

promptly conduct a review under section 422(j) of the Act regarding the continued need for action taken under section 422(h) of the Act. The Commission also will publish notice of the review in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(b) The Commission will make available for public inspection the notification document that prompted a review under paragraph (a) of this section, excluding any confidential business information in the document. Paragraph (c) in §206.3 governs the availability for public inspection of a petition, request, resolution, or motion that prompted the Commission to institute an investigation under section 422(b) of the Act.

§ 206.65 Public hearing.

Public hearings in investigations under section 422(b) of the Act are provided for in §206.5(b).

§ 206.66 Limited disclosure of certain confidential business information under administrative protective order.

In an investigation under section 422(b) of the Trade Act, the Secretary shall make confidential business information available to authorized applicants, subject to the provisions of §206.17.

§ 206.67 Time for determination and report.

(a) In an investigation under section 422(b) of the Trade Act, the Commission will transmit its determination under that section of the Act to the President and the Trade Representative at the earliest practical time, but not later than 45 days after the date on which the petition is filed, the request or resolution is received, or the motion is adopted, as the case may be. The Commission shall issue and transmit its report on the determination not later than 10 days after the determination is issued.

(b) In a review under section 422(j) of the Trade Act, the Commission will report its determination to the President not later than 60 days after the notification described in that section of the Act.

§ 206.68 Public report.

Upon making a report to the President of the results of an investigation under section 422(b) or a review under section 422(j) of the Trade Act, the Commission will make such report public (with the exception of information which the Commission determines to be confidential) and cause a summary thereof to be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

PART 207—INVESTIGATIONS OF WHETHER INJURY TO DOMESTIC INDUSTRIES RESULTS FROM IMPORTS SOLD AT LESS THAN FAIR VALUE OR FROM SUBSIDIZED EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES

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AUTHORITY: 19 U.S.C. 1336, 1671–1677n, 2482, 3513.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 88 FR 14891, Mar. 10, 2023, the authority citation for part 207 was revised, effective Apr. 10, 2023. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

AUTHORITY: 19 U.S.C. 1335, 1671–1677n, 2482, 3513, 4582.

SOURCE: 44 FR 76468, Dec. 26, 1979, unless otherwise noted.

§ 207.1 Applicability of part.

Part 207 applies to proceedings of the Commission under section 516A and title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1303, 1516A and 1671–1677n) (the Act), other than investigations under section 783 (19 U.S.C. 1677n), which will be conducted pursuant to procedures specified by the Office of the United States Trade Representative.

[61 FR 37829, July 22, 1996]

Subpart A—General Provisions

SOURCE: 56 FR 11923, Mar. 21, 1991, unless otherwise noted.

§ 207.2 Definitions applicable to part 207.

For the purposes of this part, the following terms have the meanings hereby assigned to them:

(a) The term *the Act* means: The Tariff Act of 1930, as amended.

(b) The term *administering authority* means: The Secretary of Commerce, or any other officer of the United States to whom the responsibility for carrying

out the duties of the administering authority under section 303 or title VII of the Act is transferred by law.

(c) The term *Director* means: The incumbent Commission Director or Acting Director, Office of Operations, or, in the absence of either, a person designated by the Director.

(d) The term *ex parte meeting* means: Any communication between

(1) Any interested party or other person providing factual information in connection with an investigation, and

(2) Any Commissioner, or member of a Commissioner's staff, in which less than all parties participate, and which is not a hearing or conference for which an opportunity to participate is given to the parties.

(e) The term *injury* means: Material injury or threat of material injury to an industry in the United States, or material retardation of the establishment of an industry in the United States, by reason of imports into the United States of subject merchandise which is found by the administering authority to be subsidized, or sold, or likely to be sold, at less than its fair value.

(f) The term *record* means:

(1) All information presented to or obtained by the Commission during the course of an investigation, including completed questionnaires, any information obtained from the administering authority, written communications from any person filed with the Secretary, staff reports, all governmental memoranda pertaining to the case, and the record of ex parte meetings required to be kept pursuant to section 777(a)(3) of the Act; and

(2) A copy of all Commission orders and determinations, all transcripts or records of conferences or hearings, and all notices published in the FEDERAL REGISTER concerning the investigation.

(g) The term *coalition or trade association* as used in an investigation referred to in section 771(9)(G) of the Act means a coalition or trade association which is representative of domestic processors, domestic processors and producers, or domestic processors and growers.

[44 FR 76468, Dec. 26, 1979, as amended at 60 FR 21, Jan. 3, 1995]

§ 207.3 Service, filing, and certification of documents.

(a) *Certification.* Any person submitting factual information on behalf of the petitioner or any other interested party for inclusion in the record, and any person submitting a response to a Commission questionnaire, must certify that such information is accurate and complete to the best of the submitter's knowledge.

(b) *Service.* Any party submitting a document for inclusion in the record of the investigation shall, in addition to complying with §201.8 of this chapter, serve a copy of each such document on all other parties to the investigation in the manner prescribed in §201.16 of this chapter. If a document is filed before the Secretary's issuance of the service list provided for in §201.11 of this chapter or the administrative protective order list provided for in §207.7, the document need not be accompanied by a certificate of service, but the document shall be served on all appropriate parties within two (2) days of the issuance of the service list or the administrative protective order list and a certificate of service shall then be filed. Notwithstanding §201.16 of this chapter, petitions, briefs, requests to close a portion of the hearing, comments on requests to close a portion of the hearing, and testimony filed by parties pursuant to §§207.10, 207.15, 207.23, 207.24, 207.25, 207.65, 207.66, and 207.67, shall be served by hand or, if served by mail, by overnight mail or its equivalent. Failure to comply with the requirements of this rule may result in removal from status as a party to the investigation. The Commission shall make available to all parties to the investigation a copy of each document, except transcripts of conferences and hearings, business proprietary information, privileged information, and information required to be served under this section, placed in the record of the investigation by the Commission.

(c) *Filing.* Documents to be filed with the Commission must comply with applicable rules, including §201.8 of this chapter. If the Commission establishes a deadline for the filing of a document, and the submitter includes business

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proprietary information in the document, the submitter is to file and, if the submitter is a party, serve the business proprietary version of the document on the deadline and may file and serve the nonbusiness proprietary version of the document no later than one business day after the deadline for filing the document. The business proprietary version shall enclose all business proprietary information in brackets and have the following warning marked on every page: "Bracketing of BPI not final for one business day after date of filing." The bracketing becomes final one business day after the date of filing of the document, *i.e.*, at the same time as the nonbusiness proprietary version of the document is due to be filed. Until the bracketing becomes final, recipients of the document may not divulge any part of the contents of the document to anyone not subject to the administrative protective order issued in the investigation. If the submitter discovers it has failed to bracket correctly, the submitter may file a corrected version or portion of the business proprietary document at the same time as the nonbusiness proprietary version is filed. No changes, including typographical changes, to the document other than bracketing and deletion of business proprietary information are permitted after the deadline unless an extension of time is granted to file an amended document pursuant to § 201.14(b)(2) of this chapter. Failure to comply with this paragraph may result in the striking from the record of all or a portion of a submitter's document.

[44 FR 76468, Dec. 26, 1979, as amended at 61 FR 37829, July 22, 1996; 63 FR 30607, June 5, 1998; 70 FR 8511, Feb. 22, 2005]

§ 207.4 The record.

(a) *Maintenance of the record.* The Secretary shall maintain the record of each investigation conducted by the Commission pursuant to title VII of the Act. The record shall be maintained contemporaneously with each actual filing in the record. It shall be divided into public and nonpublic sections. The Secretary shall also maintain a contemporaneous index of all materials filed in the record. All material properly filed with the Secretary

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shall be placed in the record. The Commission need not consider in its determinations or include in the record any material that is not filed with the Secretary. All material which is placed in the record shall be maintained in the public record, with the exception of material which is privileged, or which is business proprietary information submitted in accordance with § 201.6 of this chapter. Privileged and business proprietary material shall be maintained in the nonpublic record.

(b) *Audits.* The Commission may in its discretion verify information received in the course of an investigation. To the extent a verification results in new or different information, the Commission shall place such information on the record.

(c) *Materials provided by the administering authority.* Materials received by the Commission from the administering authority shall be placed on the Commission's record and shall be designated by the Commission as public or nonpublic in conformity with the applicable designation of the administering authority. Any requests to the Commission either to permit access to such materials or to release such materials shall be referred to the administering authority for its advice.

[44 FR 76468, Dec. 26, 1979, as amended at 61 FR 37829, July 22, 1996]

§ 207.5 Ex parte meetings.

There shall be included in the record of each investigation a record of ex parte meetings as required by section 777(a)(3) of the Act. The record of each ex parte meeting shall include the identity of the persons present at the meeting, the date, time, and place of the meeting, and a summary of the matters discussed or submitted.

§ 207.6 [Reserved]

§ 207.7 Limited disclosure of certain business proprietary information under administrative protective order.

(a)(1) *Disclosure.* Upon receipt of a timely application filed by an authorized applicant, as defined in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, which describes in general terms the information requested, and sets forth the reasons for

the request (*e.g.*, all business proprietary information properly disclosed pursuant to this section for the purpose of representing an interested party in investigations pending before the Commission), the Secretary shall make available all business proprietary information contained in Commission memoranda and reports and in written submissions filed with the Commission at any time during the investigation (except nondisclosable confidential business information) to the authorized applicant under an administrative protective order described in paragraph (b) of this section. The term “business proprietary information” has the same meaning as the term “confidential business information” as defined in §201.6 of this chapter.

(2) *Application.* An application under paragraph (a)(1) of this section must be made by an authorized applicant on a form adopted by the Secretary or a photocopy thereof. A signed application shall be filed electronically. An application on behalf of a petitioner, a respondent, or another party must be made no later than the time that entries of appearance are due pursuant to §201.11 of this chapter. In the event that two or more authorized applicants represent one interested party who is a party to the investigation, the authorized applicants must select one of their number to be lead authorized applicant. The lead authorized applicant’s application must be filed no later than the time that entries of appearance are due. Provided that the application is accepted, the lead authorized applicant shall be served with business proprietary information pursuant to paragraph (f) of this section. The other authorized applicants representing the same party may file their applications after the deadline for entries of appearance but at least five days before the deadline for filing posthearing briefs in the investigation, or the deadline for filing briefs in the preliminary phase of an investigation, or the deadline for filing submissions in a remanded investigation, and shall not be served with business proprietary information.

(3) *Authorized applicant.* (i) Only an authorized applicant may file an application under this subsection. An authorized applicant is:

(A) An attorney for an interested party which is a party to the investigation;

(B) A consultant or expert under the direction and control of a person under paragraph (a)(3)(i)(A) of this section;

(C) A consultant or expert who appears regularly before the Commission and who represents an interested party which is a party to the investigation; or

(D) A representative of an interested party which is a party to the investigation, if such interested party is not represented by counsel.

(ii) In addition, an authorized applicant must not be involved in competitive decisionmaking for an interested party which is a party to the investigation. Involvement in “competitive decisionmaking” includes past, present, or likely future activities, associations, and relationships with an interested party which is a party to the investigation that involve the prospective authorized applicant’s advice or participation in any of such party’s decisions made in light of similar or corresponding information about a competitor (pricing, product design, etc.).

(4) *Forms and determinations.* (i) The Secretary may adopt, from time to time, forms for submitting requests for disclosure pursuant to an administrative protective order incorporating the terms of this rule. The Secretary shall determine whether the requirements for release of information under this rule have been satisfied. This determination shall be made concerning specific business proprietary information as expeditiously as possible but in no event later than fourteen (14) days from the filing of the information, or seven (7) days in the preliminary phase of an investigation, except if the submitter of the information objects to its release or the information is unusually voluminous or complex, in which case the determination shall be made within thirty (30) days from the filing of the information, or ten (10) days in the preliminary phase of an investigation. The Secretary shall establish a list of parties whose applications have been granted. The Secretary’s determination shall be final for purposes of review by the U.S. Court of International Trade under section 777(c)(2) of the Act.

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(ii) Should the Secretary determine pursuant to this section that materials sought to be protected from public disclosure by a person do not constitute business proprietary information or were not required to be served under paragraph (f) of this section, then the Secretary shall, upon request, issue an order on behalf of the Commission requiring the return of all copies of such materials served in accordance with paragraph (f) of this section.

(iii) The Secretary shall release business proprietary information only to an authorized applicant whose application has been accepted and who presents the application along with adequate personal identification; or a person described in paragraph (b)(1)(iv) of this section who presents a copy of the statement referred to in that paragraph along with adequate personal identification.

(iv) An authorized applicant granted access to business proprietary information in the preliminary phase of an investigation may, subject to paragraph (c) of this section, retain such business proprietary information during any final phase of that investigation, provided that the authorized applicant has not lost his authorized applicant status (*e.g.*, by terminating his representation of an interested party who is a party). When retaining business proprietary information pursuant to this paragraph, the authorized applicant need not file a new application in the final phase of the investigation.

(b) *Administrative protective order.* The administrative protective order under which information is made available to the authorized applicant shall require the applicant to submit to the Secretary a personal sworn statement that, in addition to such other conditions as the Secretary may require, the applicant shall:

(1) Not divulge any of the business proprietary information obtained under the administrative protective order and not otherwise available to the applicant, to any person other than

(i) Personnel of the Commission concerned with the investigation,

(ii) The person or agency from whom the business proprietary information was obtained,

(iii) A person whose application for access to business proprietary information under the administrative protective order has been granted by the Secretary, and

(iv) Other persons, such as paralegals and clerical staff, who are employed or supervised by the authorized applicant; who have a need thereof in connection with the investigation; who are not involved in competitive decision making for an interested party which is a party to the investigation; and who have signed a statement in a form approved by the Secretary that they agree to be bound by the administrative protective order (the authorized applicant shall be responsible for retention and accuracy of such forms and shall be deemed responsible for such persons' compliance with the administrative protective order);

(2) Use such business proprietary information solely for the purposes of representing an interested party in the Commission investigation then in progress or during judicial or other review of such Commission investigation;

(3) Not consult with any person not described in paragraph (b)(1) of this section concerning such business proprietary information without first having received the written consent of the Secretary and the party or the attorney of the party from whom such business proprietary information was obtained;

(4) Whenever materials (*e.g.*, documents, computer disks, etc.) containing such business proprietary information are not being used, store such material in a locked file cabinet, vault, safe, or other suitable container;

(5) Serve all materials containing business proprietary information as directed by the Secretary and pursuant to paragraph (f) of this section;

(6) Transmit all materials containing business proprietary information with a cover sheet identifying the materials as containing business proprietary information;

(7) Comply with the provisions of this section;

(8) Make true and accurate representations in the authorized applicant's application and promptly notify the Secretary of any changes that occur after the submission of the application

and that affect the representations made in the application (*e.g.*, change in personnel assigned to the investigation);

(9) Report promptly and confirm in writing to the Secretary any breach of the administrative protective order; and

(10) Acknowledge that breach of the administrative protective order may subject the authorized applicant to such sanctions or other actions as the Commission deems appropriate.

