

**Preliminary Results of Review**

We preliminarily determine that the following dumping margin exists:

Manufacturer/exporter	Time period	Margin (percent)
Zhejiang Wanxin Group Co., Ltd. ....	10/01/97–09/30/98	0.00

Within 5 days of the date of publication of this notice, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.224, the Department will disclose its calculations. Any interested party may request a hearing within 30 days of publication of this notice. Any hearing, if requested, will be held approximately 37 days after the publication of this notice. Interested parties may submit written comments (case briefs) within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice. Rebuttal comments (rebuttal briefs), which must be limited to issues raised in the case briefs, may be filed not later than 35 days after the date of publication. The Department will publish a notice of the final results of this administrative review, which will include the results of its analysis of issues raised by the parties, within 120 days of publication of these preliminary results.

The Department shall determine, and the Customs Service shall assess, antidumping duties on all appropriate entries. If there is no change in the margin for the final results, we will instruct Customs to liquidate the entries made during the POR without regard to antidumping duties. The Department will issue appraisal instructions directly to the U.S. Customs Service.

Furthermore, the following cash deposit requirements will be effective upon publication of the final results of this administrative review for all shipments of HSLWs from the PRC entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the publication date, as provided for by section 751(a)(2)(C) of the Act: (1) for ZWG, which has a separate rate, the cash deposit rate will be the company-specific rate established in the final results of this administrative review; (2) for all other PRC exporters, the cash deposit rate will be the PRC rate, which is 128.63 percent, which is the All Other PRC Manufacturers, Producers and Exporters rate from the *Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Certain Helical Spring Lock Washers from the PRC*, 58 FR 48833 (September 20, 1993); and (3) for non-PRC exporters of subject merchandise from the PRC, the cash deposit rate will be the rate applicable to the PRC supplier of that exporter.

These deposit rates, when imposed, shall remain in effect until publication of the final results of the next administrative review.

This notice also serves as a preliminary reminder to importers of their responsibility under 19 CFR 351.402(f) 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 doubled antidumping duties.

This administrative review and notice are in accordance with sections 751(a)(1) and 777(i)(1) of the Act.

Dated: July 6, 1999.

**Robert S. LaRussa,**

*Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.*

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**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****International Trade Administration****Secretary Daley's Trade Mission To The Middle East**

**AGENCY:** International Trade Administration, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of trade mission to the Middle East.

**SUMMARY:** This notice serves to inform the public of a Secretarial Trade Mission to the Middle East, October 9–18, 1999, and of the opportunity to apply for participation in the mission; sets forth objectives, procedures, and participation criteria for the mission; and requests applications.

**DATES:** Applications should be submitted to Lucie Naphin by August 18, 1999, in order to ensure sufficient time to obtain in-country appointments for applicants selected to participate in the mission. Applications received after that date will be considered only if space and scheduling constraints permit. The mission is scheduled to travel to Egypt, Israel, the West Bank,

Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

**ADDRESSES:** Request for and submission of applications—Applications are available from Lucie Naphin, Director of the office of Business Liaison, at (202) 482-1360 or via facsimile at (202) 482-4054. Numbers listed in this notice are not toll-free. An original and two copies of the required application materials should be sent to Ms. Naphin.

Applications sent by facsimile must be immediately followed by submission of the original application to Ms. Naphin at the following address: Office of Business Liaison, Room 5062, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Ave, N.W. Washington, DC 20230.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lucie Naphin at (202) 482-1360.

Information is also available via the International Trade Administration's (ITA) Internet home page at: "http://www.ita.doc.gov"

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Trade Mission Description**

Secretary of Commerce William M. Daley will lead two trade missions to the Middle East in October, 1999. He will lead a business development mission to Egypt, Israel, Gaza/West Bank, and Jordan October 9–15, 1999 and a business development mission to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) October 15–18, 1999.

*Egypt, Israel, Gaza/West Bank, and Jordan*

In Jordan, Israel, Gaza/West Bank, and Egypt, the focus of the mission will be on commercial opportunities presented by the liberalization of these countries' economies and the privatization of key industry sectors. The delegation will include 10–15 U.S. company executives of large, medium and small firms representing the following key sectors: information technology, including computer hardware, software development, and telecommunications; energy; environmental technologies; agribusiness, including food processing and fertilizers; health care; tourism, including hotel construction and management; and insurance and banking.

This mission will reaffirm the U.S. Government's support for the commercial aspects of the peace process, a top foreign and commercial priority.

