DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Bureau of Industry and Security
[Docket No. 160329302–6302–01]

Reporting for Calendar Year 2015 on Offsets Agreements Related to Sales of Defense Articles or Defense Services to Foreign Countries or Foreign Firms

AGENCY: Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; annual reporting requirements.

SUMMARY: This notice is to remind the public that U.S. firms are required to report annually to the Department of Commerce (Commerce) information on contracts for the sale of defense articles or defense services to foreign countries or foreign firms that are subject to offsets agreements exceeding $5,000,000 in value. U.S. firms are also required to report annually to Commerce information on offsets transactions completed in performance of existing offsets commitments for which offsets credit of $250,000 or more has been claimed from the foreign representative. This year, such reports must include relevant information from calendar year 2015 and must be submitted to Commerce no later than June 15, 2016.


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 723(a)(1) of the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended (DPA) (50 U.S.C. 4568 (2015)) requires the President to submit an annual report to Congress on the impact of offsets on the U.S. defense industrial base. Section 723(a)(2) directs the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to prepare the President’s report and to develop and administer the regulations necessary to collect offsets data from U.S. defense exporters.

The authorities of the Secretary regarding offsets have been delegated to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security. The regulations associated with offsets reporting are set forth in part 701 of title 15 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Offsets are compensation practices required as a condition of purchase in either government-to-government or commercial sales of defense articles and/or defense services, as defined by the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778) and the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (22 CFR 120–130). Offsets are also applicable to certain items controlled on the Commerce Control list (CCL) and with an Export Control Classification Number (ECCN) including the numeral “6” as its third character. The CCL is found in Supplement No. 1 to part 774 of the Export Administration Regulations.

An example of an offset is as follows: a company that is selling a fleet of military aircraft to a foreign government may agree to offset the cost of the aircraft by providing training assistance to plant managers in the purchasing country. Although this distorts the true price of the aircraft, the foreign government may require this sort of extra compensation as a condition of awarding the contract to purchase the aircraft. As described in the regulations, U.S. firms are required to report information on contracts for the sale of defense articles or defense services to foreign countries or foreign firms that are subject to offsets agreements exceeding $5,000,000 in value. U.S. firms are also required to report annually information on offsets transactions completed in performance of existing offsets commitments for which offsets credit of $250,000 or more has been claimed from the foreign representative.

Commerce’s annual report to Congress includes an aggregated summary of the data reported by industry in accordance with the offsets regulation and the DPA (50 U.S.C. 4568 (2015)). As provided by section 723(c) of the DPA, BIS will not publicly disclose individual firm information it receives through offsets reporting unless the firm furnishing the information specifically authorizes public disclosure. The information collected is sorted and organized into an aggregate report of national offsets data, and therefore does not identify company-specific information.

In order to enable BIS to prepare the next annual offset report reflecting calendar year 2015 data, affected U.S. firms must submit required information on offsets agreements and offsets transactions from calendar year 2015 to BIS no later than June 15, 2016.


Kevin J. Wolf,
Assistant Secretary for Export Administration.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
International Trade Administration
[A–570–900]

Diamond Sawblades and Parts Thereof From the People’s Republic of China: Final Results of Antidumping Duty Changed Circumstances Review

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: On March 3, 2016, the Department of Commerce (the Department) published a notice of initiation and preliminary results of a changed circumstances review of the antidumping duty order on diamond sawblades and parts thereof (diamond sawblades) from the People’s Republic of China (the PRC).1 In that notice, we preliminarily determined that Wuhan Wanbang Laser Diamond Tools Co., Ltd. (Wuhan Wanbang Co., Ltd.) is the successor-in-interest to Wuhan Wanbang Laser Diamond Tools Co. (Wuhan Wanbang Co.) for purposes of determining antidumping duty deposits and liabilities.2 No interested party submitted comments on or requested a public hearing to discuss the Initiation and Preliminary Results. For these final results, the Department continues to find that Wuhan Wanbang Co., Ltd. is the successor-in-interest to Wuhan Wanbang Co.

DATES: Effective Date: April 8, 2016.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

1 See Diamond Sawblades and Parts Thereof From the People’s Republic of China: Initiation and Preliminary Results of Changed Circumstances Review, 81 FR 11177 (March 3, 2016) (Initiation and Preliminary Results).
2 Id.
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Effective May 4, 2015, Wuhan Wanbang Co., Ltd. (1) changed its legal status from a limited liability company to a joint-stock limited company and (2) changed its name to Wuhan Wanbang Laser Diamond Tools Co., Ltd. On December 22, 2015, Wuhan Wanbang Co., Ltd. requested that the Department initiate an expedited changed circumstances review and determine that Wuhan Wanbang Co., Ltd. is the successor-in-interest to Wuhan Wanbang Co.

On March 3, 2016, we initiated this changed circumstances review and preliminarily determined that Wuhan Wanbang Co., Ltd. is the successor-in-interest to Wuhan Wanbang Co. In the Initiation and Preliminary Results, we provided all interested parties with an opportunity to comment or request a public hearing regarding our preliminary results. We received no comments or requests for a public hearing.

