

(4) if neither the exporter nor the producer is a firm covered in this review or in any previously completed segment of this proceeding, then the cash deposit rate will be 4.05 percent, the all-others rate established in the less than fair value investigation.<sup>7</sup> These cash deposit requirements, when imposed, shall remain in effect until further notice.

#### Disclosure

We will disclose to interested parties the calculations performed in connection with these final results within five days of the publication of this notice, consistent with 19 CFR 351.224(b).

#### Notification to Importers

This notice serves as a final reminder to importers of their responsibility under 19 CFR 351.402(f)(2) to file a certificate regarding the reimbursement of antidumping duties prior to liquidation of the relevant entries during this POR. Failure to comply with this requirement could result in Commerce's presumption that reimbursement of antidumping duties occurred and the subsequent assessment of doubled antidumping duties.

#### Administrative Protective Order

This notice is the only reminder to parties subject to the administrative protective order (APO) of their responsibility concerning the return or destruction of proprietary information disclosed under the APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305(a)(3), which continues to govern business proprietary information in this segment of the proceeding. Timely written notification of the return or destruction of APO materials, or conversion to judicial protective order, is hereby requested. Failure to comply with the regulations and the terms of an APO is a violation subject to sanction.

#### Notification to Interested Parties

We are issuing and publishing these final results and this notice in accordance with sections 751(a)(1) and 777(i)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.213(h).

Dated: May 1, 2019.

**Christian Marsh,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.*

#### Appendix

##### List of Topics Discussed in the Issues and Decision Memorandum

- I. Summary
- II. Background
- III. Scope of the Order
- IV. Discussion of Comment
- Comment: JBF's Cost of Production
- V. Recommendation

[FR Doc. 2019-09454 Filed 5-7-19; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

[C-570-109]

#### Ceramic Tile From the People's Republic of China: Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigation

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

**DATES:** Applicable April 30, 2019.

##### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Yasmin Bordas at (202) 482-3813; Moses Song at (202) 482-7885; John McGowan at (202) 492-3019, respectively; AD/CVD Operations, Office VI, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230.

##### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### The Petition

On April 10, 2019, the U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) received a countervailing duty (CVD) Petition concerning imports of ceramic tile from the People's Republic of China (China), filed in proper form on behalf of the Coalition for Fair Trade in Ceramic Tile (the petitioner).<sup>1</sup> The CVD Petition was accompanied by an antidumping duty (AD) Petition concerning imports of ceramic tile from China.

Between April 15 and 24, 2019, Commerce requested supplemental information pertaining to certain aspects of the Petition.<sup>2</sup> The petitioner filed

responses to these requests between April 17 and April 25, 2019.<sup>3</sup>

In accordance with section 702(b)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), the petitioner alleges that the Government of China is providing countervailable subsidies, within the meaning of sections 701 and 771(5) of the Act, to producers of ceramic tile in China, and that such imports are materially injuring, or threatening material injury to, the domestic industry producing ceramic tile in the United States. Consistent with section 702(b)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.202(b), for those alleged programs on which we are initiating a CVD investigation, the Petition is accompanied by information reasonably available to the petitioner supporting its allegations.

Commerce finds that the petitioner filed this Petition on behalf of the domestic industry, because the petitioner is an interested party, as defined in section 771(9)(E) of the Act. Commerce also finds that the petitioner demonstrated sufficient industry

Duties on Imports of Ceramic Tile from the People's Republic of China: Supplemental Questions," dated April 15, 2019 (General Issues Supplemental Questionnaire); "Petition for the Imposition of Countervailing Duties on Imports of Ceramic Tile from the People's Republic of China: Supplemental Questions," dated April 15, 2019 (CVD Supplemental Questionnaire); *see also* Memoranda, "Petitions for the Imposition of Antidumping and Countervailing Duties on Imports of Ceramic Tile from the People's Republic of China: Phone Call with Counsel to the Petitioner," dated April 16, 2019 (April 16, 2019 Memorandum); "Petitions for the Imposition of Antidumping and Countervailing Duties on Imports of Ceramic Tile from the People's Republic of China: Phone Call with Counsel to the Petitioner," dated April 19, 2019 (April 19, 2019 Memorandum); and "Petitions for the Imposition of Antidumping and Countervailing Duties on Imports of Ceramic Tile from the People's Republic of China: Phone Call with Counsel to the Petitioner," dated April 24, 2019 (April 24, 2019 Memorandum).

