

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**International Trade Administration**

[A-475-824]

Notice of Extension of Time Limit of the Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review: Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip in Coils From Italy

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

ACTION: Notice of extension of time limit of the preliminary results of the antidumping duty administrative review of stainless steel sheet and strip in coils from Italy.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce ("the Department") is extending the time limit of the preliminary results of the antidumping duty administrative review of stainless steel sheet and strip in coils from Italy.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 7, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jonathan Herzog, AD/CVD Enforcement, Group III, Office 9, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-4271.

Background

On July 2, 2003, the Department published a notice of opportunity to request an administrative review of the antidumping duty order on stainless steel sheet and strip in coils from Italy. See *Antidumping or Countervailing Duty Order, Finding, or Suspended Investigation; Opportunity to Request Administrative Review*, 68 FR 39511 (July 2, 2003). On July 31, 2003, Thyssen Krupp Acciai Speciali S.p.A. ("TKAST"), an Italian producer of subject merchandise requested that the Department conduct an administrative review. Additionally, on July 31, 2003, Petitioners requested that the Department conduct an administrative review of TKAST. On August 22, 2003, the Department published a notice of initiation of an administrative review of the antidumping duty order on stainless steel sheet and strip in coils, for the period July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003. See *Initiation of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Administrative Reviews and Requests for Revocation in Part*, 68 FR 50750 (August 22, 2003). On March 1, 2004, the Department published a notice extending the preliminary results for this administrative review by 60 days. See *Notice of Extension of Time Limit of*

Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review: Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip in Coils from Italy, 69 FR 9590 (March 1, 2004). The preliminary results of this administrative review are currently due no later than May 31, 2004.

Extension of Time Limit for Preliminary Results

Pursuant to section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Act, and section 351.213(h)(2) of the Department's regulations, the Department may extend the deadline for completion of the preliminary results of a review if it determines that it is not practicable to complete the preliminary results within the statutory time limit of 245 days from the date on which the review was initiated. Due to the complexity of issues present in this administrative review, such as issues concerning credit expense calculations and home market downstream sales the Department has determined that it is not practicable to complete this review within the original time period provided in section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Act and section 351.213(h)(2) of the Department's regulations.

Therefore, we are extending the due date for the preliminary results by 60 days, until no later than July 30, 2004. The final results continue to be due 120 days after the publication of the preliminary results.

Dated: May 3, 2004.

Joseph A. Spetrini,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Import Administration, Group III.

[FR Doc. 04-10486 Filed 5-6-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**International Trade Administration****Exporters' Textile Advisory Committee; Notice of Open Meeting**

A meeting of the Exporters' Textile Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, June 8, 2004. The meeting will be from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Training Room A, Trade Information Center, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, 20229.

The Committee provides advice and guidance to Department officials on the identification and surmounting of barriers to the expansion of textile exports, and on methods of encouraging textile firms to participate in export expansion.

The Committee functions solely as an advisory body in accordance with the

provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

The meeting will be open to the public with a limited number of seats available. For further information or copies of the minutes, contact Rachel Alarid, telephone: (202) 482-5154. Dated: May 4, 2004.

D. Michael Hutchinson,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Textiles, Apparel and Consumer Goods Industries.

[FR Doc. 04-10462 Filed 5-6-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**International Trade Administration****Healthcare Technologies Trade Mission**

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice to announce Healthcare Technologies Trade Mission, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and the Slovak Republic, September 13-17, 2004.

SUMMARY: The United States Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, U.S. Commercial Service, Office of Export Promotion Services, is organizing a Healthcare Technologies Trade Mission to the Czech Republic, Hungary, and the Slovak Republic, September 13-17, 2004. The Trade Mission will target a broad range of sectors within the healthcare industry. The focus of the delegation will be to match participating U.S. companies with qualified agents, distributors, representatives, licensees, and joint venture partners in these markets, which are all slated to become European Union (E.U.) member countries in May 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Office of Business Liaison; Room 5062; Department of Commerce; Washington, DC 20230; tel: (202) 482-1360; fax: (202) 482-4054.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Healthcare Technologies Trade Mission, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and the Slovak Republic, September 13-17, 2004.

Mission Statement*I. Description of the Mission*

The United States Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, U.S. Commercial Service, Office of Export Promotion Services, is organizing a Healthcare Technologies Trade Mission to the Czech Republic, Hungary, and the

Slovak Republic, September 13–17, 2004. The Trade Mission will target a broad range of sectors within the healthcare industry. The focus of the delegation will be to match participating U.S. companies with qualified agents, distributors, representatives, licensees, and joint venture partners in these markets, which are all slated to become European Union (E.U.) member countries in May 2004.

