

Title: Certification of blasters in Federal program States and on Indian lands, 30 part CFR 955.

OMB Control Number: 1029-0083.

Summary: This information is being collected to ensure that the applicants for blaster certification are qualified. This information, with blasting tests, will be used to determine the eligibility of the applicant.

Bureau Form Number: OSM-74.

Frequency of Collection: On occasion.

Description of Respondents:

Individuals intent of being certified as blasters in Federal program States and on Indian lands.

Total Annual Responses: 33.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 57.

Title: Restrictions on financial interests of State employees, 30 CFR 705.

OMB Control Number: 1029-0067.

Summary: Respondents supply information on employment and financial interests. The purpose of the collection is to ensure compliance with section 517(g) of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, which places an absolute prohibition on having a direct or indirect financial interest in underground or surface coal mining operations.

Bureau Form Number: OSM-23.

Frequency of Collection: Entrance on duty and annually.

Description of Respondents: Any State regulatory authority employee or member of advisory boards or commissions established in accordance with State law or regulation to represent multiple interests who performs any function or duty under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act.

Total Annual Responses: 2,909.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 974.

Dated: March 5, 2002.

Richard G. Bryson,

Chief, Division of Regulatory Support.

[FR Doc. 02-7387 Filed 3-27-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-05-M

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Inv. No. 337-TA-443]

In the Matter of Certain Flooring Products; Notice of Final Determination of No Violation of Section 337

AGENCY: International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the U.S. International Trade Commission has found no violation of

section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, 19 U.S.C. 1337, in the above-referenced investigation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David I. Wilson, Esq., Office of the General Counsel, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20436, telephone (202) 708-2310. Hearing-impaired persons are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal on 202-205-1810. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its Internet server, <http://www.usitc.gov>.

Copies of the public version of the ALJ's ID and all other nonconfidential documents filed in connection with this investigation are or will be available for inspection during official business hours (8:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.) in the Office of the Secretary, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20436, telephone 202-205-2000.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission ordered the institution of this investigation on December 27, 2000, based on a complaint filed on behalf of Alloc, Inc., Racine, Wisconsin; Berry Finance N.V., Oostrozebeke, Belgium; and Välinge Aluminum AB, Viken, Sweden (collectively "complainants"), 66 FR 1155 (2001). The notice of investigation was published in the **Federal Register** on January 5, 2001, Id. The complaint, as supplemented, alleged violations of section 337 in the importation, the sale for importation, and the sale within the United States after importation of certain flooring products by reason of infringement of claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-12, 14-15, 17-36, and 38-41 of U.S. Letters Patent 5,860,267 ("the '267 patent") and claims 1-14 of U.S. Letters Patent 6,023,907 ("the '907 patent"), Id. The Commission named seven respondents: Unilin Decor N.V., Wielsbeke, Belgium; BHK of America, Inc., Central Valley, NY; Meister-Leisten Schulte GmbH, Rütthen, Germany (collectively, Unilin); Pergo, Inc., Raleigh, NC ("Pergo"); Akzenta Paneel + Profile GmbH, Kaisersesch, Germany ("Akzenta"); Tarkett, Inc., Whitehall, PA; and Roysol, Saint-Florentin, France ("Roysol").

On March 5, 2001, the ALJ issued an ID (ALJ Order No. 8) granting complainants' motion to amend the complaint and notice of investigation to add allegations of infringement of claims 1, 8, 13-14, 21, 26-27, 34, 39-41, and 48 of U.S. Letters Patent 6,182,410 ("the '410 patent"). On July 10, 2001, the ALJ issued an ID (ALJ Order No. 26) granting complainants'