<sup>3</sup> *See* the Petitioner's Letters, "Countervailing Duty Investigation of Ceramic Tile from the People's Republic of China: FTCT's Response to the Department's Supplemental Questions on the Petition," dated April 17, 2019 (General Issues Supplement); "Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Investigation of Ceramic Tile from the People's Republic of China: FTCT's Response to the Department's Supplemental Questions on the Petition," dated April 17, 2019 (CVD Supplement Response); "Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Investigation of Ceramic Tile from the People's Republic of China: FTCT's Response to the Department's Second Supplemental Questions on General Issues of Petition pertaining to DOC Case Nos. A-570-108 & C-570-109," dated April 22, 2019 (Second General Issues Supplement); and "Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Investigation of Ceramic Tile from the People's Republic of China: FTCT's Response to the Department's Third Supplemental Questions on General Issues of Petition pertaining to DOC Case Nos. A-570-108 & C-570-109," dated April 25, 2019 (Third General Issues Supplement).

<sup>7</sup> *See Polyethylene Terephthalate Film, Sheet, and Strip from Brazil, the People's Republic of China and the United Arab Emirates: Antidumping Duty Orders and Amended Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value for the United Arab Emirates*, 73 FR 66595, 66596 (November 10, 2008).

<sup>1</sup> *See* Petitioner's Letter, "Petitions for the Imposition of Antidumping and Countervailing Duties on Imports of Ceramic Tile from the People's Republic of China," dated April 10, 2019 (the Petition); *see also* Memorandum, "Decision Memorandum Concerning the Filing Date of the Petitions," dated April 16, 2019.

<sup>2</sup> *See* Commerce's Letters, "Petitions for the Imposition of Antidumping and Countervailing

support with respect to the initiation of the requested CVD investigation.<sup>4</sup>

### Period of Investigation

Because the Petition was filed on April 10, 2019, the period of investigation (POI) is January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2018.<sup>5</sup>

### Scope of the Investigation

The merchandise covered by this investigation consists of ceramic tile from China. For a full description of the scope of this investigation, see the Appendix to this notice.

### Comments on Scope of the Investigation

During our review of the Petition, we contacted the petitioner regarding the proposed scope to ensure that the scope language in the Petition is an accurate reflection of the products for which the domestic industry is seeking relief.<sup>6</sup> As a result, the scope of the Petition was modified to clarify the description of merchandise covered by the Petition. The description of the merchandise covered by this investigation, as described in the Appendix to this notice, reflects these clarifications.

As discussed in the *Preamble* to Commerce's regulations, we are setting aside a period for interested parties to raise issues regarding product coverage (scope).<sup>7</sup> Commerce will consider all comments received from interested parties and, if necessary, will consult with interested parties prior to the issuance of the preliminary determination. If scope comments include factual information,<sup>8</sup> all such factual information should be limited to public information. To facilitate preparation of its questionnaires, Commerce requests that all interested parties submit scope comments by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on May 20, 2019, which is 20 calendar days from the signature date of this notice. Any rebuttal comments, which may include factual information, must be filed by 5:00 p.m. ET on May 30, 2019, which

is 10 calendar days from the initial comment deadline.<sup>9</sup>

Commerce requests that any factual information the parties consider relevant to the scope of the investigation be submitted during this period. However, if a party subsequently finds that additional factual information pertaining to the scope of the investigation may be relevant, the party may contact Commerce and request permission to submit the additional information. All such submissions must be filed on the records of the concurrent AD investigation.

### Filing Requirements

All submissions to Commerce must be filed electronically using Enforcement and Compliance's Antidumping Duty and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Service System (ACCESS).<sup>10</sup> An electronically filed document must be received successfully in its entirety by the time and date it is due. Documents exempted from the electronic submission requirements must be filed manually (*i.e.*, in paper form) with Enforcement and Compliance's APO/Dockets Unit, Room 18022, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230, and stamped with the date and time of receipt by the applicable deadlines.

### Consultations

Pursuant to sections 702(b)(4)(A)(i) and (ii) of the Act, Commerce notified China of the receipt of the Petition and provided it the opportunity for consultations with respect to the CVD Petition.<sup>11</sup> China did not request consultations.

