worsted wool fabric with average fiber diameters of 18.5 microns or less (new HTS heading 9902.51.12). The first tariff rate quota year commenced on January 1, 2001 and ends on December 31, 2001. Annual imports under 9902.51.11 are limited to 2,500,000 square meters, and annual imports under 9902.51.12 are limited to 1,500,000 square meters; these limits may be modified by the President.

The Act requires that the tariff rate quotas be allocated to persons who cut and sew men's and boys' worsted wool suits, suit-type jackets and trousers in the United States. On January 22, the Department published regulations establishing procedures for allocating the tariff rate quotas. 66 FR 6459, 15 CFR 335. In order to be eligible for an allocation, an applicant must submit an application on the form provided to the address listed above by 5:00 p.m. on April 13, 2001 in compliance with the requirements of 15 CFR 335.

Any business confidential information that is marked business confidential will be kept confidential