

section 751(a) of the Act: (1) For the company named above, the cash-deposit rate will be the rate listed above; (2) for merchandise exported by manufacturers or exporters not covered in this review but covered in a previous segment of this proceeding, the cash-deposit rate will continue to be the company-specific rate published in the prior segment of the proceeding in which that manufacturer or exporter participated; (3) if the exporter is not a firm covered in this review or in any previous segment of this proceeding but the manufacturer is, the cash-deposit rate will be that established for the manufacturer of the merchandise in these final results of review or in the most recent segment of the proceeding in which that manufacturer participated; and (4) if neither the exporter nor the manufacturer is a firm covered in this or any previous review conducted by the Department, the cash deposit rate will be 13.06 percent. These deposit requirements shall remain in effect until publication of the final results of the next administrative review.

#### Notification

This notice also serves as the final reminder to importers of their responsibility under 19 CFR 351.402(f) to file a certificate regarding the reimbursement of antidumping duties prior to liquidation of the relevant entries during this review period. Failure to comply with this requirement could result in the Secretary's presumption that reimbursement of antidumping duties occurred and in the subsequent assessment of double antidumping duties.

This notice also serves as the only reminder to parties subject to administrative protective order (APO) of their responsibility concerning the return/destruction or conversion to judicial protective order of proprietary information disclosed under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305(a)(3). Failure to comply is a violation of the APO.

Dated: February 4, 2005.

**Joseph A. Spetrini,**

*Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.*

This determination is issued and published in accordance with sections 751(a)(1) and 777(i)(1) of the Act.

#### Appendix—Decision Memorandum

- Comment 1: Romania As Its Own Surrogate Country  
 Comment 2: Silcotub's Market-Economy General & Administrative Expense Ratio  
 Comment 3: Silcotub's Financial Expense Ratio

- Comment 4: Indirect Selling Expenses of Duferco S.A.  
 Comment 5: Indirect Selling Expenses of Duferco Steel Inc.  
 Comment 6: Freight for Billets  
 Comment 7: Indexing Brokerage and Handling Rate Using U.S. Producer Price Index  
 Comment 8: Non-Market-Economy Packing Costs  
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 Comment 11: Non-Market-Economy Natural Gas Price  
 Comment 12: Start-Up Adjustment  
 Comment 13: Model-Matching Methodology  
 Comment 14: Ordinary Course of Trade  
 Comment 15: Home Market Credit Expense  
 Comment 16: DSI's Credit Expense  
 Comment 17: Treatment of Negative Margins  
 Comment 18: Cash-Deposit Rate  
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[FR Doc. E5-586 Filed 2-10-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

[A-427-814]

#### Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip in Coils From France: Final Results of Antidumping Administrative Review

**AGENCY:** Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

**SUMMARY:** On August 6, 2004, the Department of Commerce (Department) published the preliminary results of its administrative review of the antidumping duty order on certain stainless steel sheet and strip in coils (SSSS) from France. *See Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip in Coils from France*, 69 FR 47892 (August 6, 2004) (*Preliminary Results*). This review covers all shipments of this merchandise to the United States during the period from July 1, 2002, through June 30, 2003 by Ugine & ALZ France, S.A. (UA France). We gave interested parties an opportunity to comment on the *Preliminary Results*. Based on our analysis of the comments received, we have made changes to the *Preliminary Results*. For the final dumping margins, see the "Final Results of Review" section below.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** February 11, 2005.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sebastian Wright or Sean Carey at (202) 482-5254 and (202) 482-3964, respectively; AD/CVD Operations, Office 6, Import Administration, International Trade Administration,

U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background

On August 6, 2004, the Department published the *Preliminary Results* where we determined that U.S. sales had been made below normal value (NV). We invited parties to comment on our *Preliminary Results*. On September 7, 2004, UA France and Petitioners<sup>1</sup> filed comments on our *Preliminary Results*. On September 13, 2004, UA France and Petitioners filed rebuttal comments. Neither party requested a hearing. The Department has now completed this review in accordance with section 751(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act).

