

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
Washington, DC

Investigation Nos. 701-TA-608 and 731-TA-1420 (Final)

Steel Racks from China

Scheduling of the final phase of countervailing duty and antidumping duty investigations.

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commission hereby gives notice of the scheduling of the final phase of antidumping and countervailing duty investigation Nos. 701-TA-608 and 731-TA-1420 (Final) pursuant to the Tariff Act of 1930 (“the Act”) to determine whether an industry in the United States is materially injured or threatened with material injury, or the establishment of an industry in the United States is materially retarded, by reason of imports of steel racks from China, provided for in subheadings 7326.90.8688, 9403.20.0080, 9403.90.8041, 7308.90.3000, 7308.90.6000, 7308.90.9590, and 9403.20.0090 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, preliminarily determined by the Department of Commerce (“Commerce”) to be subsidized and sold at less-than-fair-value.

DATE: March 4, 2019.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stamen Borisson ((202) 205-3125), Office of Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20436. Hearing-impaired persons can obtain information on this matter 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 (<https://www.usitc.gov>). The public record for these investigations may be viewed on the Commission’s electronic docket (EDIS) at <https://edis.usitc.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Scope.-- For purposes of these investigations, Commerce has defined the subject merchandise as “steel racks and parts thereof, assembled, to any extent, or unassembled, including but not limited to, vertical components (e.g., uprights, posts, or columns), horizontal or diagonal components (e.g., arms or beams), braces, frames, locking devices (e.g., end plates and beam connectors), and accessories (including, but not limited to, rails, skid channels, skid rails, drum/coil beds, fork clearance bars, pallet supports, row spacers, and wall ties).

Subject steel racks and parts thereof are made of steel, including, but not limited to, cold and/or hot-formed steel, regardless of the type of steel used to produce the components and may, or may not, include locking tabs, slots, or bolted, clamped, or welded connections. Subject steel racks have the following physical characteristics:

- (1) Each steel vertical and horizontal load bearing member (e.g., arms, beams, posts, and columns) is composed of steel that is at least 0.044 inches thick;
- (2) Each steel vertical and horizontal load bearing member (e.g., arms, beams, posts, and columns) is composed of steel that has a yield strength equal to or greater than 36,000 pounds per square inch;
- (3) The width of each steel vertical load bearing member (e.g., posts and columns) exceeds two inches; and
- (4) The overall depth of each steel roll-formed horizontal load bearing member (e.g., beams) exceeds two inches.

In the case of steel horizontal load bearing members other than roll-formed (e.g., structural beams, Z-beams, or cantilever arms), only the criteria in subparagraphs (1) and (2) apply to these horizontal load bearing members. The depth limitation in subparagraph (4) does not apply to steel horizontal load bearing members that are not roll-formed.

Steel rack components can be assembled into structures of various dimensions and configurations by welding, bolting, clipping, or with the use of devices such as clips, end plates, and beam connectors, including, but not limited to the following configurations: 1) racks with upright frames perpendicular to the aisles that are independently adjustable, with positive-locking beams parallel to the aisle spanning the upright frames with braces; and 2) cantilever racks with vertical components parallel to the aisle and cantilever beams or arms connected to the vertical components perpendicular to the aisle. Steel racks may be referred to as pallet racks, storage racks, stacker racks, retail racks, pick modules, selective racks, or cantilever racks and may incorporate moving components and be referred to as pallet-flow racks, carton-flow racks, push-back racks, movable-shelf racks, drive-in racks, and drive-through racks. While steel racks may be made to ANSI MH16.1 or ANSI MH16.3 standards, all steel racks and parts thereof meeting the description set out herein are covered by the scope of these investigations, whether or not produced according to a particular standard.