motion for summary determination on the economic prong of the domestic industry requirement. Those IDs were not reviewed by the Commission. An evidentiary hearing was held from July 26, 2001, through August 1, 2001. The ALJ heard closing arguments on October 16, 2001. On October 19, 2001, the ALJ issued an ID (ALJ Order No. 30) granting complainants' unopposed motion to terminate the investigation with respect to claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-12, 14-15, 17-18, 20-22, 24-36, 38, and 40-41 of the '267 patent; claims 4-14 of the '907 patent; and claims 8, 13-14, 21, 27, 34, and 40 of the '410 patent. On October 25, 2001, the ALJ issued an ID (ALJ Order No. 31) terminating the investigation as to respondent Tarkett, Inc. Those IDs were not reviewed by the Commission. The only asserted claims remaining in the investigation are claims 19, 23, and 39 of the '267 patent, claims 1-3 of the '907 patent, and claims 1, 26, 39, 41, and 48 of the '410 patent.

The ALJ issued his final ID on November 2, 2001, concluding that there was no violation of section 337, based on the following findings: (a) Complainants have not established that any of the asserted claims are infringed by any of the respondents; (b) respondents have failed to establish that the asserted claims of each of the '267, '907, and '410 patents are not valid; (c) no domestic industry exists that exploits any of the '267, '907, and '410 patents; and (d) it has not been established that complainants misused any of the patents in issue. The ALJ also made recommendations regarding remedy and bonding in the event the Commission concludes there is a violation of section 337. On November 15, 2001, complainants and the Commission investigative attorney ("IA") petitioned for review of the ID. On November 23, 2001, respondents Unilin, Pergo, Roysol, and Akzenta, and complainants filed responses to the petitions for review. On December 20, 2001, the Commission determined to review: (1) The ID's construction of the asserted claims of the '410 patent; (2) the ID's construction of the asserted claims of the '267 and '907 patents, except not to review the ID's construction of those claims apart from 35 U.S.C. 112, ¶ 6; (3) the ID's infringement conclusions with respect to the '410, '267, and '907 patents, except not to review the ID's conclusions that (a) the asserted claims of the '267 and '907 patents are not infringed when those claims are construed apart from 35 U.S.C. 112, ¶ 6 and (b) complainants have not established that there are no substantial noninfringing uses for the accused

products and hence there is no contributory infringement; (4) the ID's validity conclusions with respect to the '267, '410, and '907 patents, except not to review the ID's validity conclusions when the asserted claims of the '267 and '907 patents are construed apart from 35 U.S.C. 112, ¶ 6; and (5) the ID's conclusions with respect to the technical prong of the domestic industry requirement with respect to the '410, '267, and '907 patents, except not to review the ID's conclusions that complainants have failed to establish the technical prong of the domestic industry requirement when the asserted claims of the '267 and '907 patents are construed apart from 35 U.S.C. 112, ¶ 6.

The Commission also determined to review the procedural question of whether complainants waived the issue of whether the accused products infringe the asserted claims of the patents in controversy to the extent that the asserted claims are construed under 35 U.S.C. 112, ¶ 6 to cover equivalents of the structure disclosed in the specification, viz., equivalents of a mechanical joint with play, by failing to raise the issue before the ALJ. The Commission determined not to review the remainder of the ID. The Commission also determined to extend the target data for completion of the investigation to March 7, 2002. The Commission subsequently determined to further extend the target date to March 21, 2002. In accordance with the Commission's directions, the parties filed main briefs on January 10, 2002, and reply briefs on January 17, 2002. Having examined the record in this investigation, including the briefs and the responses thereto, the Commission determined that there is no violation of section 337. More specifically, the Commission found that there is no infringement of any claims at issue of the '410, '267, and '907 patents; no domestic industry exists with respect to the '410, '267, and '907 patents; and that the '410, '267, and '907 patents are not invalid. The Commission also determined that the complainants waived the issue of whether the accused products infringe the asserted claims of the '410, '267, and '907 patents to the extent that the asserted claims are construed under 35 U.S.C. 112, ¶ 6 to cover equivalents of the structure disclosed in the specification. Nonetheless, the Commission examined the issue and determined that, even if the argument had been timely raised, it would not have led to a different result. The Commission determined that complainants waived the issue of whether the accused products infringe

the asserted claims of the '410, '267 and '907 patents under the doctrine of equivalents. This action is taken under the authority of section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, 19 U.S.C. 1337, and sections 210.45–210.51 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 19 CFR 210.45–210.51.

