

Although the HTSUS item number is provided for convenience and customs purposes, our written description of the scope of the order is dispositive.

Initiation and Preliminary Results of AD Changed Circumstances Review and Intent to Revoke in Part

Section 751(d)(1) of the Act and section 351.222 (g) of the Department's regulations provide that the Department may revoke an AD or countervailing duty order, in whole or in part, after conducting a changed circumstances review and concluding from the available information that changed circumstances sufficient to warrant revocation or termination exist. The Department may conclude that changed circumstances sufficient to warrant revocation (in whole or in part) exist when producers accounting for substantially all of the production of the domestic like product to which the order pertains have expressed a lack of interest in the order, in whole or in part. See section 782(h) of the Act and section 351.222 (g)(1) of the Department's regulations. Based on an affirmative statement by domestic producers of the like product, we find that no interest exists in continuing the AD order with respect to large novelty pencils described in the proposed scope language below. Therefore, we are hereby notifying the public of our preliminary intent to revoke, in part, the AD order on certain cased pencils from the PRC with respect to imports of novelty pencils that meet the description below. We intend to modify the scope of the AD order to read as follows:

Imports covered by this order are shipments of certain cased pencils of any shape or dimension (except as noted below) which are writing and/or drawing instruments that feature cores of graphite or other materials, encased in wood and/or man-made materials, whether or not decorated and whether or not tipped (e.g., with erasers, etc.) in any fashion, and either sharpened or unsharpened. The pencils subject to the order are classified under subheading 9609.10.00 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedules of the United States (HTSUS). Specifically excluded from the scope of the order are mechanical pencils, cosmetic pencils, pens, non-cased crayons (wax), pastels, charcoals, chalks, and pencils produced under U.S. patent number 6,217,242, from paper infused with scents by the means covered in the above-referenced patent, thereby having odors distinct from those that may emanate from pencils lacking the scent infusion. **Also excluded from the scope of the order are pencils with**

all of the following physical characteristics: 1) length: 14 or more inches; 2) sheath diameter: not less than one-and-one quarter inches at any point (before sharpening); and 3) core length: not more than 15 percent of the length of the pencil. Although the HTSUS subheading is provided for convenience and customs purposes our written description of the scope of the order is dispositive.

Furthermore, pursuant to section 351.221(c)(3)(ii) of the Department's regulations, because all parties to the proceeding agree to the outcome of the review, we determine that expedited action is warranted and have combined the notices of initiation and preliminary results. If the final partial revocation occurs, we intend to instruct the U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (BCBP) to liquidate, without regard to applicable antidumping duties, all unliquidated entries of pencils that meet the above-noted specifications, and to refund any estimated antidumping duties collected on such merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after December 1, 2001, the day after the most recent period for which the Department issued assessment instructions to BCBP (12/1/2000–11/30/2001), in accordance with 19 CFR 351.222. We will also instruct BCBP to pay interest on such refunds with respect to the subject merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after December 1, 2001, in accordance with section 778 of the Act. See *Notice of Initiation and Preliminary Results of Changed Circumstances Antidumping Duty Administrative Review, and Intent to Revoke Order in Part: Certain Cut-To-Length Carbon-Quality Steel Plate Products from Japan*, 68 FR 1436 (January 10, 2003). The current requirement for a cash deposit of estimated antidumping duties on pencils that meet the above-noted specifications will continue unless, and until, we publish a final determination to revoke the order in part.

Public Comment

Interested parties are invited to comment on these preliminary results. Written comments may be submitted by interested parties not later than 14 days after the date of publication of this notice. Parties who submit argument in this proceeding are requested to submit with the argument (1) a statement of the issue, and (2) a brief summary of the argument. Pursuant to section 351.309(d) of the Department's regulations, rebuttals to written comments, limited to the issues raised

in the case briefs, may be filed not later than five days after the deadline for submission of case briefs. Also, interested parties may request a hearing within 10 days of publication of this notice. Any hearing, if requested, will be held no later than two days after the deadline for the submission of rebuttal briefs, or the first workday thereafter. All written comments shall be submitted in accordance with section 351.303 of the Department's regulations and shall be served on all interested parties on the Department's service list. The Department will issue the final results of this review within the time limits established in section 351.216(e) of its regulations.

