

In the *Initiation Notice*, we invited interested parties to comment on the Department's initiation and the proposed revocation of the countervailing duty order on carbon and certain alloy steel wire rod from Canada. We did not receive any comments. Absent any comments, we preliminarily conclude that producers accounting for substantially all of the production of the domestic like product to which this order pertains lack interest in the relief provided by the order. Unless the Department receives opposition from domestic producers whose production totals more than 15 percent of the domestic like product, the Department will revoke the order on carbon and certain alloy steel wire rod in the final results of this review. Therefore, we preliminarily revoke this order, in whole, with respect to products entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after February 8, 2002, *i.e.*, the publication date of the Department's preliminary determination (see *Preliminary Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination: Carbon and Certain Alloy Steel Wire Rod from Canada*, 67 FR 5984), because domestic parties have expressed no interest in the continuation of the order.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 12, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: S. Anthony Grasso, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230; telephone (202) 482-3853.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Department published the countervailing duty ("CVD") order on steel wire rod from Canada on October 22, 2002. See *Notice of Countervailing Duty Orders: Carbon and Certain Alloy Steel Wire Rod from Brazil and Canada*, 67 FR 64871 (October 22, 2002). On October 1, 2003, the Department received a request from Georgetown Steel Company (formerly GS Industries), Gerdau Ameristeel US Inc. (formerly Co-Steel Raritan), Keystone Consolidated Industries, Inc., and North Star Steel Texeas, Inc., the petitioners in the original investigation, that the Department initiate a changed circumstances review for purposes of revoking the CVD order. The basis for the petitioners' request is that they are no longer interested in maintaining the countervailing duty order or in the imposition of CVD duties on the subject merchandise.

On November 3, 2003, the Department published a notice of initiation of a

changed circumstances review of the countervailing duty order on carbon and certain alloy steel wire rod products from Canada. See *Initiation Notice*, 68 FR 62282. In the *Initiation Notice*, we indicated interested parties could submit comments for consideration in the Department's preliminary results not later than 14 days after publication of the initiation of the review, and submit responses to those comments not later than 5 days following the submission of comments. No comments were received. On November 18, 2003, a respondent to the original proceeding, Ispat Sidbec, Inc. ("Ispat"), submitted a letter to the Department stating that "all three parties wish to advise the Department that they agree to the outcome of the review and, further, request that, pursuant to 19 CFR § 351.216(e), the Department render its final results of review within 45 days of initiation of the review or sooner." Ispat claimed its letter represented the position of the only parties to the proceeding, namely, Ispat, the Government of Quebec, and the U.S. producers that filed the original petition.

Scope of the Order

The merchandise covered by this order is certain hot-rolled products of carbon steel and alloy steel, in coils, of approximately round cross section, 5.00 mm or more, but less than 19.00 mm, in solid cross-sectional diameter.¹

Specifically excluded are steel products possessing the above-noted physical characteristics and meeting the *Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States* ("HTSUS") definitions for (a) stainless steel; (b) tool steel; (c) high nickel steel; (d) ball bearing steel; and (e) concrete reinforcing bars and rods. Also excluded are (f) free machining steel products (*i.e.*, products that contain by weight one or more of the following elements: 0.03 percent or more of lead, 0.05 percent or more of bismuth, 0.08 percent or more of sulfur, more than 0.04 percent of phosphorus, more than 0.05 percent of selenium, or more than 0.01 percent of tellurium).

¹ On November 12, 2003, the Department published the final results of a changed circumstances review modifying the scope to exclude certain grade 1080 tire cord quality wire rod and grade 1080 tire bead quality wire rod. This modification is for all entries of subject merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after July 24, 2003. We note that for the purposes of this changed circumstances review, the revocation of the order would be based on the original scope. See *Carbon and Certain Alloy Steel Wire Rod from Brazil, Canada, Indonesia, Mexico, Moldova, Trinidad and Tobago, and Ukraine: Final Results of Changed Circumstances Review*, 68 FR 64079 (November 12, 2003).

Also excluded from the scope are 1080 grade tire cord quality wire rod and 1080 grade tire bead quality wire rod. Grade 1080 tire cord quality rod is defined as: (i) Grade 1080 tire cord quality wire rod measuring 5.0 mm or more but not more than 6.0 mm in cross-sectional diameter; (ii) with an average partial decarburization of no more than 70 microns in depth (maximum individual 200 microns); (iii) having no inclusions greater than 20 microns; (iv) having a carbon segregation per heat average of 3.0 or better using European Method NFA 04-114; (v) having a surface quality with no surface defects of a length greater than 0.15 mm; (vi) capable of being drawn to a diameter of 0.30 mm or less with 3 or fewer breaks per ton, and (vii) containing by weight the following elements in the proportions shown: (1) 0.78 percent or more of carbon, (2) less than 0.01 percent of aluminum, (3) 0.040 percent or less, in the aggregate, of phosphorus and sulfur, (4) 0.006 percent or less of nitrogen, and (5) not more than 0.15 percent, in the aggregate, of copper, nickel and chromium.

Grade 1080 tire bead quality rod is defined as: (i) Grade 1080 tire bead quality wire rod measuring 5.5 mm or more but not more than 7.0 mm in cross-sectional diameter; (ii) with an average partial decarburization of no more than 70 microns in depth (maximum individual 200 microns); (iii) having no inclusions greater than 20 microns; (iv) having a carbon segregation per heat average of 3.0 or better using European Method NFA 04-114; (v) having a surface quality with no surface defects of a length greater than 0.2 mm; (vi) capable of being drawn to a diameter of 0.78 mm or larger with 0.5 or fewer breaks per ton; and (vii) containing by weight the following elements in the proportions shown: (1) 0.78 percent or more of carbon, (2) less than 0.01 percent of soluble aluminum, (3) 0.040 percent or less, in the aggregate, of phosphorus and sulfur, (4) 0.008 percent or less of nitrogen, and (5) either not more than 0.15 percent, in the aggregate, of copper, nickel and chromium (if chromium is not specified), or not more than 0.10 percent in the aggregate of copper and nickel and a chromium content of 0.24 to 0.30 percent (if chromium is specified).

The designation of the products as "tire cord quality" or "tire bead quality" indicates the acceptability of the product for use in the production of tire cord, tire bead, or wire for use in other rubber reinforcement applications such as hose wire. These quality designations are presumed to indicate that these products are being used in tire cord, tire