(c) *Final disposition of material released under administrative protective order.* At such date as the Secretary may determine appropriate for particular data, each authorized applicant shall return or destroy all copies of materials released to authorized applicants pursuant to this section and all other materials containing business proprietary information, such as charts or notes based on any such information received under administrative protective order, and file with the Secretary a certificate attesting to his personal, good faith belief that all copies of such material have been returned or destroyed and no copies of such material have been made available to any person to whom disclosure was not specifically authorized.

(d) *Commission responses to a breach of administrative protective order.* A breach of an administrative protective order may subject an offender to:

(1) Disbarment from practice in any capacity before the Commission along with such person's partners, associates, employer, and employees, for up to seven years following publication of a determination that the order has been breached;

(2) Referral to the United States Attorney;

(3) In the case of an attorney, accountant, or other professional, referral to the ethics panel of the appropriate professional association;

(4) Such other administrative sanctions as the Commission determines to be appropriate, including public release of or striking from the record any information or briefs submitted by, or on behalf of, the offender or the party represented by the offender, denial of further access to business proprietary information in the current or any future

investigations before the Commission, and issuance of a public or private letter of reprimand; and

(5) Such other actions, including but not limited to, a warning letter, as the Commission determines to be appropriate.

(e) *Breach investigation procedure.* (1) The Commission shall determine whether any person has violated an administrative protective order, and may impose sanctions or other actions in accordance with paragraph (d) of this section. At any time within sixty (60) days of the later of the date on which the alleged violation occurred or, as determined by the Commission, could have been discovered through the exercise of reasonable and ordinary care, or the completion of an investigation conducted under subpart B or C of this part, the Commission may commence an investigation of any breach of an administrative protective order alleged to have occurred at any time during the pendency of the investigation, including all appeals, remands, and subsequent appeals. Whenever the Commission has reason to believe that a person may have breached an administrative protective order issued pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall issue a letter informing such person that the Commission has reason to believe a breach has occurred and that the person has a reasonable opportunity to present his views on whether a breach has occurred. If subsequently the Commission determines that a breach has occurred and that further investigation is warranted, the Secretary shall issue a letter informing such person of that determination and that the person has a reasonable opportunity to present his views on whether mitigating circumstances exist and on the appropriate sanction to be imposed, but no longer on whether a breach has occurred. Once such person has been afforded a reasonable opportunity to present his views, the Commission shall determine what sanction if any to impose.

(2) Where the sanction imposed is a private letter of reprimand, the Secretary shall expunge the sanction from the recipient's record two (2) years from the date of issuance of the sanction, provided that

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(i) The recipient has not received another unexpunged sanction pursuant to this section at any time prior to the end of the two year period, and

(ii) The recipient is not the subject of an investigation for possible breach of administrative protective order under this section at the end of the two year period. Upon the completion of such a pending breach investigation without the issuance of a sanction, the original sanction shall be expunged. The Secretary shall notify a sanction recipient in the event that the sanction is expunged.

(f) *Service.* (1) Any party filing written submissions which include business proprietary information to the Commission during an investigation shall at the same time serve complete copies of such submissions upon all authorized applicants specified on the list established by the Secretary pursuant to paragraph (a)(4) of this section, and, except as provided in § 207.3, a nonbusiness proprietary version on all other parties. All such submissions must be accompanied by a certificate attesting that complete copies of the submission have been properly served. In the event that a submission is filed before the Secretary's list is established, the document need not be accompanied by a certificate of service, but the submission shall be served within two (2) days of the establishment of the list and a certificate of service shall then be filed.

(2) If a party's request under paragraph (g) of this section is granted, the Secretary shall accept the nondisclosable confidential business information into the record. The party shall serve the submission containing such information in accordance with the requirements of § 207.3(b) and paragraph (f)(1) of this section, with the information redacted from the copies served.

(3) The Secretary shall not accept for filing into the record of an investigation submissions filed without a proper certificate of service. Failure to comply with paragraph (f) of this section may result in denial of party status and such sanctions as the Commission deems appropriate. Business proprietary information in submissions must be dealt with as required by § 207.3(c).

(g) *Exemption from disclosure—(1) In general.* Any person may request exemption from the disclosure of business proprietary information under administrative protective order, whether the person desires to include such information in a petition filed under § 207.10, or any other submission to the Commission during the course of an investigation. Such a request shall only be granted if the Secretary finds that such information is nondisclosable confidential business information. As defined in § 201.6(a)(2) of this chapter, nondisclosable confidential business information is privileged information, classified information, or specific information (*e.g.*, trade secrets) of a type for which there is a clear and compelling need to withhold from disclosure. The request will be granted or denied not later than thirty (30) days (ten (10) days in a preliminary phase investigation) after the date on which the request is filed.

(2) *Request for exemption.* A request for exemption from disclosure must be filed with the Secretary in writing with the reasons therefor. At the same time as the request is filed, one copy of the business proprietary information in question must be lodged with the Secretary solely for the purpose of obtaining a determination as to the request. The business proprietary information for which exemption from disclosure is sought shall remain the property of the requester, and shall not become or be incorporated into any agency record until such time as the request is granted. A request should, when possible, be filed two business days prior to the deadline, if any, for filing the document in which the information for which exemption from disclosure is sought is proposed to be included. If the request is denied, the copy of the information lodged with the Secretary shall promptly be returned to the requester. Such a request shall only be granted if the Secretary finds that such information is privileged information, classified information, or specific information of a type for which there is a clear and compelling need to withhold from disclosure. The Secretary shall promptly notify the requester as to whether the request has been approved or denied.

(3) *Procedure if request is approved.* If the request is approved, the person shall file three versions of the submission containing the nondisclosable confidential business information in question. One version shall contain all business proprietary information, bracketed in accordance with §201.6 of this chapter and §207.3. The other two versions shall conform to and be filed in accordance with the requirements of §201.6 of this chapter and §207.3, except that the specific information as to which exemption from disclosure was granted shall be redacted from the submission.

(4) *Procedure if request is denied.* If the request is denied, the copy of the information lodged with the Secretary shall promptly be returned to the requester. The requester may file the submission in question without that information, in accordance with the requirements of §207.3.

[44 FR 76468, Dec. 26, 1979, as amended at 59 FR 66723, Dec. 28, 1994; 61 FR 37829, July 22, 1996; 68 FR 32978, June 3, 2003; 70 FR 8512, Feb. 22, 2005; 76 FR 61942, Oct. 6, 2011]

§ 207.8 Questionnaires to have the force of subpoenas; subpoena enforcement.

Any questionnaire issued by the Commission in connection with any investigation under title VII of the Act may be issued as a subpoena and subscribed by a Commissioner, after which it shall have the force and effect of a subpoena authorized by the Commission. Whenever any party or any other person fails to respond adequately to such a subpoena or whenever a party or any other person refuses or is unable to produce information requested in a timely manner and in the form required, or otherwise significantly impedes an investigation, the Commission may:

- (a) Use the facts otherwise available in making its determination;
- (b) Seek judicial enforcement of the subpoena pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1333;
- (c) Make inferences adverse to such person's position, if such person is an interested party that has failed to cooperate by not acting to the best of its ability to comply with a request for information; and

- (d) Take such other actions as necessary to obtain needed information.

[61 FR 37831, July 22, 1996]

Subpart B—Preliminary Determinations

SOURCE: 56 FR 11927, Mar. 21, 1991, unless otherwise noted.

§ 207.10 Filing of petition with the Commission.

(a) *Filing of the petition.* Any interested party who files a petition with the administering authority pursuant to section 702(b) or section 732(b) of the Act in a case in which a Commission determination under title VII of the Act is required, shall file copies of the petition and all exhibits, appendices, and attachments thereto, pursuant to §201.8 of this chapter, with the Secretary on the same day the petition is filed with the administering authority. A paper original and eight (8) true paper copies of a petition shall be filed. One copy of all exhibits, appendices, and attachments to the petition shall be filed in electronic form on CD-ROM, DVD, or other portable electronic format approved by the Secretary. Petitioners also must file one unbound copy of the petition (the unbound copy of the petition may be stapled or held together by means of a clip). If the petition complies with the provisions of §207.11, it shall be deemed to be properly filed on the date on which the requisite number of copies of the petition is received by the Secretary, provided that, if the petition is filed with the Secretary after 12:00 noon, eastern time, the petition shall be deemed filed on the next business day. Notwithstanding §207.11 of this chapter, a petitioner need not file an entry of appearance in the investigation instituted upon the filing of its petition, which shall be deemed an entry of appearance.

(b) *Service of the petition.* (1)(i) The Secretary shall promptly notify a petitioner when, before the establishment of a service list under §207.7(a)(4), he or she approves an application under §207.7(a). When practicable, this notification shall be made by facsimile

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transmission. A copy of the petition including all business proprietary information shall then be served by petitioner on those approved applicants in accord with § 207.3(b) within two (2) calendar days of the time notification is made by the Secretary.

(ii) The petitioner shall serve persons enumerated on the list established by the Secretary pursuant to § 207.7(a)(4) that have not been served pursuant to paragraph (b)(1)(i) of this section within two (2) calendar days of the establishment of the Secretary's list.

(2) A copy of the petition omitting business proprietary information shall be served by petitioner on those persons enumerated on the list established by the Secretary pursuant to § 201.11(d) of this chapter within two (2) calendar days of the establishment of the Secretary's list.

(3) Service of the petition shall be attested by filing a certificate of service with the Commission.

(c) *Amendments and withdrawals; critical circumstances.* (1) Any amendment or withdrawal of a petition shall be filed on the same day with both the Secretary and the administering authority, without regard to whether the requester seeks action only by one agency.

(2) When not made in the petition, any allegations of critical circumstances under section 703 or section 733 of the Act shall be made in an amendment to the petition and shall be filed as early as possible. Critical circumstances allegations, whether made in the petition or in an amendment thereto, shall contain information reasonably available to petitioner concerning the factors enumerated in sections 705(b)(4)(A) and 735(b)(4)(A) of the Act.

[61 FR 37831, July 22, 1996, as amended at 70 FR 8512, Feb. 22, 2005; 76 FR 61942, Oct. 6, 2011; 79 FR 35924, June 25, 2014]

§ 207.11 Contents of petition.

(a) The petition shall be signed by the petitioner or its duly authorized officer, attorney, or agent, and shall set forth the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner and any such officer, attorney, or agent, and the names of all representatives of peti-

tioner who will appear in the investigation.

(b)(1) The petition shall allege the elements necessary for the imposition of a duty under section 701(a) or section 731(a) of the Act and contain information reasonably available to the petitioner supporting the allegations.

(2) The petition shall also include the following specific information, to the extent reasonably available to the petitioner:

(i) Identification of the domestic like product(s) proposed by petitioner;

(ii) A listing of all U.S. producers of the proposed domestic like product(s), including a street address, phone number, and contact person(s) with email address(es) for each producer;

(iii) A listing of all U.S. importers of the subject merchandise, including street addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers for each importer.

(iv) Identification of each product on which the petitioner requests the Commission to seek pricing information in its questionnaires; and

(v) A listing of the main purchasers from which each petitioning firm experienced lost sales or lost revenue by reason of the subject merchandise during a period covering the three most recently completed calendar years and that portion of the current calendar year for which information is reasonably available. For each named purchaser, petitioners must provide the email address of the specific contact person, 5-digit zip code, and the information identified in the template spreadsheet specified in the Commission's Handbook on Filing Procedures. Petitioners must certify that all lost sales or lost revenue allegations identified in the petition will also be submitted electronically in the manner specified in the Commission's Handbook on Filing Procedures.

(3) The petition shall contain a certification that each item of information specified in paragraph (b)(2) of this section that the petition does not include was not reasonably available to the petitioner.

(4) Petitioners are also advised to refer to the administering authority's

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regulations concerning the contents of petitions.

[61 FR 37831, July 22, 1996, as amended at 79 FR 35924, June 25, 2014; 80 FR 52618, Sept. 1, 2015]

§ 207.12 Notice of preliminary phase of investigation.

Upon receipt by the Commission of a petition under § 207.10 or receipt of notice that the administering authority has commenced an investigation under section 702(a) or section 732(a) of the Act, the Director shall, as soon as practicable after consultation with the administering authority, institute an investigation and commence the preliminary phase of the investigation under section 703(a) or section 733(a) of the Act and shall publish a notice to that effect in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

[61 FR 37832, July 22, 1996]

§ 207.13 Cooperation with administering authority; preliminary phase of investigation.

Subsequent to institution of an investigation pursuant to section 207.12, the Director shall conduct such investigation as the Director deems appropriate. Information adduced in the investigation shall be placed on the record. The Director shall cooperate with the administering authority in its determination of the sufficiency of a petition and in its decision whether to permit any proposed amendment to a petition. Notwithstanding §§ 201.11(c) and 201.14(b) of this chapter, late filings in the preliminary phase of an investigation shall be referred to the Director, who shall determine whether to accept such filing for good cause shown by the person making the filing.