### Determination of Industry Support for the Petition

Section 702(b)(1) of the Act requires that a petition be filed on behalf of the domestic industry. Section 702(c)(4)(A) of the Act provides that a petition meets this requirement if the domestic producers or workers who support the petition account for: (i) At least 25

percent of the total production of the domestic like product; and (ii) more than 50 percent of the production of the domestic like product produced by that portion of the industry expressing support for, or opposition to, the petition. Moreover, section 702(c)(4)(D) of the Act provides that, if the petition does not establish support of domestic producers or workers accounting for more than 50 percent of the total production of the domestic like product, Commerce shall: (i) Poll the industry or rely on other information in order to determine if there is support for the petition, as required by subparagraph (A); or (ii) determine industry support using a statistically valid sampling method to poll the "industry."

Section 771(4)(A) of the Act defines the "industry" as the producers, as a whole, of a domestic like product. Thus, to determine whether a petition has the requisite industry support, the statute directs Commerce to look to producers and workers who produce the domestic like product. The International Trade Commission (ITC), which is responsible for determining whether "the domestic industry" has been injured, must also determine what constitutes a domestic like product in order to define the industry. While both Commerce and the ITC must apply the same statutory definition regarding the domestic like product,<sup>12</sup> they do so for different purposes and pursuant to a separate and distinct authority. In addition, Commerce's determination is subject to limitations of time and information. Although this may result in different definitions of the like product, such differences do not render the decision of either agency contrary to law.<sup>13</sup>

Section 771(10) of the Act defines the domestic like product as "a product which is like, or in the absence of like, most similar in characteristics and uses with, the article subject to an investigation under this title." Thus, the reference point from which the domestic like product analysis begins is "the article subject to an investigation" (*i.e.*, the class or kind of merchandise to be investigated, which normally will be the scope as defined in the petition).

With regard to the domestic like product, the petitioner does not offer a definition of the domestic like product distinct from the scope of the investigation.<sup>14</sup> Based on our analysis of

<sup>4</sup> See "Countervailing Duty Investigation Initiation Checklist: Ceramic Tile from the People's Republic of China (CVD Initiation Checklist). This checklist is dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice and on file electronically via ACCESS. Access to documents filed via ACCESS is also available in the Central Records Unit, Room B8024 of the main Department of Commerce building.

<sup>5</sup> See 19 CFR 351.204(b)(1).

<sup>6</sup> See April 16, 2019 Memorandum; April 19, 2019 Memorandum; and April 24, 2019 Memorandum.

<sup>7</sup> See *Antidumping Duties; Countervailing Duties, Final Rule*, 62 FR 27296, 27323 (May 19, 1997).

<sup>8</sup> See 19 CFR 351.102(b)(21) (defining "factual information").

<sup>9</sup> See 19 CFR 351.303(b).

<sup>10</sup> See *Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings: Electronic Filing Procedures; Administrative Protective Order Procedures*, 76 FR 39263 (July 6, 2011); see also *Enforcement and Compliance; Change of Electronic Filing System Name*, 79 FR 69046 (November 20, 2014) for details of Commerce's electronic filing requirements, effective August 5, 2011. Information on help using ACCESS can be found at <https://access.trade.gov/help.aspx> and a handbook can be found at <https://access.trade.gov/help/Handbook%20on%20Electronic%20Filing%20Procedures.pdf>.

<sup>11</sup> See Commerce Letter, "Countervailing Duty Petition on Ceramic Tile from the People's Republic of China: Invitation for Consultations to Discuss the Petition" dated April 15, 2019.

<sup>12</sup> See section 771(10) of the Act.

<sup>13</sup> See *USEC, Inc. v. United States*, 132 F. Supp. 2d 1, 8 (CIT 2001) (citing *Algoma Steel Corp., Ltd. v. United States*, 688 F. Supp. 639, 644 (CIT 1988), *aff'd* 865 F.2d 240 (Fed. Cir. 1989)).

