petitioner claimed that U.S. import statistics reveal that 2,658 tons of subject merchandise were imported into the U.S. during the POR and that 154 tons of Argentine OCTG were entered for consumption during the POR. The petitioner asked the Department to investigate these entries, and to require Siderca to provide detailed freight, customs, and value information for these shipments.

In its November 20, 1998 response to petitioner's allegation of consumption entries, Siderca indicated that it made no U.S. sales or consumption entries during the POR. Siderca claimed that all of its shipments to the United States were general, non-consumption entries (*e.g.*, FTZ entries), and were destined for re-export. Siderca noted that the 154 ton consumption entry cited by the petitioner is an entry of nonseamless (welded) oil well tubing classified under HTSUS item 7306.20.60.50. Because Siderca does not produce nonseamless material, the consumption entry could not possibly be a Siderca product.

On November 13, 1998, the Department requested additional information from Customs regarding the consumption entry cited by the petitioner. Customs subsequently confirmed that the entry was in fact a consumption entry, but was not merchandise produced or exported by Siderca. Customs confirmed that there were no consumption entries of Argentine OCTG produced or exported by Siderca, and that all of Siderca's shipments of OCTG to the United States during the POR were either under a temporary import bond for re-export to third countries, or through a foreign trade zone to be further processed and then re-exported, and therefore not subject to antidumping duties. (*See* Memo to the File, January 6, 1999). Based on the foregoing, there is no evidence that Siderca made any U.S. consumption entries of Argentine OCTG during the POR. The Department therefore determines that no subject merchandise produced or exported by Siderca was entered into the United States for consumption during the POR and, thus, there are no entries subject to the review.

Because Siderca was the only firm for which a review was requested and it had no U.S. entries for consumption of covered merchandise during the POR, there is no basis for continuing this administrative review. We therefore are rescinding this review in accordance with section 351.213(d)(3) of the Department's regulations. The cash deposit rate for all firms will continue to be the rate established in the most recently completed segment of this proceeding (*i.e.*, 1.36 percent).

This administrative review and notice are in accordance with section 751(a)(1) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1675(a)(1)) and 19 CFR 351.221.

Dated: January 21, 1999.

Joseph A. Spetrini,

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Enforcement Group III.

[FR Doc. 99–1894 Filed 1–26–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A–583–830]

Notice of Amended Preliminary Determination of Sales at Not Less Than Fair Value: Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip in Coils From Taiwan

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

ACTION: Amended preliminary determination of antidumping duty investigation.

SUMMARY: On January 4, 1999, the Department of Commerce (''the Department'') published the preliminary determination of its antidumping duty investigation of stainless steel sheet and strip in coils (''SSSS'') from Taiwan. This investigation covers four respondents, Yieh United Steel Corporation (''YUSCO''), Tung Mung Development Co., Ltd. (''Tung Mung''), Chang Mien Industries, Co., Ltd. (''Chang Mien''), and Ta Chen Stainless Steel Pipe, Ltd. and Ta Chen International (collectively ''Ta Chen'').

YUSCO submitted a ministerial error allegation on January 5, 1999 with respect to the preliminary determination. Based on the correction of these ministerial errors made in the preliminary determination, we are amending our preliminary determination. *See* 19 CFR 351.224(e). As a result of the correction, the Department preliminarily determines that sales have not been made at less than fair value with respect to stainless steel sheet and strip in coils from Taiwan.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 27, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gideon Katz or Rick Johnson, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230; telephone: (202) 482–5255 and (202) 482–3818, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Applicable Statute and Regulations

Unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), are references to the provisions effective January 1, 1995, the effective date of the amendments made to the Act by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act. In addition, unless otherwise indicated, all references to the Department's regulations are to the regulations set forth at 19 CFR part 351.

Significant Ministerial Errors

We are amending the preliminary determination of sales at less than fair value for SSSS from Taiwan to reflect the correction of significant ministerial errors made in the margin calculations regarding YUSCO in that determination, pursuant to 19 CFR 224(g)(1) and (2). A significant ministerial error is defined as a correction which, singly or in combination with other errors, (1) would result in a change of at least 5 absolute percentage points in, but not less than 25 percent of, the weighted average dumping margin calculated in the original (erroneous) preliminary determination; or (2) would result in a difference between a weighted-average dumping margin of zero or de minimis and a weighted-average dumping margin of greater than de minimis or vice versa. We are publishing this amendment to the preliminary determination pursuant to 19 CFR 351.224(e).

