

United States published in the International Financial Statistics of 8.44 percent. The petitioners did not adjust the reported prices for differences in packing costs because the petitioners assumed that packing costs were the same for home market and for U.S. sales.

Comparison of NV and net U.S. prices for sales of ESBR from Korea results in estimated dumping margins that range from 14.92 percent to 118.88 percent.

#### **Mexico**

The petitioners identified Industrias Negromex, S.A. de C.V. (Negromex) as the sole exporter and producer of ESBR from Mexico. The petitioners based export price on contemporaneous price quotes to an unaffiliated U.S. consumer and U.S. prices in call reports generated by the petitioners' sales personnel in the normal course of business over the last 12 months for grades 1502 and 1712. The petitioners converted U.S. prices quoted in dollars per pound to dollars per metric ton by multiplying the per pound amounts by 2204.60 pounds per metric ton. The petitioners calculated net U.S. prices by subtracting an estimate of the international freight and insurance expenses incurred to transport the subject merchandise from the factory to a port in the United States or to the U.S. customer, depending on the terms of sales specified in the call reports. Where the terms of sale were not specified in the call report, the petitioners assumed that the terms of sale were FOB Mexico and no freight expense was deducted from the U.S. price. The petitioners estimated the cost of international freight and insurance based upon the difference in the CIF values and the U.S. Customs values reported in the official U.S. import statistics for 1997.

With respect to NV, the petitioners obtained from a local business contact in Mexico contemporaneous price quotes for ESBR grades 1502 and 1712 from Negromex to Mexican consumers of ESBR. The petitioners converted home market prices quoted in pesos per kilogram to U.S. dollars per metric ton by using a conversion ratio of one kilogram equals 1/1000 metric tons and the Mexican pesos/U.S. dollar exchange rate in effect on the date of the U.S. sale. Daily exchange rates for 1997 were obtained from the database of exchange rates maintained by Import Administration on the internet. Daily exchange rates for 1998 were obtained from The Money Exchange (internet address [www.oanda.com](http://www.oanda.com)).

The petitioners made a circumstance of sale adjustment for imputed credit expenses by subtracting home market

credit expenses and by adding U.S. credit expenses to the net home market prices calculated in the petition. The petitioners calculated home market imputed credit expenses based on payment terms of net 60 days, as reported by the local business contacts, and the annual average Mexican Treasury bill rate published by the International Financial Statistics of 19.80 percent. The petitioners calculated U.S. credit expenses based on payment terms of net 30 days and the annual average lending rate in the United States published in the International Financial Statistics of 8.44 percent. The petitioners did not adjust the reported prices for differences in packing costs because the petitioners assumed that packing costs were the same for home market and for U.S. sales.

Comparison of NV and net U.S. prices for sales of ESBR from Mexico results in estimated dumping margins that range from 6.06 percent to 25.16 percent.

#### *Fair Value Comparisons*

Based on the data provided by the petitioners, there is reason to believe that imports of ESBR from Brazil, Korea, and Mexico are being, or are likely to be, sold at less than fair value.

#### *Allegations and Evidence of Material Injury and Causation*

The petition alleges that the U.S. industry producing the domestic like product is being materially injured, and is threatened with material injury, by reason of imports of the subject merchandise sold at less than NV. The allegations of injury and causation are supported by relevant evidence including business proprietary data from the petitioning firms and U.S. Customs import data. The Department assessed the allegations and supporting evidence regarding material injury and causation and determined that these allegations are sufficiently supported by accurate and adequate evidence and meet the statutory requirements for initiation.

#### **Initiation of Antidumping Investigations**

We have examined the petition on ESBR and have found that it meets the requirements of section 732 of the Act. Therefore, we are initiating antidumping duty investigations to determine whether imports of ESBR from Brazil, Korea, and Mexico are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value. Unless extended, we will make our preliminary determinations for the

antidumping duty investigations by September 8, 1998.

#### *Distribution of Copies of the Petition*

In accordance with section 732(b)(3)(A) of the Act, a copy of the public version of each petition has been provided to the representatives of the governments of Brazil, Korea, and Mexico. We will attempt to provide a copy of the public version of the petition to each exporter named in the petition (as appropriate).

#### *International Trade Commission Notification*

We have notified the ITC of our initiations, as required by section 732(d) of the Act.

#### *Preliminary Determinations by the ITC*

The ITC will determine by May 18, 1998, whether there is a reasonable indication that imports of ESBR from Brazil, Korea, and Mexico are causing material injury, or threatening to cause material injury, to a U.S. industry. Negative ITC determinations will result in the particular investigations being terminated; otherwise, the investigations will proceed according to statutory and regulatory time limits.

Dated: April 21, 1998.