The scope includes all steel racks and parts thereof meeting the description above, regardless of

- (1) other dimensions, weight, or load rating;
- (2) vertical components or frame type (including structural, roll-form, or other);
- (3) horizontal support or beam/brace type (including but not limited to structural, roll-form, slotted, unslotted, Z-beam, C-beam, L-beam, step beam, and cantilever beam);
- (4) number of supports;
- (5) number of levels;
- (6) surface coating, if any (including but not limited to paint, epoxy, powder coating, zinc, or other metallic coatings);
- (7) rack shape (including but not limited to rectangular, square, corner, and cantilever);
- (8) the method by which the vertical and horizontal supports connect (including but not limited to locking tabs or slots, bolting, clamping, and welding); and
- (9) whether or not the steel rack has moving components (including but not limited to rails, wheels, rollers, tracks, channels, carts, and conveyors).

Subject merchandise includes merchandise matching the above description that has been finished or packaged in a third country. Finishing includes, but is not limited to, coating, painting, or assembly, including attaching the merchandise to another product, or any other finishing or assembly operation that would not remove the merchandise from the scope of these investigations if performed in the country of manufacture of the steel racks and parts

thereof. Packaging includes packaging the merchandise with or without another product or any other packaging operation that would not remove the merchandise from the scope of these investigations if performed in the country of manufacture of the steel racks and parts thereof.

Steel racks and parts thereof are included in the scope of these investigations whether or not imported attached to, or included with, other parts or accessories such as wire decking, nuts, and bolts. If steel racks and parts thereof are imported attached to, or included with, such non-subject merchandise, only the steel racks and parts thereof are included in the scope.

The scope of these investigations does not cover: 1) decks, i.e., shelving that sits on or fits into the horizontal supports to provide the horizontal storage surface of the steel racks; 2) wire shelving units, i.e., units made from wire that incorporate both a wire deck and wire horizontal supports (taking the place of the horizontal beams and braces) into a single piece with tubular collars that slide over the posts and onto plastic sleeves snapped on the posts to create a finished unit; 3) pins, nuts, bolts, washers, and clips used as connecting devices; and 4) non-steel components.

Specifically excluded from the scope of these investigations are any products covered by Commerce's existing antidumping and countervailing duty orders on boltless steel shelving units prepackaged for sale from the People's Republic of China. See Boltless Steel Shelving Units Prepackaged for Sale From the People's Republic of China: Antidumping Duty Order, 80 Fed. Reg. 63,741 (October 21, 2017); Boltless Steel Shelving Units Prepackaged for Sale From the People's Republic of China: Amended Final Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination and Countervailing Duty Order, 80 Fed. Reg. 63,745 (October 21, 2017).

Also excluded from the scope of these investigations are bulk-packed parts or components of boltless steel shelving units that were specifically excluded from the scope of the Boltless Steel Shelving Orders because such bulk-packed parts or components do not contain the steel vertical supports (i.e., uprights and posts) and steel horizontal supports (i.e., beams, braces) packaged together for assembly into a completed boltless steel shelving unit.

Such excluded components of boltless steel shelving are defined as:

- (1) boltless horizontal supports (beams, braces) that have each of the following characteristics: (a) a length of 95 inches or less, (b) made from steel that has a thickness of 0.068 inches or less, and (c) a weight capacity that does not exceed 2500 lbs per pair of beams for beams that are 78" or shorter, a weight capacity that does not exceed 2200 lbs per pair of beams for beams that are over 78" long but not longer than 90", and/or a weight capacity that does not exceed 1800 lbs per pair of beams for beams that are longer than 90";
- (2) shelf supports that mate with the aforementioned horizontal supports; and
- (3) boltless vertical supports (upright welded frames and posts) that have each of the following characteristics: (a) a length of 95 inches or less, (b) with no face that exceeds 2.90 inches wide, and (c) made from steel that has a thickness of 0.065 inches or less.