This notice is published in accordance with section 751(b)(1) of the Act and sections 351.216 and 351.222 of the Department's regulations.

Dated: September 12, 2003.

Joseph A. Spetrini,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 03–24127 Filed 9–18–03; 12:01pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[C-357–815]

Final Notice of Rescission of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review: Certain Hot-Rolled Carbon Steel Flat Products from Argentina

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

ACTION: Final Notice of Rescission of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review.

SUMMARY: On May 16, 2003, the Department of Commerce (the Department) published in the **Federal Register** its notice of intent to rescind the countervailing duty administrative review on certain hot-rolled carbon steel flat products from Argentina (hot-rolled products), covering the period January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001, and one manufacturer/exporter of the subject merchandise, Siderar Sociedad Anonima Industrial & Commercial (Siderar). See *Notice of Intent to Rescind Countervailing Duty Administrative Review: Certain Hot-Rolled Carbon Steel Flat Products from Argentina*, 68 FR 26572 (May 16, 2003) (*Notice of Intent to Rescind*). On May 28, 2003, the Department published in the **Federal Register** a notice of correction to the notice of intent to rescind the countervailing duty administrative

review. *See Notice of Correction to the Notice of Intent to Rescind Countervailing Duty Administrative Review: Certain Hot-Rolled Carbon Steel Flat Products From Argentina*, 68 FR 31685 (May 28, 2003).

As noted in the *Scope of the Review* section below, we inadvertently described hot-rolled carbon quality steel as the products subject to review. We have now correctly described subject merchandise as certain hot-rolled steel flat products. Based on our analysis of comments received, the Department has not made any changes to the decision articulated in the *Notice of Intent to Rescind*, except for the scope description. Therefore, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.213(d)(4), the Department has rescinded the review of hot-rolled products from Argentina.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 22, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephanie Moore or Cindy Robinson, AD/CVD Enforcement, Office 6, Group II, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-3692 or (202) 482-3797, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On September 11, 2001, the Department published in the **Federal Register** the countervailing duty order on hot-rolled carbon steel flat products from Argentina. *See Notice of Countervailing Duty Order: Certain Hot-Rolled Carbon Steel Flat Products From Argentina*, 66 FR 47173 (September 11, 2001).

On September 3, 2002, the Department published the *Notice of Opportunity to Request Administrative Review of Antidumping or Countervailing Duty Order, Finding, or Suspended Investigation*, 67 FR 56267 (September 3, 2002).

On September 30, 2002, the Department received a request from Siderar to conduct an administrative review of the countervailing order on hot-rolled products from Argentina. On October 24, 2002, the Department initiated an administrative review of this order for the period January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001 (period of review). Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.213(b), this review only covers Siderar, the producer/exporter of the subject merchandise for which a review was specifically requested.

On May 16, 2003, the Department published in the **Federal Register** the *Notice of Intent to Rescind*. On May 28, 2003, the Department published in the

Federal Register a correction to the *Notice of Intent to Rescind* to allow interested parties to comment.

On June 27, 2003, the Department received comments from the Government of Argentina (GOA) and Siderar (collectively, respondents). On July 2, 2003, the Department received rebuttal comments from National Steel Corporation and United States Steel Corporation (petitioners).

Scope of the Review

Note: In the *Notice of Intent to Rescind*, we inadvertently described hot-rolled carbon quality steel as the products subject to review. We have now correctly described subject merchandise below as certain hot-rolled steel flat products.

The merchandise subject to this review is certain hot-rolled flat-rolled carbon-quality steel products of a rectangular shape, of a width of 0.5 inch or greater, neither clad, plated, nor coated with metal and whether or not painted, varnished, or coated with plastics or other non-metallic substances, in coils (whether or not in successively superimposed layers), regardless of thickness, and in straight lengths, of a thickness of less than 4.75 mm and of a width measuring at least 10 times the thickness. Universal mill plate (*i.e.*, flat-rolled products rolled on four faces or in a closed box pass, of a width exceeding 150 mm, but not exceeding 1250 mm, and of a thickness of not less than 4 mm, not in coils and without patterns in relief) of a thickness not less than 4.0 mm is not included within the scope of this review.