<sup>14</sup> See Volume I of the Petition, at 12–15 and Exhibit I–2–A; see also General Issues Supplement,

the information submitted on the record, we have determined that ceramic tile, as defined in the scope, constitute a single domestic like product, and we have analyzed industry support in terms of that domestic like product.<sup>15</sup>

In determining whether the petitioner has standing under section 702(c)(4)(A) of the Act, we considered the industry support data contained in the Petition with reference to the domestic like product as defined in the “Scope of the Investigation,” in the Appendix to this notice. To establish industry support, the petitioner provided its own 2018 shipments of the domestic like product and compared this to the estimated total shipments of the domestic like product for the entire domestic industry.<sup>16</sup> The petitioner estimated the production of the domestic like product for the entire domestic industry based on shipment data, because production data for the entire domestic industry are not available for 2018, and the petitioner has established that shipments are a reasonable proxy for data on production of ceramic tile.<sup>17</sup> We relied on data provided by the petitioner for purposes of measuring industry support.<sup>18</sup>

Our review of the data provided in the Petition, the General Issues Supplement, the Second General Issues Supplement, and other information readily available to Commerce indicates that the petitioner has established industry support for the Petition.<sup>19</sup> First, the Petition established support from

at 7; *see also* Second General Issues Supplement, at 3–6 and Supplemental Exhibits I–31 and I–32.

<sup>15</sup> For a discussion of the domestic like product analysis as applied to this case and information regarding industry support, *see* Countervailing Duty Investigation Initiation Checklist: Ceramic Tile from the People’s Republic of China (China CVD Initiation Checklist), at Attachment II, Analysis of Industry Support for the Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Petition Covering Ceramic Tile from the People’s Republic of China (Attachment II). This checklist is dated concurrently with this notice and on file electronically via ACCESS. Access to documents filed via ACCESS is also available in the Central Records Unit, Room B8024 of the main Department of Commerce building.

<sup>16</sup> *See* Volume I of the Petition, at 2–5 and Exhibits I–1–A through I–1–F; *see also* General Issues Supplement, at 8–11 and Supplemental Exhibits I–1–E, I–27, and I–28; *see also* Second General Issues Supplement, at 6 and Supplemental Exhibit I–1–E.

<sup>17</sup> *Id.*, at 3–5 and Exhibits I–1–C through I–1–F; *see also* General Issues Supplement, at 8–10 and Supplemental Exhibits I–1–E, I–27, and I–28; *see also* Second General Issues Supplement, at 6 and Supplemental Exhibit I–1–E.

<sup>18</sup> *See* Volume I of the Petition, at 2–5 and Exhibits I–1–A through I–1–F; *see also* General Issues Supplement, at 8–11 and Supplemental Exhibits I–1–E, I–27, and I–28; *see also* Second General Issues Supplement, at 6 and Supplemental Exhibit I–1–E. For further discussion, *see* China CVD Initiation Checklist, at Attachment II.

<sup>19</sup> *See* CVD Initiation Checklist, at Attachment II.

domestic producers (or workers) accounting for more than 50 percent of the total production of the domestic like product and, as such, Commerce is not required to take further action in order to evaluate industry support (*e.g.*, polling).<sup>20</sup> Second, the domestic producers (or workers) have met the statutory criteria for industry support under section 702(c)(4)(A)(i) of the Act because the domestic producers (or workers) who support the Petition account for at least 25 percent of the total production of the domestic like product.<sup>21</sup> Finally, the domestic producers (or workers) have met the statutory criteria for industry support under section 702(c)(4)(A)(ii) of the Act because the domestic producers (or workers) who support the Petition account for more than 50 percent of the production of the domestic like product produced by that portion of the industry expressing support for, or opposition to, the Petition.<sup>22</sup> Accordingly, Commerce determines that the Petition was filed on behalf of the domestic industry within the meaning of section 702(b)(1) of the Act.

#### Injury Test

Because China is a “Subsidies Agreement Country” within the meaning of section 701(b) of the Act, section 701(a)(2) of the Act applies to this investigation. Accordingly, the ITC must determine whether imports of the subject merchandise from China materially injure, or threaten material injury to, a U.S. industry.