#### Scope of the Antidumping Duty Order

For purposes of this administrative review, the products covered by the order are certain stainless steel sheet and strip in coils. Stainless steel is an alloy steel containing, by weight, 1.2 percent or less of carbon and 10.5 percent or more of chromium, with or without other elements. The subject sheet and strip is a flat-rolled product in coils that is greater than 9.5 mm in width and less than 4.75 mm in thickness, and that is annealed or otherwise heat treated and pickled or otherwise descaled. The subject sheet and strip may also be further processed (*e.g.*, cold-rolled, polished, aluminized, coated, *etc.*) provided that it maintains the specific dimensions of sheet and strip following such processing.

The merchandise subject to this order is currently classifiable in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States ("HTS") at subheadings: 7219.13.0031, 7219.13.0051, 7219.13.0071, 7219.1300.81<sup>2</sup>, 7219.14.0030, 7219.14.0065, 7219.14.0090, 7219.32.0005, 7219.32.0020, 7219.32.0025, 7219.32.0035, 7219.32.0036, 7219.32.0038, 7219.32.0042, 7219.32.0044, 7219.33.0005, 7219.33.0020, 7219.33.0025, 7219.33.0035, 7219.33.0036, 7219.33.0038, 7219.33.0042, 7219.33.0044, 7219.34.0005, 7219.34.0020, 7219.34.0025, 7219.34.0030, 7219.34.0035,

<sup>1</sup> Allegheny Ludlum Corporation, AK Steel, Inc., North American Stainless, United Steelworkers of America, AFL-CIO/CLC, Butler Armco Independent Union, and Zanesville Armco Independent Organization are the Petitioners in the case.

<sup>2</sup> Due to changes to the HTS numbers in 2001, 7219.13.0030, 7219.13.0050, 7219.13.0070, and 7219.13.0080 are now 7219.13.0031, 7219.13.0051, 7219.13.0071, and 7219.13.0081, respectively.

7219.35.0005, 7219.35.0015, 7219.35.0030, 7219.35.0035, 7219.90.0010, 7219.90.0020, 7219.90.0025, 7219.90.0060, 7219.90.0080, 7220.12.1000, 7220.12.5000, 7220.20.1010, 7220.20.1015, 7220.20.1060, 7220.20.1080, 7220.20.6005, 7220.20.6010, 7220.20.6015, 7220.20.6060, 7220.20.6080, 7220.20.7005, 7220.20.7010, 7220.20.7015, 7220.20.7060, 7220.20.7080, 7220.20.8000, 7220.20.9030, 7220.20.9060, 7220.90.0010, 7220.90.0015, 7220.90.0060, and 7220.90.0080.

Although the HTS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the Department's written description of the merchandise under review is dispositive.

Excluded from the review of this order are the following: (1) Sheet and strip that is not annealed or otherwise heat treated and pickled or otherwise descaled, (2) sheet and strip that is cut to length, (3) plate (*i.e.*, flat-rolled stainless steel products of a thickness of 4.75 mm or more), (4) flat wire (*i.e.*, cold-rolled sections, with a prepared edge, rectangular in shape, of a width of not more than 9.5 mm), and (5) razor blade steel. Razor blade steel is a flat-rolled product of stainless steel, not further worked than cold-rolled (cold-reduced), in coils, of a width of not more than 23 mm and a thickness of 0.266 mm or less, containing, by weight, 12.5 to 14.5 percent chromium, and certified at the time of entry to be used in the manufacture of razor blades. See Chapter 72 of the HTS, "Additional U.S. Note" 1(d).

Flapper valve steel is also excluded from the scope of the order. This product is defined as stainless steel strip in coils containing, by weight, between 0.37 and 0.43 percent carbon, between 1.15 and 1.35 percent molybdenum, and between 0.20 and 0.80 percent manganese. This steel also contains, by weight, phosphorus of 0.025 percent or less, silicon of between 0.20 and 0.50 percent, and sulfur of 0.020 percent or less. The product is manufactured by means of vacuum arc remelting, with inclusion controls for sulphide of no more than 0.04 percent and for oxide of no more than 0.05 percent. Flapper valve steel has a tensile strength of between 210 and 300 ksi, yield strength of between 170 and 270 ksi, plus or minus 8 ksi, and a hardness (Hv) of between 460 and 590. Flapper valve steel is most commonly used to produce specialty flapper valves in compressors.