Specifically included within the scope of this review are vacuum degassed, fully stabilized (commonly referred to as interstitial-free (IF)) steels, high strength low alloy (HSLA) steels, and the substrate for motor lamination steels. IF steels are recognized as low carbon steels with micro-alloying levels of elements such as titanium or niobium (also commonly referred to as columbium), or both, added to stabilize carbon and nitrogen elements. HSLA steels are recognized as steels with micro-alloying levels of elements such as chromium, copper, niobium, vanadium, and molybdenum. The substrate for motor lamination steels contains micro-alloying levels of elements such as silicon and aluminum.

Steel products included in the scope of this review, regardless of definitions in the *Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States* (HTSUS), are products in which: i) iron predominates, by weight, over each of the other contained elements; ii) the carbon content is 2 percent or less, by weight; and iii) none

of the elements listed below exceeds the quantity, by weight, respectively indicated:

- 1.80 percent of manganese, or
- 2.25 percent of silicon, or
- 1.00 percent of copper, or
- 0.50 percent of aluminum, or
- 1.25 percent of chromium, or
- 0.30 percent of cobalt, or
- 0.40 percent of lead, or
- 1.25 percent of nickel, or
- 0.30 percent of tungsten, or
- 0.10 percent of molybdenum, or
- 0.10 percent of niobium, or
- 0.15 percent of vanadium, or
- 0.15 percent of zirconium.

All products that meet the physical and chemical description provided above are within the scope of this review unless otherwise excluded. The following products, by way of example, are outside or specifically excluded from the scope of this review:

- Alloy hot-rolled steel products in which at least one of the chemical elements exceeds those listed above (including, *e.g.*, ASTM specifications A543, A387, A514, A517, A506).
- SAE/AISI grades of series 2300 and higher.
- Ball bearings steels, as defined in the HTSUS
- Tool steels, as defined in the HTSUS.
- Silico-manganese (as defined in the HTSUS) or silicon electrical steel with a silicon level exceeding 2.25 percent.
- ASTM specifications A710 and A736.
- USS Abrasion-resistant steels (USS AR 400, USS AR 500).
- All products (proprietary or otherwise) based on an alloy ASTM specification (sample specifications: ASTM A506, A507).
- Non-rectangular shapes, not in coils, which are the result of having been processed by cutting or stamping and which have assumed the character of articles or products classified outside chapter 72 of the HTSUS.

The merchandise subject to this review is classified in the HTSUS at subheadings: 7208.10.15.00, 7208.10.30.00, 7208.10.60.00, 7208.25.30.00, 7208.25.60.00, 7208.26.00.30, 7208.26.00.60, 7208.27.00.30, 7208.27.00.60, 7208.36.00.30, 7208.36.00.60, 7208.37.00.30, 7208.37.00.60, 7208.38.00.15, 7208.38.00.30, 7208.38.00.90, 7208.39.00.15, 7208.39.00.30, 7208.39.00.90, 7208.40.60.30, 7208.40.60.60, 7208.53.00.00, 7208.54.00.00, 7208.90.00.00, 7211.14.00.90, 7211.19.15.00, 7211.19.20.00, 7211.19.30.00, 7211.19.45.00, 7211.19.60.00, 7211.19.75.30, 7211.19.75.60, and 7211.19.75.90.

Certain hot-rolled flat-rolled carbon-

quality steel covered by this review, including: vacuum degassed fully stabilized; high strength low alloy; and the substrate for motor lamination steel may also enter under the following tariff numbers: 7225.11.00.00, 7225.19.00.00, 7225.30.30.50, 7225.30.70.00, 7225.40.70.00, 7225.99.00.90, 7226.11.10.00, 7226.11.90.30, 7226.11.90.60, 7226.19.10.00, 7226.19.90.00, 7226.91.50.00, 7226.91.70.00, 7226.91.80.00, and 7226.99.00.00. Subject merchandise may also enter under 7210.70.30.00, 7210.90.90.00, 7211.14.00.30, 7212.40.10.00, 7212.40.50.00, and 7212.50.00.00.

Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the Department's written description of the merchandise subject to this proceeding is dispositive.

