

original LTFV investigation, but the manufacturer is, the cash deposit rate will be the rate established for the most recent period for the manufacturer of the merchandise; (4) the cash deposit rate for all other manufacturers or exporters will continue to be 36.62 percent, the "All Others" rate in the LTFV investigation. These requirements, when imposed, shall remain in effect until publication of the final results of the next administrative review.

We will calculate importer-specific duty assessment rates as a per ton unit value for EP sales. To calculate the per ton unit value for assessment, we summed the margins on U.S. sales with positive margins, and then divided this sum by the total entered tonnage of all U.S. sales.

This notice serves as a preliminary reminder to importers of their responsibility under 19 CFR 353.26 to file a certificate regarding the reimbursement of antidumping duties prior to liquidation of the relevant entries during this review period. Failure to comply with this requirement could result in the Secretary's presumption that reimbursement of antidumping duties occurred and the subsequent assessment of double antidumping duties.

This administrative review and notice are published in accordance with section 751(a)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 353.22.

Dated: December 2, 1997.

Robert S. LaRussa,

Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 97-32064 Filed 12-5-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[C-412-811]

Certain Hot-Rolled Lead and Bismuth Carbon Steel Products From the United Kingdom; Preliminary Results of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review

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

ACTION: Notice of preliminary results of countervailing duty administrative review.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce is conducting an administrative review of the countervailing duty order on certain hot-rolled lead and bismuth carbon steel products from the United

Kingdom. The period covered by this administrative review is January 1, 1996 through December 31, 1996. For information on the net subsidy for each reviewed company, as well for all non-reviewed companies, please see the "Preliminary Results of Review" section of this notice. If the final results remain the same as these preliminary results of administrative review, we will instruct the U.S. Customs Service to assess countervailing duties as indicated in the "Preliminary Results of Review" section of this notice. Interested parties are invited to comment on these preliminary results.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 8, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Christopher Cassel, Suzanne King, or Dana Mermelstein, Office of CVD/AD Enforcement VI, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230; telephone: (202) 482-2786.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On March 22, 1993, the Department of Commerce (the Department) published in the **Federal Register** (58 FR 15327) the countervailing duty order on certain hot-rolled lead and bismuth carbon steel products from the United Kingdom. On March 7, 1997, the Department published a notice of "Opportunity to Request an Administrative Review" (62 FR 10521) of this countervailing duty order. We received a timely request for review from Inland Steel Bar Co., an interested party to this proceeding. We initiated the review, covering the period January 1, 1996, through December 31, 1996, on April 24, 1997 (62 FR 19988).

In accordance with 19 CFR 355.22(a), this review covers only those producers or exporters for which a review was specifically requested. Accordingly, this review covers British Steel Engineering Steels Holdings, British Steel Engineering Steels Limited, and British Steel plc.

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 (URAA) effective January 1, 1995 (the Act). The Department is conducting this administrative review in accordance with section 751(a) of the Act.

Scope of the Review

Imports covered by this review are hot-rolled bars and rods of non-alloy or

other alloy steel, whether or not descaled, containing by weight 0.03 percent or more of lead or 0.05 percent or more of bismuth, in coils or cut lengths, and in numerous shapes and sizes. Excluded from the scope of this review are other alloy steels (as defined by the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) Chapter 72, note 1(f)), except steels classified as other alloy steels by reason of containing by weight 0.4 percent or more of lead or 0.1 percent or more of bismuth, tellurium, or selenium. Also excluded are semi-finished steels and flat-rolled products. Most of the products covered in this review are provided for under subheadings 7213.20.00.00 and 7214.30.00.00 of the HTSUS. Small quantities of these products may also enter the United States under the following HTSUS subheadings: 7213.31.30.00, 60.00; 7213.39.00.30, 00.60, 00.90; 7214.40.00.10, 00.30, 00.50; 7214.50.00.10, 00.30, 00.50; 7214.60.00.10, 00.30, 00.50; and 7228.30.80. Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and for Customs purposes, our written description of the scope of this proceeding is dispositive.

