

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20436

In the Matter of

**CERTAIN REDUCED IGNITION
PROCLIVITY CIGARETTE PAPER
WRAPPERS AND PRODUCTS
CONTAINING SAME**

Inv. No. 337-TA-756

NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION

AGENCY: U.S. International Trade Commission

ACTION: Institution of investigation pursuant to 19 U.S.C. § 1337

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a complaint was filed with the U.S. International Trade Commission on December 17, 2010, under section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, 19 U.S.C. § 1337, on behalf of Schweitzer-Mauduit International, Inc. of Alpharetta, Georgia. Letters supplementing the complaint were submitted on January 5, 6, and 11, 2011. The complaint alleges violations of section 337 based upon the importation into the United States, the sale for importation, and the sale within the United States after importation of certain reduced ignition proclivity cigarette paper wrappers and products containing same by reason of infringement of certain claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,725,867 (“the ‘867 patent”) and U.S. Patent No. 5,878,753 (“the ‘753 patent”). The complaint further alleges that an industry in the United States exists as required by subsection (a)(2) of section 337.

The complainant requests that the Commission institute an investigation and, after the investigation, issue an exclusion order and cease and desist orders.

ADDRESSES: The complaint, except for any confidential information contained therein, is available for inspection during official business hours (8:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.) in the Office of the Secretary, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, S.W., Room 112, Washington, D.C. 20436, telephone 202-205-2000. Hearing impaired individuals are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting the Commission’s TDD terminal on 202-205-1810. Persons with mobility impairments who will need special assistance in gaining access to the Commission should contact the Office of the Secretary at 202-205-2000. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its internet server at <http://www.usitc.gov>. The public record for this investigation may be viewed on the Commission's electronic docket (EDIS) at <http://edis.usitc.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lisa A. Murray, Esq., Office of Unfair Import Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, telephone (202) 205-2734.

AUTHORITY: The authority for institution of this investigation is contained in section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, and in section 210.10 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 19 C.F.R. § 210.10 (2010).

SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION: Having considered the complaint, the U.S. International Trade Commission, on January 13, 2011, ORDERED THAT –

(1) Pursuant to subsection (b) of section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, an investigation be instituted to determine whether there is a violation of subsection (a)(1)(B) of section 337 in the importation into the United States, the sale for importation, or the sale within the United States after importation of certain reduced ignition proclivity cigarette paper wrappers and products containing same that infringe one or more of claims 36, 43, and 45 of the '867 patent and claims 1-6, 10-18, and 22-25 of the '753 patent, and whether an industry in the United States exists as required by subsection (a)(2) of section 337;

(2) Pursuant to Commission Rule 210.50(b)(1), 19 C.F.R. § 210.50(b)(1), the presiding administrative law judge shall take evidence or other information and hear arguments from the parties and other interested persons with respect to the public interest in this investigation, as appropriate, and provide the Commission with findings of fact on this issue;

(3) For the purpose of the investigation so instituted, the following are hereby named as parties upon which this notice of investigation shall be served:

(a) The complainant is:

Schweitzer-Mauduit International, Inc.
100 North Point Center East, Suite 600
Alpharetta, GA 30022

(b) The respondents are the following entities alleged to be in violation of section 337, and are the parties upon which the complaint is to be served:

Astra Tobacco Corporation
141 Providence Road, Suite 100
Chapel Hill, NC 27515

delfortgroup AG
Fabrikstrasse 20
4050 Traun, Austria

LIPtec GmbH
Staatstraße 37-41
67468 Neidenfels, Germany

Julius Glatz GmbH
Staatstraße 43-49
67468 Neidenfels, Germany

(c) The Commission investigative attorney, party to this investigation, is Lisa A. Murray, Esq., Office of Unfair Import Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, S.W., Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20436; and

(4) For the investigation so instituted, the Honorable Paul J. Luckern, Chief Administrative Law Judge, U.S. International Trade Commission, shall designate the presiding Administrative Law Judge.

Responses to the complaint and the notice of investigation must be submitted by the named respondents in accordance with section 210.13 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 19 C.F.R. § 210.13. Pursuant to 19 C.F.R. §§ 201.16(d)-(e) and 210.13(a), such responses will be considered by the Commission if received not later than 20 days after the date of service by the Commission of the complaint and the notice of investigation. Extensions of time for submitting responses to the complaint and the notice of investigation will not be granted unless good cause therefor is shown.

Failure of a respondent to file a timely response to each allegation in the complaint and in this notice may be deemed to constitute a waiver of the right to appear and contest the allegations of the complaint and this notice, and to authorize the administrative law judge and the Commission, without further notice to the respondent, to find the facts to be as alleged in the complaint and this notice and to enter an initial determination and a final determination containing such findings, and may result in the issuance of an exclusion order or a cease and desist order or both directed against the respondent.

By order of the Commission.

/s/
Marilyn R. Abbott
Secretary to the Commission

Issued: January 13, 2011

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Failure of a respondent to file a timely response to each allegation in the complaint and in this notice may be deemed to constitute a waiver of the right to appear and contest the allegations of the complaint and this notice, and to authorize the administrative law judge and the Commission, without further notice to the respondent, to find the facts to be as alleged in the complaint and this notice and to enter an initial determination and a final determination containing such findings, and may result in the issuance of an exclusion order or a cease and desist order or both directed against the respondent.

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