industry in India and elsewhere is comparable to the crawfish processing industry in China in that seafood processors throughout the world are likely to have similar factory overhead and selling, general and administrative expenses (SG&A). Petitioner valued labor using Indian labor rates compiled by the International Labour Organization in its 1993 *Yearbook of Labour Statistics*. Petitioner based the factory overhead, SG&A expenses, and profit elements of its NV calculation on data from financial statements of five publicly held seafood processors in India for the fiscal year 1995.

Petitioner argued that prices for crawfish, the primary material input in the processing of crawfish tail meat, are not comparable to the prices for other kinds of seafood, and therefore, the Department should not value crawfish using Indian seafood prices. Petitioner chose Spain as the surrogate country for purposes of valuing crawfish, because Spain is a significant producer and processor of crawfish, is a market economy country, and, in relation to other crawfish producing and processing countries, has the level of economic development most comparable to that of the PRC. Petitioner used publicly available published information from official Spanish import data to value this input.

Since Chinese exporters sell crawfish tail meat to the United States at packed prices, petitioner added U.S. packing costs to NV.

Based on comparisons of export price to NV, the estimated dumping margins range from 274 to 427 percent. If it becomes necessary at a later date to consider the petition as a source of facts available under section 776 of the Act, we may further review the calculations.

Fair Value Comparisons

Based on the data provided by petitioner, there is reason to believe that imports of freshwater crawfish tail meat from the PRC are being, or are likely to be, sold at less than fair value.

Initiation of Investigation

We have examined the petition on freshwater crawfish tail meat from the PRC and have found that it meets the requirements of section 732 of the Act, including the requirements concerning allegations of the material injury or threat of material injury to a domestic industry of a like product by reason of the complained-of imports, allegedly sold at less than fair value. Therefore, we are initiating an antidumping duty investigation to determine whether imports of freshwater crawfish tail meat from the PRC are being, or are likely to be, sold at less than fair value. Unless extended, we will make our preliminary determination by February 27, 1997.

Distribution of Copies of the Petition

In accordance with section 732(b)(3)(A) of the Act, a copy of the public version of the petition has been provided to the representatives of the government of the PRC.

International Trade Commission (ITC) Notification

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

Preliminary Determinations by the ITC

The ITC will determine by November 4, 1996, whether there is a reasonable indication that imports of freshwater crawfish tail meat from the PRC are causing material injury, or threatening to cause material injury, to a U.S. industry. A negative ITC determination will result in the investigation being terminated; otherwise, the investigation will proceed according to statutory and regulatory time limits.

This notice is published pursuant to section 732(c)(2) of the Act.

Dated: October 10, 1996.

Robert S. LaRussa,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 96–26644 Filed 10–16–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

Applications for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instruments

Pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials Importation Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89–651; 80 Stat. 897; 15 CFR part 301), we invite comments on the question of whether instruments of equivalent scientific value, for the purposes for which the instruments shown below are intended to be used, are being manufactured in the United States.

Comments must comply with 15 CFR 301.5(a)(3) and (4) of the regulations and be filed within 20 days with the Statutory Import Programs Staff, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230. Applications may be examined between 8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. in Room 4211, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Docket Number: 96–098. *Applicant:* University of Arizona Foundation, 1111 N. Cherry Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85721. *Instrument:* Noble Gas Mass Spectrometer, Model 215–50. *Manufacturer:* Mass Analyser Products Ltd., United Kingdom. *Intended Use:* The instrument will be used to determine noble gas abundances and isotopic compositions of helium, neon, argon, krypton and xenon extracted from terrestrial and extraterrestrial samples. The objectives of the research are to understand the early history of the solar system by analyzing the noble gas isotopic composition of meteorites and lunar samples to understand the temporal and thermal evolution of the Earth and planetary materials and to identify mantle and crustal materials using the noble gas isotopic method which requires helium abundance and isotopic composition. The instrument will also be used for the training of graduate students. *Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs:* September 18, 1996.

Docket Number: 96–099. *Applicant:* University of South Carolina, 730 S. Main Street, Columbia, SC 29208. *Instrument:* Stopped-Flow Spectrophotometer, Model SX.18MV. *Manufacturer:* Applied Photophysics Ltd., United Kingdom. *Intended Use:* The instrument will be used to analyze the transient state kinetics of ligand binding to enzymes that are involved in the metabolism of chemotherapeutic agents. Recombinant enzymes will be rapidly mixed with ligands and the fluorescence or absorbance changes accompanying ligand binding will be monitored. The changes in spectrophotometric properties will be used to calculate rate constants governing specific reactions catalyzed by the enzyme of interest. *Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs:* September 18, 1996.

Docket Number: 96–100. *Applicant:* Johns Hopkins University, 3400 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218. *Instrument:* Fast Correlation Spectrometer, Model ALV 5000/E. *Manufacturer:* ALV Laser, Germany. *Intended Use:* The instrument will be used to investigate the dynamic motion of the polymers in solution during an experiment called diffusing wave spectroscopy. The objective of the investigation is to understand the relaxation of a network of polymer molecules which form a transiently elastic network. *Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs:* September 18, 1996.

