

not disclose such information, either publicly or under an administrative protective order, without the written consent of the Assistant Secretary, Import Administration.

If our final determination is affirmative, the ITC will make its final determination within 75 days after the Department makes its final determination.

Public Comment

In accordance with 19 CFR 351.310, we will hold a public hearing, if requested, to afford interested parties an opportunity to comment on this preliminary determination. The hearing is tentatively scheduled to be held 62 days from the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** at the U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230. Individuals who wish to request a hearing must submit a written request within 30 days of the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** to the Assistant Secretary for Import Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 1870, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20230. Parties should confirm by telephone the time, date, and place of the hearing 48 hours before the scheduled time.

Requests for a public hearing should contain: (1) The party's name, address, and telephone number; (2) the number of participants; and, (3) to the extent practicable, an identification of the arguments to be raised at the hearing. In addition, six copies of the business proprietary version and six copies of the nonproprietary version of the case briefs must be submitted to the Assistant Secretary no later than 50 days from the date of publication of the preliminary determination. As part of the case brief, parties are encouraged to provide a summary of the arguments not to exceed five pages and a table of statutes, regulations, and cases cited. Six copies of the business proprietary version and six copies of the nonproprietary version of the rebuttal briefs must be submitted to the Assistant Secretary no later than 55 days from the date of publication of the preliminary determination. An interested party may make a hearing presentation only on arguments included in that party's case or rebuttal briefs. Written arguments should be submitted in accordance with 19 CFR 351.309 and will be considered if received within the time limits specified above.

This determination is published pursuant to sections 703(f) and 777(i) of the Act.

Dated: May 3, 1999.

Robert LaRussa,

Assistant Secretary for Import Administration

[FR Doc. 99-11887 Filed 5-10-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION

[C-423-809 (Belgium), C-475-823 (Italy), C-791-806 (South Africa)]

Notice of Amended Final Determinations: Stainless Steel Plate in Coils from Belgium and South Africa; and Notice of Countervailing Duty Orders: Stainless Steel Plate in Coils from Belgium, Italy and South Africa

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 11, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Zak Smith (Belgium), Cynthia Thirumalai (Italy) or Dana Mermelstein (South Africa), Office of AD/CVD Enforcement, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-0189, (202) 482-4087 and (202) 482-0984, respectively.

The Applicable Statute and Regulations

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). In addition, unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the Department's regulations are to the current regulations codified at 19 CFR part 351 (April 1998).

Scope of Orders

The product covered by these orders is certain stainless steel plate in coils. Stainless steel is an alloy steel containing, by weight, 1.2 percent or less of carbon and 10.5 percent or more of chromium, with or without other elements. The subject plate products are flat-rolled products, 254 mm or over in width and 4.75 mm or more in thickness, in coils, and annealed or otherwise heat treated and pickled or otherwise descaled. The subject plate may also be further processed (*e.g.*, cold-rolled, polished, *etc.*) provided that it maintains the specified dimensions of plate following such processing. Excluded from the scope of these orders are the following: (1) Plate not in coils,

(2) plate that is not annealed or otherwise heat treated and pickled or otherwise descaled, (3) sheet and strip, and (4) flat bars. In addition, certain cold-rolled stainless steel plate in coils is also excluded from the scope of these orders. The excluded cold-rolled stainless steel plate in coils is defined as that merchandise which meets the physical characteristics described above that has undergone a cold-reduction process that reduced the thickness of the steel by 25 percent or more, and has been annealed and pickled after this cold reduction process.

The merchandise subject to these orders is currently classifiable in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) at subheadings:

7219.11.00.30, 7219.11.00.60, 7219.12.00.05, 7219.12.00.20, 7219.12.00.25, 7219.12.00.50, 7219.12.00.55, 7219.12.00.65, 7219.12.00.70, 7219.12.00.80, 7219.31.00.10, 7219.90.00.10, 7219.90.00.20, 7219.90.00.25, 7219.90.00.60, 7219.90.00.80, 7220.11.00.00, 7220.20.10.10, 7220.20.10.15, 7220.20.10.60, 7220.20.10.80, 7220.20.60.05, 7220.20.60.10, 7220.20.60.15, 7220.20.60.60, 7220.20.60.80, 7220.90.00.10, 7220.90.00.15, 7220.90.00.60, and 7220.90.00.80.

Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the scope of the orders is dispositive.

Amended Final Determinations

Belgium

In accordance with section 705(d) of the Act, on March 31, 1999, the Department published its final determination in the countervailing duty investigation of stainless steel plate in coils from Belgium (64 FR 15567) (*Belgium Final*). Subsequently, on April 5, 1999, the petitioners submitted ministerial-error allegations.

The petitioners allege that the Department neglected to include all relevant years in its net present value calculation when calculating the benefit from the loan provided to Alfin, pursuant to the Industrial Reconversion Zone program. Furthermore, the petitioners allege that, when allocating the benefit from this loan, the Department did not use the proper discount rate. The respondent did not object to the petitioners' allegations. We agree with the petitioners on both counts and have made the necessary adjustments. On this basis, we determine the countervailable subsidy rate for this program to be 0.18 percent ad valorem.

