

being sold, or are likely to be sold, in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV), as provided in section 735 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act). The estimated margins of sales at LTFV are shown in the "Final Determination of Investigation" section of this notice.

### Case History

On September 25, 2002, the Department of Commerce (the Department) published the preliminary determination of sales at LTFV in the antidumping duty investigation of pipe fittings from the PRC. *See Notice of Preliminary Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value and Postponement of Final Determination: Non-Malleable Cast Iron Pipe Fittings from the People's Republic of China*, 67 FR 60,214 (September 25, 2002) (*Preliminary Determination*). Since the preliminary determination, the following events have occurred.

On September 30, 2002, and October 1, 2002, respectively, Jinan Meide Casting Co., Ltd. (JMC) and Shanghai Foreign Trade Enterprises Co., Ltd. (SFTEC) (the respondents) filed preliminary determination clerical error allegations. The Department concluded that certain allegations constituted ministerial errors, to be corrected in the final determination, but that the errors did not amount to significant ministerial errors for purposes of issuing an amended preliminary determination. *See Ministerial Error Allegations Memorandum*, from Holly A. Kuga to Bernard T. Carreau, dated November 4, 2002 (*Ministerial Error Allegations Memorandum*). From October 25, 2002, through November 5, 2002, the Department conducted a sales and factors of production verification of JMC and SFTEC. *See Memorandum to the File from the Team, Verification of Sales Information Reported by Jinan Meide Casting Co., Ltd.*, to the file, dated December 4, 2002; *Memorandum to the File from the Team, Verification of Sales Information Reported by Shanghai Foreign Trade Enterprises Co., Ltd.*, to the file, dated December 4, 2002; *Memorandum to Neal M. Halper from the Team, Verification Report on the Factors of Production Data Submitted by Jinan Meide Casting Co., Ltd.*, dated December 11, 2002 (*JMC FOP Verification Report*); and *Memorandum to Neal M. Halper from the Team, Verification Report on the Factors of Production Data Submitted by Shanghai Foreign Trade Enterprises, Ltd.*, and its Suppliers, dated December 11, 2002 (*SFTEC FOP Verification Report*). SFTEC filed surrogate value information and data on September 11, 2002, and

November 25, 2002. JMC filed available surrogate value information and data on November 4, 2002, and the petitioners<sup>1</sup> filed surrogate value information and data on November 1, 2002. On October 25, 2002, SFTEC filed a request for a public hearing in this investigation, and JMC and the petitioners filed a request to appear and participate at a hearing if one was requested by another party. SFTEC withdrew its request for a hearing on January 7, 2003. The respondents filed case briefs on December 23, 2002, and the petitioners filed a case brief on December 24, 2002. The respondents and the petitioners filed rebuttal briefs on January 3, 2003. In response to requests, we held meetings with the petitioners, on January 14, 2003, JMC, on February 4, 2003, and SFTEC, on February 5, 2003, during which the party in question highlighted issues raised in its briefs.

### Scope of the Investigation

For purposes of this investigation, the products covered are finished and unfinished non-malleable cast iron pipe fittings with an inside diameter ranging from 1/4 inch to 6 inches, whether threaded or un-threaded, regardless of industry or proprietary specifications. The subject fittings include elbows, ells, tees, crosses, and reducers as well as flanged fittings. These pipe fittings are also known as "cast iron pipe fittings" or "gray iron pipe fittings." These cast iron pipe fittings are normally produced to ASTM A-126 and ASME B.16.4 specifications and are threaded to ASME B1.20.1 specifications. Most building codes require that these products are Underwriters Laboratories (UL) certified. The scope does not include cast iron soil pipe fittings or grooved fittings or grooved couplings.

Fittings that are made out of ductile iron that have the same physical characteristics as the gray or cast iron fittings subject to the scope above or which have the same physical characteristics and are produced to ASME B.16.3, ASME B.16.4, or ASTM A-395 specifications, threaded to ASME B1.20.1 specifications and UL certified, regardless of metallurgical differences between gray and ductile iron, are also included in the scope of this petition. These ductile fittings do not include grooved fittings or grooved couplings. Ductile cast iron fittings with mechanical joint ends (MJ), or push on ends (PO), or flanged ends and produced to the American Water Works Association (AWWA) specifications

AWWA C110 or AWWA C153 are not included.

Imports of covered merchandise are classifiable in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) under item numbers 7307.11.00.30, 7307.11.00.60, 7307.19.30.60 and 7307.19.30.85. HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and Customs purposes. The written description of the scope of this proceeding is dispositive.

### Period of Investigation (POI)

The POI is July 1, 2001, through December 31, 2001.

### Analysis of Comments Received

All issues raised in the case and rebuttal briefs by parties to this proceeding and to which we have responded are listed in the Appendix to this notice and addressed in the Issues and Decision Memorandum from Bernard T. Carreau, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Import Administration, to Faryar Shirzad, Assistant Secretary for Import Administration (Decision Memorandum) dated February 7, 2003, which is hereby adopted by this notice. Parties can find a complete discussion of the issues raised in this investigation and the corresponding recommendations in this public memorandum which is on file in the Central Records Unit (CRU), room B-099 of the main Department building. In addition, a complete version of the Decision Memorandum can be accessed directly on the internet at <http://ia.ita.doc.gov>. The paper copy and electronic version of the Decision Memorandum are identical in content.

### Non-Market Economy

The Department has treated the PRC as a non-market economy (NME) country in all its past antidumping investigations. *See Notice of Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Honey from the People's Republic of China*, 66 FR 50608 (October 4, 2001); *Notice of Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Certain Folding Gift Boxes from the People's Republic of China*, 66 FR 58115 (November 20, 2001). An NME country designation remains in effect until it is revoked by the Department. *See* section 771(18)(C) of the Act. The respondents in this investigation have not requested a revocation of the PRC's NME status. Therefore, we have continued to treat the PRC as a NME country in this investigation. For further details, see the *Preliminary Determination*.

<sup>1</sup> The petitioners in this case are Anvil International, Inc. and Ward Manufacturing, Inc. (collectively referred to as the Petitioners).