[61 FR 37832, July 22, 1996]

§ 207.14 Negative petition determination.

Upon receipt by the Commission of notice from the administering authority under section 702(d) or section 732(d) of the Act that the administering authority has made a negative petition determination under section 702(c)(3) or section 732(c)(3) of the Act, the investigation begun pursuant to § 207.12 shall terminate. All persons who have received requests for information from

the Director shall be notified of the termination.

[61 FR 37832, July 22, 1996]

§ 207.15 Written briefs and conference.

Each party may submit to the Commission on or before a date specified in the notice of investigation issued pursuant to 207.12 a written brief containing information and arguments pertinent to the subject matter of the investigation. Briefs shall be signed, shall include a table of contents, and shall contain no more than fifty (50) double-spaced and single-sided pages of textual material, and shall be filed electronically, and nine (9) true paper copies shall be submitted on the same business day (on paper measuring 8.5 × 11 inches, double-spaced and single-sided). Any person not a party may submit a brief written statement of information pertinent to the investigation within the time specified and the same manner specified for the filing of briefs. In addition, the presiding official may permit persons to file within a specified time answers to questions or requests made by the Commission's staff. If he deems it appropriate, the Director shall hold a conference. The conference, if any, shall be held in accordance with the procedures in § 201.13 of this chapter, except that in connection with its presentation a party may provide written witness testimony at the conference; if written testimony is provided, nine (9) true paper copies shall be submitted. The Director may request the appearance of witnesses, take testimony, and administer oaths.

[79 FR 35924, June 25, 2014]

§ 207.16 [Reserved]

§ 207.17 Staff report.

Prior to the Commission's preliminary determination, the Director shall submit to the Commission a staff report. A public version of the staff report shall be made available to the public after the Commission's preliminary determination and a business proprietary version shall also be made available to persons authorized to receive business proprietary information under § 207.7.

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§ 207.18 Notice of preliminary determination.

Whenever the Commission makes a preliminary determination, the Secretary shall serve copies of the determination and a public version of the staff report on the petitioner, other parties to the investigation, and the administering authority. The Secretary shall publish a notice of such determination in the FEDERAL REGISTER. If the Commission's determination is negative, or that imports are negligible, the investigation shall be terminated. If the Commission's determination is affirmative, the notice shall announce commencement of the final phase of the investigation.

[61 FR 37832, July 22, 1996]

Subpart C—Final Determinations, Short Life Cycle Products

SOURCE: 56 FR 11928, Mar. 21, 1991, unless otherwise noted.

§ 207.20 Investigative activity following preliminary determination.

(a) If the Commission's preliminary determination is affirmative, the Director shall continue investigative activities pending notice by the administering authority of its preliminary determination under section 703(b) or section 733(b) of the Act.

(b) The Director shall circulate draft questionnaires for the final phase of an investigation to parties to the investigation for comment. Any party desiring to comment on draft questionnaires shall submit such comments in writing to the Commission within a time specified by the Director. All requests for collecting new information shall be presented at this time. The Commission will disregard subsequent requests for collection of new information absent a showing that there is a compelling need for the information and that the information could not have been requested in the comments on the draft questionnaires.

[61 FR 37832, July 22, 1996, as amended at 79 FR 35925, June 25, 2014]

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§ 207.21 Final phase notice of scheduling.

(a) Notice from the administering authority of an affirmative preliminary determination under section 703(b) or section 733(b) of the Act and notice from the administering authority of an affirmative final determination under section 705(a) or section 735(a) of the Act shall be deemed to occur on the date on which the transmittal letter of such determination is received by the Secretary from the administering authority or the date on which notice of such determination is published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, whichever shall first occur.

(b) Upon receipt of notice from the administering authority of an affirmative preliminary determination under section 703(b) or section 733(b) of the Act or, if the administering authority's preliminary determination is negative, notice of an affirmative final determination under section 705(a) or section 735(a) of the Act, the Commission shall publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER a Final Phase Notice of Scheduling.

(c) If the administering authority's preliminary determination is negative, the Director shall continue such investigative activities as the Director deems appropriate pending a final determination by the administering authority under section 705(a) or section 735(a) of the Act.

(d) Upon receipt by the Commission of notice from the administering authority of its final negative determination under section 705(a) or section 735(a) of the Act, the corresponding Commission investigation shall be terminated.

[61 FR 37832, July 22, 1996]

§ 207.22 Prehearing and final staff reports.

(a) *Prehearing staff report.* The Director shall prepare and place in the record, prior to the hearing, a prehearing staff report containing information concerning the subject matter of the investigation. A version of the staff report containing business proprietary information shall be placed in the nonpublic record and made available to persons authorized to receive business proprietary information under

§207.7, and a nonbusiness proprietary version of the staff report shall be placed in the public record.

(b) *Final staff report.* After the hearing, the Director shall revise the prehearing staff report and submit to the Commission, prior to the Commission's final determination, a final version of the staff report. The final staff report is intended to supplement and correct the information contained in the prehearing staff report. A public version of the final staff report shall be made available to the public and a business proprietary version shall also be made available to persons authorized to receive business proprietary information under section 207.7.

[56 FR 11927, Mar. 21, 1991, as amended at 60 FR 22, Jan. 3, 1995. Redesignated at 61 FR 37832, July 22, 1996]

§ 207.23 Prehearing brief.

Each party who is an interested party shall submit to the Commission, no later than five (5) business days prior to the date of the hearing specified in the notice of scheduling, a prehearing brief. Prehearing briefs shall be signed and shall include a table of contents and shall be filed electronically, and nine (9) true paper copies shall be submitted on the same business day. The prehearing brief should present a party's case concisely and shall, to the extent possible, refer to the record and include information and arguments which the party believes relevant to the subject matter of the Commission's determination under section 705(b) or section 735(b) of the Act. Any person not an interested party may submit a brief written statement of information pertinent to the investigation within the time specified and the same manner specified for filing of prehearing briefs.

[79 FR 35925, June 25, 2014]

§ 207.24 Hearing.

(a) *In general.* The Commission shall hold a hearing concerning an investigation before making a final determination under section 705(b) or section 735(b) of the Act.

(b) *Procedures.* Any hearing shall be conducted after notice published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The hearing shall

not be subject to the provisions of 5 U.S.C. subchapter II, chapter 5, or to 5 U.S.C. 702. Each party shall limit its presentation at the hearing to a summary of the information and arguments contained in its prehearing brief, an analysis of the information and arguments contained in the prehearing briefs described in §207.23, and information not available at the time its prehearing brief was filed. Unless a portion of the hearing is closed, presentations at the hearing shall not include business proprietary information. Notwithstanding §201.13(f) of this chapter, in connection with its presentation, a party may provide written witness testimony at the hearing; if written testimony is provided, eight (8) true paper copies shall be submitted. In the case of testimony to be presented at a closed session held in response to a request under §207.24(d), confidential and non-confidential versions shall be filed in accordance with §207.3. Any person not a party may make a brief oral statement of information pertinent to the investigation.

(c) *Hearing transcripts*—(1) *In general.* A verbatim transcript shall be made of all hearings or conferences held in connection with Commission investigations conducted under this part.

(2) *Revision of transcripts.* Within ten (10) days of the completion of a hearing, but in any event at least one (1) day prior to the date for disclosure of information set pursuant to §207.30(a), any person who testified at the hearing may submit proposed revisions to the transcript of his or her testimony to the Secretary. No substantive revisions shall be permitted. If in the judgment of the Secretary a proposed revision does not alter the substance of the testimony in question, the Secretary shall incorporate the revision into a revised transcript.

(d) *Closed sessions.* Upon a request filed by a party to the investigation no later than seven (7) business days prior to the date of the hearing that identifies the subjects to be discussed, specifies the amount of time requested, and justifies the need for a closed session with respect to each subject to be discussed, the Commission may close a portion of a hearing to persons not authorized under §207.7 to have access to

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business proprietary information in order to allow such party to address business proprietary information during the course of its presentation. If any party wishes to comment on the request to close a portion of the hearing, such comments must be filed within two (2) business days after the filing of the request. In addition, during each hearing held in an investigation conducted under section 705(b) or section 735(b) of the Act, following the public presentation of the petitioner(s) and that of each panel of respondents, the Commission will, if it deems it appropriate, close the hearing to persons not authorized under § 207.7 to have access to business proprietary information in order to allow Commissioners to question parties and/ or their representatives concerning matters involving business proprietary information.

[61 FR 37832, July 22, 1996, as amended at 70 FR 8512, Feb. 22, 2005; 76 FR 61943, Oct. 6, 2011]

§ 207.25 Posthearing briefs.

Any party may file a posthearing brief concerning the information adduced at or after the hearing with the Secretary within a time specified in the notice of scheduling or by the presiding official at the hearing. A posthearing brief shall be filed electronically, and nine (9) true paper copies shall be submitted on the same business day. No such posthearing brief shall exceed fifteen (15) pages of textual material, double-spaced and single-sided, when printed out on paper measuring 8.5 × 11 inches. In addition, the presiding official may permit persons to file answers to questions or requests made by the Commission at the hearing within a specified time. The Secretary shall not accept for filing posthearing briefs or answers which do not comply with this section.

[79 FR 35925, June 25, 2014]

§ 207.26 Statements by nonparties.

Any person other than a party may submit a brief written statement of information pertinent to the investigation within the time specified for the filing of posthearing briefs.

[56 FR 11928, Mar. 21, 1991. Redesignated at 61 FR 37832, July 22, 1996]

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§ 207.27 Short life cycle products.

(a) An eligible domestic entity may file a petition to establish a product category for short life cycle merchandise which has been the subject of two or more affirmative dumping determinations. The Commission shall within thirty (30) days of the filing of the petition determine its sufficiency. If the petition is found to be sufficient, the Commission shall institute a proceeding to establish a product category and publish a notice of institution in the FEDERAL REGISTER. Upon request of an interested person filed within fifteen (15) days after publication of the notice of institution, the Commission shall conduct a hearing which shall be transcribed. The Commission's determination concerning the scope of the product category into which to classify the short life cycle merchandise identified by the petition shall be issued no later than ninety (90) days after the filing of the petition.

(b) The Commission may on its own initiative and at any time modify the scope of a product category established in a proceeding pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section. Ninety (90) days prior to such modification, the Commission shall publish a notice of proposed modification in the FEDERAL REGISTER. Upon request of an interested party filed within fifteen (15) days after publication of the notice of proposed modification, the Commission shall conduct a hearing which shall be transcribed. Written submissions concerning the proposed modification shall be accepted if filed no later than sixty (60) days after publication of the notice of proposed modification.

[56 FR 11928, Mar. 21, 1991. Redesignated at 61 FR 37832, July 22, 1996]

§ 207.28 Anticircumvention.

Prior to providing advice to the administering authority pursuant to section 781(e)(3) of the Act, the Commission shall publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice that such advice is contemplated. Any person may file one written submission concerning the matter described in the notice no later than fourteen (14) days after publication of the notice. Such a statement shall be filed electronically, and nine

(9) true paper copies shall be submitted on the same business day. The statement shall contain no more than fifty (50) double-spaced and single-sided pages of textual material, when printed out on paper measuring 8.5×11 inches. The Commission shall by notice provide for additional statements as it deems necessary.

[79 FR 35925, June 25, 2014]

§ 207.29 Publication of notice of determination.

Whenever the Commission makes a final determination, the Secretary shall serve copies of the determination and the nonbusiness proprietary version of the final staff report on the petitioner, other parties to the investigation, and the administering authority. The Secretary shall publish notice of such determination in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

[61 FR 37833, July 22, 1996]

§ 207.30 Comment on information.

(a) In any final phase of an investigation under section 705 or section 735 of the Act, the Commission shall specify a date on which it will disclose to all parties to the investigation all information it has obtained on which the parties have not previously had an opportunity to comment. Any such information that is business proprietary information will be released to persons authorized to obtain such information pursuant to § 207.7. The date on which disclosure is made will occur after the filing of posthearing briefs pursuant to § 207.25.

(b) The parties shall have an opportunity to file comments on any information disclosed to them after they have filed their posthearing brief pursuant to § 207.25. A comment shall be filed electronically, and nine (9) true paper copies shall be submitted on the same business day. Comments shall only concern such information, and shall not exceed 15 pages of textual material, double-spaced and single-sided, when printed out on paper measuring 8.5×11 inches. A comment may address the accuracy, reliability, or probative value of such information by reference to information elsewhere in the record, in which case the comment shall identify

where in the record such information is found. Comments containing new factual information shall be disregarded. The date on which such comments must be filed will be specified by the Commission when it specifies the time that information will be disclosed pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section. The record shall close on the date such comments are due, except with respect to investigations subject to the provisions of section 771(7)(G)(iii) of the Act, and with respect to changes in bracketing of business proprietary information in the comments permitted by § 207.3(c).

[61 FR 37833, July 22, 1996, as amended at 76 FR 61943, Oct. 6, 2011; 79 FR 35925, June 25, 2014]

Subpart D—Terminated, Suspended, and Continued Investigations, Investigations to Review Negotiated Agreements, and Investigations To Review Outstanding Determinations

SOURCE: 56 FR 11929, Mar. 21, 1991, unless otherwise noted.

§ 207.40 Termination and suspension of investigation.

(a) An investigation under title VII may be terminated by the Commission by giving notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER to all parties to the investigation, upon withdrawal of the petition by the petitioner, or upon issuance of a final negative determination or termination of its investigation by the administering authority under section 303, 705 or 735 of the Act. The Commission may not terminate an investigation upon withdrawal of the petition by the petitioner, however, before a determination is made by the administering authority under section 702(c), 703(b), 732(c) or 733(b) of the Act.

(b) Upon receipt of notice of suspension of an investigation by the administering authority under section 704 (b) or (c) or 734(b), (c), or (1), of the Act, the Secretary shall issue a notice of suspension of the Commission investigation. Such suspension shall not prevent the Director from conducting such other investigative activities as

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he deems appropriate with respect to the subject matter of the suspended investigation.