#### Allegations and Evidence of Material Injury and Causation

The petitioner alleges that imports of the subject merchandise are benefitting from countervailable subsidies and that such imports are causing, or threaten to cause, material injury to the U.S. industry producing the domestic like product. In addition, the petitioner alleges that subject imports exceed the negligibility threshold provided for under section 771(24)(A) of the Act.<sup>23</sup>

The petitioner contends that the industry’s injured condition is illustrated by a significant and increasing volume of subject imports; reduced market share; adverse impact on the domestic industry’s production, capacity utilization, U.S. shipments, employment variables, and financial performance; underselling and price depression or suppression; lost sales

and revenue; negative impact on the domestic industry’s return on investments; the cancellation or postponement of expansion projects for U.S. production facilities; reduced spending on research and development; and an increase in end-of-year production inventories.<sup>24</sup> We have assessed the allegations and supporting evidence regarding material injury, threat of material injury, causation, as well as negligibility, and we have determined that these allegations are properly supported by adequate evidence, and meet the statutory requirements for initiation.<sup>25</sup>

#### Initiation of CVD Investigation

Based on the examination of the Petition, we find that the Petition meets the requirements of section 702 of the Act. Therefore, we are initiating a CVD investigation to determine whether imports of ceramic tile from China benefit from countervailable subsidies conferred by the Government of China. Based on our review of the Petition, we find that there is sufficient information to initiate a CVD investigation, in whole or part, on each of the alleged programs. For a full discussion of the basis for our decision to initiate on each program, *see* China CVD Initiation Checklist. A public version of the initiation checklist for this investigation is available on ACCESS. In accordance with section 703(b)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(b)(1), unless postponed, we will make our preliminary determination no later than 65 days after the date of this initiation.

#### Respondent Selection

The petitioner named 197 companies as producers/exporters of ceramic tile in China.<sup>26</sup> Commerce intends to follow its standard practice in CVD investigations and calculate company-specific subsidy rates in this investigation. In the event Commerce determines that the number of companies is large and it cannot individually examine each company based upon Commerce’s resources, where appropriate, Commerce intends to select mandatory respondents based on U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) data for U.S. imports of ceramic tile from China during the POI under

<sup>24</sup> *See* Volume I of the Petition, at 17–50 and Exhibits I–6, I–8 through I–22 and I–24 through I–26; *see also* General Issues Supplement, at 11 and Exhibit I–29.

<sup>25</sup> *See* CVD Initiation Checklist, at Attachment III, Analysis of Allegations and Evidence of Material Injury and Causation for the Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Petitions Covering Ceramic Tile from the People’s Republic of China (Attachment III).

<sup>26</sup> *See* Volume I of the Petitions, at 16 and Exhibit I–5.

<sup>20</sup> *Id.*; *see also* section 702(c)(4)(D) of the Act.

<sup>21</sup> *See* CVD Initiation Checklist, at Attachment II.

<sup>22</sup> *Id.*

<sup>23</sup> *See* Volume I of the Petition, at 22–23 and Exhibit I–9.

the appropriate Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States numbers listed in the “Scope of the Investigation,” in the Appendix.

On April 30, 2019, Commerce released CBP data on imports of ceramic tile from China under Administrative Protective Order (APO) to all parties with access to information protected by APO and indicated that interested parties wishing to comment regarding the CBP data and respondent selection must do so within three business days of the publication date of the notice of initiation of this investigation.<sup>27</sup> We further stated that we will not accept rebuttal comments.

Interested parties must submit applications for disclosure under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305(b). Instructions for filing such applications may be found on the Commerce’s website at <http://enforcement.trade.gov/apo>.

Comments must be filed electronically using ACCESS. An electronically filed document must be received successfully, in its entirety, by ACCESS no later than 5:00 p.m. ET on the date noted above. We intend to finalize our decisions regarding respondent selection within 20 days of publication of this notice.

#### Distribution of Copies of the Petition

In accordance with section 702(b)(4)(A)(i) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.202(f), a copy of the public version of the Petition has been provided to China via ACCESS. To the extent practicable, we will attempt to provide a copy of the public version of the Petition to each exporter named in the Petition, as provided under 19 CFR 351.203(c)(2).

#### ITC Notification

We will notify the ITC of our initiation, as required by section 702(d) of the Act.

#### Preliminary Determination by the ITC

The ITC will preliminarily determine, within 45 days after the date on which the Petition was filed, whether there is a reasonable indication that imports of ceramic tile from China are materially injuring, or threatening material injury to, a U.S. industry.<sup>28</sup> A negative ITC determination will result in the investigation being terminated.<sup>29</sup> Otherwise, this investigation will

proceed according to statutory and regulatory time limits.