Excluded from the scope of these investigations are: (1) wall-mounted shelving and racks, defined as shelving and racks that suspend all of the load from the wall, and do not stand on, or transfer load to, the floor; (2) ceiling-mounted shelving and racks, defined as shelving and racks that suspend all of the load from the ceiling and do not stand on, or transfer load to, the floor; and (3) wall/ceiling mounted shelving and racks, defined as shelving and racks that suspend the load from the ceiling and the wall and do not stand on, or transfer load to, the floor. The

addition of a wall or ceiling bracket or other device to attach otherwise subject merchandise to a wall or ceiling does not meet the terms of this exclusion.

Also excluded from the scope of these investigations is scaffolding that complies with ANSI/ASSE

A10.8 - 2011 – Scaffolding Safety Requirements, CAN/CSA S269.2-M87 (Reaffirmed 2003) – Access Scaffolding for Construction Purposes, and/or Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations at 29 C.F.R. Part 1926 subpart L – Scaffolds.

Also excluded from the scope of these investigations are tubular racks such as garment racks and drying racks, i.e., racks in which the load bearing vertical and horizontal steel members consist solely of: (1) round tubes that are no more than two inches in diameter; (2) round rods that are no more than two inches in diameter; (3) other tubular shapes that have both an overall height of no more than two inches and an overall width of no more than two inches; and/or (4) wire.

Also excluded from the scope of these investigations are portable tier racks. Portable tier racks must meet each of the following criteria to qualify for this exclusion:

- (1) They are freestanding, portable assemblies with a fully welded base and four freely inserted and easily removable corner posts;
- (2) They are assembled without the use of bolts, braces, anchors, brackets, clips, attachments, or connectors;
- (3) One assembly may be stacked on top of another without applying any additional load to the product being stored on each assembly, but individual portable tier racks are not securely attached to one another to provide interaction or interdependence; and
- (4) The assemblies have no mechanism (e.g., a welded foot plate with bolt holes) for anchoring the assembly to the ground.

Also excluded from the scope of these investigations are accessories that are independently bolted to the floor and not attached to the rack system itself, i.e., column protectors, corner guards, bollards, and end row and end of aisle protectors.

Merchandise covered by these investigations is currently classified in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) under the following subheadings: 7326.90.8688, 9403.20.0080, and 9403.90.8041. Subject merchandise may also enter under subheadings 7308.90.3000, 7308.90.6000, 7308.90.9590, and 9403.20.0090. The HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and U.S. Customs purposes only. The written description of the scope is dispositive.”

Background.--The final phase of these investigations is being scheduled pursuant to sections 705(b) and 731(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1671d(b) and 1673d(b)), as a result of affirmative preliminary determinations by Commerce that certain benefits which constitute subsidies within the meaning of section 703 of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1671b) are being provided to manufacturers, producers, or exporters in China of steel racks, and that such products are being sold in the United States at less than fair value within the meaning of section 733 of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1673b). The investigations were requested in petitions filed on June 20, 2018, by Bulldog Rack Company, Weirton, West Virginia; Hannibal Industries, Inc., Los Angeles, California; Husky Rack and Wire, Denver, North Carolina; Ridg-U-Rak, Inc., North East, Pennsylvania; SpaceRAK, A Division of Heartland Steel Products, Inc., Marysville, Michigan;

Speedrack Products Group, Ltd., Sparta, Michigan; Steel King Industries, Inc., Stevens Point, Wisconsin; Tri-Boro Shelving & Partition Corp., Farmville, Virginia; and UNARCO Material Handling, Inc., Springfield, Tennessee.

For further information concerning the conduct of this phase of the investigations, hearing procedures, and rules of general application, consult the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, part 201, subparts A and B (19 CFR part 201), and part 207, subparts A and C (19 CFR part 207).