Also excluded is a product referred to as suspension foil, a specialty steel product used in the manufacture of

suspension assemblies for computer disk drives. Suspension foil is described as 302/304 grade or 202 grade stainless steel of a thickness between 14 and 127 microns, with a thickness tolerance of plus-or-minus 2.01 microns, and surface glossiness of 200 to 700 percent Gs. Suspension foil must be supplied in coil widths of not more than 407 mm, and with a mass of 225 kg or less. Roll marks may only be visible on one side, with no scratches of measurable depth. The material must exhibit residual stresses of 2 mm maximum deflection, and flatness of 1.6 mm over 685 mm length.

Certain stainless steel foil for automotive catalytic converters is also excluded from the scope of this order. This stainless steel strip in coils is a specialty foil with a thickness of between 20 and 110 microns used to produce a metallic substrate with a honeycomb structure for use in automotive catalytic converters. The steel contains, by weight, carbon of no more than 0.030 percent, silicon of no more than 1.0 percent, manganese of no more than 1.0 percent, chromium of between 19 and 22 percent, aluminum of no less than 5.0 percent, phosphorus of no more than 0.045 percent, sulfur of no more than 0.03 percent, lanthanum of less than 0.002 or greater than 0.05 percent, and total rare earth elements of more than 0.06 percent, with the balance iron.

Permanent magnet iron-chromium-cobalt alloy stainless strip is also excluded from the scope of this order. This ductile stainless steel strip contains, by weight, 26 to 30 percent chromium, and 7 to 10 percent cobalt, with the remainder of iron, in widths 228.6 mm or less, and a thickness between 0.127 and 1.270 mm. It exhibits magnetic remanence between 9,000 and 12,000 gauss, and a coercivity of between 50 and 300 oersteds. This product is most commonly used in electronic sensors and is currently available under proprietary trade names such as "Arnokrome III."<sup>3</sup>

Certain electrical resistance alloy steel is also excluded from the scope of this order. This product is defined as a non-magnetic stainless steel manufactured to American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) specification B344 and containing, by weight, 36 percent nickel, 18 percent chromium, and 46 percent iron, and is most notable for its resistance to high temperature corrosion. It has a melting point of 1390 degrees Celsius and displays a creep rupture limit of 4 kilograms per square millimeter at 1000 degrees Celsius. This

<sup>3</sup> "Arnokrome III" is a trademark of the Arnold Engineering Company.

steel is most commonly used in the production of heating ribbons for circuit breakers and industrial furnaces, and in rheostats for railway locomotives. The product is currently available under proprietary trade names such as "Gilphy 36."<sup>4</sup>

Certain martensitic precipitation-hardenable stainless steel is also excluded from the scope of this order. This high-strength, ductile stainless steel product is designated under the Unified Numbering System (UNS) as S45500-grade steel, and contains, by weight, 11 to 13 percent chromium, and 7 to 10 percent nickel. Carbon, manganese, silicon and molybdenum each comprise, by weight, 0.05 percent or less, with phosphorus and sulfur each comprising, by weight, 0.03 percent or less. This steel has copper, niobium, and titanium added to achieve aging, and will exhibit yield strengths as high as 1700 Mpa and ultimate tensile strengths as high as 1750 Mpa after aging, with elongation percentages of 3 percent or less in 50 mm. It is generally provided in thicknesses between 0.635 and 0.787 mm, and in widths of 25.4 mm. This product is most commonly used in the manufacture of television tubes and is currently available under proprietary trade names such as "Durphynox 17."<sup>5</sup>