II. Commercial Setting for the Mission

The Czech Republic

The Czech Republic's medical devices market was valued at U.S. \$450 million in 2002. Domestic production accounts for only 35 percent, providing excellent opportunities for U.S. exporters of medical products. Germany accounts for 25 percent of the medical products imported into the Czech Republic, followed by the United States, which claims a 17 percent share. Syringes, needles, catheters, electrical diagnostic equipment, x-ray equipment, irradiators, and orthopedic aids account for the largest volume of medical products exported to the Czech Republic. Best current sales prospects include computer-processed visual systems, laser equipment, retinal tomography technology, defibrillators, implants, medicine infusion pumps, mammogram systems, endoscopes and laparoscopes, although there is demand in the Czech Republic for an even wider range of medical products.

The home healthcare sector has been growing since its introduction to the Czech Republic in 1991 to reduce the demand for hospitalization and improve the quality of life of patients, usually the elderly. Further expansion of home healthcare is inevitable, given the high costs of hospital healthcare delivery and the shortage of financial resources in the Czech healthcare system. Since the Czech home healthcare sector is still in its infancy, there is potential for U.S. firms, especially those offering a wide variety of home care products, high-quality mobility equipment and other high demand products, including thermometers, blood pressure monitors, stethoscopes, glucometers, and aids for daily living.

Hungary

The Hungarian medical market, estimated at U.S. \$200 million, is very competitive and is dominated by imports, with about 85–90 percent of the market comprised of foreign products. U.S. medical products account for approximately 10–15 percent of this market and are very well received in Hungary due to their high

quality. The Hungarian medical market is expected to grow five percent annually for the next three years. There are few barriers to entry for medical products into Hungary.

Currently most purchases are by publicly owned institutions, but Hungary's new health care privatization law is designed to create more public-private healthcare facilities. Privatization of health services has proceeded most rapidly in the delivery of healthcare services by family physicians, and in the pharmaceutical and dentistry areas. Private sector development has moved relatively quickly for ambulatory and diagnostic imaging services, and has been negligible for outpatient and in-hospital care (areas where both costs and reimbursement mechanisms have thus far remained largely within the public sector). In 2001 about 20 percent of the total expenditures of the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) went to private service providers.

Medical products are marketed in Hungary through authorized distributors. Major foreign companies have their own offices while others operate through local distributors. Most distributors handle several brands of the same type of equipment and/or several lines of medical equipment. There are small firms, however, that represent only one or two foreign companies. Pricing is a key factor in selling a medical product in Hungary, as the market is very price sensitive. When purchasing medical equipment, customers also look for established companies with reliable after-sales service and customer support.

Hospitals and other health care providers usually buy equipment directly from distributors.

The Slovak Republic

In 2003 The Slovak Republic, more commonly known as Slovakia, imported U.S. \$135 million of medical/healthcare products and equipment, an eight percent increase from 2002. This trend, combined with a \$69 million World Bank loan for modernization of the Slovak medical sector, provides increased opportunities for U.S. medical/healthcare exporters.

The Slovak health care system consists of the National Health Service, including 141 home healthcare agencies and a large number of private medical facilities. The home healthcare sector in Slovakia was launched in 1996 and has been growing by 28 percent on an annual basis. Since home healthcare agencies in Slovakia provide better quality care and more comfort to patients at only a slightly higher cost

than hospital-based care, and since healthcare delivery from these agencies is also partially covered by health insurance, the Slovakian home healthcare sector is expected to continue growing. This trend bodes well for U.S. firms offering home care products, including general hygiene products and aids for daily living.

In Slovakia, medical products are sold through sales representatives or through distributors. There are local distributors who represent only one or two foreign companies, but usually they market several brands of the same type of medical equipment/devices. Price, service, training and overall customer support are factors that are considered by Slovak consumers of medical products and services, with cost competitiveness and after-sales service being the key factors.

III. Goals for the Mission

The Trade Mission's goal is to gain first-hand market information and provide access to key government officials and potential business partners for new-to-market, and/or new-to-export U.S. healthcare firms desiring to enter these three promising markets.

IV. Scenario for the Mission

The trade mission will spend two days in Prague, one day in Bratislava, and two days in Budapest. At each stop, the U.S. Commercial Service will:

- Provide a market briefing highlighting opportunities in the healthcare technologies sector;
- Schedule one-on-one appointments with potential business partners for each participant;
- Arrange hospitality events to introduce participants to key business and industry officials (with the possible exception of Bratislava, the spin-off stop).

Tentative Timetable

Sunday, September 12: Arrive in Prague, Czech Republic.

Monday, September 13: Market Breakfast Briefing in Prague; Trade Mission Meetings; Evening Reception.

Tuesday, September 14: Trade Mission Meetings in Prague; For companies participating in the spin-off to Slovakia, depart Prague for Bratislava by train.

Wednesday, September 15: Market Breakfast Briefing in Bratislava; Trade Mission Meetings in Bratislava; Depart Bratislava for Budapest. Companies not participating in the spin-off to Bratislava can schedule their time as they wish but will be requested to arrive in Budapest by Wednesday evening.

Thursday, September 16: Market Breakfast Briefing in Budapest; Trade Mission Meetings in Budapest; Evening Reception.

Friday, September 17: Trade Mission Meetings in Budapest; Conclusion of Trade Mission.

