

copies to the Office of the Secretary by noon the next day pursuant to section 210.4(f) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR 210.4(f)). Submissions should refer to the investigation number ("Inv. No. 337-TA-1002") in a prominent place on the cover page and/or the first page. (See Handbook for Electronic Filing Procedures, https://www.usitc.gov/secretary/documents/handbook_on_filing_procedures.pdf). Persons with questions regarding filing should contact the Secretary (202-205-2000).

Any person desiring to submit a document to the Commission in confidence must request confidential treatment. All such requests should be directed to the Secretary to the Commission and must include a full statement of the reasons why the Commission should grant such treatment. See 19 CFR 201.6. Documents for which confidential treatment by the Commission is properly sought will be treated accordingly. All information, including confidential business information and documents for which confidential treatment is properly sought, submitted to the Commission for purposes of this Investigation may be disclosed to and used: (i) By the Commission, its employees and Offices, and contract personnel (a) for developing or maintaining the records of this or a related proceeding, or (b) in internal investigations, audits, reviews, and evaluations relating to the programs, personnel, and operations of the Commission including under 5 U.S.C. Appendix 3; or (ii) by U.S. government employees and contract personnel,¹ solely for cybersecurity purposes. All nonconfidential written submissions will be available for public inspection at the Office of the Secretary and on EDIS.

The authority for the Commission's determination is contained in section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1337), and in Part 210 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR part 210).

By order of the Commission.

Issued: March 19, 2018.

Lisa R. Barton,

Secretary to the Commission.

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation Nos. 701-TA-598-600 and 731-TA-1408-1410 (Preliminary)]

Rubber Bands From China, Sri Lanka, and Thailand; Determinations

On the basis of the record¹ developed in the subject investigations, the United States International Trade Commission ("Commission") determines, pursuant to the Tariff Act of 1930 ("the Act"), that there is a reasonable indication that an industry in the United States is threatened with material injury by reason of imports of rubber bands from China and Thailand provided for in subheadings 4016.99.35 and 4016.99.60 (statistical reporting numbers 4016.99.3510 and 4016.99.6050) 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") and to be subsidized by the governments of China and Thailand. The Commission further determines that imports of rubber bands from Sri Lanka that are alleged to be sold in the United States at LTFV and to be subsidized by the government of Sri Lanka are negligible pursuant to section 771(24) of the Act, and its antidumping and countervailing duty investigations with regard to rubber bands from this country are thereby terminated pursuant to section 703(a)(1) of the Act.

Commencement of Final Phase Investigations

Pursuant to section 207.18 of the Commission's rules, the Commission also gives notice of the commencement of the final phase of its investigations regarding imports of rubber bands from China and Thailand. The Commission will issue a final phase notice of scheduling, which will be published in the **Federal Register** as provided in section 207.21 of the Commission's rules, upon notice from the U.S. Department of Commerce ("Commerce") of affirmative preliminary determinations in the investigations under sections 703(b) or 733(b) of the Act, or, if the preliminary determinations are negative, upon notice of affirmative final determinations in those investigations under sections 705(a) or 735(a) of the Act. Parties that filed entries of appearance in the preliminary phase of the investigations need not enter a separate appearance for the final phase of the investigations. 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 investigations.

Background

On January 30, 2018, Alliance Rubber Co., Hot Springs, Arkansas filed petitions with the Commission and Commerce, alleging that an industry in the United States is materially injured or threatened with material injury by reason of LTFV and subsidized imports of rubber bands from China, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. Accordingly, effective January 30, 2018, the Commission, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 733(a) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1671b(a) and 1673b(a)), instituted countervailing duty investigation Nos. 701-TA-598-600 and antidumping duty investigation Nos. 731-TA-1408-1410 (Preliminary).

Notice of the institution of the Commission's investigations 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 February 5, 2018 (83 FR 5143). The conference was held in Washington, DC, on February 20, 2018, and all persons who requested the opportunity were permitted to appear in person or by counsel.

The Commission made these determinations pursuant to sections 703(a) and 733(a) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1671b(a) and 1673b(a)). It completed and filed its determinations in these investigations on March 19, 2018.² The views of the Commission are contained in USITC Publication 4770 (March 2018), entitled *Rubber Bands from China, Sri Lanka, and Thailand: Investigation Nos. 701-TA-598-600 and 731-TA-1408-1410 (Preliminary)*.

By order of the Commission.

Issued: March 19, 2018.

Lisa R. Barton,

Secretary to the Commission.

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¹ All contract personnel will sign appropriate nondisclosure agreements.

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 Due to the Federal government weather-related closure on March 2, 2018, these investigations have been tolled by one day pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1671b(a)(2), 1673b(a)(2).