Finally, three specialty stainless steels typically used in certain industrial blades and surgical and medical instruments are also excluded from the scope of this order. These include stainless steel strip in coils used in the production of textile cutting tools (*e.g.*, carpet knives).<sup>6</sup> This steel is similar to AISI grade 420 but containing, by weight, 0.5 to 0.7 percent of molybdenum. The steel also contains, by weight, carbon of between 1.0 and 1.1 percent, sulfur of 0.020 percent or less, and includes between 0.20 and 0.30 percent copper and between 0.20 and 0.50 percent cobalt. This steel is sold under proprietary names such as "GIN4 Mo." The second excluded stainless steel strip in coils is similar to AISI 420-J2 and contains, by weight, carbon of between 0.62 and 0.70 percent, silicon of between 0.20 and 0.50 percent, manganese of between 0.45 and 0.80 percent, phosphorus of no more than 0.025 percent and sulfur of no more than 0.020 percent. This steel has a carbide density on average of 100 carbide particles per 100 square microns. An example of this product is "GIN5" steel. The third specialty steel

<sup>4</sup> "Gilphy 36" is a trademark of Imphy, S.A.

<sup>5</sup> "Durphynox 17" is a trademark of Imphy, S.A.

<sup>6</sup> This list of uses is illustrative and provided for descriptive purposes only.

has a chemical composition similar to AISI 420 F, with carbon of between 0.37 and 0.43 percent, molybdenum of between 1.15 and 1.35 percent, but lower manganese of between 0.20 and 0.80 percent, phosphorus of no more than 0.025 percent, silicon of between 0.20 and 0.50 percent, and sulfur of no more than 0.020 percent. This product is supplied with a hardness of more than Hv 500 guaranteed after customer processing, and is supplied as, for example, "GIN6".<sup>7</sup>

### Country of Origin

In the *Preliminary Results*, we examined whether certain sales of SSSS should be excluded from the scope of this order because the SSSS was hot-rolled in Belgium and then annealed and pickled in France, but not further cold-rolled in France. UA France contends that this material, which it designated HRAP, is not within the scope of the order in this case because it is deemed to be of Belgian origin pursuant to the Department's findings in *Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip in Coils from the U.K. See Notice of Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip in Coils from the U.K.*, 64 FR 30688 (June 9, 1999) at Comment 13. In the *Preliminary Results*, we agreed with UA France and concluded that the material was of Belgian origin. See *Preliminary Results*.

Additionally, in the *Preliminary Results*, we stated that we would continue to analyze the record evidence and the arguments raised by the parties on this issue for the purposes of the final results. Neither party commented on this issue in their brief or rebuttal brief in this case. However, the parties to this case are also parties in another case before the Department in which this issue is also present. See *Stainless Steel Plate in Coils from Belgium: Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review*, 69 FR 74495 (December 14, 2004) and accompanying Issues and Decision Memorandum at Comment 4 (*SSPC from Belgium*).

In *SSPC from Belgium*, after consideration of parties' comments, we concluded that the material hot-rolled in Germany but not further cold-rolled in Belgium was of German origin. *Id.* Therefore, in accordance with the Department's finding in *SSPC from Belgium*, we continue to find, as we did in the *Preliminary Results*, that the SSSS which is hot-rolled in Belgium, but not further cold-rolled in France is of Belgian origin.

### Analysis of Comments Received

All the issues raised in the case and rebuttal briefs by the parties to this administrative review are addressed in the *Issues and Decision Memorandum from Barbara E. Tillman, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Import Administration to Joseph A. Spetrini, Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration: Issues and Decision Memorandum for the Final Results of the Fourth Administrative Review of Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip in Coils from France*, dated February 2, 2005 (*Decision Memo*), which is hereby adopted by this notice.

A list of the issues which parties have raised and to which we have responded, all of which are addressed in the *Decision Memo*, is attached to this notice as an appendix. Parties can find a complete discussion of all the issues raised in this review and the corresponding recommendations in the *Decision Memo*, which is on file in the Central Records Unit, room B-099 of the main Commerce Building. In addition, a complete version of the *Decision Memo* can be accessed directly on the Web at <http://ia.ita.doc.gov>. The paper copy and the electronic version of the *Decision Memo* are identical in content.

Based on our analysis of the comments received, we have made certain changes in the margin calculations for UA France. We have also addressed the alleged ministerial errors submitted in the briefs. For further details, see the *Decision Memo* and the *Memorandum to the File from Sebastian Wright to Sean Carey: Analysis Memorandum for Ugine & ALZ France, S.A. for the Final Results of the Fourth Antidumping Duty Administrative Review of Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip in Coils from France*, (February 2, 2005) (*Analysis Memo*).