Analysis of Comments Received

All issues raised in the case briefs by parties to this administrative review are addressed in the "Issues and Decision Memorandum" (Decision Memorandum) dated concurrently with this notice which is hereby adopted by this notice. A list of issues which parties have raised, and to which we have responded, all of which are in the Decision Memorandum, is attached to this notice as Appendix I. Parties can find a complete discussion of all issues raised in this review and the corresponding recommendations in this public memorandum which is on file in the Central Records Unit in room B-099 of the Main Commerce Building. In addition, a complete version of the Decision Memorandum can be accessed directly on the World Wide Web at <http://www.ita.doc.gov>, under the heading "Federal Register Notices." The paper copy and electronic version of the Decision Memorandum are identical in content.

Rescission of Review

Based on our analysis of comments received, the Department has not made any changes to the decision articulated in the *Notice of Intent to Rescind*, except for the scope description as noted in the *Scope of the Review* section above. In accordance with 19 CFR 351.213(d)(4), the Department has now rescinded the review of hot-rolled products from Argentina covering the period January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001.

We will instruct the U.S. Bureau of Customs and Borders Protection (BCBP) to assess countervailing duties at the cash deposit or bonding rate required at the time of entry. We will also instruct BCBP to continue to collect cash

deposits of estimated countervailing duties for the merchandise at the current rates.

This notice is in accordance with sections 751(a)(1) and 777(i) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, and 19 CFR 351.213(d)(4).

Dated: September 15, 2003.

James J. Jochum,

Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

Appendix I - Issues Discussed in Decision Memorandum

Analysis of Comments

Comment 1—The Statute and Regulations Provide the Department with the Discretion to Conduct Countervailing Duty (CVD) Reviews in the Absence of Shipments
Comment 2—Department Practice and the Unique Circumstances of This Case
Warrant Conducting a Review and Adjusting the Deposit Rate

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Minority Business Development Agency

[Docket No. 030910229-3229-01]

Minority Business Financing

AGENCY: Minority Business Development Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) is soliciting comments on the direction of minority business financing. MBDA would like to ensure that it has obtained broad-based feedback on this issue. Once this information has been obtained and there has been a preliminary discussion of this issue at MBDA's 2003 MED Week conference, MBDA will finalize and print a report with any appropriate revisions, and will disseminate it widely to the policy-making and financial communities. In order to be considered, comments must be received by the deadline contained in the Dates section of this Notice.

DATES: All comments must be received or postmarked by October 7, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Completed comments may be mailed to the following address: Ms. Anita Cooke Wells, Chief, Office of Business Development, HCHB, Room 5063, Minority Business Development Agency, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230; or e-mailed to: awells@mbda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, contact Ms. Anita Cooke Wells, Chief, Office of Business Development, at (202) 482-1940.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In May, 2002, MBDA began to examine the challenges facing minority firms in obtaining financing and develop proposals to improve financing options. MBDA sought input from persons having expertise in these issues, to assist it in information gathering and review of possible options. Some of the areas identified for discussion were the current disparities in financing minority businesses, the lack of available data, and the importance of management and technical assistance.

The Agency has developed preliminary proposals as a result of this process. These proposals address issues universal to all minority firms, as well as specifically focusing on issues relevant to high growth businesses, emerging companies and microenterprises. These proposals are designed to support the development of minority businesses and result in job creation and other economic outcomes. Much of the Agency's work focuses on suggestions that would affect existing businesses, whether middle-market or larger businesses and those firms with the largest potential for growth. These businesses are most likely to generate employment and revenues, yet often are overlooked by small business financing programs, venture capitalists, and institutional investors.

The lack of information on minority firms reiterates the need for the Federal Government to develop and provide this data to the private sector. In general, the issues focus on the following four categories:

1. Development of Current and Extensive Governmental Data To Support Investment Decision-Making and To Identify Market Opportunities in the MBE Community

- Implement an Annual Survey of Minority Businesses to provide up-to-date and accurate information on the minority business community.
- Organize and fund a national minority financing network and data repository, which would compile information on the loan performance of this sector of the business community.
- Partner with the National Association of Investment Companies to collect data on portfolio performance of minority-focused venture funds and develop institutional investor strategies.