

the United States International Trade Commission (ITC) issued its affirmative preliminary determination that there is a reasonable indication that an industry in the United States is materially injured or threatened with material injury by reason of imports of MPF from the PRC. *See Malleable Iron Pipe Fittings from the People's Republic of China*, International Trade Commission, Investigation No. 731-TA-1021 (Preliminary), USITC Publication 3568 (ITC Preliminary Determination).

On December 16, 2002, the Department issued a letter requesting information on the quantity and value of shipments of subject merchandise to the United States during the period of investigation (POI) to the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Trade & Economic Cooperation with a letter requesting that it forward the questionnaire to all Chinese exporters of MPF who had shipments during the POI. We also sent courtesy copies of the quantity and value questionnaire to the following possible producers/exporters of subject merchandise identified in the petition and on the basis of U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (BCBP) information: Jinan Meide Casting Co., Ltd. (JMC), SLK, Langfang Pannext Pipe Fitting Co., Ltd. (LPFC), Simmons International, Ltd. (Simmons), Shantou ZhongXing Industry Co., Ltd. (formerly Shantou Zhongxing Economic & Trading Co., Ltd.) (Shantou), Shanghai Dongsheng Electric Import & Export Co., Ltd. (SDE), Brantingham Manufacturing (Brantingham), Shandong Maxwell Import and Export (Shandong), Chen Tai International Trading Co., Ltd. (CTIT), and Unique Industries (UI). On December 24, 2002, Chengde Malleable Iron General Factory (Chengde) requested to be considered a voluntary respondent in this investigation.

On December 27 and 30, 2002, the following Chinese producers/exporters of MPF submitted information on the quantity and value of their shipments of subject merchandise to the United States during the POI: JMC, SLK, Pannext Fittings Corporation (PFC) and LPFC (collectively, Pannext), and Simmons. On January 3, 2003, Chengde also submitted quantity and value information.

On January 8, 2003, we selected JMC, SLK, and Pannext as the mandatory respondents (see "Selection of Respondents" below). The Department issued its non-market economy (NME) antidumping questionnaire to JMC, SLK, and Pannext. In NME cases, Section A of the questionnaire requests general information concerning a company's corporate structure and business practices, the merchandise under

investigation that it sells, and the manner in which it sells that merchandise in all of its markets. Section C requests a complete listing of U.S. sales. Section D requests information on the factors of production of the merchandise sold in or to the United States. Section E requests information on further manufacturing.

On January 27 and 29, 2003, Myland Industrial Co., Ltd. (Myland), and SCE Co., Ltd. (SCE), respectively requested to be considered voluntary respondents in this investigation. We received complete Section A responses from JMC, SLK, and Pannext (collectively, respondents) on January 30, 2003. We received a complete Section A response from Chengde on February 7, 2003, and from SCE on February 21, 2003. The Department received comments from petitioners on respondents' Section A questionnaire responses on February 7, 2003. On February 13, 2003, the Department issued supplemental Section A questionnaires to JMC, SLK, and Pannext. We received complete supplemental responses from JMC on February 24, 2003, from SLK on February 25, 2003, and from Pannext on March 3, 2003.

SCE and Chengde submitted their complete Sections C and D responses on February 21 and 24, 2003, respectively. JMC submitted its complete Sections C and D responses on February 24, 2003. Pannext submitted a complete Section C response on February 26, 2003, and a complete Section D response on March 3, 2003. SLK submitted its complete Sections C and D responses on March 4, 2003. Petitioners filed comments on JMC's submissions on March 5, 2003.

On March 18 and 19, 2003, the Department sent out supplemental Section C and D questionnaires to SLK, JMC, and Pannext. JMC and SLK submitted their complete supplemental responses on April 2, 2003. Pannext submitted its complete supplemental response on April 11, 2003. SLK submitted an additional supplemental response on April 14, 2003. Petitioners submitted comments on JMC's submissions on April 9, 2003. The Department sent an additional supplemental questionnaire to Pannext on April 23, 2003, and to JMC on April 25, 2003. On April 28, 2003, the Department received Pannext's complete additional supplemental response. On May 2, 2003, the Department received JMC's complete additional supplemental response. On May 7, 2003, the Department sent a letter to Pannext, JMC, and SLK, requesting that they revise certain of their data and resubmit these data electronically. The Department received

a response on May 9, 2003, and May 12, 2003 from JMC, SLK, and Pannext.

On February 20, 2003, Myland filed its Section A response in a format that was inconsistent with the Department's regulation. On March 3, 2003, the Department returned Myland's Section A questionnaire response, and explained the filing requirements in detail. The Department granted Myland the opportunity to re-file its response in the proper format and extended Myland's Section A filing deadline to March 7, 2003. Myland submitted a revised Section A response on March 19, 2003. In addition, Myland submitted its Section C response on March 24, 2003, and its Section D response on March 26, 2003, which were originally due on February 28, 2003. The Department rejected Myland's Sections A, C, and D responses in accordance with 19 C.F.R. 351.302(d). Additionally, the Department informed Myland on April 14, 2003 that because Myland had not complied with the requests for information by the Department in a timely manner, they could not be considered a voluntary respondent. *See* 19 C.F.R. 351.204(d)(2); *see also* Letter from Abdelali Elouaradia to Myland Industrial Co., Ltd., dated April 14, 2003 (April 14th Letter). On April 18, 2003, Myland submitted a letter requesting to be allowed to resubmit its questionnaire responses. On May 6, 2003, the Department informed Myland that it would be unable to consider Myland's information for the reasons expressed in its April 14th Letter.

On January 29, 2003, the Department requested publicly available information for valuing the factors of production and comments on surrogate country selection. On February 28, 2003, Pannext submitted information concerning surrogate value of zinc to be used for valuing the factors of production. On March 26, 2003, SLK submitted information concerning the surrogate values of steel scrap and electricity for use in valuing the factors of production. On May 5, 2003, petitioners submitted information concerning surrogate values of steel scrap and financial ratios for use in valuing the factors of production.

On February 28, 2003, petitioners' submission alleged that there is a reasonable basis to believe or suspect critical circumstances exist with respect to the investigation of MPF from the PRC. The Department preliminarily determined that critical circumstances exist for JMC and SCE and for the PRC-wide entity, but not for Pannext, SLK, Myland, or Chengde. *See Notice of Preliminary Determination of Critical Circumstances: Certain Malleable Iron*