Scope of the Investigation

For purposes of this investigation, the products covered are certain stainless steel sheet and strip 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 sheet and strip is a flat-rolled product in coils that is greater than 9.5 mm in width and less than 4.75 mm in thickness, and that is annealed or otherwise heat treated and pickled or otherwise descaled. The subject sheet and strip may also be further processed (*e.g.*, cold-rolled, polished, aluminized, coated, *etc.*) provided that it maintains the specific dimensions of sheet and strip following such processing.

The merchandise subject to this investigation is classified in the *Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States* (''HTSUS'') at subheadings: 7219.13.00.30, 7219.13.00.50, 7219.13.00.70, 7219.13.00.80, 7219.14.00.30, 7219.14.00.65, 7219.14.00.90, 7219.32.00.05, 7219.32.00.20, 7219.32.00.25, 7219.32.00.35,

7219.32.00.36, 7219.32.00.38, 7219.32.00.42, 7219.32.00.44, 7219.33.00.05, 7219.33.00.20, 7219.33.00.25, 7219.33.00.35, 7219.33.00.36, 7219.33.00.38, 7219.33.00.42, 7219.33.00.44, 7219.34.00.05, 7219.34.00.20, 7219.34.00.25, 7219.34.00.30, 7219.34.00.35, 7219.35.00.05, 7219.35.00.15, 7219.35.00.30, 7219.35.00.35, 7219.90.00.10, 7219.90.00.20, 7219.90.00.25, 7219.90.00.60, 7219.90.00.80, 7220.12.10.00, 7220.12.50.00, 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, 7220.20.70.05, 7220.20.70.10, 7220.20.70.15, 7220.20.70.60, 7220.20.70.80, 7220.20.80.00, 7220.20.90.30, 7220.20.90.60, 7220.90.00.10, 7220.90.00.15, 7220.90.00.60, and 7220.90.00.80. Although the HTS subheadings are provided for convenience and Customs purposes, the Department's written description of the merchandise under investigation is dispositive.

Excluded from the scope of this investigation are the following: (1) Sheet and strip that is not annealed or otherwise heat treated and pickled or otherwise descaled; (2) sheet and strip that is cut to length; (3) plate (*i.e.*, flat-rolled stainless steel products of a thickness of 4.75 mm or more); (4) flat wire (*i.e.*, cold-rolled sections, with a prepared edge, rectangular in shape, of a width of not more than 9.5 mm); and (5) razor blade steel. Razor blade steel is a flat rolled product of stainless steel, not further worked than cold-rolled (cold-reduced), in coils, of a width of not more than 23 mm and a thickness of 0.266 mm or less, containing, by weight, 12.5 to 14.5 percent chromium, and certified at the time of entry to be used in the manufacture of razor blades. *See* Chapter 72 of the HTSUS, ''Additional U.S. Note'' 1(d).

In response to comments by interested parties the Department has determined that certain specialty stainless steel products are also excluded from the scope of this investigation. These excluded products are described below:

Flapper valve steel is excluded. It is defined as stainless steel strip in coils containing, by weight, between 0.37 and 0.43 percent carbon, between 1.15 and 1.35 percent molybdenum, and between 0.20 and 0.80 percent manganese. This steel also contains, by weight, phosphorus of 0.025 percent or less, silicon of between 0.20 and 0.50 percent, and sulfur of 0.020 percent or less. The product is manufactured by means of vacuum arc remelting, with inclusion controls for sulphide of no more than 0.04 percent and for oxide of no more than 0.05 percent. Flapper valve steel has a tensile strength of between 210 and 300 ksi, yield strength of between 170 and 270 ksi, plus or minus 8 ksi, and a hardness (Hv) of between 460 and 590. Flapper valve steel is most commonly used to produce specialty flapper valves in compressors.

Also excluded is a product referred to as suspension foil, a specialty steel product used in the manufacture of suspension assemblies for computer disk drives. Suspension foil is described as 302/304 grade or 202 grade stainless steel of a thickness between 14 and 127 microns, with a thickness tolerance of plus-or-minus 2.01 microns, and surface glossiness of 200 to 700 percent Gs. Suspension foil must be supplied in coil widths of not more than 407 mm, and with a mass of 225 kg or less. Roll marks may only be visible on one side, with no scratches of measurable depth. The material must exhibit residual stresses of 2 mm maximum deflection, and flatness of 1.6 mm over 685 mm length.