#### *Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates*

In Saudi Arabia and the U.A.E., the focus of the mission will also be on commercial opportunities presented by the liberalization of these countries' economies and the privatization of key industry sectors. The delegation will include 10–15 U.S. company executives of large, medium and small firms representing the following key sectors of: energy, including power generation, and oil and gas exploration and development; information technology, including computer hardware, software development, and telecommunications; environmental technologies; agribusiness; and health care.

This mission will include advocacy for major commercial projects, including the recent interest expressed by Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah in attracting greater U.S. private sector participation in the Saudi energy sector.

#### *Timetable*

The mission will depart Washington on October 8. A delegation will visit Jordan, Israel, Gaza/West Bank, and Egypt October 9–15, and a second delegation will visit Saudi Arabia and the U.A.E. October 15–18.

#### **Commercial Setting**

##### *Egypt, Israel, Gaza/West Bank, and Jordan*

The Government of Egypt has embarked on a significant economic reform program which has made Egypt an attractive emerging market. Egypt plans to privatize much of its power sector, roads, airports, ports, cement companies, and water supply. Egypt has also passed legislation allowing 100 percent foreign ownership of banks and insurance companies. Egypt is seeking U.S. firms for the mobile phone market. Egypt is also interested in U.S. environmental and agricultural export technologies. An increasing number of American firms are looking at Egypt for possible exports and to establish their regional marketing and manufacturing centers there. Egypt is our third largest market in the Middle East with exports totaling \$3 billion in 1998.

As our second largest market in the Middle East, Israel offers major export and investment opportunities in environmental technologies, information technologies, and the medical field. Israel has the highest

number of high-technology start-ups per capita in the world, and is seeking joint ventures with U.S. firms; eight U.S. state governments have offices in Israel to take advantages of these opportunities. U.S. exports to Israel in 1998 were valued at \$7 billion.

Gaza/West Bank benefits from the Duty Free Proclamation, which allows U.S. products to be traded free of tariffs with the Palestinian Authority. U.S. firms also have the opportunity to use industrial facilities at the newly launched industrial park, the Gaza Industrial Estate. The Palestinian business community has long sought to encourage greater U.S. private sector participation in their market, and is eager to serve as agents and distributors for, as well as joint venture partners with, American firms. Telecommunications, tourism, and franchising in a wide range of areas, including food and office products, are particularly promising sectors for U.S. business.

The Jordanian Government has made new commitments to privatize key industries, including telecommunications. The Government has also recently announced that the Aqaba railway will be privatized by a consortium, led by U.S. companies. Moreover, the United States, Jordan, and Israel have instituted several Qualifying Industrial Zones in Jordan, which allow goods to enter the United States free of duties and quotas on a reciprocal basis. The U.S. Government also has a number of aid programs in Jordan that offer export opportunities to U.S. companies in infrastructure and environmental technologies.

##### *Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates*

Saudi Arabia is the largest U.S. market in the Middle East, with \$10.5 billion in exports in 1998. Recent increases in oil prices have improved the Saudis' ability to purchase goods and services. Saudi Arabia is particularly interested in U.S. firms in energy, telecommunications, environmental technologies, and medical services and equipment. Saudi Arabia is moving forward to develop much of its natural gas potential for the first time.

The United Arab Emirates, which has made great strides in diversifying its economy, represents a booming economy. The U.A.E. is interested in environmental technologies, medical fields, and telecommunications, among other sectors. Last year, the U.A.E. imported \$2.4 billion in U.S. products. In 1997, Secretary Daley visited Abu Dhabi and Dubai in the U.A.E. following

his participation in the Middle East/North Africa Economic Conference in Doha, Qatar.

New commercial opportunities will develop as a result of growing interest in privatization, which is already occurring in the U.A.E.'s power sector and is proposed for the same sector in Saudi Arabia, as well as additional sectors in both countries. In addition, expanding private sector opportunities is a major emphasis of the U.S.-Gulf Cooperation Council Economic Dialogue and the policies of those two key members of the GCC.

#### **Goals for the Missions**

The Secretary's missions to the Middle East will advance specific business interests of the mission members by introducing them to key host government decisionmaking officials and to potential business partners. U.S. companies participating on the missions who are already established in the region will increase their visibility, and new-to-market firms will be able to gain a foothold in these very competitive markets. In addition, the Secretary will support the U.S. Government's efforts to reduce market access problems encountered by American firms in these markets.

The Secretary also will encourage continued progress in economic reforms in each of these stops. These reforms have been the focus of the Gore-Mubarak Economic Partnership, the U.S.-GCC Economic Dialogue, the U.S.-Jordanian Bilateral Economic Committee, and the U.S.-Palestinian Bilateral Committee. The Secretary will also co-chair the semi-annual meeting of the U.S.-Israel Science and Technology Commission.