(c) *Resumption of suspended investigation*—(1) *Purpose.* If the administering authority determines pursuant to section 704(i) or 734(i) of the Act to resume a suspended investigation and so notifies the Commission of its determination, and in the event that the suspended investigation was not terminated, the Commission shall resume the investigation.

(2) *Procedures.* The procedures set forth in subpart C shall apply to all investigations instituted under this section.

[56 FR 11927, Mar. 21, 1991, as amended at 60 FR 22, Jan. 3, 1995]

§ 207.41 Commission review of agreements to eliminate the injurious effect of subsidized imports or imports sold at less than fair value.

If the administering authority determines to suspend an investigation upon acceptance of an agreement to eliminate the injurious effect of subsidized imports or imports sold at less than fair value, the Commission shall, upon petition, initiate an investigation to determine whether the injurious effect of imports of the merchandise which was the subject of the suspended investigation is eliminated completely by the agreement. Petitions may be filed by a party to the investigation which is an interested party described in paragraph (C), (D), (E), (F), or (G) of section 771(9) of the Act. Investigations under this section shall be completed within seventy five (75) days of their initiation.

§ 207.42 Investigation continued upon request.

Upon receipt of advice from the administering authority that it has received a request for the continuation of a suspended investigation pursuant to section 704(g) or 734(g) of the Act, the Commission shall continue the investigation. The procedures set forth in subparts B and C of this part, including applicable time limitations, shall apply to all continued investigations within this rule.

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§ 207.43 [Reserved]

§ 207.44 Consolidation of investigations.

The Commission may, when appropriate, consolidate continued investigations under section 704(g) or section 734(g) of the Act with investigations to review agreements for the elimination of injury under section 704(h) or section 734(h) of the Act.

§ 207.45 Investigation to review outstanding determination.

(a) *Request for review.* Any person may file with the Commission a request for the institution of a review investigation under section 751(b) of the Act. The person making the request shall also promptly serve copies of the request on the parties to the original investigation upon which the review is to be based. All requests shall set forth a description of changed circumstances sufficient to warrant the institution of a review investigation by the Commission.

(b) *Notice of receipt of a request.* Upon the receipt of a properly filed and sufficient request for a review investigation, the Secretary shall publish a notice of having received such a request in the FEDERAL REGISTER inviting public comment on the question of whether the Commission should institute a review investigation. Persons shall have at least thirty (30) days from the date of publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER within which to submit comments to the Commission.

(c) *Institution of an investigation.* Within forty-five (45) days after the close of the period for public comments following publication of the receipt of a request, the Commission shall determine whether the request shows changed circumstances sufficient to warrant a review and, if so, shall institute a review investigation. The Commission may also institute a review investigation on its own initiative. The review investigation shall be instituted by notice published in the FEDERAL REGISTER and shall be completed within one hundred eighty (180) days of the date of such publication. If the Commission determines that a request does not show changed circumstances sufficient to warrant a review, the request

shall be dismissed and a notice of the dismissal published in the FEDERAL REGISTER stating the reasons therefor.

(d) *Conduct of review investigation.* The procedures set forth in subpart C of part 207 shall apply to all investigations instituted under this section.

[56 FR 11929, Mar. 21, 1991, as amended at 63 FR 30607, June 5, 1998; 79 FR 35925, June 25, 2014]

§ 207.46 Investigations concerning certain countervailing duty orders.

(a) *Definitions.* For purposes of this section:

(1) *Requesting party* means an interested party described in section 771(9) (C), (D), (E), (F), or (G) of the Act.

(2) *Order* means a countervailing duty order issued under section 303 of the Act as to which the requirement of an affirmative determination of material injury under section 303(a)(2) of the Act was not applicable at the time such order was issued.

(3) *WTO Agreement* means the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization entered into on April 15, 1994.

(b) *Request for review.* A requesting party may file with the Commission a request for an investigation under section 753 of the Act within the time period established by section 753(a)(3) of the Act. The request should contain the following information:

(1) A description and identification of the relevant domestic like product, the industry in the United States producing that product that is likely to be materially injured by reason of imports of the subject merchandise if the Order is revoked, and each individual member of that industry.

(2) Information reasonably available to the requesting party concerning the names and addresses of all known enterprises believed to be manufacturing, producing, exporting, or importing the subject merchandise;

(3) Information reasonably available to the requesting party documenting that the industry described in paragraph (b)(1) of this section is likely to be materially injured by reason of subject imports if the Order is revoked, including:

(i) Information concerning the capacity, production, sales, market share,

inventories, employment, wages, productivity, profits, ability to raise capital, and development and production efforts of the industry described in paragraph (b)(1) of this section.

(ii) Information concerning current and projected production capacity in the exporting country of the subject merchandise, inventories of the subject merchandise, and the existence of barriers to the importation of such merchandise into countries other than the United States.

(4) Information concerning any scope and anticircumvention rulings issued by the administering authority with respect to the Order.

(c) *Initiation of Investigation.* (1) Upon the receipt of a timely filed request for a section 753 investigation satisfying the requirements of paragraph (b) of this section, the Secretary shall publish a notice of initiation of such investigation in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(2) Subject to paragraph (c)(3) of this section, a section 753 investigation shall be completed within one year of the date of publication of the notice of initiation of such investigation in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(3) The Commission may take more than one year to complete section 753 investigations for which requests for investigations are received within one year after the date on which the WTO Agreement enters into force with respect to the United States. All such investigations must be completed within four years of that date, however. In determining whether to extend the completion date for a section 753 investigation, the Commission shall consult with the administering authority. Grounds for extending completion include, but are not limited to, the desire to conduct investigations involving the same or similar domestic industries and domestic like products on a simultaneous basis, and the desire to efficiently manage the Commission's caseload.

(d) *Conduct of Investigations.* The procedures set forth in subparts A and C of this part shall apply to all investigations initiated under this section.

(e) *When No Request for Review Is Filed.* When there has been no properly filed and sufficient request for a section 753 investigation of an Order, the

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Commission shall notify the administering authority that a negative determination has been made under section 753(a) of the Act with respect to that Order.

(f) *Pending and Suspended Section 303 Investigations.* If, on the data on which a country becomes a signatory to the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures referred to in section 101(d)(12) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act, there is a section 303 countervailing duty investigation in progress or suspended with respect to that country's merchandise for which the requirement of a material injury determination under section 303(a)(2) of the Act was not applicable at the time the investigation was initiated, the Commission shall commence an investigation pursuant to the provisions of section 753(c) of the Act with respect to pending investigations and suspended investigations to which section 704(i)(1)(B) of the Act applies.

(g) *Request for simultaneous section 751(c) review.* (1) A requesting party who requests a section 753 review may at the same time request from the Commission and the administering authority a review under section 751(c) of the Act of a countervailing or antidumping duty order involving the same or comparable subject merchandise.

(2) Should the administering authority, after consulting with the Commission, determine to initiate a section 751(c) review, the Commission shall conduct a consolidated review under sections 751(c) and 753 of the Act of the orders involving the same or comparable subject merchandise. Any such consolidated review shall be conducted under the applicable procedures set forth in subparts A and F of this part.

(3) Should the administering authority, after consulting with the Commission, determine not to initiate a section 751(c) review, the Commission will consider the request for a section 753 review pursuant to the procedures established in this section.

[60 FR 23, Jan. 3, 1995, as amended at 63 FR 30607, June 5, 1998]

Subpart E—Judicial Review

SOURCE: 56 FR 11930, Mar. 21, 1991, unless otherwise noted.

§ 207.50 Judicial review.

(a) *In general.* Persons entitled to judicial review under section 516A of the Act may seek review in the U.S. Court of International Trade.

(b) *Transmittal of record.* In the event a Commission determination is appealed to the U.S. Court of International Trade under section 516A, a copy of the record in the investigation before the Commission, as such record is defined in § 207.2(f), or a certified list of all items therein, shall be transmitted to the court by the Secretary in accordance with the rules of the court.

(c) *Service of process.* The Commission's General Counsel shall be the Commission's agent for service of process in cases arising under section 516A of the Act.

§ 207.51 Judicial review of denial of application for disclosure of certain business proprietary information under administrative protective order.

(a) *In general.* Persons entitled to judicial review under section 777(c)(2) of the Commission determination not to disclose business proprietary information may apply to the U.S. Court of International Trade for an order directing the Commission to make the information involved available.

(b) *Transmittal of record.* In the event a court order is sought under section 777(c)(2) requiring the Commission to disclose business proprietary information, the Secretary shall within 20 days after service of a summons and complaint upon the Commission transmit to the court under seal the business proprietary information involved along with pertinent parts of the record.

(c) *Pertinent parts of the record.* The pertinent parts of the record shall consist of:

(1) The application for Commission disclosure together with any documents filed in support thereof or in opposition thereto.

(2) Any Government memoranda relating to the Commission's determination, and

(3) The Commission's action on the application.

(d) *Service of process.* The Commission's General Counsel shall be the

Commission's agent for service of process in cases under section 777(c)(2) of the Act.

Subpart F—Five-Year Reviews

SOURCE: 63 FR 30608, June 5, 1998, unless otherwise noted.

§ 207.60 Definitions.

For purposes of this subpart:

(a) The term *five-year review* means a five-year review conducted pursuant to section 751(c) of the Act. The provisions of part 201 of this chapter and subpart A of this part pertaining to "investigations" are generally applicable to five-year reviews, unless superseded by a provision in this subpart of more specific application.

(b) The term *expedited review* means a five-year review conducted by the Commission pursuant to section 751(c)(3)(B) of the Act.

(c) The term *full review* means a five-year review that has not been expedited by the Commission or terminated pursuant to section 751(c)(3) of the Act.

(d) The term *notice of institution* shall refer to the notice of institution of five-year review that the Commission shall publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER requesting that interested parties provide information to the Commission upon initiation of a five-year review.

§ 207.61 Responses to notice of institution.

(a) *When information must be filed.* Responses to the notice of institution shall be submitted to the Commission no later than 30 days after its publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(b) *Information to be filed with the Secretary.* The notice of institution shall direct each interested party to make a filing pursuant to §§ 201.6, 201.8 and 207.3 of this chapter containing the following:

(1) A statement expressing its willingness to participate in the review by providing information requested by the Commission;

(2) A statement regarding the likely effects of revocation of the order(s) or termination of the suspended investigation(s) under review;

(3) Such information or industry data as the Commission may specify in the notice of institution.

(c) *When requested information cannot be supplied.* Any interested party that cannot furnish the information requested by the notice of institution in the requested form and manner shall, promptly after issuance of the notice, notify the Commission, provide a full explanation of why it cannot furnish the requested information, and indicate alternative forms in which it can provide equivalent information. The Commission may modify its requests to the extent necessary to avoid posing an unreasonable burden on that party.

(d) *Submissions by persons other than interested parties.* Any person who is not an interested party may submit to the Commission, in a filing satisfying the requirements of § 201.8 of this chapter, information relevant to the Commission's review no later than 50 days after publication of the notice of institution in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(e) A document filed under this section shall be filed electronically, and nine (9) true paper copies shall be submitted on the same business day.

[44 FR 76468, Dec. 26, 1979, as amended at 74 FR 2849, Jan. 16, 2009; 76 FR 61944, Oct. 6, 2011; 79 FR 35925, June 25, 2014]

§ 207.62 Rulings on adequacy and nature of Commission review.

(a) *Basis for rulings on adequacy.* The Commission will assess the adequacy of aggregate interested party responses to the notice of institution with respect to each order or suspension agreement under review and, where the underlying affirmative Commission determination found multiple domestic like products, on the basis of each domestic like product.

(b) *Comments to the Commission.* (1) Comments to the Commission concerning whether the Commission should conduct an expedited review may be submitted by:

(i) Any interested party that is a party to the five-year review and that has responded to the notice of institution; and

(ii) Any party, other than an interested party, that is a party to the five-year review.

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(2) Comments shall be submitted within the time specified in the notice of institution. In a grouped review, only one set of comments shall be filed per party. Comments shall be filed electronically, and nine (9) true paper copies shall be submitted on the same business day. Comments shall not exceed fifteen (15) pages of textual material, double spaced and single sided, when printed out on paper measuring 8.5 × 11 inches. Comments containing new factual information shall be disregarded.

(c) *Notice of scheduling of full review.* If the Commission concludes that interested parties' responses to the notice of institution are adequate, or otherwise determines that a full review should proceed, investigative activities pertaining to that review will continue. The Commission will publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice of scheduling pertaining to subsequent procedures in the review.

(d) *Procedures for expedited reviews.* (1) If the Commission concludes that interested parties' responses to the notice of institution are inadequate, it may decide to conduct an expedited review. In that event, the Commission shall direct the Secretary to issue a notice stating that the Commission has decided to conduct an expedited review and inviting those parties to the review described in paragraph (d)(2) of this section to file written comments with the Secretary on what determination the Commission should reach in the review. The date on which such comments must be filed will be specified in the notice to be issued by the Secretary. Comments containing new factual information shall be disregarded.

(2) The following parties may file the comments described in paragraph (d)(1) of this section:

(i) Any interested party that is a party to the five-year review and that has filed an adequate response to the notice of institution; and

(ii) Any party, other than an interested party, that is a party to the five-year review.

(3) Any person that is neither a party to the five-year review nor an interested party may submit a brief written statement (which shall not contain any new factual information) pertinent to

the review within the time specified for the filing of written comments.

(4) The Director shall prepare and place in the record, prior to the date on which the comments described in paragraph (d)(1) of this section must be filed, a staff report containing information concerning the subject matter of the review. A version of the staff report containing business proprietary information shall be placed in the nonpublic record and made available to persons authorized to receive business proprietary information under § 207.7, and a nonbusiness proprietary version of the staff report shall be placed in the public record.

(e) *Use of facts available.* The Commission's determination in an expedited review will be based on the facts available, in accordance with section 776 of the Act.

[63 FR 30608, June 5, 1998, as amended at 68 FR 32978, June 3, 2003; 76 FR 61944, Oct. 6, 2011; 79 FR 35925, June 25, 2014]

§ 207.63 Circulation of draft questionnaires.