Certain stainless steel foil for automotive catalytic converters also is excluded from the scope of this investigation. This stainless steel strip in coils is a specialty foil with a thickness of between 20 and 110 microns used to produce a metallic substrate with a honeycomb structure for use in automotive catalytic converters. The steel contains, by weight, carbon of no more than 0.030 percent, silicon of no more than 1.0 percent, manganese of no more than 1.0 percent, chromium of between 19 and 22 percent, aluminum of no less than 5.0 percent, phosphorus of no more than 0.045 percent, sulfur of no more than 0.03 percent, lanthanum of between 0.002 and 0.05 percent, and total rare earth elements of more than 0.06 percent, with the balance iron.

Permanent magnet iron-chromium-cobalt alloy stainless strip also is excluded from the scope of this investigation. This ductile stainless steel strip contains, by weight, 26 to 30 percent chromium, and 7 to 10 percent cobalt, with the remainder of iron, in widths 228.6 mm or less, and a thickness between 0.127 and 1.270 mm. It exhibits magnetic remanence between 9,000 and 12,000 gauss, and a coercivity of between 50 and 300 oersteds. This product is most commonly used in electronic sensors and is currently available under proprietary trade names such as ''Arnokrome III.'' [1]

Certain electrical resistance alloy steel also is excluded from the scope of this investigation. This product is defined as a non-magnetic stainless steel manufactured to American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM) specification B344 and containing, by weight, 36 percent nickel, 18 percent chromium, and 46 percent iron, and is most notable for its resistance to high temperature corrosion. It has a melting point of 1390 degrees Celsius and displays a creep rupture limit of 4 kilograms per square millimeter at 1000 degrees Celsius. This steel is most commonly used in the production of heating ribbons for circuit breakers and industrial furnaces, and in rheostats for railway locomotives. The product is currently available under proprietary trade names such as ''Gilphy 36.'' [2]

Certain martensitic precipitation-hardenable stainless steel also is excluded from the scope of this investigation. This high-strength, ductile stainless steel product is designated under the Unified Numbering System (UNS) as S45500-grade steel, and contains, by weight, 11 to 13 percent chromium, and 7 to 10 percent nickel. Carbon, manganese, silicon and molybdenum each comprise, by weight, 0.05 percent or less, with phosphorus and sulfur each comprising, by weight, 0.03 percent or less. This steel has copper, niobium, and titanium added to achieve aging, and will exhibit yield strengths as high as 1700 Mpa and ultimate tensile strengths as high as 1750 Mpa after aging, with elongation percentages of 3 percent or less in 50 mm. It is generally provided in thicknesses between 0.635 and 0.787 mm, and in widths of 25.4 mm. This product is most commonly used in the manufacture of television tubes and is currently available under proprietary trade names such as ''Durphynox 17.'' [3]

Finally, three specialty stainless steels typically used in certain industrial blades and surgical and medical instruments also are excluded from the scope of this investigation. These include stainless steel strip in coils used in the production of textile cutting tools (*e.g.*, carpet knives).[4] This steel is similar to ASTM grade 440F, but containing, by weight, 0.5 to 0.7 percent of molybdenum. The steel also contains, by weight, carbon of between 1.0 and 1.1 percent, sulfur of 0.020 percent or less, and includes between 0.20 and 0.30 percent copper and between 0.20 and 0.50 percent cobalt. This steel is

[1] ''Arnokrome III'' is a trademark of the Arnold Engineering Company.

[2] ''Gilphy 36'' is a trademark of Imphy, S.A.

[3] ''Durphynox 17'' is a trademark of Imphy, S.A.

[4] This list of uses is illustrative and provided for descriptive purposes only.

sold under proprietary names such as ''GIN4 Mo.'' The second excluded stainless steel strip in coils is similar to AISI 420–J2 and contains, by weight, carbon of between 0.62 and 0.70 percent, silicon of between 0.20 and 0.50 percent, manganese of between 0.45 and 0.80 percent, phosphorus of no more than 0.025 percent and sulfur of no more than 0.020 percent. This steel has a carbide density on average of 100 carbide particles per square micron. An example of this product is ''GIN5'' steel. The third specialty steel has a chemical composition similar to AISI 420 F, with carbon of between 0.37 and 0.43 percent, molybdenum of between 1.15 and 1.35 percent, but lower manganese of between 0.20 and 0.80 percent, phosphorus of no more than 0.025 percent, silicon of between 0.20 and 0.50 percent, and sulfur of no more than 0.020 percent. This product is supplied with a hardness of more than Hv 500 guaranteed after customer processing, and is supplied as, for example, ''GIN6''.[5]

Period of Investigation

The period of investigation (''POI'') is April 1, 1997 through March 31, 1998.

