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Sheryl D. Kennerly,

Director, Information Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-570-601]

Tapered Roller Bearings and Parts Thereof, Finished and Unfinished, From the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Results of 2001-2002 Administrative Review and Partial Rescission of Review

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

ACTION: Notice of Preliminary Results of 2001-2002 Administrative Review and Partial Rescission of the Review.

SUMMARY: We preliminarily determine that sales of tapered roller bearings and parts thereof, finished and unfinished, from the People's Republic of China, were made below normal value during the period June 1, 2001, through May 31, 2002. We are also rescinding the review, in part, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.213(d)(3).

If these preliminary results are adopted in our final results of review, we will instruct the Customs Service to assess antidumping duties based on the differences between the constructed export price and normal value on all appropriate entries. Interested parties are invited to comment on these preliminary results.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 14, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Smith or Daniel Alexy, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-1276 and (202) 482-1540, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On May 27, 1987, the Department of Commerce ("the Department") published in the **Federal Register** (52 FR 19748) the antidumping duty order on tapered roller bearings and parts thereof, finished and unfinished ("TRBs"), from the People's Republic of China ("PRC"). The Department notified interested parties of the opportunity to request an administrative review of this order on June 5, 2002 (67 FR 38640). On June 25, 2002, Peer Bearing Company - Changshan ("CPZ") requested an administrative review. On June 27, 2002, Wanxiang Group Corporation ("Wanxiang"), China National Machinery Import & Export Corporation ("CMC"), Tianshui Hailin Import and Export Corporation ("Hailin"), Luoyang Bearing Corporation (Group) ("Luoyang"), and Liaoning MEC Group Co. Ltd. ("Liaoning") also requested administrative reviews. On June 28, 2002, the Koyo Corporation of U.S.A., an interested party in this proceeding pursuant to 19 CFR 351.213(b)(1), requested that the Department conduct an administrative review of Yantai Timken Co., Ltd. ("Yantai Timken"). In accordance with 19 CFR 351.221(b)(1), we published a notice of initiation of this antidumping duty administrative review on July 24, 2002 (67 FR 48435).

On August 6, 2002, we sent a questionnaire to the Secretary General of the Basic Machinery Division of the Chamber of Commerce for Import & Export of Machinery and Electronics Products and requested that the questionnaire be forwarded to all PRC companies identified in our initiation notice and to any subsidiary companies of the named companies that produce and/or export the subject merchandise. In this letter, we also requested information relevant to the issue of whether the companies named in the initiation notice are independent from government control. See the "Separate Rates Determination" section, below. On August 6, 2002, courtesy copies of the questionnaire were also sent to companies with legal representation.

On September 10, 2002, the following companies requested that the Department rescind the administrative review with respect to these companies: Hailin, Wanxiang, Luoyang, Liaoning, and CMC. Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.213(d)(1), because these companies withdrew their requests for review within 90 days of the date of publication of the notice of initiation of this review and no other party requested a review of these companies, we are rescinding the review with respect to Hailin,

Wanxiang, Luoyang, Liaoning, and CMC.

We received responses to the questionnaire in August, September, and October 2002 from CPZ and Yantai Timken. We sent out supplemental questionnaires to CPZ and Yantai Timken in November, December 2002, and January 2003, and received responses to these supplemental questionnaires in December 2002 and January 2003.

Scope of the Order

Merchandise covered by this order includes TRBs and parts thereof, finished and unfinished, from the PRC; flange, take up cartridge, and hanger units incorporating tapered roller bearings; and tapered roller housings (except pillow blocks) incorporating tapered rollers, with or without spindles, whether or not for automotive use. This merchandise is currently classifiable under *Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States* ("HTSUS") item numbers 8482.20.00, 8482.91.00.50, 8482.99.30, 8483.20.40, 8483.20.80, 8483.30.80, 8483.90.20, 8483.90.30, 8483.90.80, 8708.99.80.15, and 8708.99.80.80. Although the HTSUS item numbers are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the scope of the order is dispositive.

Separate Rates Determination

The Department has treated the PRC as a nonmarket economy ("NME") country in all previous antidumping cases. In accordance with section 771(18)(C)(i) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended ("the Act"), any determination that a foreign country is an NME shall remain in effect until revoked by the Department. None of the parties to this proceeding has contested such treatment in this review. Moreover, parties to this proceeding have not argued that the PRC TRBs industry is a market-oriented industry.

Therefore, we are treating the PRC as an NME country within the meaning of section 773(c) of the Act. We allow companies in NME countries to receive separate antidumping duty rates for purposes of assessment and cash deposits when those companies can demonstrate an absence of government control, both in law and in fact, with respect to export activities.

To establish whether a company operating in an NME country is sufficiently independent to be entitled to a separate rate, the Department analyzes each exporting entity under the test established in the *Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Sparklers from the People's*