Participation in the investigations and public service list.--Persons, including industrial users of the subject merchandise and, if the merchandise is sold at the retail level, representative consumer organizations, wishing to participate in the final phase of these investigations as parties must file an entry of appearance with the Secretary to the Commission, as provided in section 201.11 of the Commission's rules, no later than 21 days prior to the hearing date specified in this notice. A party that filed a notice of appearance during the preliminary phase of the investigations need not file an additional notice of appearance during this final phase. The Secretary will maintain a public service list containing the names and addresses of all persons, or their representatives, who are parties to the investigations.

Limited disclosure of business proprietary information (BPI) under an administrative protective order (APO) and BPI service list.--Pursuant to section 207.7(a) of the Commission's rules, the Secretary will make BPI gathered in the final phase of these investigations available to authorized applicants under the APO issued in the investigations, provided that the application is made no later than 21 days prior to the hearing date specified in this notice. Authorized applicants must represent interested parties, as defined by 19 U.S.C. 1677(9), who are parties to the investigations. A party granted access to BPI in the preliminary phase of the investigations need not reapply for such access. A separate service list will be maintained by the Secretary for those parties authorized to receive BPI under the APO.

Staff report.--The prehearing staff report in the final phase of these investigations will be placed in the nonpublic record on July 1, 2019, and a public version will be issued thereafter, pursuant to section 207.22 of the Commission's rules.

Hearing.--The Commission will hold a hearing in connection with the final phase of these investigations beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 16, 2019, at the U.S. International Trade Commission Building. Requests to appear at the hearing should be filed in writing with the Secretary to the Commission on or before July 10, 2019. A nonparty who has testimony that may aid the Commission's deliberations may request permission to present a short statement at the hearing. All parties and nonparties desiring to appear at the hearing and make oral presentations should participate in a prehearing conference to be held on July 12, 2019, at the U.S. International Trade Commission Building, if deemed necessary. Oral testimony and written materials to be submitted at the public hearing are governed by sections 201.6(b)(2), 201.13(f), and 207.24 of the Commission's rules. Parties must submit any request to present a portion of their hearing testimony in camera no later than 7 business days prior to the date of the hearing.

Written submissions.--Each party who is an interested party shall submit a prehearing brief to the Commission. Prehearing briefs must conform with the provisions of section 207.23 of the Commission's rules; the deadline for filing is July 9, 2019. Parties may also file written testimony in connection with their presentation at the hearing, as provided in section 207.24 of the Commission's rules, and posthearing briefs, which must conform with the provisions of

section 207.25 of the Commission's rules. The deadline for filing posthearing briefs is July 23, 2019. In addition, any person who has not entered an appearance as a party to the investigations may submit a written statement of information pertinent to the subject of the investigations, including statements of support or opposition to the petition, on or before July 23, 2019. On August 14, 2019, the Commission will make available to parties all information on which they have not had an opportunity to comment. Parties may submit final comments on this information on or before August 16, 2019, but such final comments must not contain new factual information and must otherwise comply with section 207.30 of the Commission's rules. All written submissions must conform with the provisions of section 201.8 of the Commission's rules; any submissions that contain BPI must also conform with the requirements of sections 201.6, 207.3, and 207.7 of the Commission's rules. The Commission's *Handbook on E-Filing*, available on the Commission's website at <https://edis.usitc.gov>, elaborates upon the Commission's rules with respect to electronic filing.

Additional written submissions to the Commission, including requests pursuant to section 201.12 of the Commission's rules, shall not be accepted unless good cause is shown for accepting such submissions, or unless the submission is pursuant to a specific request by a Commissioner or Commission staff.

In accordance with sections 201.16(c) and 207.3 of the Commission's rules, each document filed by a party to the investigations must be served on all other parties to the investigations (as identified by either the public or BPI service list), and a certificate of service must be timely filed. The Secretary will not accept a document for filing without a certificate of service.

AUTHORITY: These investigations are being conducted under authority of title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930; this notice is published pursuant to section 207.21 of the Commission's rules.

By order of the Commission.



Lisa R. Barton
Secretary to the Commission

Issued: March 22, 2019