Change in Ownership

(I) Background

On March 21, 1995, British Steel plc (BS plc) acquired all of Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds' (GKN) shares in United Engineering Steels (UES), the company which produced and exported the subject merchandise to the United States during the original investigation. Thus, UES became a wholly-owned subsidiary of BS plc and was renamed British Steel Engineering Steels (BSES).

Prior to this change in ownership, UES was a joint venture company formed in 1986 by British Steel Corporation (BSC), a government-owned company, and GKN. In return for shares in UES, BSC contributed a major portion of its Special Steels Business, the productive unit which produced the subject merchandise. GKN contributed its Brymbo Steel Works and its forging business to the joint venture. BSC was privatized in 1988 and now bears the name BS plc.

In the investigation of this case, the Department found that BSC had received a number of nonrecurring subsidies prior to the 1986 transfer of its Special Steels Business to UES. See *Final Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination: Certain Hot-Rolled Lead and Bismuth Carbon Steel Products From the United Kingdom*, 58 FR 6237, 6243 (January 27, 1993) (*Lead Bar*).

Further, the Department determined that the sale to UES did not alter these previously bestowed subsidies, and thus the portion of BSC's pre-1986 subsidies attributable to its Special Steels Business transferred to UES. *Lead Bar* at 6240.

In the 1993 certain steel products investigations, the Department modified the allocation methodology developed for *Lead Bar*. Specifically, the Department stated that it would no longer assume that all subsidies allocated to a productive unit follow it when it is sold. Rather, when a productive unit is spun-off or acquired, a portion of the sales price of the productive unit represents the reallocation of prior subsidies. See the General Issues Appendix (*GIA*), appended to the *Final Countervailing Duty Determination; Certain Steel Products From Austria*, 58 FR 37217, 37269 (July 9, 1993) (*Certain Steel*). In a subsequent Remand Determination, the Department aligned *Lead Bar* with the methodology set forth in the "Privatization" and "Restructuring" sections of the *GIA*. *Certain Hot-Rolled Lead and Bismuth Carbon Steel Products from the United Kingdom: Remand Determination* (October 12, 1993) (*Remand*).

(II) Analysis of BS plc's Acquisition of UES

On March 21, 1995, BS plc acquired 100 percent of UES. In determining how this change in ownership affects our attribution of subsidies to the subject merchandise, we relied on Section 771(5)(F) of the Act, which states that a change in ownership does not require a determination that past subsidies received by an enterprise are no longer countervailable, even if the transaction is accomplished at arm's length. The Statement of Administrative Action, H.R. Doc. No. 316, 103d Cong., 2d Sess. (1994) (SAA), explains that the aim of this provision is to prevent the extreme interpretation that the arm's length sale of a firm automatically, and in all cases, extinguishes any prior subsidies conferred. While the SAA indicates that the Department retains the discretion to determine whether and to what extent a change in ownership eliminates past subsidies, it also indicates that this discretion must be exercised carefully by considering the facts of each case. SAA at 928.

In accordance with the Act and the SAA, we examined the facts of BS plc's acquisition of GKN's shares of UES, and we determined that the change in ownership does not render previously bestowed subsidies attributable to UES no longer countervailable. However, we

also determined that a portion of the purchase price paid for UES is attributable to its prior subsidies. Therefore, we reduced the amount of the subsidies that "traveled" with UES to BS plc, taking into account the allocation of subsidies to GKN, the former joint-owner of UES. See *Certain Hot-Rolled Lead and Bismuth Carbon Steel Products From the United Kingdom: Final Results of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review*, 62 FR 53306 (October 14, 1997) (*Lead Bar 95 Final Results*) and *Certain Hot-Rolled Lead and Bismuth Carbon Steel Products From the United Kingdom: Preliminary Results of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review*, 62 FR 16555 (April 7, 1997) (*Lead Bar 95 Preliminary Results*). To calculate the amount of UES's subsidies that passed through to BS plc as a result of the acquisition, we applied the methodology described in the "Restructuring" section of the *GIA*. See *GIA*, 58 FR at 37268-37269. This determination is in accordance with our changes in ownership finding in *Final Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination; Pasta From Italy*, 61 FR 30288, 30289-30290 (June 14, 1996), and our finding in the 1994 administrative review of this case, in which we determined that "[t]he URAA is not inconsistent with and does not overturn the Department's *General Issues Appendix* methodology or its findings in the *Lead Bar Remand Determination*." *Certain Hot-Rolled Lead and Bismuth Carbon Steel Products From the United Kingdom: Final Results of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review*, 61 FR 58377, 58379 (November 14, 1996).