#### Submission of Factual Information

Factual information is defined in 19 CFR 351.102(b)(21) as: (i) Evidence submitted in response to questionnaires; (ii) evidence submitted in support of allegations; (iii) publicly available information to value factors under 19 CFR 351.408(c) or to measure the adequacy of remuneration under 19 CFR 351.511(a)(2); (iv) evidence placed on the record by Commerce; and (v) evidence other than factual information described in (i)–(iv). Any party, when submitting factual information, must specify under which subsection of 19 CFR 351.102(b)(21) the information is being submitted<sup>30</sup> and, if the information is submitted to rebut, clarify, or correct factual information already on the record, to provide an explanation identifying the information already on the record that the factual information seeks to rebut, clarify, or correct.<sup>31</sup> Time limits for the submission of factual information are addressed in 19 CFR 351.301, which provides specific time limits based on the type of factual information being submitted. Interested parties should review the regulations prior to submitting factual information in this investigation.

#### Extensions of Time Limits

Parties may request an extension of time limits before the expiration of a time limit established under 19 CFR 351.301, or as otherwise specified by the Secretary. In general, an extension request will be considered untimely if it is filed after the expiration of the time limit established under 19 CFR 351.301. For submissions that are due from multiple parties simultaneously, an extension request will be considered untimely if it is filed after 10:00 a.m. ET on the due date. Under certain circumstances, we may elect to specify a different time limit by which extension requests will be considered untimely for submissions which are due from multiple parties simultaneously. In such a case, we will inform parties in a letter or memorandum of the deadline (including a specified time) by which extension requests must be filed to be considered timely. An extension request must be made in a separate, stand-alone submission; under limited circumstances we will grant untimely-filed requests for the extension of time limits. Parties should review *Extension of Time Limits; Final Rule*, 78 FR 57790

(September 20, 2013), available at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-09-20/html/2013-22853.htm>, prior to submitting factual information in this investigation.

#### Certification Requirements

Any party submitting factual information in an AD or CVD proceeding must certify to the accuracy and completeness of that information.<sup>32</sup> Parties must use the certification formats provided in 19 CFR 351.303(g).<sup>33</sup> Commerce intends to reject factual submissions if the submitting party does not comply with the applicable certification requirements.

#### Notification to Interested Parties

Interested parties must submit applications for disclosure under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305. On January 22, 2008, Commerce published *Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings: Documents Submission Procedures; APO Procedures*, 73 FR 3634 (January 22, 2008). Parties wishing to participate in this investigation should ensure that they meet the requirements of these procedures (e.g., the filing of letters of appearance as discussed at 19 CFR 351.103(d)).

This notice is issued and published pursuant to sections 702 and 777(i) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.203(c).

Dated: April 30, 2019.

**Jeffrey I. Kessler,**

*Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.*

#### Appendix

##### Scope of the Investigation

The merchandise covered by this investigation is ceramic flooring tile, wall tile, paving tile, hearth tile, porcelain tile, mosaic tile, flags, finishing tile, and the like (hereinafter ceramic tile). Ceramic tiles are articles containing a mixture of minerals including clay (generally hydrous silicates of alumina or magnesium) that are fired so the raw materials are fused to produce a finished good that is less than 3.2 cm in actual thickness. All ceramic tile is subject to the scope regardless of end use, surface area, and weight, regardless of whether the tile is glazed or unglazed, regardless of the water absorption coefficient by weight, regardless of the extent of vitrification, and regardless of whether or not the tile is on a backing. Subject merchandise includes ceramic tile with decorative features that may in spots exceed 3.2 cm in thickness and includes

<sup>32</sup> See section 782(b) of the Act.

<sup>33</sup> See *Certification of Factual Information to Import Administration During Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Proceedings*, 78 FR 42678 (July 17, 2013) (*Final Rule*); see also frequently asked questions regarding the *Final Rule*, available at [http://enforcement.trade.gov/tlei/notices/factual\\_info\\_final\\_rule\\_FAQ\\_07172013.pdf](http://enforcement.trade.gov/tlei/notices/factual_info_final_rule_FAQ_07172013.pdf).

<sup>27</sup> See Memorandum, “Ceramic Tile from the People’s Republic of China—Release of Customs Data,” dated April 30, 2019.

