

GENERAL INFORMATION, INSTRUCTIONS, AND DEFINITIONS FOR COMMISSION FOREIGN PRODUCER/EXPORTER QUESTIONNAIRES

STAINLESS STEEL SHEET & STRIP FROM FRANCE, GERMANY, ITALY, JAPAN, KOREA, MEXICO, TAIWAN, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM Investigations Nos. 701-TA-381-382 and 731-TA-797-804 (Review)

<u>Further information</u>.--If you have any questions concerning the enclosed questionnaire(s) or other matters related to these reviews, you may contact the following members of the Commission's staff (Fax 202-205-3205):

Debra Baker, investigator (202-205-3180; E-mail Debra.Baker@USITC.GOV) regarding general questions and trade and related information; and

Amelia Preece, economist (202-205-3250; E-mail Amelia.Preece @USITC.GOV) regarding market factors (Part III)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Background.--On July 27, 1999, the Department of Commerce (Commerce) issued antidumping duty orders on imports of stainless steel sheet and strip in coils from France (64 F.R. 40562), Germany (64 F.R. 40557), Italy (64 F.R. 40567), Japan (64 F.R. 40565), Korea (64 F.R. 40555), Mexico (64 F.R. 40560), Taiwan (64 F.R. 40555), and the United Kingdom (64 F.R. 40555). On August 6, 1999, the Commerce also issued countervailing duty orders on imports of stainless steel sheet and strip in coils from Italy and South Korea (64 F.R. 42923). On June 1, 2004, the Commission instituted reviews pursuant to section 751(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. § 1675(c)) (the Act) to determine whether revocation of the orders would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to the domestic industry within a reasonably foreseeable time (69 F.R. 30958). If the Commission makes affirmative determinations, the orders will remain in place. If the Commission makes a negative determinations, Commerce will revoke the orders.

Additional questionnaires will be supplied promptly upon request, or photocopies of the enclosed questionnaire(s) may be used. Address all correspondence to the United States International Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20436. Hearing-impaired individuals can obtain information regarding these reviews via the Commission's TDD terminal (202-205-1810).

<u>Due date of questionnaire(s)</u>.--Return the completed questionnaire(s) to the United States International Trade Commission by no later than March 1, 2005. Please make sure the completed questionnaire is sent to the attention of Debra Baker. Return <u>only one</u> copy of the completed questionnaire(s), but please keep a copy for your records so that you can refer to it if the Commission staff contacts you with any questions during the course of the review.

<u>Service of questionnaire response(s)</u>.--In the event that your firm is a party to these reviews, you are required to serve a copy of the questionnaire(s), once completed, on parties to the proceeding that are subject to administrative protective order (see 19 CFR § 207.7). A list of such parties is maintained by the Commission's Secretary and may be obtained by calling 202-205-1803. A certificate of service must accompany the copy of the completed questionnaire(s) you submit (see 19 CFR § 207.7).

<u>Confidentiality</u>.--The commercial and financial data furnished in response to the enclosed questionnaire(s) that reveal the individual operations of your firm will be treated as confidential by the Commission to the extent that such data are not otherwise available to the public and will not be disclosed except as may be required by law (see 19 U.S.C. § 1677f). Such confidential information will not be published in a manner that will reveal the individual operations of your firm; however, nonnumerical characterizations of numerical business proprietary information (such as discussion of trends) will be treated as confidential business information only at the request of the submitter for good cause shown.

GENERAL INFORMATION--Continued

Verification.--The information submitted in the enclosed questionnaire(s) is subject to audit and verification by the Commission. To facilitate possible verification of data, please keep all your workpapers and supporting documents used in the preparation of the questionnaire response(s).

<u>**Release of information.</u></u>--The information provided by your firm in response to the questionnaire(s), as well as any other business proprietary information submitted by your firm to the Commission in connection with the review, may become subject to, and released under, the administrative protective order provisions of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. § 1677f) and section 207.7 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR § 207.7). This means that certain lawyers and other authorized individuals may temporarily be given access to the information for use in connection with these reviews or other import-injury investigations or reviews conducted by the Commission on the same or similar merchandise; those individuals would be subject to severe penalties if the information were divulged to unauthorized individuals.</u>**

INSTRUCTIONS

<u>Answer all questions</u>.--Do not leave any question or section blank unless a questionnaire expressly directs you to skip over certain questions or sections. If the answer to any question is "none," write "none." If information is not readily available from your records in exactly the form requested, furnish carefully prepared estimates--designated as such by the letter "E"--and explain the basis of your estimates. Answers to questions and any necessary comments or explanations should be supplied in the space provided or on separate sheets attached to the appropriate page of the questionnaire(s). If your firm is completing more than one questionnaire in connection with these reviews (i.e., a producer, importer, purchaser, and/or foreign producer questionnaire), you need not respond to duplicated questions in the questionnaires.

<u>Consolidate all establishments in each subject country</u>.--Report the requested data for your establishment(s) located in France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Taiwan, and/or the United Kingdom. Firms operating more than one establishment in a specified country should combine the data for all establishments in that country into a single report but should provide a separate report for each country.

