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List of Subjects: WTO, GATS, oil and gas field services.

Issued: August 26, 2002.

By order of the Commission.

Marilyn R. Abbott,

Secretary to the Commission.

[FR Doc. 02-22114 Filed 8-29-02; 8:58 am]

BILLING CODE 7020-02-P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 731-TA-1013 (Preliminary)]

Saccharin from China

Determination

On the basis of the record¹ developed in the subject investigation, the United States International Trade Commission determines,² pursuant to section 733(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1673b(a)) (the Act), that there is a reasonable indication that an industry in the United States is materially injured by reason of imports from China of saccharin, provided for in subheading 2925.11.00 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, that are alleged to be sold in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV).

Pursuant to § 207.18 of the Commission's rules, the Commission also gives notice of the commencement of the final phase of its investigation. The Commission will issue a final phase notice of scheduling, which will be published in the **Federal Register** as provided in § 207.21 of the

Commission's rules, upon notice from the Department of Commerce of an affirmative preliminary determination in the investigation under section 733(b) of the Act, or, if the preliminary determination is negative, upon notice of an affirmative final determination in that investigation under section 735(a) of the Act. Parties that filed entries of appearance in the preliminary phase of the investigation need not enter a separate appearance for the final phase of the investigation. Industrial users, and, if the merchandise under investigation is sold at the retail level, representative consumer organizations have the right to appear as parties in Commission antidumping and countervailing duty investigations. The Secretary will prepare a public service list containing the names and addresses of all persons, or their representatives, who are parties to the investigation.

Background

On July 11, 2002, a petition was filed with the Commission and Commerce by PMC Specialties Group, Inc., Cincinnati, OH, alleging that an industry in the United States is materially injured or threatened with material injury by reason of LTFV imports of saccharin from China. Accordingly, effective July 11, 2002, the Commission instituted antidumping duty investigation No. 731-TA-1013 (Preliminary).

Notice of the institution of the Commission's investigation and of a public conference 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 July 18, 2002 (67 FR 47398). The conference was held in Washington, DC, on August 1, 2002, and all persons who requested the opportunity were permitted to appear in person or by counsel.

The Commission transmitted its determination in this investigation to the Secretary of Commerce on August 26, 2002. The views of the Commission are contained in USITC Publication 3535 (September 2002), entitled *Saccharin From China: Investigation No. 1013 (Preliminary)*.

By order of the Commission.

Issued: August 26, 2002.

Marilyn R. Abbott,

Secretary to the Commission.

[FR Doc. 02-22185 Filed 8-29-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7020-02-P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

Possible Modifications to the International Harmonized System Nomenclature

AGENCY: International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Request for public comments on proposal to delete certain low-trade categories from the Harmonized System.

SUMMARY: The Commission is soliciting the views of interested parties on a proposal before the Review Subcommittee (RSC) of the World Customs Organization (WCO), Brussels, Belgium, to delete certain low-trade headings and subheadings from the international Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonized System or HS).

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 21, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ronald H. Heller, Office of Tariff Affairs and Trade Agreements (O/TATA) (202/205-2596, E-Mail rheller@usitc.gov). The O/TATA fax number is 202/205-2616.

Background

The Harmonized System was established by an international Convention, which, *inter alia*, provides that the System should be kept up-to-date in light of changes in technology and patterns of international trade. The international HS nomenclature, which is maintained by the WCO, provides a uniform structural basis for the customs tariff and statistical nomenclatures of all major trading countries of the world, including the United States. The Commission, the U.S. Customs Service and the Bureau of the Census are responsible for the development of U.S. technical proposals concerning the HS under section 1210 of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988 (the 1988 Act) (19 U.S.C. 3010). A 1988 notice issued by the United States Trade Representative (53 FR 45646, November 10, 1988), established the Commission as the lead U.S. agency in considering proposals for HS amendments that are intended to ensure that it reflects such changes in technology and trade. The WCO expects to implement the next series of amendments to the HS nomenclature by the year 2007. As part of each review cycle, the RSC considers simplifying the HS by removing lines for which trade falls below a threshold value. HS lines that are eliminated are merged with HS lines containing like products. Noting that the HS has expanded over the years and now comprises 1,244 four-digit headings and

¹ The record is defined in sec. 207.2(f) of the Commission's rules of practice and procedure (19 CFR 207.2(f)).

² Commissioner Lynn M. Bragg not participating.