<sup>28</sup> See section 703(a)(2) of the Act.

<sup>29</sup> See section 703(a)(1) of the Act.

<sup>30</sup> See 19 CFR 351.301(b).

<sup>31</sup> See 19 CFR 351.301(b)(2).

ceramic tile “slabs” or “panels” (tiles that are larger than 1 meter<sup>2</sup> (11 ft.<sup>2</sup>)).

Subject merchandise includes ceramic tile that undergoes minor processing in a third country prior to importation into the United States. Similarly, subject merchandise includes ceramic tile produced that undergoes minor processing after importation into the United States. Such minor processing includes, but is not limited to, one or more of the following: Beveling, cutting, trimming, staining, painting, polishing, finishing, additional firing, or any other processing that would otherwise not remove the merchandise from the scope of the investigation if performed in the country of manufacture of the in-scope product.

Subject merchandise is currently classified in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) under the following subheadings of heading 6907: 6907.21.1005, 6907.21.1011, 6907.21.1051, 6907.21.2000, 6907.21.3000, 6907.21.4000, 6907.21.9011, 6907.21.9051, 6907.22.1005, 6907.22.1011, 6907.22.1051, 6907.22.2000, 6907.22.3000, 6907.22.4000, 6907.22.9011, 6907.22.9051, 6907.23.1005, 6907.23.1011, 6907.23.1051, 6907.23.2000, 6907.23.3000, 6907.23.4000, 6907.23.9011, 6907.23.9051, 6907.30.1005, 6907.30.1011, 6907.30.1051, 6907.30.2000, 6907.30.3000, 6907.30.4000, 6907.30.9011, 6907.30.9051, 6907.40.1005, 6907.40.1011, 6907.40.1051, 6907.40.2000, 6907.40.3000, 6907.40.4000, 6907.40.9011, and 6907.40.9051. Subject merchandise may also enter under subheadings of headings 6914 and 6905: 6914.10.8000, 6914.90.8000, 6905.10.0000, and 6905.90.0050. The HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes only. The written description of the scope of this investigation is dispositive.

[FR Doc. 2019-09452 Filed 5-7-19; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Institute of Standards and Technology

#### Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; NIST Associates Information System

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before July 8, 2019.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Jennifer Jessup, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer,

Department of Commerce, Room 6616, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230 (or via the internet at [docpra@doc.gov](mailto:docpra@doc.gov)).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Mary Clague, 301-975-4188, [mary.clague@nist.gov](mailto:mary.clague@nist.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### I. Abstract

NIST Associates (NA) will include guest researchers, research associates, contractors, and other non-NIST employees that require access to NIST campuses or NIST resources. The NIST Associates Information System (NAIS) information collection instrument(s) are completed by the incoming NAs. The NAs will be requested to provide personal identifying data including home address, date and place of birth, employer name and address, and basic security information. The data provided by the collection instruments will be input into NAIS, which automatically populates the appropriate forms, and is routed through the approval process. NIST's Office of Security receives security forms through the NAIS process and is able to allow preliminary access to NAs to the NIST campuses or resources. The data collected will also be the basis for further security investigations as necessary.

##### II. Method of Collection

The information is collected in paper format.

##### III. Data

*OMB Control Number:* 0693-0067.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Review:* Revision and extension of a current information collection.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 4,000.

*Estimated Time per Response:* 30 minutes.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 2,000.

*Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public:* \$0.

##### IV. Request for Comments

NIST invites comments on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of

information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

**Sheleen Dumas,**

*Departmental Lead PRA Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Commerce Department.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG959

#### Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the U.S. Navy Training and Testing Activities in the Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing Study Area

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice; receipt of application for regulations and Letters of Authorization extension; request for comments and information.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS has received a request from the U.S. Navy (Navy) to extend the expiration date from December 2023 to December 2025 for Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) regulations authorizing the take of marine mammals incidental to Navy training and testing activities conducted in the Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing (HSTT) Study Area. In August 2018, the MMPA was amended by the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2019 to allow for seven-year authorizations for military readiness activities, as compared to the previously allowed five years. The Navy's activities qualify as military readiness activities pursuant to the MMPA as amended by the NDAA for Fiscal Year 2004. In making the request to extend the time period covered by the MMPA 2018 HSTT regulations from five to seven years, the Navy proposes no changes to their specified activities, the