

U.S.-KOREA COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS COOPERATION

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Membership Opportunity in U.S.-Korea Committee on Business Cooperation.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce is currently seeking nominations of outstanding individuals to serve on the U.S. section of the U.S.-Korea Committee on Business Cooperation ("CBC"). On December 15, 1995, Secretary of Commerce Ronald H. Brown and South Korean Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy Park Jae Yoon signed a memorandum of understanding creating the CBC. The purpose of the CBC is to provide a forum through which the U.S. and Korean public and private sectors can cooperate to exchange information on commercial matters and to encourage discussions on a variety of issues that impact their bilateral commerce. The CBC is composed of two sections, a U.S. section and a Korean section. The U.S. section is chaired by Secretary of Commerce Ronald H. Brown and will be comprised of approximately 20 private sector representatives. The Korean section is chaired by Minister Park and will be comprised of approximately 20 private sector members. The inaugural meeting of the CBC is expected to take place during the summer of 1996 in Washington. Subsequent plenary and working group meetings are expected to be with the government and private sector members from both countries in attendance.

OBLIGATIONS: Private sector members will be appointed for a two year term. Nominations are now being sought for private sector members to serve for the initial term. Private sector members will serve at the discretion of the Secretary and shall serve as representatives of the business community and the industry their business represents. They are expected to participate fully in defining the agenda for the CBC and in implementing its work program. It is expected that private sector individuals chosen for CBC membership will attend at least 75% of the CBC meetings which will be held in the U.S. and South Korea.

Private sector members are fully responsible for travel, living and personal expenses associated with their participation in the CBC. The private sector members will serve in a representative capacity presenting the views and interests of the particular business sector in which they operate; private sector members are not special

government employees. It is anticipated that the private sector members of the Committee may form a Steering Committee, upon their own initiative, to guide overall private sector participation. If the Steering Committee is formed, it is expected that the activities conducted by the Steering Committee, and staff support for the Committee, will be undertaken at the expense of the private sector members.

The CBC will work on issues of common interest to encourage bilateral trade and investment, such as, but not limited to, the following:

- Identifying commercial opportunities, impediments, and issues of concern to the respective business communities;
- Improving the dissemination of appropriate commercial information on both markets;
- Adopting sectoral or project-oriented approaches to expand business opportunities, addressing specific problems, and making recommendations to decision-makers where appropriate;
- Promoting trade/business development and promotion programs to assist the respective business communities in accessing each market, including trade missions, exhibits, seminars, and other events;
- Facilitating appropriate technical cooperation; and
- Considering other steps that may be taken to foster growth and enhance commercial relations.

CRITERIA: The U.S. private sector section of CBC will consist of approximately 20 members representing the diversity of American business. Selection criteria will emphasize, to the extent possible, the following interests and issues with respect to Korea: infrastructure, high technology manufacturing, and market access. The Commerce Department is currently seeking nominations of outstanding individuals or companies to serve on the CBC.

In order to meet eligibility requirements for membership, potential candidates must be:

- A U.S. citizen residing in the United States or a U.S. permanent resident;
- A CEO or other top management level employee of a U.S. company or organization involved with South Korea in the trade and investment fields; and
- Not a registered foreign agent under the Foreign Agent Registration Act of 1938, as amended (FARA).

In reviewing eligible candidates, the Commerce Department will consider such selection factors as:

- Experience in the South Korean market;

- Industry or service sector represented;
- Export/investment experience;
- Contribution to diversity based on company size, location, demographics, and minority/gender ownership; and
- Stated commitment to actively participate in CBC activities and meetings.

To be considered for membership, please provide the following: name and title of at least two individuals requesting consideration; name and address of the company or organization sponsoring each individual; company's product or service line; size of the company; export experience and major markets; a brief statement of why each candidate should be considered membership on the CBC; the particular segment of the business community each candidate would represent; a personal resume; and a statement that applicant is not a registered foreign agent under FARA.