(a) The Director shall circulate draft questionnaires to the parties for comment in each full review.

(b) Any party desiring to comment on the draft questionnaires shall submit such comments in writing to the Commission within a time specified by the Director. All requests for collecting new information should be presented at this time. The Commission will disregard subsequent requests for collection of new information absent a showing that there is a compelling need for the information and that the information could not have been requested in the comments on the draft questionnaires.

§ 207.64 Staff reports.

(a) *Prehearing staff report.* The Director shall prepare and place in the record, prior to the hearing, a prehearing staff report containing information concerning the subject matter of the five-year review. A version of the staff report containing business proprietary information shall be placed in the nonpublic record and made available to persons authorized to receive business proprietary information under § 207.7, and a nonbusiness proprietary

version of the staff report shall be placed in the public record.

(b) *Final staff report.* After the hearing, the Director shall revise the prehearing staff report and submit to the Commission, prior to the Commission's determination, a final version of the staff report. The final staff report is intended to supplement and correct the information contained in the prehearing staff report. The Director shall place the final staff report in the record. A public version of the final staff report shall be made available to the public and a business proprietary version shall also be made available to persons authorized to receive business proprietary information under § 207.7.

[63 FR 30608, June 5, 1998, as amended at 68 FR 32978, June 3, 2003]

§ 207.65 Prehearing briefs.

Each party to a five-year review may submit a prehearing brief to the Commission on the date specified in the scheduling notice. A prehearing brief shall be signed and shall include a table of contents. A prehearing brief shall be filed electronically, and nine (9) true paper copies shall be submitted (on paper measuring 8.5 × 11 inches and single-sided) on the same business day. The prehearing brief should present a party's case concisely and shall, to the extent possible, refer to the record and include information and arguments which the party believes relevant to the subject matter of the Commission's determination.

[79 FR 35925, June 25, 2014]

§ 207.66 Hearing.

(a) *In general.* The Commission shall hold a hearing in each full review. The date of the hearing shall be specified in the scheduling notice.

(b) *Procedures.* Hearing procedures in five-year reviews will conform to those for final phase antidumping and countervailing duty investigations set forth in § 207.24.

§ 207.67 Posthearing briefs and statements.

(a) *Briefs from parties.* Any party to a five-year review may file with the Secretary a posthearing brief concerning the information adduced at or after the

hearing within a time specified in the scheduling notice or by the presiding official at the hearing. A posthearing brief shall be filed electronically, and nine (9) true paper copies shall be submitted on the same business day. No such posthearing brief shall exceed fifteen (15) pages of textual material, double spaced and single sided, when printed out on paper measuring 8.5 × 11 inches and single-sided. In addition, the presiding official may permit persons to file answers to questions or requests made by the Commission at the hearing within a specified time. The Secretary shall not accept for filing posthearing briefs or answers which do not comply with this section.

(b) *Statements from nonparties.* Any person other than a party may submit a brief written statement of information pertinent to the review within the time specified for the filing of posthearing briefs.

[63 FR 30608, June 5, 1998, as amended at 76 FR 61944, Oct. 6, 2011; 79 FR 35926, June 25, 2014]

§ 207.68 Final comments on information.

(a) The Commission shall specify a date after the filing of posthearing briefs on which it will disclose to all parties to the five-year review all information it has obtained on which the parties have not previously had an opportunity to comment. Any such information that is business proprietary information will be released to persons authorized to obtain such information pursuant to § 207.7.

(b) The parties shall have an opportunity to file comments on any information disclosed to them after they have filed their posthearing brief pursuant to § 207.67. Comments shall be filed electronically, and nine (9) true paper copies shall be submitted on the same business day. Comments shall only concern such information, and shall not exceed 15 pages of textual material, double spaced and single-sided, when printed out on paper measuring 8.5 × 11 inches and single-sided. A comment may address the accuracy, reliability, or probative value of such information by reference to information elsewhere in the record, in which case the comment shall identify where in

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the record such information is found. Comments containing new factual information shall be disregarded. The date on which such comments must be filed will be specified by the Commission when it specifies the time that information will be disclosed pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section. The record shall close on the date such comments are due, except with respect to changes in bracketing of business proprietary information in the comments permitted by § 207.3(c).

[63 FR 30608, June 5, 1998, as amended at 76 FR 61944, Oct. 6, 2011; 79 FR 35926, June 25, 2014]

§ 207.69 Publication of determinations.

Whenever the Commission makes a determination concluding a five-year review, the Secretary shall serve copies of the determination and, when applicable, the nonbusiness proprietary version of the final staff report on all parties to the review, and on the administering authority. The Secretary shall publish notice of such determination in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

Subpart G—Implementing Regulations for the North American Free Trade Agreement

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 88 FR 14891, Mar. 10, 2023, Subpart G was revised and the authority citation for subpart G was removed, effective Apr. 10, 2023. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

Subpart G—Implementing Regulations for the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement

AUTHORITY: Sec. 777(d) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1677f (d)); secs. 402(g), 405 of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (107 Stat. 2057, Pub. L. 103-182, Dec. 8, 1993).

SOURCE: 59 FR 5097, Feb. 3, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

§ 207.90 Scope.

This subpart sets forth the procedures and regulations for implementation of Article 1904 of the North American Free Trade Agreement under the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended by title

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IV of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 1516a and 1677f). These regulations are authorized by section 402(g) of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act and 19 U.S.C. 1335.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 88 FR 14891, Mar. 10, 2023, § 207.90 was revised, effective Apr. 10, 2023. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

§ 207.90 Scope.

This subpart sets forth the procedures and regulations for implementation of Section D of Chapter 10 of the Agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada, as provided by Section 422(a) of the United States-Mexico-Canada Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 1677(f)). These regulations are authorized by section 412(g), as amended by section 504(c)(3)(G), of the United States-Mexico-Canada Implementation Act and 19 U.S.C. 4582.

§ 207.91 Definitions.

As used in this subpart—

Administrative Law Judge means the United States Government employee appointed under section 310(f) of title 5 of the United States Code to conduct proceedings under this part in accordance with section 554 of title 5 of the United States Code;

Agreement means the North American Free Trade Agreement entered into among Canada, the United States of America and the United Mexican States (“Mexico”); or, with respect to binational panel proceedings between Canada and the United States underway as of the date of enactment of the Agreement, or any binational panel proceedings that may proceed between the United States and Canada following any withdrawal from the Agreement by the United States or Canada, the United States-Canada Free Trade Agreement entered into between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of America, effective as of January 1, 1989;

Article 1904 Rules means the Rules of Procedure for Article 1904 Binational Panel Reviews adopted by the United States of America, Canada and Mexico pursuant to the Agreement, or where applicable under the Agreement, the Rules of Procedure for Article 1904 Binational Panel Reviews adopted by the

United States International Trade Commission

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United States of America and Canada pursuant to the United States-Canada Free Trade Agreement, as amended;

Canadian Secretary means the Secretary of the Canadian section of the Secretariat and includes any person authorized to act on the Secretary's behalf;

Charged party means a person who is charged by the Commission with committing a prohibited act under 19 U.S.C. 1677f(f)(3);

Clerical person means a person such as a paralegal, secretary, or law clerk who is employed or retained by and under the direction and control of an authorized applicant;

Commission means the United States International Trade Commission;

Commission Secretary means the Secretary to the Commission;

Complaint means the complaint referred to in the Article 1904 Rules;

Counsel means persons described in the definition of *counsel of record* in Rule 3 of the Article 1904 Rules or the ECC Rules, and counsel for an interested person who plans to file a timely complaint or notice of appearance in the panel review.

Date of Service means the day a document is deposited in the mail or delivered in person;

Days means calendar days, but if a deadline falls on a weekend or United States federal holiday, it shall be extended to the next working day;

Extraordinary challenge committee means the committee established pursuant to Annex 1904.13 of the Agreement to review decisions of a panel or conduct of a panelist;

ECC Rules means the Rules of Procedure for Article 1904 Extraordinary Challenge Committees adopted by the United States of America, Canada and Mexico, or where applicable, the Rules of Procedure for Article 1904 Extraordinary Challenge Committees adopted by the United States of America and Canada pursuant to the United States-Canada Free Trade Agreement, as amended;

Final determination, means "final determination" under Article 1911 of the Agreement;

Free Trade Area Country means the "free trade area country" as defined in 19 U.S.C. 1516a(f)(10);

Investigative attorney means an attorney designated by the Office of Unfair Import Investigations to engage in inquiries and proceedings under 19 CFR 207.100 *et seq.*

Mexican Secretary means the Secretary of the Mexican section of the Secretariat and includes any persons authorized to act on the Secretary's behalf;

NAFTA Act means the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act, Pub. L. 103-182 (December 8, 1993);

Notice of Appearance means the notice of appearance provided for by Article 1904 Rules or by the ECC Rules;

Panel review means review of a final determination pursuant to chapter 19 of the Agreement, including review by an extraordinary challenge committee;

Party means, for the purposes of 19 CFR 207.100 through 207.120, either the investigative attorney(ies) or the charged party(ies);

Person means, for the purposes of 19 CFR 207.100 through 207.120, an individual, partnership, corporation, association, organization, or other entity;

Privileged information means all information covered by the provisions of the second sentence of 19 U.S.C. 1677f(f)(1)(A);

Professional means an accountant, economist, engineer, or other non-legal specialist who is employed by, or under the direction and control, of a counsel;

Prohibited act means the violation of a protective order, the inducement of a violation of a protective order, or the knowing receipt of information the receipt of which constitutes a violation of a protective order;

Proprietary information means confidential business information as defined in 19 CFR 201.6(a);

Protective Order means an administrative protective order issued by the Commission;

Relevant FTA Secretary means the Secretary referred to in Article 1908 of the Agreement;

Secretariat means the Secretariat established pursuant to Article 2002 of the Agreement and includes the Secretariat sections located in Canada, the United States, and Mexico;

Service address means the facsimile number, if any, and address of the

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counsel of record for a person or, where a person is not represented by counsel, the facsimile number, if any, and address set out by a person in a Request for Panel Review, Complaint or Notice of Appearance as the address at which the person may be served or, where a Change of Service Address has been filed by a person, the facsimile number, if any, and address set out as the service address in that form;

Service list means the list maintained by the Commission Secretary under 19 CFR 201.11(d) of persons in the administrative proceeding leading to the final determination under panel review;

United States Secretary means the Secretary of the United States section of the Secretariat and includes any person authorized to act on the Secretary's behalf;

Except as otherwise provided in this subpart, the definitions set forth in the Article 1904 Rules and the ECC Rules are applicable to this subpart and to any protective orders issued pursuant to this subpart.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 88 FR 14891, Mar. 10, 2023, § 207.91 was revised and republished, effective Apr. 10, 2023. For the convenience of the user, revised text is set forth as follows:

§ 207.91 Definitions.

Except as otherwise provided in this subpart, the definitions set forth in the Binational Panel Rules and the ECC Rules (as defined in this section) are applicable to this subpart and to any protective orders issued pursuant to this subpart. As used in this subpart—

Administrative Law Judge means the United States Government employee appointed under 5 U.S.C. 310(f) to conduct proceedings under this part in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 554.

Agreement means Article 10.12 of the Agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican States ("Mexico"), and Canada entered into among these states, effective July 1, 2020 ("USMCA"); or, with respect to binational panel proceedings between either of Canada and the United States or Mexico and the United States underway as of the date of enactment of the Agreement, it means the Article 1904 of the North American Free Trade Agreement entered into between the governments of the United States of America, Mexico, and Canada, effective January 1, 1994 ("NAFTA").

Binational Panel Rules means the Rules of Procedure for Article 10.12 published by the United States Trade Representative in 88 FR

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10171, February 16, 2023, or, where applicable, Article 1904 of the NAFTA.

Canadian Secretary means the Secretary of the Canadian section of the Secretariat and includes any person authorized to act on the Secretary's behalf.

Charged party means a person who is charged by the Commission with committing a prohibited act under 19 U.S.C. 1677f(f)(3).

Clerical person means a person such as a paralegal, secretary, or law clerk who is employed or retained by and under the direction and control of an authorized applicant.

Commission means the United States International Trade Commission.

Commission Secretary means the Secretary to the Commission.

Complaint means the complaint referred to in the Binational Panel Rules.

Counsel means a person entitled to appear as counsel before a Federal court in the United States, consistent with the Binational Panel and ECC Rules, and counsel for an interested person who plans to file a timely complaint or notice of appearance in the panel review.

Date of service means the day a document is deposited in the mail, electronically sent, or delivered in person, as applicable.

Days means calendar days, but if a deadline falls on a weekend or United States Federal holiday, it will be extended to the next working day.

ECC Rules means the Rules of Procedure for Annex 10-B.3 published by the United States Trade Representative in 88 FR 10171, February 16, 2023, or, where applicable, Annex 1904.13 of the NAFTA.

Extraordinary challenge committee ("ECC") means the committee established to review decisions of a panel or conduct of a panelist, pursuant to Annex 10-B.3 to Chapter 10 of the USMCA or to Annex 1904.13 of the NAFTA.

Final determination means "final determination" under Article 10.8 of the USMCA or Article 1911 of the NAFTA.

Free Trade Area country means the "free trade area country" as defined in 19 U.S.C. 1516a(f)(9).

Investigative attorney means an attorney designated by the Office of Unfair Import Investigations to engage in inquiries and proceedings under §§ 207.100 through 207.120.

Mexican Secretary means the Secretary of the Mexican section of the Secretariat and includes any persons authorized to act on the Secretary's behalf.

Notice of appearance means the notice of appearance provided for by the Binational Panel Rules or ECC Rules, as applicable.

Panel review means review of a final determination, including review by an extraordinary challenge committee, pursuant to Section D of Chapter 10 of the USMCA or Chapter 19 of the NAFTA.

Party means, for the purposes of §§ 207.100 through 207.120, either the investigative attorney(ies) or the charged party(ies).

Person means, for the purposes of §§ 207.100 through 207.120, an individual, partnership, corporation, association, organization, or other entity.