With the acquisition of UES, we also had to determine whether BS plc's remaining subsidies are attributable to the subject merchandise. Where the Department finds that a company has received untied countervailable subsidies, to determine the countervailing duty rate, the Department attributes those subsidies to that company's total sales of domestically produced merchandise, including the sales of 100-percent-owned domestic subsidiaries. If the subject merchandise is produced by a subsidiary company, and the only subsidies in question are the untied subsidies received by the parent company, the countervailing duty rate calculation for the subject merchandise is the same as described above. Similarly, if such a company purchases another company, as was the case with BS plc's purchase of UES, then the current benefit from the parent

company's allocable untied subsidies is attributed to total sales, including the sales of the newly acquired company. See, e.g., *GIA*, 58 FR at 3762 ("the Department often treats the parent entity and its subsidiaries as one when determining who ultimately benefits from a subsidy"); *Final Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determinations: Certain Steel Products from Germany*, 58 FR 37315 (July 9, 1993). Accordingly, in the *Lead Bar 95 Final Results*, we determined that it is appropriate to collapse BSES with BS plc for purposes of calculating the countervailing duty for the subject merchandise. BSES, as a wholly-owned subsidiary of BS plc, continues to benefit from the remaining benefit stream of BS plc's untied subsidies.

In collapsing UES with BS plc, we also determined that UES's untied subsidies "rejoined" BS plc's pool of subsidies with the company's 1995 acquisition. All of these subsidies were untied subsidies originally bestowed upon BSC (BS plc). After the formation of UES in 1986, the subsidies that "traveled" with the Special Steels Business were also untied, and were found to benefit UES as a whole. See *Lead Bar 95 Final Results; Lead Bar 95 Preliminary Results*.

(III) Calculation of Benefit

To calculate the countervailing duty rate for the subject merchandise in 1996, we first determined BS plc's benefits in 1996, taking into account all spin-offs of productive units (including the Special Steel Business) and BSC's full privatization in 1988. See *Final Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination; Certain Steel Products from the United Kingdom*, 58 FR 37393 (July 9, 1993) (*UK Certain Steel*). We then calculated the amount of UES's subsidies that "rejoined" BS plc after the 1995 acquisition, taking into account the reallocation of subsidies to GKN. See *Lead Bar 95 Final Results; Lead Bar 95 Preliminary Results*. As indicated above, in determining both these amounts, we followed the methodology outlined in the *GIA*. After adding BS plc's and UES's benefits for each program, we then divided that amount by BS plc's total sales of merchandise produced in the United Kingdom in 1996.

Allocation Methodology

In *British Steel plc v. United States*, 879 F. Supp. 1254 (CIT 1995), the U.S. Court of International Trade ruled against the Department's allocation methodology, which relied on U.S. Internal Revenue Service information on the industry specific average useful life

of assets for determining the allocation period for non-recurring subsidies. In accordance with the Court's remand order, the Department calculated a company-specific allocation period based on the AUL of non-renewable physical assets for BS plc. This allocation period was 18 years. This remand determination was affirmed by the Court on June 4, 1996. *British Steel plc v. United States*, 929 F. Supp. 426, 439 (CIT 1996).

