

octanol-2 are "comparable merchandise"; and (3) consider, and express its views on, whether it should accept new evidence concerning the comparability of 2-ethylhexanol and octanol-2. Should the Department come to the conclusion that it should accept such evidence, the Department may do so on remand and, if appropriate, use this evidence as a basis for justifying its use of the *Chemical Weekly* (India) value for "octanol." As discussed below, the Department complied with the Court's order.

On September 2, 1999, the Department submitted the results of the second remand to the CIT. See *Second Remand*, Consol. Court No. 97-03-00483, Slip Op. 99-40 (September 2, 1999). A summarization of our response for each of the three issues is listed below.

For the first issue, we determined that 2-ethylhexanol and octanol-2 are comparable chemicals, and that the octanol value quoted in the *Chemical Weekly* (India) is a value for 2-ethylhexanol. We considered the other surrogate values placed on the record, such as the U.S. cost for crude octanol-2 and the U.S. price for refined octanol-2, and determined, based on our criteria for selecting the appropriate surrogate value for octanol-2 as stated in the *First Remand*, that the refined octanol value from *Chemical Weekly* (India), which was for 2-ethylhexanol, was the best available surrogate value. Based on reexamination of the by-product/co-product determination in light of this surrogate value, we determined that octanol-2 was a co-product of sebacic acid production because the overall value of octanol-2 was significant relative to the value of sebacic acid and the other subsidiary products. Also, because octanol-2 was now a co-product, rather than a by-product, we were able to allocate the glycerine by-product credit to sebacic acid and octanol-2, as instructed by the CIT in the *First Remand*.

For the second issue, after an analysis of certain information placed on the record, we determined that the octanol value quoted in the *Chemical Weekly* (India) was for 2-ethylhexanol, and not for octanol-1.

For the third issue, we determined to open the administrative record to accept new evidence concerning the comparability of 2-ethylhexanol and octanol-2. Based on this new information, we determined that we had substantial evidence establishing that 2-ethylhexanol (also known as 2-ethylhexanol alcohol and octyl alcohol) and octanol-2 were comparable merchandise based on similar uses.

Thus, we concluded that the *Chemical Weekly* (India) value for 2-ethylhexanol is the most appropriate surrogate value.

As noted above, on October 19, 1999, the CIT sustained and upheld our finding of the Department's *Second Remand* and no appeal was filed. As there is now a final and conclusive court decision in this action, we are amending our final results of review in this matter and we will instruct the U.S. Customs Service to liquidate entries subject to this review in accordance with the remand results. Because the Department has published subsequent administrative reviews that govern future cash deposits, the cash deposit rates will be governed not by the rate published in the *Second Remand*, but by the most recently completed administrative review, according to the Department's normal procedures. See *Sebacic Acid From the People's Republic of China; Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review*, 63 FR 43373-43379 (August 13, 1998).

Amended Final Results

Pursuant to 516A(e) of the Act, we are now amending the final results of administrative review of the antidumping duty order on sebacic acid from the People's Republic of China for the period July 1, 1994, through June 30, 1995. As a result of our recalculation of the margins from the *Second Remand*, the final weighted-average margins for Sinochem International Chemicals Company ("SICC"), Tianjin Chemicals Import and Export Corporation ("Tianjin"), and Guangdong Chemicals Import and Export Corporation ("Guangdong") changed. The final weighted-average margins for the above period of review are as follows:

| Manufacturer/exporter | Margin (percent) |
|---|------------------|
| SICC | 75.36 |
| Tianjin | 5.74 |
| Guangdong | 36.5 |
| Sinochem Jiangu Import and Export Corporation | 243.40 |
| Country-Wide Rate | 243.40 |

The Department will determine, and the U.S. Customs Service shall assess, antidumping duties on all appropriate entries. We calculated importer-specific duty assessment rates for the merchandise based on the ratio of the total amount of antidumping duties calculated for the examined sales to the total entered value of sales examined. The Department will issue appraisal instructions to the U.S. Customs Service after publication of this amended final results of review.

This determination is issued and published in accordance with sections 751(a)(1) and 777(i)(1) of the Act.

Dated: January 5, 2000.

Robert S. LaRussa,

Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Commerce Advisory Committee on Africa: Membership

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of committee establishment and membership opportunity.

SUMMARY: A committee comprised of U.S. businesses active in Sub-Saharan Africa is to be established to advise the Secretary on issues of U.S. commercial policy in Africa. This action is taken to ensure regular consultation with the U.S. business community and to reflect its views in the Clinton Administration's Africa Initiative. The Advisory Committee will meet quarterly, or more often as determined by the Secretary.

DATES: In order to receive full consideration, requests must be received no later than January 27, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Please send your requests for consideration to Mrs. S. K. Miller, Director, Office of Africa by fax on 202/482-5198 or by mail at Room 2037, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mrs. S. K. Miller, Director, Office of Africa, Room 2037, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: 202/482-4227.