By order of the Commission.

Issued: March 22, 2002.

Marilyn R. Abbott,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 02-7402 Filed 3-28-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7020-02-P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 337-TA-114, Exclusion Order Modification Proceeding]

In the Matter of Certain Miniature Plug-In Blade Fuses; Notice of Exclusion Order Modification

AGENCY: International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that changed conditions have caused the U.S. International Trade Commission to modify the trade dress provision of the general exclusion order issued on January 13, 1983, in the above-captioned investigation. In light of certain judicial decisions, the Commission modified that provision by removing a reference to "product configuration" from the description of "trade dress." As a result, the modified provision requires the exclusion of imported miniature plug-in blade fuses having a trade dress, *i.e.*, a packaging, simulating that of Littelfuse, Inc.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: P. N. Smithey, Esq., Office of the General Counsel, U.S. International Trade Commission, telephone 202-205-3061. General information concerning the Commission, the above-captioned investigation, and the exclusion order modification proceeding also may be obtained by accessing its Internet server, <http://www.usitc.gov>.

Hearing-impaired individuals can obtain information concerning this matter by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal at 202-205-1810.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Commission instituted the subject investigation in 1982 to determine whether there was a violation of section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 USC 1337 (1978 and 1981 Supp.)) in the importation or sale of certain miniature plug-in blade fuses that allegedly misrepresented their place of geographic

origin, infringed the complainant's patents and/or trademarks, misappropriated the complainant's trade dress, were passed off as merchandise of the complainant, or were the subject of false advertising. The complainant was the patent and trademark owner, Littelfuse, Inc., of Des Plaines, Illinois, a firm that manufactures and markets electronic devices, including the subject fuses.¹ The Commission named nine firms in Taiwan and three domestic firms as respondents in the investigation, 47 FR 1448, Jan. 13, 1982.

The investigation resulted in the issuance of a general exclusion order in 1983, requiring, among other things, the exclusion of imported miniature plug-in blade fuses having a trade dress, *i.e.*, a product configuration and/or packaging, simulating that of complainant Littelfuse. *Certain Miniature Plug-In Blade Fuses*, Inv. No. 337-TA-114, USITC Publication 1337 (Jan. 1983), Commission Action and Order at page 2, paragraph 2 (Jan. 13, 1983).

As the result of a Commission-initiated modification proceeding under 19 CFR 210.76 (*see* 66 FR 9359, Feb. 7, 2001, and Commission Order (Feb. 1, 2001)), the Commission concluded that conditions which led to the inclusion of product configuration in the trade dress provision of the exclusion order no longer exist. In particular, the product configuration protected by that provision was, by Littelfuse's admission, substantially the same configuration that the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, Atlanta Division, found to be functional and not entitled to trademark protection. See the unpublished Judgment and the unpublished Order issued on January 7, 1998 in Civil Action No. 1:95-CV-2445-JTC, *Wilhelm Pudenz GmbH [and] Wickmann USA, Inc. v. Littelfuse, Inc.* (The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit affirmed the District Court's decision. *Wilhelm Pudenz GmbH v. Littlefuse [sic], Inc.*, 177 F.3d 1204, 51 U.S.P.Q.2d 1045 (11th Cir. 1999).)

The Commission accordingly has modified the trade dress provision of its section 337 exclusion order by deleting the reference to product configuration. The modified provision thus requires the exclusion of imported miniature plug-in blade fuses having a trade dress, *i.e.*, a packaging, simulating that of Littelfuse.

¹ Miniature plug-in blade fuses are installed in automobiles as original equipment. They also are sold in the automotive aftermarket, as replacement parts for original equipment.