The Department's acquiescence to the CIT's decision in the *Certain Steel* cases resulted in different allocation periods between the *UK Certain Steel* and *Lead Bar* proceedings (18 years vs. 15 years). Different allocation periods for the same subsidies in two proceedings involving the same company generate significant inconsistencies. Moreover, UES became a wholly-owned subsidiary of BS plc in 1995. In the 1995 review of *Lead Bar*, in order to maintain a consistent allocation period across the *UK Certain Steel* and *Lead Bar* proceedings, as well as in the different segments of *Lead Bar*, we altered the allocation methodology previously used to determine the allocation period for non-recurring subsidies previously bestowed on BSC and attributed to UES. In the 1995 review, we applied the company-specific 18-year allocation period to all non-recurring subsidies. See *Lead Bar 95 Final Results*. Based on our decision in the 1995 administrative review of this order, we preliminarily determine that it is appropriate in this review to continue to allocate all of BSC's non-recurring subsidies over BS plc's company-specific average useful life of renewable physical assets (i.e., 18 years).

Analysis of Programs

I. Programs Conferring Subsidies

(A) Equity Infusions

In each year from 1978/79 through 1985/86, BSC/BS plc received equity capital from the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to section 18(1) of the Iron and Steel Acts 1975, 1981, and 1982. According to section 18(1), the Secretary of State for the Department of Trade and Industry may "pay to the Corporation (BSC) such funds as he sees fit." The Government of the United Kingdom's equity investments in BSC/BS plc were made pursuant to an agreed external financing limit which was based upon medium-term financial projections. BSC's performance was monitored by the Government of the United Kingdom on an ongoing basis and requests for capital were examined on a case-by-case basis. The UK government did not receive any additional ownership, such as stock or

additional rights, in return for the capital provided to BSC/BS plc under section 18(1) since it already owned 100 percent of the company.

In *Lead Bar* (58 FR at 6241), the Department found BSC/BS plc to be unequityworthy from 78/79 through 1985/86, and thus determined that the Government of the United Kingdom's equity infusions were inconsistent with commercial considerations. Although, prior to the formation of UES, BSC's section 18(1) equity capital was written off in two stages (£3,000 million in 1981 and £1,000 million in 1982) as part of a capital reconstruction of BSC, the Department determined that BSC/BS plc benefitted from these equity infusions, notwithstanding the subsequent write-off of equity capital. Therefore, the Department countervailed the equity investments as grants given in the years the equity capital was received. No new information or evidence of changed circumstances was presented in this review to warrant a reconsideration of that finding.

Because the Department determined in *Lead Bar* that the infusions are non-recurring, we have allocated the benefits over BS plc's company-specific average useful life of renewable physical assets (18 years).

Although uncreditworthiness was not specifically alleged or investigated during the investigation on *lead bar*, in *UK Certain Steel* the Department found that BSC/BS plc was uncreditworthy from 1977/78 through 1985/86. 58 FR at 37395. No new information or evidence of changed circumstances was presented in this review to warrant a reconsideration of that finding. Therefore, we have used a discount rate which includes a risk premium to calculate the benefit from the grants. See, e.g., *Final Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determinations: Certain Steel Products From Mexico*, 58 FR 37352, 37354 (July 9, 1993) (*Mexican Steel*).

To calculate the benefit to the subject merchandise from this program, we first summed the benefit to BS plc from all infusions allocated to 1996. Then, we determined the portion of that benefit still remaining with BS plc after accounting for privatization and spin-offs. To that we added the portion of UES's subsidies under this program that "rejoined" BS plc with the acquisition. See the "Change in Ownership" section of the notice. We then divided the result by BS plc's total sales of merchandise produced in the United Kingdom in 1996. On this basis, we preliminarily determine the net subsidy for this program to be 4.69 percent *ad valorem* in 1996.

(B) Regional Development Grant Program

Regional development grants were paid to BSC/BS plc under the Industry Act of 1972 and the Industrial Development Act of 1982. In order to qualify for assistance under these two Acts, an applicant had to be engaged in manufacturing and located in an assisted area. Assisted areas are older, industrial regions identified as having deep-seated, long-term problems such as high levels of unemployment, migration, slow economic growth, derelict land, and obsolete factory buildings. Regional development grants were given for the purchase of specific assets. According to the Government of the United Kingdom, the program involved one-time grants, sometimes disbursed over several years.