Notice of Committee Establishment

In accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2, and the General Services Administration (GSA) rule on Federal Advisory Committee Management, 41 CFR Part 101-6, and, after consultation with GSA, the Secretary of Commerce has determined that the establishment of the Advisory Committee on Africa is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Department by law.

In furtherance of the President's Africa Initiative, the Committee will advise the Secretary, through the Under Secretary for International Trade, on

U.S. commercial policy on trade with Sub-Saharan Africa.

The ACA will be composed of not more than 21 individuals representing companies, and will be chaired by Secretary of Commerce William M. Daley. To assure a balanced representation of interests, members will be selected based on the criteria set forth below, to obtain a balance in industry sectors, company size, location, gender and ethnic representation.

The Committee will function solely as an advisory body, and in compliance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Charter will be filed under the Act, fifteen days from the publication of this notice.

The inaugural meeting of the ACA is expected to take place during the first quarter of the year 2000. Meetings will be scheduled quarterly throughout the year at the Department's headquarters. Additional meetings may be called as determined by the Secretary.

Notice of Opportunity to Apply for Membership

Membership Obligations

Members will be expected to serve a term of two years. However, to set up a staggered membership renewal, one third of the private sector members from this initial appointment will serve for a two year term; a second third will serve for a three year term and a final third for a four year term. Each year, a third of the ACA membership will be replaced.

Nominations are now being sought for private sector members to serve for a two, three, or four year period from January 1, 2000 until December 31, 2001–2004, respectively. Members will serve at the discretion of the Secretary and shall serve as representatives of the business community and, specifically, the industry in which their business is engaged. They are expected to participate fully in implementing the Committee's work program. It is expected that private sector individuals chosen for ACA membership will attend not less than 75% of the ACA meetings each year.

Private sector members are fully responsible for travel, per diem, and personal expenses associated with their participation on the ACA.

The ACA will work on issues of common interest to encourage trade and investment, including the following:

- Resolving obstacles to trade and investment between the United States and Africa;
- Expanding commercial activity between the United States and Africa

and identifying commercial opportunities;

- Developing sectoral or project-oriented approaches to expand business opportunities;
- Identifying further steps to facilitate and encourage the development of commercial expansion between the United States and Africa; and
- Taking any other appropriate steps for fostering commercial relations between the U.S. and Africa.

Criteria

In order to be eligible for membership in the U.S. section, potential candidates must be:

- (1) U.S. citizens or permanent residents;
- (2) CEOs or other senior management level employees of a U.S. company or organization with demonstrated involvement in trade with and/or investment in Sub-Saharan Africa who will participate in not less than 75% of the meetings, which will be held in the United States. Representative nominated should be the individual who will actively participate in the ACA;
- (3) Not a Registered Foreign Agent; and
- (4) Actively doing business in Sub-Saharan Africa or actively developing entry plans for doing business in Sub-Saharan Africa.

To the extent possible, the Department of Commerce will strive to achieve membership composition that reflects U.S. entrepreneurial diversity. Therefore, in reviewing eligible candidates, the Department of Commerce will consider such selection factors as:

- (1) Depth of experience in the Sub-Saharan African market;
- (2) Export/investment experience;
- (3) Representation of industry or service sectors of importance to our commercial relationship with Sub-Saharan Africa;
- (4) Company size or, if an organization, size and number of member companies;
- (5) Location of company or organization; and
- (6) Contribution to the Committee's ethnic and gender diversity.

To apply for membership, please provide a company information sheet and a personal resume and any other pertinent information which demonstrate how the applicant satisfies the selection criteria identified.

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 1501 *et seq.*; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1979, 19 U.S.C. 2171 Note, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

Sally Miller,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Africa.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Announcement of a Partially Closed Meeting of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Board

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of partially closed meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, notice is hereby given that the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST's) Manufacturing Extension Partnership National Advisory Board (MEPNAB) will meet to hold a meeting on Thursday, January 27, 2000. The MEPNAB is composed of nine members appointed by the Director of NIST who were selected for their expertise in the area of industrial extension and their work on behalf of smaller manufacturers. The Board was set up, under the direction of the Director of the NIST, to fill a need for outside input on MEP. MEP is a unique program consisting of centers in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. The centers have been created by state, federal and local partnerships. The Board works closely with the MEP to provide input and advice on MEP's programs, plans and policies. The purpose of this meeting is to cover areas of operation determined during the previous Board meeting. The agenda will include an MEP overview, an update for the new members, and a look at how MEP staff working with the centers can provide more of a consultant role. The agenda will also look at what products, services, and training the NIST MEP staff needs to provide strong assistance to Centers. The portion of the meeting, which involves personnel and proprietary budget information, will be closed to the general public. All other portions of the meeting will be open to the public.

DATES AND ADDRESSES: The meeting will convene on January 27, 2000, at 8 a.m. and will adjourn at 3:30 p.m. and will be held at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Building 101, 10th Floor, Gaithersburg,