Privileged information means all information covered by the provisions of the second sentence of 19 U.S.C. 1677f(f)(1)(A).

Professional means an accountant, economist, engineer, or other non-legal specialist who is employed by, or under the direction and control, of a counsel.

Prohibited act means the violation of a protective order, the inducement of a violation of a protective order, or the knowing receipt of information the receipt of which constitutes a violation of a protective order.

Proprietary information means confidential business information as defined in 19 CFR 201.6(a).

Protective order means an administrative protective order issued by the Commission.

Responsible Secretary means the Secretary of the Section of the Secretariat located in the country in which the final determination under review was made.

Secretariat means the Secretariat established pursuant to Article 30.6 of the USMCA and Article 2002 of the NAFTA, and includes the Secretariat sections located in Canada, the United States, and Mexico.

Service address means the address filed with the Secretariat as the service address for that person, including any electronic mail address submitted with that address.

Service list means the list maintained by the Commission Secretary under 19 CFR 201.11(d) of persons in the administrative proceeding leading to the final determination under panel review.

United States Secretary means the Secretary of the United States section of the Secretariat and includes any person authorized to act on the Secretary's behalf.

USMCA Act means the United States-Mexico-Canada Implementation Act, Public Law 116-113 (January 29, 2020).

§ 207.92 Procedures for commencing review of final determinations.

(a) *Notice of Intent to Commence Judicial Review.* A Notice of Intent to Commence Judicial Review shall contain such information, and be in such form, manner, and style, including service requirements, as prescribed by the Department of Commerce in its regulations at 19 CFR part 356.

(b) *Request for Panel Review.* A Request for Panel Review shall contain such information, and be in such form, manner, and style, including service requirements, as prescribed by the De-

partment of Commerce in its regulations at 19 CFR part 356.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 88 FR 14892, Mar. 10, 2023, § 207.92 was revised, effective Apr. 10, 2023. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

§ 207.92 Procedures for commencing review of final determinations.

(a) *Notice of Intent to Commence Judicial Review.* A Notice of Intent to Commence Judicial Review shall contain such information, and be in such form, manner, and style, including service requirements, as prescribed by the Binational Panel Rules.

(b) *Request for Panel Review.* A Request for Panel Review shall contain such information, and be in such form, manner, and style, including service requirements, as prescribed by the Binational Panel Rules.

§ 207.93 Protection of proprietary information during panel and committee proceedings.

(a) *Requests for protective orders.* A request for access to proprietary information pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1677f(f)(1) shall be made to the Secretary of the Commission.

(b) *Persons authorized to receive proprietary information under protective order.* The following persons may be authorized by the Commission to receive access to proprietary information if they comply with these regulations and such other conditions imposed upon them by the Commission:

(1) The members of a binational panel or an extraordinary challenge committee, any assistant to a member, court reporters and translators;

(2) Counsel and professionals, provided that the counsel or professional does not participate in competitive decision-making, as defined in *US Steel Corp. v. United States*, 730 F.2d 1465 (Fed. Cir. 1984), for the person represented or for any person that would gain a competitive advantage through knowledge of the proprietary information sought;

(3) Clerical persons who are employed or retained by and under the direction and control of a person described in paragraph (b) (1), (2), (5) or (6) of this section who has been issued a protective order, if such clerical persons:

(i) Are not involved in the competitive decision-making, or the support functions for the competitive decision-

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making, of a participant to the proceeding or of any person that would gain a competitive advantage through knowledge of the proprietary information sought, and

(ii) Have agreed to be bound by the terms set forth in the application for protective order of the person who retains or employs him or her;

(4) The Secretaries of the United States, Canadian and Mexican sections of the Secretariat and members of their staffs;

(5) Any officer or employee of the United States Government who the United States Trade Representative informs the Commission Secretary needs access to proprietary information to make recommendations regarding the convening of extraordinary challenge committees; and

(6) Any officer or employee of the Government of Canada or the Government of Mexico who the Canadian Minister of Trade or the Mexican Secretary of Economy, as the case may be, informs the Commission Secretary needs access to proprietary information to make recommendations regarding the convening of extraordinary challenge committees; and

(7) Counsel representing, and other staff providing support to, the investigating authority, the Commission.

(c) *Procedures for obtaining access to proprietary information under protective order*—(1) *Persons who must file an application for release under protective order.* To be permitted access to proprietary information in the administrative record of a determination under panel review, all persons described in paragraphs (b)(1), (2), (4), (5), (6), or (c)(5)(i) of this section shall file an application for a protective order.

(2) *Contents of applications for release under protective order.* (i) The Commission Secretary shall adopt from time to time forms for submitting requests for release pursuant to protective order that incorporate the terms of this rule. The Commission Secretary shall supply the United States Secretary with copies of the forms for persons described in paragraphs (b) (1), (4), (5) and (6) of this section. Other applicants may obtain the forms at the Commission Secretary's office at 500 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20436.

(ii) Such forms shall require the applicant to submit a personal sworn statement that, in addition to such other conditions as the Commission Secretary may require, the applicant will:

(A) Not disclose any proprietary information obtained under protective order and not otherwise available to any person other than:

(1) Personnel of the Commission involved in the particular panel review in which the proprietary information is part of the administrative record,

(2) The person from whom the information was obtained,

(3) A person who is authorized to have access to the same proprietary information pursuant to a Commission protective order, and

(4) A clerical person retained or employed by and under the direction and control of a person described in paragraph (b)(1), (2), (5), or (6) of this section who has been issued a protective order, if such clerical person has signed and dated an agreement, provided to the Commission Secretary upon request, to be bound by the terms set forth in the application for a protective order of the person who retains or employs him or her (the authorized applicant shall be responsible for retention and accuracy of such forms and shall be deemed responsible for such persons' compliance with the administrative protective order);

(B) Not use any of the proprietary information released under protective order and not otherwise available for purposes other than the particular proceedings under Article 1904 of the Agreement;

(C) Upon completion of panel review, or at such other date as may be determined by the Commission Secretary, return to the Commission, or certify to the Commission Secretary the destruction of, all documents released under the protective order and all other material (such as briefs, notes, or charts), containing the proprietary information released under the protective order, except that those described in paragraph (b)(1) of this section may return such documents and other materials to the United States Secretary. The United States Secretary may retain a single

file copy of each document for the official file.

(D) Update information in the application for protective order as required by the protective order; and

(E) Acknowledge that the person becomes subject to the provisions of 19 U.S.C. 1677f(f) and to this subpart, as well as corresponding provisions of Canadian and Mexican law on disclosure undertakings concerning proprietary information.

(3) *Timing of applications.* An application for any person described in paragraph (b)(1) or (b)(2) of this section may be filed after a notice of request for panel review has been filed with the Secretariat. A person described in paragraph (b)(4) of this section shall file an application immediately upon assuming official responsibilities in the United States, Canadian or Mexican Secretariat. An application for any person described in paragraph (b)(5) or (b)(6) of this section may be filed at any time after the United States Trade Representative, the Canadian Minister of Trade, or the Mexican Secretary of Economy, as the case may be, has notified the Commission Secretary that such person requires access.

(4) *Filing and service of applications—*
(i) *Applications of persons described in paragraph (b)(1) of this section.* A person described in paragraph (b)(1) of this section shall submit the completed original of the form to the United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat, room 2061, U.S. Department of Commerce, Pennsylvania Avenue and 14th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20230. The United States Secretary, in turn, shall file the original plus three (3) copies of the application with the Commission Secretary.

(ii) *Applications of persons described in paragraph (b)(2) of this section—(A) Filing.* A person described in paragraph (b)(2) of this section, concurrent with the filing of a complaint or notice of appearance in the panel review on behalf of the participant represented by such person, shall file the completed original of the form (NAFTA APO Form C) and three (3) copies with the Commission Secretary, and four (4) copies with the United States Secretary.

(B) *Service.* If an applicant files before the deadline for filing notices of appearance for the panel review, the applicant shall concurrently serve each person on the service list with a copy of the application. If the applicant files after the deadline for filing notices of appearance for the panel review, the applicant shall serve each participant in the panel review in accordance with the applicable Article 1904 Rules and ECC Rules. Service on a person may be effected by delivering a copy to the person's service address; by sending a copy to the person's service address by facsimile transmission, expedited courier service, expedited mail service; or by personal service.

(iii) *Applications of persons described in paragraph (b)(4) of this section.* A person described in paragraph (b)(4) of this section shall file the original and three (3) copies of the protective order application with the Commission Secretary.

(iv) *Applications of persons described in paragraph (b)(5) of this section.* A person described in paragraph (b)(5) of this section shall file the original and three (3) copies with the Commission Secretary and four (4) copies with the United States Secretary.

(v) *Applications of persons described in paragraph (b)(6) of this section.* A person described in paragraph (b)(6) of this section shall submit the completed original of the protective order application to the relevant FTA Secretary. The relevant FTA Secretary in turn, shall file the original and three (3) copies with the Commission Secretary.

(5) *Persons who retain access to proprietary information under a protective order issued during the administrative proceedings.* (i) If counsel or a professional has been granted access in an administrative proceeding to proprietary information under a protective order that contains a provision governing continued access to that information during panel review, and that counsel or professional retains the proprietary information more than fifteen (15) days after a First Request for Panel Review is filed with the Secretariat, that counsel or professional, and such clerical persons with access on or after that date, become immediately subject to the terms and conditions of NAFTA

APO Form C maintained by the Commission Secretary on that date including provisions regarding sanctions for violations thereof.

(ii) Any person described in paragraph (c)(5)(i) of this section, concurrent with the filing of a complaint or notice of appearance in the panel review on behalf of the participant represented by such person, shall:

(A) File the completed original of the form (NAFTA APO Form C) and three (3) copies with the Commission Secretary; and

(B) File four (4) copies of the completed NAFTA APO Form C with the United States Secretary.

(iii) Any person described in paragraph (c)(5)(i) of this section must submit a new application for a protective order at the commencement of a panel review.

(d) *Issuance of protective orders*—(1) *Applicants described in paragraphs (b) (1), (4), (5) and (6) of this section.* Upon approval of an application of persons described in paragraphs (b)(1), (4), (5), or (6) of this section, the Commission Secretary shall issue a protective order permitting release of proprietary information. Any member of a binational panel proceeding initiated under the United States-Canada Free Trade Agreement to whom the Commission Secretary issues a protective order must countersign it and return one copy of the countersigned order to the United States Secretary. Any other applicant under paragraph (b)(1) of this section must file a copy of the order with the United States Secretary.

(2) *Applicants described in paragraph (b)(2) of this section.* (i) The Commission shall not rule on an application filed by a person described in paragraph (b)(2) until ten (10) days after the request is filed unless there is a compelling need to rule more expeditiously. Any person may file an objection to the application within seven (7) days of the application's filing date, stating the specific reasons why the Commission should not grant the application. One (1) copy of the objection shall be served on the applicant and on all persons who were served with the application. Any reply to an objection will be considered if it is filed and served before the Commission Secretary renders a decision. Serv-

ice of objections and replies shall be made in accordance with paragraph (c)(4)(ii)(B) of this section.

(ii) *Denial of application.* The Commission's Secretary may deny an application by serving a letter notifying the applicant of the decision and the reasons therefor within fourteen (14) days of the receipt of the application. The letter shall advise the applicant of the right to appeal to the Commission. Any appeal must be made within five (5) days of the service of the Commission Secretary's letter.

(iii) *Appeal from denial of an application.* An appeal from a denial of a request must be addressed to the Chairman, United States International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20436. Such appeal must be served in accordance with paragraph (c)(4)(ii)(B) of this section. The Commission shall make a final decision granting or denying the appeal within thirty (30) days from the day on which the application was filed with the Commission Secretary.

(iv) *Approval of the application.* If the Commission Secretary does not deny an application pursuant to paragraph (d)(2)(ii) of this section, the Commission shall, by the fifteenth day following the receipt of the application, issue a protective order permitting the release of proprietary information to the applicant.

(v) *Filing of protective orders.* If a protective order is issued to a person described in paragraph (b)(2) of this section, the person shall immediately file one (1) copy of the protective order with the United States Secretary.

(e) *Retention of protective orders; service list.* The Commission Secretary shall retain, in a public file, copies of applications granted, including any updates thereto, and protective orders issued under this section, including protective orders filed in accordance with paragraph (b)(6)(ii) of this section. The Secretary shall establish a list of persons authorized to receive proprietary information in a review, including parties whose applications have been granted.

(f) *Filing of amendments to granted applications.* Any person who has been issued a protective order under this section shall:

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(1) If a person described in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, submit any amendments to the application for a protective order to the United States Secretary, who shall file the original and three (3) copies with the Commission Secretary;

(2) If a person described in paragraph (b)(2) of this section, file the original and three (3) copies of any amendments to the application with the Commission Secretary and four (4) copies with the United States Secretary; or

(3) If any other person, file the original and three (3) copies of any amendments to the application with the Commission Secretary.

(g) *Modification or revocation of protective orders.* (1) Any person may file with the Commission Secretary a request that a protective order issued under this section be modified or revoked because of changed conditions of fact or law, or on grounds of the public interest. The request shall state the changes desired and include any supporting materials and arguments. The person filing the request shall serve a copy of the request upon the person to whom the protective order was issued.

(2) Any person may file a response to the request within twenty (20) days after it is filed, unless the Commission issues a notice indicating otherwise. After consideration of the request and any responses thereto, the Commission shall take such action as it deems appropriate.

(3) If a request filed under this paragraph alleges that a person is violating the terms of a protective order, the Commission may treat the request as a report of violation under §207.101 of this subpart.

(4) The Commission may also modify or revoke a protective order on its own initiative.

(5) If the Commission revokes, amends or modifies a person's protective order, it shall provide to the person, the United States Secretary and all participants a copy of the Notice of Revocation, amendment or modification.