DEADLINE: In order to receive full consideration, requests must be received no later than May 3, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Please send your requests for consideration to Susan M. Blackman, Director, Office of Korea and Southeast Asia, either by fax on (202) 482-4760 or by mail at Room 3203, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan M. Blackman, Director, Office of Korea and Southeast Asia, either by fax on (202) 482-4760 or by mail at Room 3203, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230.

Authority: Act of February 14, 1903, c. 552, as amended, 15 U.S.C. 1501 et seq., 32 Stat. 825; Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1979, 19 U.S.C. 2171 note, 93 Stat. 1381.

Dated: March 29, 1996.

Peter Cashman,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asia Pacific.

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BILLING CODE 3510-DA-P

[C-122-825]**Notice of Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigation: Certain Laminated Hardwood Flooring from Canada**

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 4, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sue Strumbel or David Boyland, Office of Countervailing Duty Investigations, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 3099, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20230; telephone

(202) 482-1442, (202) 482-4198, respectively.

Initiation of Investigation

The Applicable Statute

Unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the statute are references to the provisions of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act effective January 1, 1995 (the Act).

The Petition

On March 7, 1996, the Department of Commerce (the Department) received a petition filed from the Ad Hoc Committee on Laminated Hardwood Trailer Flooring Imports (the petitioners). The Ad Hoc Committee is made up of five U.S. producers of laminated hardwood flooring (LHF): Anderson-Tully, Havco Wood Products, Inc., Industrial Hardwood Products Inc. (IHP), Lewisohn Sales Company Inc., and Cloud Corporation/Cloud Oak Corporation. On March 15, March 22, and March 26, 1996, petitioners amended the petition by providing additional information, as well as revising the manner in which certain information in the petition was presented to the Department.

In accordance with section 701(a) of the Act, petitioners allege that manufacturers, producers, or exporters of the subject merchandise in Canada receive countervailable subsidies.

The petitioners have standing to file the petition because they are interested parties, as defined under section 771(9)(C) of the Act.

On March 21 and 22, 1996, the Department held consultations with representatives of the Government of Canada (GOC) and the Government of Quebec (GOQ) pursuant to 702(b)(4)(ii) (see March 26, 1996 memos to the file regarding these consultations). On March 26, 1996, the GOC and the GOQ submitted certain information with respect to certain programs alleged in the petition.

Determination of Industry Support for the Petition

Section 702(c)(4)(A) of the Act requires the Department to determine, prior to the initiation of an investigation, that a minimum percentage of the domestic industry supports a countervailing duty petition. A petition meets these minimum requirements if the domestic producers or workers who support the petition account for (1) at least 25 percent of the total production of the domestic like product; and (2) more than 50 percent of the production of the domestic like

product produced by that portion of the industry expressing support for, or opposition to, the petition.

The Department has been notified that two domestic producers of LHF oppose the petition. A review of the production data provided in the petition and other information readily available to the Department indicates that the petitioner accounts for more than 50 percent of the total production of the domestic like products thus meeting the standard of 702(c)(4)(A) and requiring no further action by the Department pursuant to 702(c)(4)(D). Accordingly, the Department determines that this petition is supported by the domestic industry.

Injury Test

Because Canada is a "Subsidies Agreement Country" within the meaning of section 701(b) of the Act, Title VII of the Act applies to this investigation. Accordingly, the ITC must determine whether imports of the subject merchandise from Canada materially injure, or threaten material injury to, a U.S. industry.

Scope of the Investigation

The scope of this investigation consists of certain laminated hardwood flooring which is made of oak, maple or other hardwood lumber. Laminated hardwood flooring is customized for specific dimensions, but generally ranges in size from 8' x 48" x 1" to 8' x 6" x 57" x 1 1/2" for trailer flooring, and to 8' x 16" x 1 (1/8)" to 8' x 26' x 1 (1/2)" for trailer flooring and van and truck bodies, respectively. The merchandise under investigation is currently classified, in addition to various other hardwood products, under subheading 4421.90.98.40 and 9905.44.50.15 of the *Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS)*. Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and Customs purposes, our written description of the scope of this proceeding is dispositive.