Scope of the Order

The products covered by the order are all finished circular sawblades, whether slotted or not, with a working part that is comprised of a diamond segment or segments, and parts thereof, regardless of specification or size, except as specifically excluded below. Within the scope of the order are semifinished diamond sawblades, including diamond sawblade cores and diamond sawblade segments. Diamond sawblade cores are circular steel plates, whether or not attached to non-steel plates, with slots. Diamond sawblade cores are manufactured principally, but not exclusively, from alloy steel. A diamond sawblade segment consists of a mixture of diamonds (whether natural or synthetic, and regardless of the quantity of diamonds) and metal powders (including, but not limited to, iron, cobalt, nickel, tungsten carbide) that are formed together into a solid shape (from generally, but not limited to, a heating and pressing process).

Sawblades with diamonds directly attached to the core with a resin or electroplated bond, which thereby do not contain a diamond segment, are not included within the scope of the order. Diamond sawblades and/or sawblade cores with a thickness of less than 0.025 inches, or with a thickness greater than 1.1 inches, are excluded from the scope of the order. Circular steel plates that have a cutting edge of non-diamond material, such as external teeth that protrude from the outer diameter of the plate, whether or not finished, are excluded from the scope of the order.

Diamond sawblade cores with a Rockwell C hardness of less than 25 are excluded from the scope of the order. Diamond sawblades and/or diamond segment(s) with diamonds that predominantly have a mesh size number greater than 240 (such as 250 or 260) are excluded from the scope of the order. Merchandise subject to the order is typically imported under heading 8202.39.00.00 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS). When packaged together as a set for retail sale with an item that is separately classified under headings 8202 to 8205 of the HTSUS, diamond sawblades or parts thereof may be imported under heading 8206.00.00.00 of the HTSUS. On October 11, 2011, the Department included the 6804.21.00.00 HTSUS classification number to the customs case reference file, pursuant to a request by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). The tariff classification is provided for convenience and customs purposes; however, the written description of the scope of the order is dispositive.

Final Results of Changed Circumstances Review

For the reasons stated in the Initiation and Preliminary Results, and because we received no comments from interested parties to the contrary, we continue to find that Wuhan Wanbang Co., Ltd. is the successor-in-interest to Wuhan Wanbang Co. As a result of this determination, we find that Wuhan Wanbang Co., Ltd. should receive the cash deposit rate previously assigned to Wuhan Wanbang Co. in the most recently completed administrative review of the antidumping duty order on diamond sawblades from the PRC. Consequently, the Department will instruct U.S. Customs and Border Protection to suspend liquidation of all shipments of subject merchandise exported by Wuhan Wanbang Co., Ltd., and entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the publication date of this notice in the Federal Register at 2.34 percent, which is the current antidumping duty cash deposit rate for Wuhan Wanbang Co. This cash deposit requirement shall remain in effect until further notice.

This notice of final results is in accordance with sections 751(b)(1) and 777(i)(1) and (2) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, and 19 CFR 351.216, and 19 CFR 351.221(c)(3).

Dated: April 1, 2016.

Paul Piquado,
Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2016–08141 Filed 4–7–16; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
International Trade Administration

[C–535–904]

Circular Welded Carbon-Quality Steel Pipe From Pakistan: Preliminary Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination and Alignment of Final Countervailing Duty Determination With Final Antidumping Duty Determination

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Commerce (the Department) preliminarily determines that countervailable subsidies are being provided to exporters/producers of circular welded carbon-quality steel pipe (circular welded pipe) from Pakistan. The period of investigation (POI) is July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015. Interested parties are invited to submit comments.


See Diamond Sawblades and Parts Thereof From the Republic of Korea: Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review, 76 FR 76128, 76130 (December 6, 2011).

2 Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.204(b)(2), the Department’s Initiation Notice stated that the POI was January 1, 2014, through December 31, 2014. See Circular Welded Carbon-Quality Steel Pipe From Pakistan: Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigation, 80 FR 74704 (November 25, 2015) (Initiation Notice). The Department, however, identified public information supporting the conclusion that both the Government of Pakistan (the GOP) and the sole company selected for individual examination (i.e., the mandatory respondent), International Industries Limited (IIL), operate according to an annual fiscal year beginning on July 1 and ending on June 30. See Department Memorandum, “Countervailing Duty Investigation of Circular Welded Carbon-Quality Steel Pipe from Pakistan: Period of Investigation,” December 16, 2015 (POI Memorandum); see also Letter from the Department, “Countervailing Duty Investigation of Circular Welded Carbon-Quality Steel Pipe from Pakistan: Countervailing Duty Questionnaire,” December 16, 2015 (CVD Questionnaire), at 1–4. Therefore, consistent with 19 CFR 351.204(b)(2), we determined that July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015, operated as the POI.

See Initiation and Preliminary Results.