Docket Number: 96–101. *Applicant:* University of Massachusetts Medical Center, 55 Lake Avenue North, Worcester, MA 01605. *Instrument:* Spectrophotometer System, Model SF–61 DX2/X. *Manufacturer:* Hi-Tech Scientific, United Kingdom. *Intended Use:* The instrument will be used for studies of the glucose transport protein

of human erythrocytes and its interaction with sugars and inhibitory molecules. *Application accepted by Commissioner of Customs:* September 18, 1996.

Frank W. Creel,

Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff.

[FR Doc. 96–26647 Filed 10–16–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

National Institute of Standards and Technology

[Docket No. 960909249–6249–01]

RIN 0693–xx23

National Voluntary Conformity Assessment System Evaluation (NVCASE) Program

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: This is to advise the public that the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) received a letter dated July 24, 1996 from The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) requesting the development of a new program under the National Voluntary Conformity Assessment System Evaluation (NVCASE) Program to evaluate and recognize that organization as an accreditor of product certification bodies. The goal is to have pressure equipment tested and certified in the United States and have the results accepted in European Union (EU) member states on an equal basis as if performed in those countries under Council Directive 87/404/EEC with 90/488/EEC amendment.

DATES: Comments on this request must be received by January 2, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted in writing to Robert L. Gladhill, NVCASE Program Manager, NIST, Bldg. 820, Room 282, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, by fax at 301–963–2871, or E-mail robert.gladhill@nist.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert L. Gladhill, NVCASE Program Manager, at NIST, Bldg. 820, Room 282, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, by telephone at 301–975–4273 by fax at 301–963–2871 or by E-mail at robert.gladhill@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NVCASE procedures at 15 CFR Part 286 require NIST to seek public consultation when it receives such requests. This program involves a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. This collection is approved by the Office of Management and Budget under Control No. 0693–0019.

The Text of the Request follows:

July 24, 1996.

Mr. Robert L. Gladhill,
Program Manager, NVCASE Program,
NIST,
Bldg. 820, Room 282,
Gaithersburg, MD 20899.

Dear Mr. Gladhill: The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) is seeking recognition under NVCASE for our conformity assessment program for pressure equipment.

Since 1916, ASME has conducted conformity assessment programs for pressure equipment constructed in accordance with the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code. The Code provides rules for materials, design, fabrication, inspection, testing, quality control, certification, and marking of pressure equipment. Accredited manufacturers are authorized to use one or more of ASME's proprietary marks. Twenty-two marks are registered in the US and about the world.

In accordance with a 1972 Consent Decree with the United States government, ASME administers its accreditation programs uniformly about the world. There are more than 4000 accredited manufacturers in 55 countries. The ASME mark is required by law in most US States and all Canadian Provinces, and is used in 80 countries.

The following is the information you indicated was necessary for evaluation of our request:

Foreign Requirements: The corresponding foreign requirements are the European Union's directives for pressure equipment, specifically:

- Council Directive on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to simple pressure vessels (87/404/EEC with 90/488/EEC amendment).
- Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning pressure equipment (second reading and adoption scheduled for June 1996) ASME is participating in discussions regarding a mutual recognition agreement.

Industrial Sector: The industrial sector includes manufacturers of pressure equipment, including boilers, pressure vessels, piping, pressure relief devices, and materials. Manufacturers of machinery that incorporate these vessels are also affected.

The ASME accreditation program is utilized by the following US federal agencies:

- Department of Defense
- Department of Energy
- Department of Transportation
  —Coast Guard
  —Research and Special Programs Administration
- General Services Administration
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- Nuclear Regulatory Commission
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Program Area: The program includes both product and quality system certification.

Level of Recognition: ASME seeks recognition of its conformity assessment programs.

Recommended Criteria, Technical Requirements: The basic criteria for the program are the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code and ISO 9001. The corresponding European Union requirements are their Simple Pressure Vessel Directive and the Pressure Equipment Directive noted above.

Rationale: Currently, simple pressure vessels entering the EU must be CE marked. By mid 1997, there will be a similar requirement for pressure equipment. Authorization to affix the CE mark requires acceptance by an organization (notified body) which an EU Member State has appointed to carry out the conformity assessment activities. A notified body may subcontract certain technical aspects to a US organization, however, it may not subcontract initial assessment nor acceptance/approval.

Recognition of ASME as a competent technical body in the area of pressure equipment and conformity assessment would allow for mutual recognition agreements that would be of benefit to ASME Certificate Holders and companies that incorporate vessels into machinery. There are currently 3000 accredited companies in the US and 1100 in other countries.

Please let us know if any additional information is required at this time. We would also be willing to meet with you to discuss the process.

Sincerely,

David A. Wizda,

Director, Conformity Assessment.

Interested parties should respond in writing to the above address. All comments submitted will become part of the public record and will be available for inspection and copying at the U.S. Department of Commerce Central Records and Inspection Facility, Room 6020, Herbert C. Hoover Building, 14th and Constitution Avenue, Washington, DC 20230.

Dated: October 10, 1996.

Samuel Kramer,

Associate Director.

[FR Doc. 96–26643 Filed 10–16–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–13–M

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 100896B]

Small Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; U.S. Coast Guard

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