Allegation of Subsidies

Section 702(b) of the Act requires the Department to initiate a countervailing duty proceeding whenever an interested party files a petition, on behalf of an industry, that (1) alleges the elements necessary for an imposition of a duty under section 701(a), and (2) is accompanied by information reasonably available to petitioners supporting the allegations.

Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigations

The Department has examined the petition on LHF from Canada and found

that it complies with the requirements of section 702(b) of the Act. Therefore, in accordance with section 702(b) of the Act, we are initiating a countervailing duty investigation to determine whether manufacturers, producers, or exporters of LHF from Canada receive subsidies.

We are including in our investigation the following programs alleged in the petition to have provided subsidies to producers of the subject merchandise in Canada:

1. Capital Gains Exemptions
2. Investment Tax Credits (ITCs)
3. Export Development Corporation (EDC)
4. Performance Security Services through EDC
5. Program for Export Market Development (PEMD)
6. Venture Loans Through the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDBC)
7. Working Capital for Growth from BDBC
8. Programs Provided by the Industrial Development Corporation (SDI)¹
- Article 7 Assistance
- Export Assistance Program
- Business Investment Assistance Program
- Business Financing Program
- Research and Innovation Activities Program
9. Export Promotion Assistance Program (APEX)
10. St. Lawrence River Environmental Technology Development Program
11. Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP)
12. Canada-Quebec Subsidiary Agreement on the Economic Development of Quebec
13. Private Forest Development Program (PFDP)
14. Quebec Stumpage Program

The Department has reviewed information submitted by the GOQ which has raised a question whether Leclerc is a tenure holder; *i.e.*, whether it received benefits under this program. Therefore, the Department has included this program in its investigation to investigate use of this program.

Petitioners have argued that Nilus Leclerc Inc. (Leclerc) "became partners with the government * * * with the sole objective of taking over the U.S. [LHF] market" and that all programs provided to Leclerc should be considered specific because they were given pursuant to "an overall endeavor that gave Leclerc special treatment." However, petitioners were unable to provide any evidence that the GOC or

¹ The Department is not including in the investigation other SDI programs.

the GOQ have provided any "special treatment" to Leclerc. Accordingly, the Department did not consider petitioners' "special specificity" argument when determining whether a program should be included in the investigation.

We are not including in our investigation the following programs alleged to be benefiting producers of the subject merchandise in Canada:

National Programs

1. Canadian Forest Services Research Subsidies

The Canadian Forest Service (CFS) maintains a series of programs that support basic research and development in forestry.

Petitioners have provided no information to support the allegation that LHF producers would conduct research under these programs. Therefore, we are not including this program in our investigation.

2. Cooperative Industrial and Market Development Partnership (CIMDP)

The CIMDP provides information concerning export enhancement, export market penetration, and productivity enhancement to members of the British Columbia (BC) Wood Specialties Group, an association of BC companies involved in secondary wood manufacturing.

Petitioners have provided no information to support the allegation that any producer of subject merchandise is eligible to receive benefits under this program. The Canadian producers of LHF identified in the petition are located in Quebec and Ontario. Because the Canadian producers of LHF identified by the petitioners are not located in BC, and no BC producer of LHF has been identified, we are not including this program in our investigation.

3. Term Loans Through BDBC

Small and medium-sized businesses are eligible to receive BDBC term loans for the purchase of land, buildings, equipment, major plant overhauls, working capital, refinancing, and changes of ownership. Because the amortization of BDBC term loans is apparently flexible, petitioners have argued that the program provides a benefit.

Because petitioners have provided no basis to believe that this program is specific pursuant to section 771(5)(A), either as a domestic or export subsidy, we are not including this program in our investigation.

4. Venture Capital Division of BDBC

Under this program BDBC provides small and medium-sized companies with equity financing in the form of straight equity, options, warrants, or convertible or other forms of debentures.

