

Period of Investigation

The anticipated period of investigation (POI) is October 1, 2001 through September 30, 2002.

Constructed Export Price and Normal Value

The following is a description of the allegation of sales at less than fair value upon which the Department has based its decision to initiate this investigation.

Constructed Export Price

The petitioners identified NGK Insulators, Ltd. (NGK) and its wholly-owned U.S. subsidiary, Locke Insulators, Inc. (Locke), as the primary producer/exporter and importer of subject merchandise.⁴ The petitioners believe that Locke acts as a purchaser and reseller of subject merchandise produced by NGK; therefore, the petitioners calculated a constructed export price (CEP). The starting price for CEP is a simple average of two price quotes for NGK merchandise during the POI. These price quotes, which are for a particular model of subject merchandise, are identified in affidavits filed by representatives of two of the petitioning companies (Lapp and Victor) and were obtained from a customer and sales agent.

The petitioners calculated net U.S. price by deducting from the starting price U.S. sales commissions, inventory carrying costs, U.S. warehousing expenses, U.S. imputed credit expenses, foreign inland freight, ocean freight, U.S. customs duty and fees, U.S. inland freight, U.S. indirect selling expenses, and an amount for CEP profit. See *Initiation Checklist*.

Normal Value

The starting price for normal value (NV) is a weighted-average of four home market price quotes that were obtained through foreign market research. These price quotes, which were made during the POI, are for subject merchandise of the same grade as that of the merchandise for which U.S. price quotes were obtained. The petitioners made circumstance of sale adjustments to NV for imputed credit expenses, as well as adjustments for packaging costs and inland freight expenses.

Based upon a comparison of CEP to NV, the petitioners calculated an estimated dumping margin of 105.8 percent.

⁴ The petitioners also identified Daito Co., Ltd., and Koransha Co., Ltd. as Japanese producers of station post insulators but stated that they were not aware of any exports of such merchandise by these companies to the United States.

Fair Value Comparisons

Based on the data provided by the petitioners, there is reason to believe that imports of subject merchandise from Japan are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value.

Allegations and Evidence of Material Injury and Causation

The petitioners allege that the U.S. industry producing the domestic like product is being materially injured, or is threatened with material injury, by reason of the imports of the subject merchandise sold at less than NV. The volume of imports from Japan, using the latest available data, exceeded the statutory threshold of three percent for a negligibility exclusion. See section 771(24)(A)(i) of the Act. The petitioners contend that the industry's injured condition is evidenced in the declining trends in operating profits, decreased U.S. market share, and price suppression and depression. The allegations of injury and causation are supported by relevant evidence including U.S. Customs import data, domestic consumption, and pricing information. We have assessed the allegations and supporting evidence regarding material injury and causation, and have determined that these allegations are properly supported by accurate and adequate evidence and meet the statutory requirements for initiation. See *Initiation Checklist*.

Initiation of Antidumping Investigation

Based on our examination of the petition on station post insulators from Japan, and the petitioners' response to our supplemental questionnaire clarifying the petition, we find that the petition meets the requirements of section 732 of the Act. See *Initiation Checklist*. Therefore, we are initiating an antidumping duty investigation to determine whether imports of station post insulators from Japan are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value. Unless this deadline is extended, we will make our preliminary determination no later than 140 days after the date of this initiation.

Distribution of Copies of the Petition

In accordance with section 732(b)(3)(A) of the Act, a copy of the public version of the petition has been provided to the representatives of the government of Japan. We will attempt to provide a copy of the public version of the petition to each exporter named in the petition, as appropriate.

International Trade Commission Notification

We have notified the ITC of our initiation, as required by section 732(d) of the Act.

Preliminary Determination by the ITC

The ITC will determine, no later than February 14, 2003, whether there is a reasonable indication that imports of subject merchandise from Japan are causing material injury, or threatening to cause material injury, to a U.S. industry. A negative ITC determination will result in the investigation being terminated; otherwise, this investigation will proceed according to statutory and regulatory time limits.

This notice is issued and published pursuant to section 777(i) of the Act.

Dated: January 21, 2003.

Faryar Shirzad,

Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-427-814]

Notice of Amended Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review: Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip in Coils from France

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Amended Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review of Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip in Coils from France.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 28, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alex Villanueva, AD/CVD Enforcement Group III, Office IX, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230; telephone: (202) 482-3208.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Scope of the Review

For purposes of this administrative review, the products covered are certain stainless steel sheet and strip in coils. Stainless steel is an alloy steel containing, by weight, 1.2 percent or less of carbon and 10.5 percent or more of chromium, with or without other elements. The subject sheet and strip is a flat-rolled product in coils that is