BSC/BS plc received regional development grants during the period between fiscal years 1978/79 and 1985/86. The Department found this program countervailable in *Lead Bar* (58 FR at 6242), because it is limited to specific regions. No new information or evidence of changed circumstances was presented in this review to warrant a reconsideration of that finding.

In *Lead Bar*, we determined that, because each grant required a separate application, these grants are non-recurring. Accordingly, we have calculated the benefits from this program by allocating the benefits over BS plc's company-specific average useful life of renewable physical assets (18 years). Since BSC/BS plc was uncreditworthy from 1978/79 through 1985/86 (as discussed under the "Equity Infusions" section, above), we have used a discount rate which includes a risk premium (see *Mexican Steel*, 58 FR at 37354) to calculate the benefits from these grants.

To calculate the benefit from this program, we followed the methodology described above in the section on "Equity Infusions". On this basis, we preliminarily determine the net subsidy for this program to be 0.15 percent *ad valorem* in 1996.

(C) National Loan Funds Loan Cancellation

In conjunction with the 1981/1982 capital reconstruction of BSC, section 3(1) of the Iron and Steel Act of 1981 extinguished certain National Loans Fund (NLF) loans, as well as the interest accrued thereon, at the end of BSC's 1980/81 fiscal year. Because this loan cancellation was provided specifically to BSC, the Department determined in *Lead Bar* (58 FR at 6242) that it provided a countervailable benefit. No

new information or evidence of changed circumstances was presented in this review to warrant a reconsideration of that finding.

We calculated the benefit for this review using our standard methodology for non-recurring grants. We allocated the benefits from this loan cancellation over BS plc's company-specific average useful life of renewable physical assets (18 years). Because BSC/BS plc was found to be uncreditworthy in 1981/82 (as discussed under "Equity Infusions" section, above), we have used a discount rate which includes a risk premium. See *Mexican Steel*, 58 FR at 37354.

To calculate the benefit from this program, we followed the methodology described above in the section on "Equity Infusions". On this basis, we preliminarily determine the net subsidy for this program to be 0.44 percent *ad valorem* in 1996.

II. Programs Preliminarily Determined To Be Not Used

We examined the following programs and preliminarily find that the producers and/or exporters of the subject merchandise subject to this review did not apply for or receive benefits under these programs during the POR:

- (A) New Community Instrument Loans
- (B) ECSC Article 54 Loan Guarantees
- (C) NLF Loans
- (D) ECSC Conversion Loans
- (E) European Regional Development Fund Aid
- (F) Article 56 Rebates
- (G) Regional Selective Assistance
- (H) ECSC Article 56(b)(2) Redeployment Aid
- (I) Inner Urban Areas Act of 1978
- (J) LINK Initiative
- (K) European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) Article 54 Loans/Interest Rebates

III. Program Previously Determined To Be Terminated

Transportation Assistance

The Department found this program to be terminated in the 1995 administrative review of this countervailing duty order. See *Lead Bar 1995 Final Results*.

IV. Other Programs Examined

We also examined the following programs:

BRITE/EuRAM and Standards Measurement and Testing Program

BS plc received assistance under these two European Union programs to fund research and development. The European Union claimed that assistance