V. Criteria for Participant Selection

- Relevance of the company's business line to the mission scope and goals.
- Potential for business in the selected markets.
- Timeliness of the company's completed application, participation agreement, and payment of the mission participation fee.
- Provision of adequate information on the company's products and/or services and communication of the company's primary objectives to facilitate appropriate matching with potential business partners.
- Certification that the company's products and/or services are manufactured or produced in the United States or if manufactured/produced outside of the United States, the product/service must be marketed under the name of a U.S. firm and have U.S. content representing at least 51 percent of the value of the finished good or service.

The mission will be promoted through the following venues: Export Assistance Centers and the healthcare team; industry newsletters; the **Federal Register**; relevant trade publications; relevant trade associations; past Commerce trade mission participants; various in-house and purchased industry lists, and on the Commerce Department trade missions calendar—<http://www.ita.doc.gov/doctm/tmcal.html>.

Any partisan political activities of an applicant, including political contributions, will be entirely irrelevant to the selection process. The trade mission participation fee will be \$2,500 for The Czech Republic and Hungary, and \$500 for the optional spin-off to Slovakia. Participation fee does not include the cost of travel and lodging. Participation is open to the first 10 qualified U.S. companies. Recruitment will begin immediately and will close on June 30, 2004. Applications received after that date will be considered only if space and scheduling constraints permit.

Contact Information: Bill Kutson, Project Manager, U.S. Commercial Service, Export Promotion Services, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 2117, Washington, DC 20230. Tel: (202) 482-2839; fax: (202) 482-2718; e-mail: William.Kutson@mail.doc.gov.

Dated: April 27, 2004.

John Klingelhut,

Senior Advisor, Export Promotion Services.
[FR Doc. 04-10417 Filed 5-6-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Textile, Furniture, and Modular Housing Trade Mission

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice to announce textile, furniture, and modular housing trade mission, Amman, Jordan, May 23-24, 2004.

SUMMARY: The Office of Textiles and Apparel (OTEXA), of the International Trade Administration, United States Department of Commerce (USDOC), will sponsor a trade mission to Jordan for technical, industrial, contract and hospitality fabrics, furniture, and modular housing. The mission will include a Commerce staff member from OTEXA, and representatives from U.S. industry interested in selling their products in Jordan and Iraq.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Office of Business Liaison; Room 5062; Department of Commerce; Washington, DC 20230; tel: (202) 482-1360; fax: (202) 482-4054.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Textile, Furniture, and Modular Housing Trade Mission Amman, Jordan—May 23-24, 2004

Mission Statement

I. Description of the Mission

The Office of Textiles and Apparel (OTEXA), of the International Trade Administration, United States Department of Commerce (USDOC), will sponsor a trade mission to Jordan for technical, industrial, contract and hospitality fabrics, furniture, and modular housing. The mission will include a Commerce staff member from OTEXA, and representatives from U.S. industry interested in selling their products in Jordan and Iraq.

U.S. suppliers are internationally recognized for high quality products in technical, industrial, contract and hospitality fabric, furniture, and modular housing. These highly engineered products will be used in ongoing and planned commercial and industrial projects throughout Jordan and Iraq. Iraqi buyers will be invited to

Amman, Jordan for appointments with the mission participants.

In addition there is a need for these products in order for the Iraqi government to build up their hospitality and commercial markets to accelerate infrastructure development, the spin off from the sale of such products provides jobs, training and state of the art material.

Mission participants will meet with private sector developers, specifiers, and buyers of such products.

II. Commercial Setting for the Mission

This is an opportunity for U.S. manufacturers and suppliers of technical and industrial fabrics, contract/hospitality fabrics, furniture, and modular housing to increase their sales and expand their customer base in relatively new markets for the United States. Rapid development throughout the Middle East and the rebuilding of Iraq's basic infrastructure are leading catalysts for a genuine "boom" in the Middle East. Jordan and Iraq are key markets in the Middle East that have seen an increase in commercial infrastructure resulting from improving economies and, in the case of Iraq, the need to rebuild housing, hospitality, institutional government, and other public and private sector projects. However, there are certain risks, which need to be evaluated and considered by each prospective participant. These risks are noted in the following sections.

III. Goals for the Mission

The Mission will seek to promote exports of U.S. technical fabrics, contract/hospitality fabrics, furniture, and furnishings to Jordan, Iraq and other countries in the region, and to secure representation agreements for mission members with pre-screened agents and distributors.* This unique opportunity will also give mission participants the opportunity to conduct market research, and evaluate market opportunities in this region.

IV. Scenario for the Mission

Ten companies are expected to participate in this mission. The Department of Commerce reserves the right to adjust this number due to market or logistical constraints.

Matchmaking appointments will take place in Amman, Jordan. Mission participants will meet individually by appointment with pre-screened buyers, agents, and distributors. The Department will make every effort to

* Due to the security condition in Iraq the Department of Commerce cannot guarantee the attendance of the invited participants from Iraq.