**Robert S. LaRussa,**

*Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **International Trade Administration**

[A-570-838]

#### **Agreement Suspending the Antidumping Investigation on Honey From the People's Republic of China**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of amendment to the agreement between the United States Department of Commerce and the Government of the People's Republic of China Suspending the Antidumping Investigation on Honey from the People's Republic of China.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce and the Government of the People's Republic of China have signed an Amendment to the Agreement Suspending the Antidumping Investigation on Honey from China.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Abdelali Elouaradia at 202/482-2243, or

James C. Doyle at 202/482-0159, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Background

On March 4, 1998, the Department and the Government of the People's Republic of China initiated an Amendment to change the base period for calculating reference prices from the most recent six months of data to the most recent three months of data. The purpose of this amendment is to allow the reference prices to conform more closely to market conditions. The Department subsequently released the Amendment to interested parties for comment. After careful consideration by the Department of the comments submitted on March 24, 1998, and further consultations between the parties, the Department and the Government of the People's Republic of China signed a final Amendment on April 13, 1998. The text of the final Amendment follows this notice.

Dated: April 16, 1998.

**Joseph A. Spetrini,**

*Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.*

The United States Department of Commerce and the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) hereby amend Section IV. REFERENCE PRICE of the Agreement Suspending the Antidumping Investigation on Honey from the PRC, signed August 2, 1995 to read as follows:

#### Section IV. REFERENCE PRICE

The reference prices are equal to the product of 92 percent and the weighted-average of the honey unit import values from all other countries based on the most recent three months of data at the time the reference price is calculated. The source of the unit import values is publicly available United States trade statistics from the United States Bureau of the Census.

This amendment shall apply to all reference prices effective on and after July 1, 1998.

Dated: April 10, 1998.

Robert S. LaRussa,

*For the United States Department of Commerce.*

Dated: April 13, 1998.

Qian Changyong,

*For the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation, PRC.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

[A-428-820]

#### Small Diameter Circular Seamless Carbon and Alloy Steel Standard, Line and Pressure Pipe From Germany: Amendment of Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review

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

**ACTION:** Notice of Amendment of Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review.

**SUMMARY:** On March 18, 1998, the Department of Commerce ("the Department") published the final results of its administrative review of the antidumping duty order on Small Diameter Circular Seamless Carbon and Alloy Steel Standard, Line and Pressure Pipe From Germany (63 FR 13217) covering the period January 27, 1995 through July 31, 1996. Based on the correction of a ministerial error made in the final results, we are publishing this amendment.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 27, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nancy Decker or Linda Ludwig, Office of AD/CVD Enforcement, Group III, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20230; telephone (202) 482-0196 or 482-3833, respectively.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Applicable Statute and Regulations

Unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the statute are references to the provisions effective January 1, 1995, the effective date of the amendments made to the Tariff Act of 1930 by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act ("URAA"). In addition, unless otherwise indicated, all references to the Department's regulations are to 19 CFR Part 353 (April 1, 1997).

##### Background

On March 18, 1998, the Department published the final results of its administrative review of the antidumping duty order on Small Diameter Circular Seamless Carbon and Alloy Steel Standard, Line and Pressure Pipe From Germany (63 FR 13217). This review covers one manufacturer/exporter of the subject merchandise, Mannesmannroehren-Werke AG ("MRW"), and Mannesmann Pipe &

Steel Corporation ("MPS") (collectively "Mannesmann"), for the period January 27, 1995 through July 31, 1996. After publication of our final results, we received timely allegations from petitioner and Mannesmann that we had made ministerial errors in calculating the final results. The petitioner filed a timely rebuttal to Mannesmann's ministerial error allegations. We corrected our calculations, where we agree that we made ministerial errors, in accordance with section 751 (h) of the Tariff Act.

#### Analysis of Ministerial Error Allegations Received From Interested Parties

We received two ministerial error allegations from Mannesmann and one from petitioner. First, Mannesmann contends that the Department neglected to convert certain indirect selling expenses and inventory carrying costs (RINDIRSU and INVCARU) to U.S. dollars from Deutsche Marks. Mannesmann notes that these variables are created using a factor multiplied by the cost of manufacturing (TOTCOMCV) which is reported in Deutsche Marks. Mannesmann asserts that the Department should correct the final results by converting RINDIRSU and INVCARU to U.S. dollars.

As defined by section 751(h) Act, the term "ministerial error" includes errors "in addition, subtraction, or other arithmetic function, clerical errors resulting from inaccurate copying, duplication, or the like, and any other type of unintentional error which the [Department] considers ministerial." We agree with Mannesmann that RINDIRSU and INVCARU should be converted to U.S. dollars. This type of unintentional error meets the definition of ministerial error contained in the Act. We have made the suggested correction for the amended final results.

Second, Mannesmann asserts that the factors for general and administrative expenses (GNA) and interest expenses are based upon cost data as reported by Mannesmann and not as adjusted by the Department. Therefore, Mannesmann argues, these GNA and interest factors should be applied before the Department's billet cost adjustment is made to material costs.

Petitioner argues that Mannesmann has made no showing that applying the GNA and expense factors to Mannesmann's adjusted cost of manufacturing (COM) was an inadvertent or unintentional act, as opposed to a deliberate, methodological choice by the Department. Petitioner cites *Melamine Chemicals, Inc. v. United States*, 592 F. Supp. 1338, 1340-