South Africa

In accordance with section 705(d) of the Act, on March 31, 1999, the Department published its final determination in the countervailing duty investigation of stainless steel plate in coils from South Africa (64 FR 15553) (*South Africa Final*). Subsequently, on March 29, 1999, Columbus Stainless, the operating division of the Columbus Joint Venture (Columbus), and the petitioners alleged that the Department had made ministerial errors in calculating the estimated net countervailable subsidy rate. We disagree with Columbus that we made a ministerial error; Columbus' allegation constituted an argument for a methodological change. We agree with the petitioners that we made a ministerial error, and therefore we have made a correction in the calculations. This correction resulted in the estimated net countervailable subsidy rate attributable to the Section 37E program increasing from 3.84 percent ad valorem to 3.86 percent ad valorem. The ministerial-error allegations and the Department's analysis are detailed in an April 30, 1999, Memorandum to Bernard Carreau, Deputy Assistant Secretary for AD/CVD Enforcement II, from David Mueller, Director, Office CVD/AD Enforcement VI, RE: "Ministerial Error Allegations filed by Columbus Stainless and Petitioners in the Final Determination of the Countervailing Duty Investigation of *Certain Stainless Steel Wire Rod [sic] from South Africa*, a public version of which is on file in the Central Records Unit (Room B-099 of the Main Commerce Building). Thus, the total estimated net countervailable subsidy rate is 3.95 percent ad valorem for Columbus. This rate also serves as the "all others" rate. See *South Africa Final*, 64 FR at 15566.

Countervailing Duty Orders

In accordance with section 705(d) of the Act, on March 31, 1999, the Department published its final determinations in the countervailing duty investigations of certain stainless steel plate in coils from Belgium (64 FR 15567), Italy (64 FR 15508) and South Africa (64 FR 15553). On May 3, 1999, in accordance with section 705(d) of the Act, the International Trade Commission (ITC) notified the Department of its final determination, pursuant to section 705(b)(1)(A)(i) of the Act, that an industry in the United States suffered material injury as a result of subsidized imports of stainless steel plate in coils from Belgium, Italy and South Africa. In its final

determination, however, the ITC determined that two domestic like products exist for the merchandise covered by the Department's investigation: i) certain cold-rolled stainless steel plate in coils, as defined above, and ii) all other stainless steel plate in coils. The ITC determined pursuant to section 735(b)(1) that a domestic industry in the United States is not materially injured or threatened with material injury by reason of imports of certain cold-rolled stainless steel plate from Belgium and that imports of certain cold-rolled stainless steel plate in coils from Italy and South Africa were "negligible." Therefore, the ITC's affirmative determination of material injury covered all stainless steel plate in coils other than that specifically excluded under the "Scope of the Orders" section above. Accordingly, the scope of the countervailing duty orders has been amended as described above to reflect the ITC's distinction between cold-rolled and all other stainless steel plate in coils.

Therefore, countervailing duties will be assessed on all unliquidated entries of stainless steel plate in coils from Belgium, Italy and South Africa entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after September 9, 1998, the date on which the Department published its preliminary countervailing duty determinations in the **Federal Register**, and before January 2, 1999, the date the Department instructed the U.S. Customs Service to terminate the suspensions of liquidation in accordance with section 703(d) of the Act, and on all entries and withdrawals on or after the date of publication of these countervailing duty orders in the **Federal Register**. Section 703(d) states that the suspension of liquidation pursuant to a preliminary determination may not remain in effect for more than four months. Entries of stainless steel plate in coils made on or after January 2, 1999, and prior to the date of publication of these orders in the **Federal Register** are not liable for the assessment of countervailing duties due to the Department's termination, effective January 2, 1999, of the suspensions of liquidation.

In accordance with section 706 of the Act, the Department will direct U.S. Customs officers to reinstitute the suspensions of liquidation and to assess, upon further advice by the Department pursuant to section 706(a)(1) of the Act, countervailing duties for each entry of the subject merchandise in an amount based on the net countervailable subsidy rate for the subject merchandise.

On or after the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**, U.S. Customs officers must require, at the same time as importers would normally deposit estimated duties on this merchandise, a cash deposit equal to the countervailable subsidy rates noted below. The All Others rates apply to all producers and exporters of stainless steel plate in coils from Belgium, Italy and South Africa not specifically listed below. The cash deposit rates are as follows:

AD VALOREM RATES

Producer/exporter	Net subsidy rate
Belgium:	
ALZ	2.00 percent.
All Others	2.00 percent.
ItalyNet	
Acciai Speciali Terni	15.16 percent.
All Others	15.16 percent.
South Africa:	
Columbus Stainless (the operating division of the Columbus Joint Venture).	3.95 percent.
All Others	3.95 percent.

This notice constitutes the countervailing duty orders with respect to stainless steel plate in coils from Belgium, Italy and South Africa, pursuant to section 706(a) of the Act. Interested parties may contact the Central Records Unit, Room B-099 of the Main Commerce Building, for copies of an updated list of countervailing duty orders currently in effect.

These countervailing duty orders and amended finals are published in accordance with section 706(a) and 705 of the Act and 19 CFR 351.211 and 351.224.

Dated: May 5, 1999.

Robert S. LaRossa

Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 990408090-9090-01; I.D. 022399C]

RIN 0648-ZA63

Halibut and Sablefish Fisheries Quota-Share Loan Program; Final Program Notice and Announcement of Availability of Federal Financial Assistance

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and