provided under both of these programs is non-countervailable in accordance with Article 8.2(a) of the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures and section 771(5B)(B) of the Act (which provide that certain research and development subsidies are not countervailable). We preliminarily determine that it is not necessary to determine whether BRITE/EuRAM and the Standards Measurement and Testing Program qualify for non-countervailable treatment because combined, the assistance provided under both of these programs would result in a rate of less than 0.005 percent *ad valorem*, and thus would have no impact on the overall countervailing duty rate calculated for this POR. For this same reason we have not conducted a specificity analysis of these programs. See, e.g., *Final Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination: Steel Wire Rod from Germany*, 62 FR 54990, 54995-54996 (October 22, 1997); *Certain Carbon Steel Products from Sweden; Final Results of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review*, 62 FR 16549 (April 7, 1997) and *Certain Carbon Steel Products from Sweden; Preliminary Results of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review*, 61 FR 64062, 64065 (December 3, 1996); *Final Negative Countervailing Duty Determination: Certain Laminated Hardwood Trailer Flooring ("LHF") From Canada*, 62 FR 5201 (February 4, 1997); *Industrial Phosphoric Acid From Israel; Final Results of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review*, 61 FR 53351 (October 11, 1996) and *Industrial Phosphoric Acid From Israel; Preliminary Results of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review*, 61 FR 28845 (June 6, 1996).

Preliminary Results of Review

In accordance with 19 CFR 355.22(c)(4)(ii), we have calculated an individual subsidy rate for each producer/exporter subject to this administrative review. As discussed in the "Change in Ownership" section of the notice, above, we are treating British Steel plc and British Steel Engineering Steels as one company for purposes of this proceeding. For the period January 1, 1996 through December 31, 1996, we preliminarily determine the net subsidy for British Steel plc/British Steel Engineering Steels (BS plc/BSES) to be 5.28 percent *ad valorem*. If the final results of this review remain the same as these preliminary results, the Department intends to instruct the U.S. Customs Service to assess countervailing duties for BS plc/BSES at 5.28 percent *ad valorem*. The Department also intends to instruct the

U.S. Customs Service to collect a cash deposit of 5.28 percent of the f.o.b. invoice price on all shipments of the subject merchandise from BS plc/BSES/UES, entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the date of publication of the final results of this review.

Because the URAA replaced the general rule in favor of a country-wide rate with a general rule in favor of individual rates for investigated and reviewed companies, the procedures for establishing countervailing duty rates, including those for non-reviewed companies, are now essentially the same as those in antidumping cases, except as provided for in section 777A(e)(2)(B) of the Act. The requested review will normally cover only those companies specifically named. See 19 CFR 355.22(a). Pursuant to 19 CFR 355.22(g), for all companies for which a review was *not* requested, duties must be assessed at the cash deposit rate, and cash deposits must continue to be collected, at the rate previously ordered. As such, the countervailing duty cash deposit rate applicable to a company can no longer change, except pursuant to a request for a review of that company. See *Federal-Mogul Corporation and The Torrington Company v. United States*, 822 F.Supp. 782 (CIT 1993) and *Floral Trade Council v. United States*, 822 F.Supp. 766 (CIT 1993) (interpreting 19 CFR 353.22(e), the antidumping regulation on automatic assessment, which is identical to 19 CFR 355.22(g)). Therefore, the cash deposit rates for all companies except those covered by this review will be unchanged by the results of this review.

We will instruct Customs to continue to collect cash deposits for non-reviewed companies at the most recent company-specific or country-wide rate applicable to the company. Accordingly, the cash deposit rates that will be applied to non-reviewed companies covered by this order are those established in the most recently completed administrative proceeding, conducted pursuant to the statutory provisions that were in effect prior to the URAA amendments. See *Certain Hot-Rolled Lead and Bismuth Carbon Steel Products from the United Kingdom; Final Results of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review*, 60 FR 54841 (October 26, 1995). These rates shall apply to all non-reviewed companies until a review of a company assigned these rates is requested. In addition, for the period January 1, 1996 through December 31, 1996, the assessment rates applicable to all non-reviewed companies covered by

this order are the cash deposit rates in effect at the time of entry.

Public Comment

Parties to the proceeding may request disclosure of the calculation methodology; interested parties may request a hearing not later than 10 days after the date of publication of this notice. Interested parties may submit written arguments in case briefs on these preliminary results within 30 days of the date of publication. Rebuttal briefs, limited to arguments raised in case briefs, may be submitted seven days after the time limit for filing the case brief. 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. Any hearing, if requested, will be held seven days after the scheduled date for submission of rebuttal briefs. Copies of case briefs and rebuttal briefs must be served on interested parties in accordance with 19 CFR 355.38.