Because petitioners have provided no basis to believe that this program is specific pursuant to section 771(5)(A), either as a domestic or export subsidy, we are not including this program in our investigation.

Quebec Provincial Programs

5. Industrial Feasibility Study Assistance Program

Under this program the GOQ provides financial assistance to cover up to 50 percent of the eligible expenditures for feasibility studies of industrial projects to be carried out in Quebec. Petitioners believe that Leclerc may have received benefits under this program in order to develop its LHF business.

Because petitioners have provided no basis to believe that this program is specific pursuant to section 771(5)(A), either as a domestic or export subsidy, we are not including this program in our investigation.

6. Development Assistance Program Under SDI

According to petitioners, SDI provides venture capital for up to 90 percent of eligible expenditures which is repayable through royalties on sales or minority interest in the capital stock of the company.

Petitioners have not alleged that Leclerc was unequityworthy or that any financing provided was preferential. Therefore, we are not including this program in our investigation.

7. Quebec Business Investment Companies Act administered by SDI

The objective of the Business Investment Companies Act is to promote better capitalization of Quebec companies and to encourage investment by providing tax benefits to shareholders in special corporations which invest in Quebec companies. Although it is not clear, petitioners may view the benefit under this program to be an equity infusion into Leclerc which presumably would not have taken place absent the above-referenced tax benefits. Alternatively, petitioners may believe that Leclerc's financing costs are reduced pursuant to the tax deduction.

Because petitioners have provided no basis to believe that this program is specific pursuant to section 771(5)(A), either as a domestic or export subsidy,

we are not including this program in our investigation.

8. Financial Assistance for Research, Formation, and Improvement of Recycling Industry

Under this program, the Quebec Ministry of Environment provides grants to the recycling industry in Quebec.

Because petitioners have provided insufficient information to support the allegation that Leclerc is also part of the Quebec recycling industry, and is therefore eligible to participate in this program, we are not including this program in our investigation.

9. Preferential Rates under Hydro-Quebec Risk and Profit Sharing

Under the Risk and Profit Sharing program, the provincially-owned power company, Hydro-Quebec, signs long-term contracts with its industrial customers for the provision of electricity. A portion of the rate to be charged under these contracts is based either on the price of the customer's products or the company's profit. Industrial customers which meet several criteria (e.g., at least a five megawatt power requirement and energy costs which represent 15 percent or more of production costs) are eligible to participate in the program.

Because petitioners have not provided information which is sufficient to support the allegation that Leclerc would be eligible for this program, we are not including this program in our investigation.

Ontario Provincial Program

Ontario Stumpage

10. Petitioners have alleged that Leclerc may benefit from Ontario stumpage. Because petitioners have not provided either a benchmark stumpage rate or the public stumpage rate charged by the Government of Ontario, we are not including this program in our investigation.

Creditworthiness

Petitioners assert that the financial position of Leclerc was such that it was uncreditworthy when it allegedly obtained a "large and speculative" amount of government-sponsored financing. Petitioners indicate that they have provided the information which is reasonably available to them showing that Leclerc "did not possess intrinsic worth" to avail itself of such large amounts of capital.

The Department does not consider the creditworthiness of a firm absent a specific allegation by the petitioner which is supported by information

establishing a reasonable basis to believe or suspect that the firm is uncreditworthy. While the information provided by petitioners does raise certain doubts as to Leclerc's ability to attract such financing, the financial information regarding Leclerc is incomplete. Therefore, at this time, the Department does not have a reasonable basis to believe or suspect that Leclerc is uncreditworthy.

Critical Circumstances

The petition contains an allegation that there is a reasonable basis to believe that critical circumstances exist with respect to imports of subject merchandise.

Section 703(e)(1) of the Act provides that the Department will determine that there is a reasonable basis to believe or suspect that critical circumstances exist if:

(A) The alleged countervailable subsidy is inconsistent with the Subsidies Agreement, and

(B) There have been massive imports of the subject merchandise over a relatively short period of time.