### Final Results of Review

As a result of our review, we determine the antidumping margin for UA France to be as follows:

Manufacturer/exporter	Margin (percent)
Ugine & ALZ France, S.A. (UA France) .....	9.65

### Duty Assessment

The Department shall determine, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) shall assess, antidumping duties on all appropriate entries. Pursuant to section 351.212(b) of the Department's regulations, an assessment rate is calculated for each importer of the subject merchandise for each respondent. The Department will issue

appropriate assessment instructions directly to CBP within 15 days of publication of the final results of review.

### Cash Deposit Requirements

The following antidumping duty deposit rates will be required on all shipments of SSSS from France entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the publication date of these final results, as provided for by section 751(a)(1) of the Act: (1) For UA France, the cash deposit rate will be the rate indicated above; (2) for previously reviewed or investigated companies other than UA France, the cash deposit rate will be the company-specific rate established for the most recent period; (3) if the exporter is not a firm covered in this review, a prior review, or the less-than-fair-value (LTFV) investigation, but the manufacturer is, the cash deposit rate will be the rate established for the most recent period for the manufacturer of the subject merchandise; and (4) if neither the exporter nor the manufacturer is a firm covered by this review, a prior review, or the LTFV investigation, the cash deposit rate shall be the "all others" rate established in the LTFV investigation, which is 9.38 percent *ad valorem*. See *Notice of Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip in Coils from France*, 64 FR 30820 (June 8, 1999). These deposit rates, when imposed, shall remain in effect until publication of the final results of the next administrative review.

### Notification to Importers

This notice also serves as a final reminder to importers of their responsibility under section 351.402(f)(2) of the Department's regulations to file a certificate regarding the reimbursement of antidumping duties prior to liquidation of the relevant entries during this review period. Failure to comply with this requirement could result in the Secretary's presumption that reimbursement of antidumping duties occurred and the subsequent assessment of doubled antidumping duties, pursuant to section 351.402(f)(3) of the Department's regulations.

### Notification Regarding APOs

This notice also serves as a reminder to parties subject to administrative protective orders (APO) of their responsibility concerning the disposition of proprietary information disclosed under APO in accordance with section 351.305 of the Department's regulations. Timely

<sup>7</sup> "GIN4 Mo," "GIN5" and "GIN6" are the proprietary grades of Hitachi Metals America, Ltd.

written notification of the return/ destruction of APO materials or conversion to judicial protective order is hereby requested. Failure to comply with the regulations and terms of an APO is a sanctionable violation.

This administrative review and notice are in accordance with sections 751(a)(1) and 777(i)(1) of the Act.

Dated: February 2, 2005.

**Barbara E. Tillman,**

*Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.*

## APPENDIX

### List of Issues

1. Constructed Export Price (CEP) Offset
2. Date of Sale for Certain Home-Market Sales
3. Credit Expenses
4. Application of Adverse Facts Available for Sales to Bernier
5. Offsetting Margins with Above-Normal-Value Transactions
6. Offsetting Home-Market Commissions
7. Further Manufacturing Adjustments
8. Ministerial Errors: Interest Expenses, Home-Market Warranty Expenses, and Commission Expenses

[FR Doc. E5-576 Filed 2-10-05; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

[A-351-826]

### Notice of Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review: Small Diameter Circular Seamless Carbon and Alloy Steel Standard, Line and Pressure Pipe From Brazil

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

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** February 11, 2005.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Helen Kramer or Patrick Edwards at (202) 482-0405 or (202) 482-8029, respectively; AD/CVD Operations, Office 7, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background

On September 7, 2004, the Department of Commerce ("the Department") published in the **Federal Register** its preliminary results in this administrative review. See *Notice of Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review*, 69 FR 54125 (September 7, 2004) ("Preliminary Results"). We invited parties to comment on the Preliminary

Results. On October 7, 2004, we received case briefs from the sole respondent, V&M do Brasil, S.A. ("VMB"), and the petitioner, United States Steel Corporation ("petitioner"). Both parties submitted rebuttal briefs on October 14, 2004. No public hearing was held. Pursuant to section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended ("the Act"), the Department extended the time limit for the final results by 30 days, from January 5, 2005, to February 4, 2005. See *Notice of Extension of Time Limit for the Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review: Small Diameter Circular Seamless Carbon and Alloy Steel Standard, Line and Pressure Pipe from Brazil*, 69 FR 75916 (December 20, 2004).