Representatives of parties to the proceeding may request disclosure of proprietary information under administrative protective order no later than 10 days after the representative's client or employer becomes a party to the proceeding, but in no event later than the date the case briefs, under 19 CFR 355.38, are due. The Department will publish the final results of this administrative review including the results of its analysis of issues raised in any case or rebuttal brief or at a hearing.

This administrative review and notice are in accordance with section 751(a)(1) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1675(a)(1)).

Dated: December 1, 1997.

Robert S. LaRussa,

Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 97-32062 Filed 12-5-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

North American Free-Trade Agreement, Article 1904, NAFTA Panel Reviews; Request for Panel Review

AGENCY: NAFTA Secretariat, United States Section, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of First Request for Panel Review.

SUMMARY: On November 21, 1997, Ispat Sidbec Inc. filed a First Request for Panel Review with the United States

Section of the NAFTA Secretariat pursuant to Article 1904 of the North American Free Trade Agreement. A second request was also filed on November 21, 1997 on behalf of the Gouvernement du Quebec. Panel review was requested of the final countervailing duty determination made by the International Trade Administration, respecting Steel Wire Rod From Canada. This determination was published in 62 **Federal Register** 54972, on October 22, 1997. The NAFTA Secretariat has assigned Case Number USA-97-1904-08 to this request.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James R. Holbein, United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat, Suite 2061, 14th and Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20230, (202) 482-5438.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Chapter 19 of the North American Free-Trade Agreement ("Agreement") establishes a mechanism to replace domestic judicial review of final determinations in antidumping and countervailing duty cases involving imports from a NAFTA country with review by independent binational panels. When a Request for Panel Review is filed, a panel is established to act in place of national courts to review expeditiously the final determination to determine whether it conforms with the antidumping or countervailing duty law of the country that made the determination.

Under Article 1904 of the Agreement, which came into force on January 1, 1994, the Government of the United States, the Government of Canada and the Government of Mexico established *Rules of Procedure for Article 1904 Binational Panel Reviews* ("Rules"). These Rules were published in the **Federal Register** on February 23, 1994 (59 FR 8686).

A first Request for Panel Review was filed with the U.S. Section of the NAFTA Secretariat, pursuant to Article 1904 of the Agreement, on November 21, 1997, requesting panel review of the final countervailing duty determination described above.

The Rules provide that:

(a) A Party or interested person may challenge the final determination in whole or in part by filing a Complaint in accordance with Rule 39 within 30 days after the filing of the first Request for Panel Review (the deadline for filing a Complaint is December 22, 1997);

(b) A Party, investigating authority or interested person that does not file a Complaint but that intends to appear in support of any reviewable portion of the final determination may participate in

the panel review by filing a Notice of Appearance in accordance with Rule 40 within 45 days after the filing of the first Request for Panel Review (the deadline for filing a Notice of Appearance is January 5, 1998); and

(c) The panel review shall be limited to the allegations of error of fact or law, including the jurisdiction of the investigating authority, that are set out in the Complaints filed in the panel review and the procedural and substantive defenses raised in the panel review.

Dated: December 2, 1997.

James R. Holbein,

United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat.

[FR Doc. 97-31952 Filed 12-5-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-GT-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 120197B]

Marine Mammals; Scientific Research Permit No.782-1399

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

ACTION: Issuance of permit.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the National Marine Mammal Laboratory, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Bin C15700, Seattle, Washington 98115-0070, has been issued a permit to import and export marine mammal specimens for scientific purposes.

ADDRESSES: The permit and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment. (see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 7, 1997, notice was published in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 44251) that a request for a scientific research permit to import and export marine mammal specimen materials had been submitted by the above-named institution. The requested permit has been issued under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the regulations governing the taking, importing and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222.23), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).