

costs of processing operations performed in Haiti or one or more beneficiary countries, as described in CBERA, as amended, or any combination thereof, is not less than an applicable percentage of the declared customs value of such apparel articles. Pursuant to CBERA, as amended, the applicable percentage for the period December 20, 2017 through December 19, 2018, is 60 percent.

For every twelve-month period following the effective date of CBERA, as amended, duty-free treatment under the value-added provision is subject to a quantitative limitation. CBERA, as amended, provides that the quantitative limitation will be recalculated for each subsequent 12 month period. Section 213A (b)(1)(C) of CBERA, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2703a(b)(1)(C)), requires that, for the twelve-month period beginning on December 20, 2017, the quantitative limitation for qualifying apparel imported from Haiti under the value-added provision will be an amount equivalent to 1.25 percent of the aggregate square meter equivalent of all apparel articles imported into the United States in the most recent 12-month period for which data are available.

The aggregate square meters equivalent of all apparel articles imported into the United States is derived from the set of Harmonized System lines listed in the Annex to the World Trade Organization Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (“ATC”), and the conversion factors for units of measure into square meter equivalents used by the United States in implementing the ATC.

For purposes of this notice, the most recent 12-month period for which data are available as of December 20, 2017 is the 12-month period ending on October 31, 2017.

Therefore, for the one-year period beginning on December 20, 2017 and extending through December 19, 2018, the quantity of imports eligible for preferential treatment under the value-added provision is 361,603,399 square meters equivalent. Apparel articles entered in excess of these quantities will be subject to otherwise applicable tariffs.

Dated: December 11, 2017.

Terry Labat,

Senior Advisor, performing the Non-Exclusive Duties of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Textiles, Consumer Goods and Materials.

[FR Doc. 2017-27079 Filed 12-14-17; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[C-570-068]

Forged Steel Fittings From the People’s Republic of China: Postponement of Preliminary Determination in the Countervailing Duty Investigation

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

DATES: Applicable December 15, 2017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian Smith at (202) 482-1766 or Jaron Moore at (202) 482-3640, AD/CVD Operations, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On October 25, 2017, the Department of Commerce (the Department) initiated a countervailing duty (CVD) investigation of forged steel fittings from the People’s Republic of China.¹ Currently, the preliminary determination is due no later than December 29, 2017.

Postponement of Preliminary Determination

Section 703(b)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), requires the Department to issue the preliminary determination in a CVD investigation within 65 days after the date on which the Department initiated the investigation. However, section 703(c)(1)(A) of the Act permits the Department to postpone the preliminary determination until no later than 130 days after the date on which the Department initiated the investigation if the petitioners² make a timely request for a postponement. Under 19 CFR 351.205(e), the petitioners must submit a request for postponement 25 days or more before the scheduled date of the preliminary determination and must state the reasons for the request. The Department will grant the request unless it finds compelling reasons to deny the request.

¹ See *Forged Steel Fittings From the People’s Republic of China: Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigation*, 82 FR 50623 (November 1, 2017) (*Initiation Notice*).

² The petitioners are the Bonney Forge Corporation and the United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union (USW).

On November 24, 2017, the petitioners submitted a timely request that the Department postpone the preliminary CVD determination.³ Noting the comments filed with respect to respondent selection and the scope of the investigation, the petitioners stated that a postponement is necessary due to the difficulty in determining which companies imported subject merchandise, and the possibility that the Department may find it necessary to select additional respondents or issue quantity and value questionnaires. Finally, the petitioners state that a postponement is necessary to allow them sufficient time to identify additional subsidy benefits not addressed in the Petition once the Department identifies the mandatory respondents.

In accordance with 19 CFR 351.205(e), the petitioners stated the reasons for requesting a postponement of the preliminary determination, and the Department finds no compelling reason to deny the request. Therefore, in accordance with section 703(c)(1)(A) of the Act, the Department is postponing the deadline for the preliminary determination to no later than 130 days after the date on which this investigation was initiated, *i.e.*, March 5, 2018.⁴ Pursuant to section 705(a)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.210(b)(1), the deadline for the final determination of this investigation will continue to be 75 days after the date of the preliminary determination, unless postponed at a later date.

This notice is issued and published pursuant to section 703(c)(2) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(f)(1).

Dated: November 30, 2017.

Gary Taverman,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Operations performing the non-exclusive duties of the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

[FR Doc. 2017-27081 Filed 12-14-17; 8:45 am]

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³ See the petitioners’ letter, “Re: Forged Steel Fittings from the People’s Republic of China: Request to Postpone Preliminary Determination,” dated November 24, 2017.

⁴ Postponing the preliminary determination to 130 days after initiation would place the deadline on Sunday, March 4, 2018. The Department’s practice dictates that where a deadline falls on a weekend or federal holiday, the appropriate deadline is the next business day. See *Notice of Clarification: Application of “Next Business Day” Rule for Administrative Determination Deadlines Pursuant to the Tariff Act of 1930, As Amended*, 70 FR 24533 (May 10, 2005).