

issued supplementary questionnaires where appropriate. On June 17, 2003, the petitioners alleged that critical circumstances exist with respect to imports of PC strand from Thailand. Accordingly, pursuant to section 732(e) of the Act, on June 18, 2003, the Department requested information from SIW regarding monthly shipments of PC strand to the United States during the period January 2000 to July 2003. We subsequently shortened this reporting period by one year. The respondent submitted the requested information on June 25, 2003. The critical circumstances analysis for the preliminary determination is discussed below under *Critical Circumstances*.

Postponement of Final Determination and Extension of Provisional Measures

Section 735(a)(2) of the Act provides that a final determination may be postponed until not later than 135 days after the date of the publication of the preliminary determination if, in the event of an affirmative preliminary determination, a request for such postponement is made by exporters who account for a significant proportion of exports of the subject merchandise. In accordance with 19 CFR 351.210(e)(2) the Department requires that exporters requesting postponement of the final determination must also request an extension of the provisional measures referred to in section 733(d) of the Act from a four-month period until not more than six months. We received a request to postpone the final determination from respondent, SIW. In its request, SIW consented to the extension of provisional measures to no longer than six months. Since this preliminary determination is affirmative, the request for postponement is made by an exporter that accounts for a significant proportion of exports of the subject merchandise, and there is no compelling reason to deny the respondent's request, we have extended the deadline for issuance of the final determination until the 135th day after the date of publication of this preliminary determination in the **Federal Register** and have extended provisional measures to no longer than six months.

Selection of Respondents

Section 777A(c)(1) of the Act directs the Department to calculate individual dumping margins for each known exporter and producer of the subject merchandise. Where it is not practicable to examine all known producer/exporters of subject merchandise, section 777A(c)(2) of the Act permits the Department to investigate either: (1) A

sample of exporters, producers, or types of products that is statistically valid, based on the information available at the time of selection; or (2) exporters and producers accounting for the largest volume of the subject merchandise that can reasonably be examined. In the petition, the petitioners identified six producers of PC strand in Thailand. The data on the record indicates that SIW is the only producer of the subject merchandise in Thailand that exports to the United States. See Memorandum from Daniel O'Brien, International Trade Compliance Analyst, to Gary Taverman, Director, Office 5, Re: Selection of Respondents, dated April 4, 2003.

Period of Investigation

The period of investigation (POI) is January 1, 2002, through December 31, 2002. This period corresponds to the four most recent fiscal quarters prior to the month of the filing of the petition (*i.e.*, January 2003) involving imports from a market economy, and is in accordance with our regulations. See 19 CFR 351.204(b)(1).

Scope of Investigation

For purposes of this investigation, PC strand is steel strand produced from wire of non-stainless, non-galvanized steel, which is suitable for use in prestressed concrete (both pretensioned and post-tensioned) applications. The product definition encompasses covered and uncovered strand and all types, grades, and diameters of PC strand.

The merchandise under investigation is currently classifiable under subheadings 7312.10.3010 and 7312.10.3012 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS). Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the merchandise under investigation is dispositive.

Product Comparisons

In accordance with section 771(16) of the Act, all products produced by the respondent covered by the description in the *Scope of Investigation* section, above, and sold in Thailand during the POI, are considered to be foreign like products for purposes of determining appropriate product comparisons to U.S. sales. We have relied on four criteria to match U.S. sales of subject merchandise to comparison-market sales of the foreign like product: diameter, covering/coating, grade, and type. Where there were no sales of identical merchandise in the home market to compare to U.S. sales, we compared U.S. sales to the next most

similar foreign like product on the basis of the characteristics listed above.

Fair Value Comparisons

To determine whether sales of PC strand from Thailand were made in the United States at LTFV, we compared the constructed export price (CEP) to the normal value (NV), as described in the *Constructed Export Price* and *Normal Value* sections of this notice. In accordance with section 777A(d)(1)(A)(i) of the Act, we calculated weighted-average CEPs. We compared these to weighted-average home market prices in Thailand. See *Constructed Export Price*, section below.

For the price to the United States, we used CEP, as defined in section 772(b) of the Act. Section 772(b) of the Act defines CEP as the price at which the subject merchandise is first sold in the United States before or after the date of importation by or for the account of the producer or exporter of such merchandise or by a seller affiliated with the producer or exporter, to a purchaser not affiliated with the producer or exporter, as adjusted under subsections 772(c) and (d) of the Act.

Constructed Export Price

For SIW, we calculated CEP based on the packed prices charged to the first unaffiliated customer in the United States. We calculated a CEP for SIW's sales, all of which were made by an affiliated reseller in the United States prior to the date of importation by or for the account of the producer.

In accordance with section 772(c)(2) of the Act, we made deductions from the starting price for movement expenses. These include inland freight, international freight, foreign brokerage and handling, U.S. warehousing expenses, U.S. duties, and U.S. freight forwarding expenses. We also added duty drawback, in accordance with section 772(c)(1)(B) of the Act.

Section 772(d)(1) of the Act provides for additional adjustments to calculate CEP. Accordingly, we deducted from the starting price those selling expenses that were incurred in selling the subject merchandise in the United States, including commission and other direct selling expenses (credit and warranty expenses) and indirect selling expenses related to commercial activity in the United States and added an amount for interest revenue. We also deducted from CEP an amount for profit, in accordance with section 772(d)(3) of the Act.

Normal Value

A. Selection of Comparison Markets

Section 773(a)(1) of the Act directs that NV be based on the price at which