#### Scope of the Order

For purposes of this review, the products covered by the order are seamless pipes produced to the ASTM A-335, ASTM A-106, ASTM A-53 and API 5L specifications and meeting the physical parameters described below, regardless of application. The scope of this order also includes all products used in standard, line, or pressure pipe applications and meeting the physical parameters below, regardless of specification.

For purposes of this order, seamless pipes are seamless carbon and alloy (other than stainless) steel pipes, of circular cross-section, not more than 114.3 mm (4.5 inches) in outside diameter, regardless of wall thickness, manufacturing process (hot-finished or cold-drawn), end finish (plain end, beveled end, upset end, threaded, or threaded and coupled), or surface finish. These pipes are commonly known as standard pipe, line pipe or pressure pipe, depending upon the application. They may also be used in structural applications. Pipes produced in non-standard wall thickness are commonly referred to as tubes.

The seamless pipes subject to this antidumping duty order are currently classifiable under subheadings 7304.10.10.20, 7304.10.50.20, 7304.31.60.50, 7304.39.00.16, 7304.39.00.20, 7304.39.00.24, 7304.39.00.28, 7304.39.00.32, 7304.51.50.05, 7304.51.50.60, 7304.59.60.00, 7304.59.80.10, 7304.59.80.15, 7304.59.80.20, and 7304.59.80.25 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States ("HTSUS"). The following information further defines the scope of this order, which covers pipes meeting the physical parameters described above:

*Specifications, Characteristics and Uses:* Seamless pressure pipes are

intended for the conveyance of water, steam, petrochemicals, chemicals, oil products, natural gas, and other liquids and gasses in industrial piping systems. They may carry these substances at elevated pressures and temperatures and may be subject to the application of external heat. Seamless carbon steel pressure pipe meeting the ASTM standard A-106 may be used in temperatures of up to 1000 degrees Fahrenheit, at various American Society of Mechanical Engineers ("ASME") code stress levels. Alloy pipes made to ASTM standard A-335 must be used if temperatures and stress levels exceed those allowed for A-106 and the ASME codes. Seamless pressure pipes sold in the United States are commonly produced to the ASTM A-106 standard.

Seamless standard pipes are most commonly produced to the ASTM A-53 specification and generally are not intended for high temperature service. They are intended for the low temperature and pressure conveyance of water, steam, natural gas, air and other liquids and gasses in plumbing and heating systems, air conditioning units, automatic sprinkler systems, and other related uses. Standard pipes (depending on type and code) may carry liquids at elevated temperatures but must not exceed relevant ASME code requirements.

Seamless line pipes are intended for the conveyance of oil and natural gas or other fluids in pipelines. Seamless line pipes are produced to the API 5L specification.

Seamless pipes are commonly produced and certified to meet ASTM A-106, ASTM A-53 and API 5L specifications. Such triple certification of pipes is common because all pipes meeting the stringent ASTM A-106 specification necessarily meet the API 5L and ASTM A-53 specifications. Pipes meeting the API 5L specification necessarily meet the ASTM A-53 specification. However, pipes meeting the A-53 or API 5L specifications do not necessarily meet the A-106 specification. To avoid maintaining separate production runs and separate inventories, manufacturers triple-certify the pipes. Since distributors sell the vast majority of this product, they can thereby maintain a single inventory to service all customers.

The primary application of ASTM A-106 pressure pipes and triple-certified pipes is in pressure piping systems by refineries, petrochemical plants and chemical plants. Other applications are in power generation plants (electrical-fossil fuel or nuclear), and in some oil field uses (on shore and off shore) such as for separator lines, gathering lines