[59 FR 5097, Feb. 3, 1994, as amended at 70 FR 8512, Feb. 22, 2005]

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 88 FR 14892, Mar. 10, 2023, §207.93 was amended by revising paragraphs (b) introductory text, (b)(6),

(c)(2)(i), (c)(2)(ii)(B), (c)(3), (c)(4)(ii)(A) and (B), (c)(4)(v), (c)(5)(i) and (ii), and (d)(1), effective Apr. 10, 2023. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

§ 207.93 Protection of proprietary information during panel and committee proceedings.

* * * * *

(b) *Persons authorized to receive proprietary information under protective order.* The following persons may be authorized by the Commission to receive access to proprietary information if they comply with the regulations in this section and such other conditions imposed upon them by the Commission:

* * * * *

(6) Any officer or employee of the Government of Canada or the Government of Mexico who the Canadian Minister of Trade or the Mexican Secretary of Economía (*Secretaría de Economía*), as the case may be, informs the Commission Secretary needs access to proprietary information to make recommendations regarding the convening of extraordinary challenge committees; and

* * * * *

(c) * * *

(2) * * *

(i) The Commission Secretary shall adopt from time to time forms for submitting requests for release pursuant to protective order that incorporate the terms of this section. The Commission Secretary shall supply the United States Secretary with copies of the forms for persons described in paragraphs (b)(1), (4), (5), and (6) of this section. Other applicants may obtain the forms at the Commission Secretary's office at 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20436, or from the website of the Commission Secretary.

(ii) * * *

(B) Not use any of the proprietary information released under protective order and not otherwise available for purposes other than the particular proceedings under Section D of Chapter 10 of the USMCA, or Article 1904 of the NAFTA, as applicable;

* * * * *

(3) *Timing of applications.* An application for any person described in paragraph (b)(1) or (2) of this section may be filed after a notice of request for panel review has been filed with the Secretariat. A person described in paragraph (b)(4) of this section shall file an

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application immediately upon assuming official responsibilities in the United States, Canadian, or Mexican Secretariat. An application for any person described in paragraph (b)(5) or (6) of this section may be filed at any time after the United States Trade Representative, the Canadian Minister of Trade, or the Mexican Secretaría de Economía, as the case may be, has notified the Commission Secretary that such person requires access.

* * * *

(4) * * *
(ii) * * *

(A) *Filing.* A person described in paragraph (b)(2) of this section, concurrent with the filing of a complaint or notice of appearance in the panel review on behalf of the participant represented by such person, shall file the completed original of the form (USMCA APO Form C) and three (3) copies with the Commission Secretary, and four (4) copies with the United States Secretary.

(B) *Service.* If an applicant files before the deadline for filing notices of appearance for the panel review, the applicant shall concurrently serve each person on the service list with a copy of the application. If the applicant files after the deadline for filing notices of appearance for the panel review, the applicant shall serve each participant in the panel review in accordance with the applicable Binational Panel Rules and ECC Rules. Service on a person may be effected by delivering a copy to the person's service address; by sending a copy to the person's service address by facsimile transmission, expedited courier service, expedited mail service; or by personal service.

* * * *

(v) *Applications of persons described in paragraph (b)(6) of this section.* A person described in paragraph (b)(6) of this section shall submit the completed original of the protective order application to the Responsible Secretary. The Responsible Secretary in turn, shall file the original and three (3) copies with the Commission Secretary.

(5) * * *

(i) If counsel or a professional has been granted access in an administrative proceeding to proprietary information under a protective order that contains a provision governing continued access to that information during panel review, and that counsel or professional retains the proprietary information more than fifteen (15) days after a First Request for Panel Review is filed with the Secretariat, that counsel or professional, and such clerical persons with access on or after that date, become immediately subject to the terms and conditions of USMCA APO Form C maintained by the Commission Sec-

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retary on that date including provisions regarding sanctions for violations thereof.

(ii) Any person described in paragraph (c)(5)(i) of this section, concurrent with the filing of a complaint or notice of appearance in the panel review on behalf of the participant represented by such person, shall:

(A) File the completed original of the form (USMCA APO Form C) and three (3) copies with the Commission Secretary; and

(B) File four (4) copies of the completed USMCA APO Form C with the United States Secretary.

* * * *

(d) * * *

(1) *Applicants described in paragraphs (b)(1), (4), (5), and (6) of this section.* Upon approval of an application of persons described in paragraph (b)(1), (4), (5), or (6) of this section, the Commission Secretary shall issue a protective order permitting release of proprietary information. Any member of a binational panel proceeding initiated under the NAFTA to whom the Commission Secretary issues a protective order must countersign it and return one copy of the countersigned order to the United States Secretary. Any other applicant under paragraph (b)(1) of this section must file a copy of the order with the United States Secretary.

* * * *

§ 207.94 Protection of privileged information during panel and committee proceedings.

When and if a panel or extraordinary challenge committee decides that the Commission is required, pursuant to the United States law, to grant access pursuant to protective order to information for which the Commission has claimed a privilege, any individual to whom a panel or extraordinary challenge committee has directed the Commission release information and who is otherwise within the category of individuals eligible to receive proprietary information pursuant to 19 CFR 207.93(b), may file an application for a protective order with the Commission. Upon receipt of such application, the Commission Secretary shall certify to the Commission that a panel or extraordinary challenge committee has required the Commission to release such information to specified persons, pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1677f(f)(1). Twenty-four hours following such certification, the Commission Secretary shall issue a protective order releasing such

information to any authorized applicant subject to terms and conditions equivalent to those described in 19 CFR 207.93(c)(2).

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 88 FR 14893, Mar. 10, 2023, § 207.94 was revised, effective Apr. 10, 2023. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

§ 207.94 Protection of privileged information during panel and committee proceedings.

If a panel or ECC decides that the Commission is required, pursuant to the United States law, to grant access pursuant to a protective order to information for which the Commission has claimed a privilege, any individual to whom the panel or ECC has directed the Commission release information and who is otherwise within the category of individuals eligible to receive proprietary information pursuant to § 207.93(b), may file an application for a protective order with the Commission. Upon receipt of such application, the Commission Secretary shall certify to the Commission that a panel or ECC has required the Commission to release such information to specified persons, pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1677f(f)(1). Twenty-four hours following such certification, the Commission Secretary shall issue a protective order releasing such information to any authorized applicant subject to terms and conditions equivalent to those described in § 207.93(c)(2).

PROCEDURES FOR IMPOSING SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF A PROTECTIVE ORDER ISSUED DURING PANEL AND COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

§ 207.100 Sanctions.

(a) A person, other than a person exempted from this regulation by the provisions of 19 U.S.C. 1677f(f)(4), who is determined under this subpart to have committed a prohibited act, may be subject to one or more of the following sanctions:

(1) A civil penalty not to exceed \$100,000 for each violation, each day of a continuing violation constituting a separate violation;

(2) Debarment from practice in any capacity before the Commission, which disbarment may, in appropriate circumstances, include such person's partners, associates, employers and employees, for a designated time period following publication of a determination that the protective order has been breached;

(3) Denial of further access to proprietary or privileged information covered by the breached protective order or to proprietary information in future Commission proceedings;

(4) An official reprimand by the Commission;

(5) In the case of an attorney, accountant, or other professional, referral of the facts underlying the prohibited act to the ethics panel or other disciplinary body of the appropriate professional association or licensing authority;

(6) When appropriate, referral of the facts underlying the violation to the United States Trade Representative or his or her designees, or to another government agency; and

(7) Any other administrative sanctions as the Commission determines to be appropriate.

(b) Each partner, associate, employer, and employee described in paragraph (a)(2) of this section is entitled to all the administrative rights set forth in this subpart.

(c) For the purposes of this subpart, the knowing receipt of information the receipt of which constitutes a violation of a protective order includes, but is not limited to, the reading or unauthorized dissemination of the information covered by a protective order by a person who knows or should reasonably believe that he or she is not authorized to read or disseminate such information.

§ 207.101 Reporting of prohibited act and commencement of investigation.

(a) Any person who has information indicating that a prohibited act has been committed shall immediately report all pertinent facts relating thereto to the Commission Secretary.

(b) Upon receipt, the Commission Secretary shall record the information, assign an investigation number, and forward all information he or she received to the Office of Unfair Import Investigations.

(c) As expeditiously as possible, the Office of Unfair Import Investigations shall conduct an inquiry to determine whether there is reasonable cause to believe that a person or persons have committed a prohibited act. At any

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time, the Office of Unfair Import Investigations may request that the Commission assign an administrative law judge to oversee the inquiry.

(d) At the conclusion of the inquiry, the Office of Unfair Import Investigations shall assess whether the available information is sufficient to provide reasonable cause to believe that a person or persons have committed a prohibited act.

§ 207.102 Initiation of proceedings.

(a) Upon completion of the inquiry,

(1) If the Office of Unfair Import Investigations concludes that there is not reasonable cause to believe that a person or persons have committed a prohibited act, the Office of Unfair Import Investigations shall:

(i) Submit a report to the Commission; and

(ii) Unless the Commission directs otherwise, the file shall be closed and returned to the Commission Secretary.

(2) If the Office of Unfair Import Investigations concludes that there is reasonable cause to believe that a person or persons have committed a prohibited act, the Office of Unfair Import Investigations shall:

(i) Make a recommendation to the Commission regarding whether and to what extent it is appropriate to notify the person whose proprietary information may have been compromised; and

(ii) Submit a report and recommendation to the Commission regarding whether to initiate sanctions proceedings or to take other appropriate action.

(b) The Commission may make any appropriate determination regarding the initiation of sanctions proceedings, including rejecting, approving, or approving and amending any recommendation made by the Office of Unfair Import Investigations.

(c) If the Commission determines that it is appropriate to issue a charging letter, the Commission shall appoint an administrative law judge to oversee the proceeding and the Commission Secretary shall initiate a proceeding under this subpart by issuing a charging letter as set forth in 19 CFR 207.103.

(d) If the Commission determines that it is appropriate to initiate pro-

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ceedings, but that the party to be charged is beyond the jurisdiction of the Commission and within the jurisdiction of another Free Trade Area country, or that for other reasons an authorized agency of another Free Trade Area country would be the more appropriate forum for initiation of a proceeding, the Commission shall take the necessary steps for issuance of a letter requesting the authorized agency of another Free Trade Area country to initiate proceedings under applicable law on the basis of an alleged prohibited act.

(e) The Commission may make any determination regarding notification about the alleged prohibited act and the relevant underlying facts to the persons who submitted the proprietary information that allegedly has been disclosed. A determination by the Commission on this subject does not foreclose the administrative law judge from redetermining at any time during the hearing whether notification to the compromised party is appropriate.

(f) If the Commission determines that it is not appropriate to issue a charging letter or to refer the facts to the authorized agency of another Free Trade Area country, the file shall be closed and returned to the Commission Secretary, unless the Commission directs otherwise.

(g) All aspects of the inquiry shall remain confidential, except as deemed reasonably necessary to the Office of Unfair Import Investigations to gather relevant information and to protect the interests of the person who submitted the proprietary information, or except as otherwise ordered by the Commission. Except as the Commission may otherwise order, the Commission Secretary shall maintain all closed investigatory files in confidence to the extent permitted by law, and shall destroy any documentary evidence containing allegations of a prohibited act for which no proceeding is initiated one year after the file is closed.

§ 207.103 Charging letter.

(a) *Contents of charging letter.* Each charged party shall be served by the Commission with a copy of a charging letter and any accompanying motion

for interim measures, as provided for in 19 CFR 207.106. The charging letter shall include:

(1) Allegations concerning a prohibited act;

(2) A citation to §207.100 of this subpart, for a listing of sanctions that may be imposed for a prohibited act;

(3) A statement that a proceeding has been initiated and that an APA hearing will be held before an administrative law judge;

(4) A statement that the charged party or his or her attorney may request the issuance of an appropriate administrative protective order to obtain access to the information upon which the charge is based;

(5) A statement that the charged party has a right to retain an attorney at the charged party's own expense for purposes of representation; and

(6) A statement that the charged party has the right to request in the response described in §207.104 of this subpart that the proceedings remain confidential to the extent practicable.

(b) *Service of charging letter.* (1) The charging letter shall be served in a double envelope. The inner envelope shall indicate that it is to be opened only by the addressee. Service of a charging letter shall be made by one of the following methods:

(i) Mailing a copy by registered or certified mail addressed to the charged party at the party's last known permanent address; or

(ii) Personal service; or

(iii) Any other method acceptable under Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

(2) Service shall be evidenced by a certificate of service signed by the person making such service.

(c) *Confidentiality of charging letter.* Prior to entry of an order by the administrative law judge under §207.105 of this subpart, the charging letter will be confidential and disclosed only to necessary Commission staff and the charged parties.

(d) *Amendment of charging letter.* (1) At any time after proceedings have been initiated, the investigative attorney may move for leave to amend or withdraw the charging letter.

(2) If the administrative law judge determines that the charging letter

should be amended to include additional parties, the judge shall issue a recommended determination to that effect. The Commission shall review the recommended determination, and issue a determination granting or denying the motion to amend the charging letter to include additional parties.

(3) Upon motion, the administrative law judge may grant leave to amend the charging letter for good cause shown upon such conditions as are necessary to avoid prejudicing the public interest and the rights of the parties already charged.

(4) Any amended charging letter shall be served upon all charged parties in the form and manner set forth in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section.

§ 207.104 Response to charging letter.

(a) *Time for filing.* A charged party shall have twenty (20) days from the date of service of the charging letter within which to file a written response to the allegations made in the charging letter unless otherwise ordered by the administrative law judge.

(b) *Form and content.* Each response shall be under oath and signed by the charged party or its duly authorized officer, attorney, or agent, with the name, address, and telephone number of the same. Each charged party shall respond to each allegation in the charging letter, and may set forth a concise statement of the facts constituting each ground of defense. There shall be a specific admission or denial of each fact alleged in the charging letter, or if the charged party is without knowledge of any such fact, a statement to that effect.

(c) *Request for confidentiality.* The response shall contain a statement as to whether the charged party seeks an order to maintain the confidentiality of all or part of the proceedings to the extent practicable, pursuant to §207.105 of this subpart.

§ 207.105 Confidentiality.