#### **Mission Scenarios**

At each stop, American Embassy officials will provide a detailed briefing on the economic and commercial climate, and the status of regional economic and commercial cooperation. Meetings will be arranged with appropriate government ministers and other senior level government officials. In addition, private meetings will be scheduled with potential buyers, agents/distributors, and/or joint venture or investment partners.

The Secretary will meet with senior government officials as well as his trade counterparts to encourage free market reforms beneficial to the U.S. private sector. The Secretary will also urge host government officials to eliminate market access problems encountered by American firms and to take steps to liberalize their trade and investment

regimes. He will also meet with resident American business representatives.

### Criteria for Participation of Companies

The recruitment and selection of private sector participants for these missions will be conducted according to the Statement of Policy governing Department of Commerce-led trade missions announced by Secretary Daley on March 3, 1997. Participants will be selected separately for each mission and applicants should complete and submit an application for each mission. Approximately 10–15 companies will be selected for each mission. Companies may apply for the one or both of the missions. Selection for one mission does not confer priority for selection for the other mission.

### Eligibility

Participating companies must be incorporated in the United States. A company is eligible to participate only if the products and/or services that it will promote (a) are manufactured or produced in the United States; or (b) if manufactured or produced outside the United States, are marketed under the name of a U.S. firm and have U.S. content representing at least 51 percent of the value of the finished good or service. (At the discretion of the Department, which will generally be exercised on a mission-specific and sector-by-sector basis, the 51 percent U.S. content requirement may be modified or waived.)

### Selection Criteria

Companies will be selected for participation on each mission on the basis of:

- Level of seniority of designated company representatives and appropriateness of the company to the mission objectives;
- Relevance of a company's business and product line to the sectors identified below;
- Past, present, and prospective business activity in the region; and
- Diversity of company size, type, location, demographics, and traditional under-representation in business.

In addition, the Department may consider whether the company's overall business objectives, including those of any U.S. or overseas affiliates, are fully consistent with the mission's foreign and commercial policy objectives.

Companies for the Egypt, Israel, Gaza/ West Bank, and Jordan business development mission will be drawn from several sectors including, but not limited to:

- Information technology, including computer hardware, software development, and telecommunications;
- Environmental technologies, including waste treatment and water development;
- Agribusiness and food processing, farm machinery, fertilizers;
- Tourism, including hotel construction and management, resort development, and entertainment;
- Insurance and banking;
- Medical services and equipment; and
- Franchising.

Companies for the Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates business development mission will be drawn from several sectors, including, but not limited to:

- Energy, including power generation, and oil and gas exploration and development;
- Information technology, including computer hardware, software development, and telecommunications;
- Environmental technologies;
- Agribusiness; and
- Medical services and equipment.

An applicant's partisan political activities (including political contributions) are irrelevant to the selection process.

### Time Frame For Applications

Applications for the Middle East trade missions will be made available beginning on or about July 13, 1999. Companies/participants may apply to one or both trade missions, however, separate applications will be required for each trade mission. The fees to participate in these missions have not yet been determined. The fees will not cover travel or lodging expenses. For additional information on these trade missions or to obtain an application for either or both, business persons should be referred to Lucie Naphin, Director of the Office of Business Liaison, or Jennifer Andberg, Office of Business Liaison, at 202–482–1360. Applications should be submitted to Lucie Naphin by August 18, 1999, in order to ensure sufficient time to obtain in-country appointments for applicants selected to participate in the mission. Applications received after that date will be considered only if space and scheduling constraints permit.

**Authority:** 15 U.S.C. 1512.

Dated: July 7, 1999.

**Thomas Parker,**

*Director, Office of the Near East, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Institute of Standards and Technology

#### [Notice 2]

### National Fire Codes: Request for Proposals for Revision of Codes and Standards

**AGENCY:** National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is publishing this notice for the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) as a public service. NIST does not necessarily endorse, approve, or recommend any of the standards referenced in the notice.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) proposes to revise some of its fire safety codes and standards and requests proposals from the public to amend existing NFPA fire safety codes and standards. The purpose of this request is to increase public participation in the system used by NFPA to develop its codes and standards.

**DATES:** Interested persons may submit proposals on or before the dates listed with the standards.

**ADDRESSES:** Casey C. Grant, Secretary, Standards Council, NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, Massachusetts 02269–9101.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Casey C. Grant, Secretary, Standards Council, at the above address, (617) 770–3000.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Background

The NFPA develops fire safety codes and standards which are known collectively as the "National Fire Codes." Federal agencies frequently use these codes and standards as the basis for developing Federal regulations concerning fire safety. Often, the Office of the Federal Register approves the incorporation by reference of these standards under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR Part 51.