

Parties should confirm by telephone the date, time, and location of the hearing 48 hours before the scheduled date.

Interested parties who wish to request a hearing, or to participate in a hearing if one is requested, must submit a written request to the Assistant Secretary for Import Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 1870, within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice. Requests should contain: (1) The party's name, address, and telephone number; (2) the number of participants; and (3) a list of the issues to be discussed. At the hearing, oral presentations will be limited to issues raised in the briefs. *See* 19 CFR 351.310(c). The Department will make its final determination no later than 135 days after the date of publication of this preliminary determination.

This determination is issued and published pursuant to sections 733(f) and 777(i)(1) of the Act.

Dated: July 10, 2003.

Jeffrey May,

*Acting Assistant Secretary for Grant Aldonas,
Under Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 03-18130 Filed 7-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-351-837]

Notice of Preliminary Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil

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

ACTION: Notice of Preliminary Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 17, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Layton at (202) 482-0371, or Monica Gallardo at (202) 482-3147; AD/CVD Enforcement Office V, Group II, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Preliminary Determination

We preliminarily determine that prestressed concrete steel wire strand (PC strand) from Brazil is being sold, or is likely to be sold, in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV), as

provided in section 733 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act). The preliminary margin assigned to Belgo Bekaert Arames, S.A. (BBA) is based on adverse facts available (AFA). The estimated margin of sales at LTFV is shown in the *Suspension of Liquidation* section of this notice.

Interested parties are invited to comment on this preliminary determination. We will make our final determination not later than 75 days after the date of this preliminary determination.

Case History

This investigation was initiated on February 20, 2003.¹ *See Notice of Initiation of Antidumping Duty Investigations: Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand From Brazil, India, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, and Thailand*, 68 FR 9050 (February 27, 2003) (*Initiation Notice*). Since the initiation of the investigation, the following events have occurred:

The Department of Commerce (the Department) set aside a period for all interested parties to raise issues regarding product coverage. *See Initiation Notice*, 68 FR at 9050. No comments were received from interested parties in this investigation.

The Department issued a letter on March 7, 2003, to interested parties in all of the concurrent PC strand antidumping investigations, providing an opportunity to comment on the Department's proposed model match characteristics and its hierarchy of characteristics. The petitioners submitted comments on March 18 and March 20, 2003. The Department also received comments on model matching from respondents in the concurrent investigation involving Mexico on March 18, 2003. These comments were taken into consideration by the Department in developing the model matching characteristics and hierarchy for all of the PC strand antidumping investigations.

On March 17, 2003, the United States International Trade Commission (ITC) preliminarily determined that there is a reasonable indication that imports of the products subject to this investigation are materially injuring an industry in the United States producing the domestic like product. *See Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand From Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand*, 68 FR 13952 (March 21, 2003).

On April 4, 2003, the Department issued its antidumping questionnaire to

the Brazilian respondent, BBA, specifying, that the response to section A would be due on April 25, 2003, and that the responses to sections B, C, and D would be due May 12, 2003². On April 28, 2003, BBA confirmed that it would not participate in the investigation. *See* Memorandum from David Layton, International Trade Compliance Analyst, to the File, Re: Telephone Conversation with Counsel for Brazilian Producer Belgo Bekaert Arames S.A. Concerning Participation, dated April 28, 2003. BBA provided no further elaboration, nor did it suggest alternatives to meet the Department's requirements pursuant to 782(c) of the Act. *Id.*

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 producers/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.

During the period of investigation (POI), only BBA was identified as a producer/exporter of subject merchandise from Brazil. In an April 1, 2003, conversation with counsel to BBA, it was confirmed that BBA is the sole producer of PC strand in Brazil and that BBA is a subsidiary of the Companhia Siderurgica Belgo-Mineira (Belgo-Mineira) which holds majority shares in BBA. *See* Memorandum from David Layton, International Trade Compliance Analyst, to the File dated April 1, 2003. Therefore, we selected BBA as the sole respondent in the investigation of PC strand from Brazil. *See* Memorandum from Daniel O'Brien, Import Compliance Specialist, to Gary Taverman, Director, Office 5, RE:

² 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 B requests a complete listing of all home market sales or, if the home market is not viable, of sales in the most appropriate third-country market (this section is not applicable to respondents in non-market economy cases). Section C requests a complete listing of U.S. sales. Section D requests information on the cost of production of the foreign like product and the constructed value of the merchandise under investigation. Section E requests information on further manufacturing.

¹ The petitioners in this investigation are American Spring Wire Corp., Insteel Wire Products Company, and Sumiden Wire Products Corp.