Background

On January 4, 1999, the Department published in the **Federal Register** its notice of preliminary determination of the antidumping duty investigation of SSSS from Taiwan (*Notice of Preliminary Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip in Coils from Taiwan* (64 FR 101 (January 4, 1999)). We preliminarily calculated a dumping margin of 2.93 percent based on YUSCO's sales.

YUSCO

On January 5, 1999, YUSCO submitted a timely written allegation that the Department made two ministerial errors which resulted in a *de minimis* weighted average dumping margin. YUSCO alleged that the Department erred by failing to convert U.S. billing adjustments and warranty expenses reported in New Taiwan Dollars (NTD) into U.S. dollars.

We agree with YUSCO that we inadvertently failed to convert these expenses into U.S. dollars. *See Clerical Error Memorandum*, January 16, 1999. Because these ministerial errors are significant, as defined in 19 CFR 351.224(g), we are amending our preliminary determination. YUSCO's amended weighted-average margin is *de minimis*. We will instruct the U.S. Customs Service accordingly. *See* ''Suspension of Liquidation'' section, below.

Amended Preliminary Determination

As a result of our corrections of ministerial errors, we have determined that the following amended weighted-average dumping margins apply.

Manufacturer/exporter	Margin percentage
Chang Mien	.57
Tung Mung	.07
YUSCO	1.00
All Others	1.00

Suspension of Liquidation

Because the margins are *de minimis* (see 351.106), we are not directing the U.S. Customs Service to suspend liquidation of entries of stainless steel sheet and strip in coils from Taiwan.

ITC Notification

In accordance with section 733(f) of the Act, we have notified the ITC of our amended determination. If our final determinations are affirmative, the ITC will determine whether these imports are materially injuring, or threaten material injury to, the U.S. industry before the later of 120 days after the date of the preliminary determination or 45 days after our final determination.

Public Comment

As stated in the Department's preliminary determination in this investigation (64 FR 101, 108), case briefs or other written comments may be submitted to the Assistant Secretary for Import Administration no later than February 23, 1999, and rebuttal briefs, limited to issues raised in case briefs, no later than March 1, 1999. A list of authorities used and an executive summary of issues should accompany any briefs submitted to the Department. This summary should be limited to five pages total, including footnotes. In accordance with section 774 of the Tariff Act, we will hold a public hearing, if requested, to afford interested parties an opportunity to comment on arguments raised in case or rebuttal briefs. Tentatively, any hearing will be held March 3, 1999 at the U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230, at a time and location to be determined. Parties should confirm by telephone the date, time, and location of the hearing 48 hours before the scheduled time. Interested parties who wish to request a hearing, or to participate if one is requested, must submit a written request to the Assistant Secretary for Import Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 1870, no later than February 3, 1999. Requests should contain: (1) The party's name, address, and telephone number; (2) the number of participants; and (3) a list of the issues to be discussed. At the hearing, each party may make an affirmative presentation only on issues raised in that party's case brief, and may make rebuttal presentations only on arguments included in that party's rebuttal brief. *See* 19 CFR 351.310(c). We intend to issue our final determination in this investigation no later than May 19, 1999.

This amended preliminary determination is issued and published in accordance with section 703(d)(2) of the Act (19 CFR 351.224).

Dated: January 19, 1999.

Robert S. LaRussa,

Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 99–1895 Filed 1–26–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

[5] ''GIN4 Mo'', ''GIN5'' and ''GIN6'' are the proprietary grades of Hitachi Metals America, Ltd.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A–821–803]

Titanium Sponge From the Russian Federation; Rescission of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review: Correction

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

ACTION: Notice of Rescission of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review: Correction.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 27, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Manning or Wendy Frankel, AD/CVD Enforcement, Group II, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230; telephone (202) 482–3936 and 482–5849, respectively.

CORRECTION: The Department of Commerce (the Department) inadvertently referenced an incorrect period of review (POR) in *Titanium Sponge From the Russian Federation: Rescission of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review*, 63 FR 67857 (December 9, 1998). The POR for this administrative review is August 1, 1997 through July 31, 1998. However, the Department incorrectly referenced a