The petition contains information that satisfies these criteria. First, in accordance with section 771(5)(A)(B) of the Act, petitioners have alleged that several programs are export subsidies and, therefore, inconsistent with the Subsidies Agreement. With respect to the second statutory criterion, whether imports of the subject merchandise have been massive over a relatively short period of time, petitioners note that there has been significant import growth in recent years.

Based on the above, we find a reasonable basis to believe or suspect that critical circumstances exist and will investigate this matter further.

Distribution of Copies of the Petition

In accordance with section 702(b)(4)(A)(i) of the Act, copies of the public version of the petition have been provided to representatives of GOC. We will attempt to provide copies of the public version of the petition to all the exporters named in the petition.

ITC Notification

Pursuant to section 702(d) of the Act, we have notified the ITC of these initiations.

Preliminary Determination by the ITC

The ITC will determine by April 21, 1996, whether there is a reasonable indication that an industry in the United States is being materially injured, or is threatened with material injury, by reason of imports from Canada of LHF. Any ITC determination

which is negative will result in the investigation being terminated; otherwise, the investigation will proceed according to statutory and regulatory time limits. If the ITC determines that an industry in the United States is being materially injured, or is threatened with material injury, the Department will issue its preliminary determination in this investigation on May 31, 1996.

This notice is published pursuant to 702(c)(2) of the Act.

Dated: March 27, 1996.

Paul L. Joffe,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 96-8218 Filed 4-3-96; 8:45 am]

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 032296C]

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; Public Workshop

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of public workshop; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) will convene a public workshop on fish traps used in Federal waters.

DATES: The public workshop will be held on April 24, 1996 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: This workshop will be held at the Board of County Commissions Conference Room (behind the courthouse) on Old Aaron Road, Crawfordville, FL. Persons may obtain a copy of Draft Reef Fish Amendment 14 from the Gulf Council.

Council address: Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, 5401 West Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 331, Tampa, FL 33609.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Wayne Swingle, Executive Director; telephone: (813) 228-2815.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Personnel from NMFS will present scientific information on the trap fishery from a vessel observer study NMFS completed during 1994 and 1995. Council staff will present the issues contained in Draft Reef Fish Amendment 14. These issues include limiting participation in the fish trap fishery by instituting a license limitation system and a proposal to prohibit use of fish traps south of 24.9° north lat. (i.e. off Dry Tortugas). This is

the second such workshop, the first being held March 11, 1996 in Duck Key, FL.

The Councils' Reef Fish Management Committee, which will be in attendance, will decide whether additional modifications should be made to the draft amendment after hearing public discussion. That action will occur at the Council meeting in Houston, TX to be held May 13-17, 1996.

Special Accommodations

This workshop is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Anne Alford at the Council (see ADDRESSES) by April 17, 1996.

Dated: March 29, 1996.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 96-8225 Filed 4-3-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Manual for Courts-Martial

AGENCY: Joint Service Committee on Military Justice (JSC).

ACTION: Notice of proposed amendments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Defense is considering recommending changes to the Manual for Courts-Martial, United States (1995 Edition). The proposed changes are the 1996 draft annual review required by the Manual for Courts-Martial and DoD Directive 5500.17, "Review of the Manual for Courts-Martial," January 23, 1985.

The majority of the proposed changes to the MCM implement amendments to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), made pursuant to the Military Justice Amendments of 1995, Pub. L. No. 104-106, 110 Stat. 461 (1996). Among other things, these changes to the MCM would implement recent statutory amendments that: (1) make flight from apprehension a punishable offense; (2) make the offense of carnal knowledge gender neutral and recognize the defense of a mistake of fact as to age under certain conditions; (3) change the effective date for forfeitures of pay and allowances and reductions in grade by sentence of court-martial; (4) provide for forfeiture of pay and allowances during confinement; (5) authorize deferment of confinement during the pendency of