(a) *Protection of proprietary and privileged information.* As the administrative law judge deems reasonably necessary for the preparation of the defense of a charged party, the attorney for the charged party may be granted access in

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these proceedings to proprietary information or to the privileged information, the disclosure of which is the subject of the proceedings. Any such access shall be under protective order consistent with the provisions of this subpart.

(b) *Confidentiality of proceedings.* Upon the request of any charged party pursuant to § 207.106 of this subpart, the administrative law judge will issue an appropriate confidentiality order. This order will provide for the confidentiality, to the extent practicable and permitted by law, of information relating to allegations concerning the commitment of a prohibited act, consistent with public policy considerations and the needs of the parties in conducting the sanctions proceedings. The order will provide that all proceedings under this provision shall be kept confidential within the terms of the order, except to the extent that a discussion of such proceedings is incorporated into a published final decision of the Commission. Any confidential information not disclosed in such decision will remain protected.

§ 207.106 Interim measures.

(a) At any time after proceedings are initiated, the administrative law judge, upon motion, or on his or her own initiative, may issue a recommended determination to revoke the allegedly-violated protective order, to disclose information about the proceedings that would otherwise be kept confidential, or to take other appropriate interim measures.

(b) Before issuing a determination recommending interim sanctions, the administrative law judge shall afford a party against whom such measures are proposed the opportunity to oppose them. The administrative law judge shall ordinarily decide any motion under this section no more than twenty (20) days after it is filed.

(c) The Commission shall review any recommended determination regarding the imposition of interim measures within twenty (20) days from its issuance or such other time as it may order. The Commission may impose any appropriate interim sanctions.

(d) The administrative law judge may recommend to the Commission that in-

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terim measures be modified or revoked. The Commission shall rule on such recommendation within ten (10) days after its issuance or such other time as it may order.

(e) The Commission Secretary shall immediately notify the Secretariat of any interim measures that revoke or modify an outstanding protective order in an ongoing panel review. The Commission Secretary shall also immediately notify the Secretariat of any revocation or modification of an interim measure.

§ 207.107 Motions.

(a) *Presentation and disposition.* (1) After issuance of the charging letter and while part of the proceeding is pending before the administrative law judge, all motions relating to that part of the proceeding shall be addressed to the administrative law judge.

(2) While part of a proceeding is pending before the Commission, all motions relating to that part of the proceeding shall be addressed to the Chairman of the Commission. All written motions shall be filed with the Commission Secretary and served upon all parties.

(b) *Content.* All written motions shall state the particular order, ruling, or action desired and the grounds therefor.

(c) *Responses.* Any response to a motion shall be filed within ten (10) days after service of the motions, or within such longer or shorter time as may be designated by the administrative law judge or the Commission. The moving party shall have no right to reply, except as permitted by the administrative law judge or the Commission.

(d) *Service.* All motions, responses, replies, briefs, petitions, and other documents filed in sanctions proceedings under this subpart shall be served by the party filing the document upon each other party. Service shall be made upon the attorney for the party unless the administrative law judge or the Commission orders otherwise.

§ 207.108 Preliminary conference.

As soon as practicable after the response to the charging letter is filed, the administrative law judge shall direct counsel or other representatives for the parties to meet with him or her

at a preliminary conference, unless the administrative law judge determines that such a conference is not necessary. At the conference, the administrative law judge shall consider the issuance of such orders as the administrative law judge deems necessary for the conduct of the proceedings. Such orders may include, as appropriate under these regulations, the establishment of a discovery schedule or the issuance of an order, if requested, to provide for maintaining the confidentiality of the proceedings pursuant to § 207.105(b) of this subpart.

§ 207.109 Discovery.

(a) *Discovery methods.* All parties may obtain discovery under such terms and limitations as the administrative law judge may order. Discovery may be by one or more of the following methods:

- (1) Depositions upon oral examination or written questions;
- (2) Written interrogatories;
- (3) Production of documents or things for inspection and other purposes; and
- (4) Requests for admissions.

(b) *Sanctions.* If a party or an officer or agent of a party fails to comply with a discovery order, the administrative law judge may take such action as he deems reasonable and appropriate, including the issuance of evidentiary sanctions or deeming the respondent to be in default.

(c) *Depositions of nonparty officers or employees of the United States or another Free Trade Area country government—*(1) *Depositions of Commission officers or employees.* A party desiring to take the deposition of an officer or employee of the Commission (other than a member of the Office of Unfair Import Investigations or of the Office of the Administrative Law Judges), or to obtain nonprivileged documents or other physical exhibits in the custody, control, and possession of such officer or employee, shall file a written motion requesting the administrative law judge to recommend that the Commission direct that officer or employee to testify or produce the requested materials.

(2) *Depositions of officers or employees of other United States agencies, or of the government of another Free Trade Area*

country. A party desiring to take the deposition of an officer or employee of another agency, or of the government of another Free Trade Area country, or to obtain nonprivileged documents or other physical exhibits in the custody, control, and possession of such officer or employee, shall file a written motion requesting the administrative law judge to recommend that the Commission seek the testimony or production of requested material from the officer or employee.

§ 207.110 Subpoenas.

(a) *Application for issuance of a subpoena.* Except as provided in § 207.109(c) of this subpart, an application for issuance of a subpoena requiring a person to appear and depose or testify at the taking of a deposition or at a hearing shall be made to the administrative law judge. The application shall be made in writing, and shall specify the material to be produced as precisely as possible, showing the relevancy of the material and the reasonableness of the scope of the subpoena. The application shall be ruled upon by the administrative law judge.

(b) *Enforcement of a subpoena.* A motion for enforcement of a subpoena shall be made to the administrative law judge. Upon consideration of the motion and any response thereto, the administrative law judge shall recommend to the Commission in favor of or against enforcement. The administrative law judge's recommendation shall provide the basis therefor, and shall address each of the criteria necessary for enforcement of an administrative subpoena. After consideration of the administrative law judge's recommendation, the Commission shall determine whether initiation of enforcement proceedings is appropriate.

(c) *Application for subpoena grounded upon the Freedom of Information Act.* No application for a subpoena for production of documents grounded upon the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) shall be entertained by the administrative law judge or the Commission.

§ 207.111 Prehearing conference.

The administrative law judge may direct the attorney or other representatives for the parties to meet with him

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or her to consider any or all of the following:

- (a) Simplification and clarification of the issues;
- (b) Scope of the hearing;
- (c) Stipulations and admissions of either fact or the content and authenticity of documents;
- (d) Disclosure of the names of witnesses and the exchange of documents or other physical evidence that will be introduced in the course of the hearing; and
- (e) Such other matters as may aid in the orderly and expeditious disposition of the proceedings.

§ 207.112 Hearings.

(a) *Purpose of and scheduling of hearings.* An opportunity for a hearing before an administrative law judge shall be provided for each action initiated under § 207.102 of this subpart. The purpose of such hearing shall be to receive evidence and hear argument in order to determine whether a charged party has committed a prohibited act and if so, what sanctions are appropriate. Hearings shall proceed with all reasonable expedition, and, insofar as practicable, shall be held at one place, continuing until completed, unless otherwise ordered by the administrative law judge.

(b) *Joinder or consolidation.* The administrative law judge may order such joinder or consolidation of proceedings initiated under § 207.102 of this subpart at the administrative law judge's discretion.

(c) *Compliance with Administrative Procedure Act.* The administrative law judge shall conduct a hearing that complies with the requirements of section 554 of title 5 of the United States Code.

§ 207.113 The record.

(a) *Definition of the record.* The record shall consist of—

- (1) The charging letter and response, motions and responses, and other documents and exhibits properly filed with the Commission Secretary;
- (2) All orders, notices, and the recommended or initial determinations of the administrative law judge;
- (3) Orders, notices, and any final determination of the Commission;

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(4) Hearing transcripts, and evidence admitted at the hearing; and

(5) Any other items certified into the record by the administrative law judge.

(b) *Certification of the record.* The record shall be certified to the Commission by the administrative law judge upon his or her filing of the initial determination.

§ 207.114 Initial determination.

(a) *Time for filing of initial determination.* (1) Except as may otherwise be ordered by the Commission, within ninety (90) days of the date of issuance of the charging letter, the administrative law judge shall certify the record to the Commission and shall file with the Commission an initial determination as to whether each charged party has committed a prohibited act, and as to appropriate sanctions.

(2) The administrative law judge may request the Commission to extend the time period for issuance of the initial determination for good cause shown.

(b) *Contents of the initial determination.* The initial determination shall include the following:

(1) An opinion making all necessary findings of fact and conclusions of law and the reasons therefor, and

(2) A statement that the initial determination shall become the determination of the Commission unless a party files a petition for review of the determination pursuant to § 207.115 or the Commission pursuant to § 207.116 of this subpart, orders on its own motion a review of the initial determination or certain issues therein.

(c) *Burden of proof.* A finding that a charged party committed a prohibited act shall be supported by clear and convincing evidence.

(d) *Effect of initial determination.* The initial determination shall become the determination of the Commission forty-five (45) days after the date of service of the initial determination, unless the Commission within such time orders review of the initial determination or certain issues therein pursuant to § 207.115 or § 207.116 of this subpart or by order shall have changed the effective date of the initial determination. In the event an initial determination becomes the determination of the

Commission, the parties shall be notified thereof by the Commission Secretary.

§ 207.115 Petition for review.

(a) *The petition and responses.* (1) Any party may request a review by the Commission of the initial determination by filing with the Commission Secretary a petition for review, except that a party who has defaulted may not petition for review of any issue regarding which the party is in default.

(2) Any person who wishes to obtain judicial review pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1677f(f)(5) must first seek review by the Commission in accordance with the procedures set forth in this regulation governing petitions for review.

(3) Any petition for review must be filed within fourteen (14) days after service of the initial determination on the charged party. The petition shall:

- (i) Identify the party seeking review;
- (ii) Specify the issues upon which review is sought, including a statement as to whether review is sought of the initial determination regarding the commitment of a prohibited act, or of the initial determination regarding sanctions;
- (iii) Set forth a concise statement of the relevant law or material facts necessary for consideration of the stated issues; and
- (iv) Present a concise argument setting forth the reasons why review is necessary or appropriate.

(4) Any issue not raised in the petition for review filed under this section will be deemed to have been abandoned and may be disregarded by the Commission.

(5) Any party may file a response to the petition within seven (7) days after service of the petition, except that a party who has defaulted may not file a response to any issue regarding which the party is in default.

(b) *Grant or denial of review.* (1) The Commission shall decide whether to grant a petition for review, in whole or in part, within forty-five (45) days of the service of the initial determination on the parties, or by such other time as the Commission may order.

(2) The Commission shall base its decision whether to grant a petition for review upon the petition and response

thereto, without oral argument or further written submissions, unless the Commission shall order otherwise.

(3) The Commission shall grant a petition for review of an initial determination or certain issues therein when at least one of the participating Commissioners votes for ordering review. In its notice, the Commission shall establish the scope of the review and the issues that will be considered and make provisions for the filing of briefs and oral argument if deemed appropriate by the Commission. The notice that the Commission has granted the petition shall be served by the Commission Secretary on all parties.

§ 207.116 Commission review on its own motion.

Within forty-five (45) days of the date of service of the initial determination, the Commission on its own initiative shall order review of an initial determination or certain issues therein upon request of any Commissioner.

§ 207.117 Review by Commission.

On review, the parties may not present argument on any issue that is not set forth in the notice of review; and the Commission may affirm, reverse, modify, set aside or remand for further proceedings, in whole or in part, the initial determination of the administrative law judge. The Commission may make any findings or conclusions that in its judgment are proper based on the record in the proceeding.

§ 207.118 Role of the General Counsel in advising the Commission.

The Assistant General Counsel for Section 337 Investigations shall serve as Acting General Counsel for the purpose of advising the Commission on proceedings brought under this subpart if the prohibited act described in the charging letter involves a protective order issued in connection with a panel review that was pending when the letter was issued, and the General Counsel participated in the panel review. No other Commission attorney shall advise the Commission on proceedings under this subpart concerning a protective order issued during a panel review in which the attorney participated.

§ 207.119

§ 207.119 Reconsideration.

(a) *Motion for reconsideration.* Within fourteen (14) days after service of a Commission determination, any party may file with the Commission a motion for reconsideration, setting forth the relief desired and the grounds in support thereof. Any motion filed under this section must be confined to new questions raised by the determination or action ordered to be taken thereunder and upon which the moving party had no opportunity to submit arguments.

(b) *Disposition of motion for reconsideration.* The Commission shall grant or deny the motion for reconsideration. No response to a motion for reconsideration will be received unless requested by the Commission, but a motion for reconsideration will not be granted in the absence of such a request. If the motion to reconsider is granted, the Commission may affirm, set aside, or modify its determination, including any action ordered by it to be taken thereunder. When appropriate, the Commission may order the administrative law judge to take additional evidence.

§ 207.120 Public notice of sanctions.

If the final Commission decision is that there has been a prohibited act, and that public sanctions are to be imposed, notice of the decision will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER and forwarded to the Secretariat. Such publication will occur no sooner than fourteen (14) days after issuance of a final decision or after any motion for reconsideration has been denied. The Commission Secretary shall also serve notice of the Commission decision upon such departments and agencies of the United States, Canadian and Mexican governments as the Commission deems appropriate.

PART 208—INVESTIGATIONS OF UNITED STATES–MEXICO CROSS-BORDER LONG-HAUL TRUCKING SERVICES

Sec.

208.1 Applicability of part.

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AUTHORITY: 19 U.S.C. 4574(e).

SOURCE: 85 FR 41357, July 10, 2020, unless otherwise noted.

§ 208.1 Applicability of part.

Part 208 applies to proceedings of the Commission under sections 321–324 of the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA) Implementation Act, 19 U.S.C. 4571–4574 (19 U.S.C. 4501 note).

Subpart A— Definitions

§ 208.2 Definitions applicable to this part.

For the purposes of this part, the following terms have the meanings hereby assigned to them:

(a) *Act* means the USMCA Implementation Act.