DEFINITIONS

<u>Certain stainless steel sheet and strip ("stainless steel sheet & strip")</u>.--The products covered by these reviews 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 these orders is currently imported under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) at the following statistical reporting numbers: 7219.13.0031, 7219.13.0051, 7219.13.0071, 7219.13.0081, 7219.14.0030, 7219.14.0065, 7219.14.0090, 7219.32.0005, 7219.32.0020, 7219.32.0025, 7219.32.0035, 7219.32.0036, 7219.32.0038, 7219.32.0042, 7219.32.0044, 7219.33.0005, 7219.33.0020, 7219.33.0025, 7219.33.0035, 7219.33.0036, 7219.33.0038, 7219.33.0042, 7219.33.0044, 7219.34.0005, 7219.34.0020, 7219.34.0025, 7219.34.0030, 7219.34.0035, 7219.35.0005, 7219.35.0015, 7219.35.0030, 7219.35.0035, 7219.90.0010, 7219.90.0020, 7219.90.0025, 7219.90.0060, 7219.90.0080, 7220.12.1000, 7220.12.5000, 7220.20.1010, 7220.20.1015, 7220.20.1060, 7220.20.1080, 7220.20.6005, 7220.20.6010, 7220.20.6015, 7220.20.6060, 7220.20.6080, 7220.20.7005, 7220.20.7010, 7220.20.7015, 7220.20.7060, 7220.20.7080, 7220.20.8000, 7220.20.9030, 7220.20.9060, 7220.90.0010, 7220.90.0015, 7220.90.0060, and 7220.90.0080. (Prior to 2001, U.S. imports under HTS statistical reporting numbers 7219.13.0031, 7219.13.0051, 7219.13.0071, and 7219.13.0081 were entered under HTS statistical reporting numbers 7219.13.0030, 7219.13.0050, 7219.13.0070, and 7219.13.0080.) Although the HTS statistical reporting numbers are provided for convenience and customs purposes, Commerce's written description of the merchandise covered by these orders is dispositive.

Excluded from the scope of these reviews 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), (5) razor blade steel, (6) flapper valve steel, (7) suspension foil, (8) certain stainless steel foil for automotive catalytic converters, (9) permanent magnet iron-chromium-cobalt alloy stainless strip, (10) certain electrical resistance alloy steel, (11) certain martensitic precipitation-hardenable stainless steel, and (12) three specialty stainless steels typically used in certain industrial blades and surgical and medication instruments. (Note: Items 5 through 12 are described in the **Supplement to Definitions** (as defined by Commerce) attached to this document.) Additional scope exclusions made in changed circumstance reviews by Commerce also are listed in the **Supplement**.

DEFINITIONS--Continued

<u>Firm</u>.--An individual proprietorship, partnership, joint venture, association, corporation (including any subsidiary corporation), business trust, cooperative, trustee in bankruptcy, or receiver under decree of any court.

<u>Related firm</u>.--A firm that your firm solely or jointly owned, managed, or otherwise controlled; a firm that solely or jointly owned, managed, or otherwise controlled your firm; and/or a firm that was solely or jointly owned, managed, or otherwise controlled by a firm that also solely or jointly owned, managed, or otherwise controlled by a firm that also solely or jointly owned, managed, or otherwise controlled your firm.

Establishment.--Each facility of a firm in France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Taiwan, and/or the United Kingdom involved in the production of stainless steel sheet & strip (as defined above), including auxiliary facilities operated in conjunction with (whether or not physically separate from) such facilities.

<u>United States</u>.--For purposes of these reviews, the 50 States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia.

Importer.--Any person or firm engaged, either directly or through a parent company or subsidiary, in importing stainless steel sheet & strip (as defined above) into the United States from a foreign manufacturer or through its selling agent.

Average production capacity.--The level of production that your establishment(s) could reasonably have expected to attain during the specified periods. Assume normal operating conditions (i.e., using equipment and machinery in place and ready to operate; normal operating levels (hours per week/weeks per year) and time for downtime, maintenance, repair, and cleanup; and a typical or representative product mix).

<u>Production</u>.--All production in your establishment(s) in France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Taiwan, and/or the United Kingdom, including production consumed internally within your firm.

Shipments.--Shipments of products produced in your establishment(s) in France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Taiwan, and/or the United Kingdom.

Shipment quantities.--Quantities reported should be net of returns.

<u>Shipment values</u>.--Values reported should be net values (i.e., gross sales values less all discounts, allowances, rebates, prepaid freight, and the value of returned goods) in <u>U.S.</u>

DEFINITIONS--Continued

<u>dollars</u>, f.o.b. your point of shipment in France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Taiwan, and/or the United Kingdom.

<u>Home market commercial shipments</u>.--Shipments, other than internal consumption and transfers to related firms, within France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Taiwan, and/or the United Kingdom.

<u>Home market internal consumption/transfers to related firms</u>.--Shipments made to related firms in France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Taiwan, and/or the United Kingdom, including product consumed internally by your firm.

Export shipments.--Shipments to destinations outside France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Taiwan, and/or the United Kingdom, including shipments to related firms.

Inventories.--Finished goods inventory, not raw materials or work-in-progress.

<u>DEFINITIONS</u>--Continued

SUPPLEMENT TO DEFINITIONS

- 5. <u>Razor blade steel</u> 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.
- 6. <u>Flapper valve steel</u> 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.
- 7. <u>Suspension foil</u> 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.
- 8. <u>Certain stainless steel foil for automotive catalytic converters</u> 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 less than 0.002 or greater than 0.05 percent, and total rare earth elements of more than 0.06 percent, with the balance iron.

DEFINITIONS--Continued

<u>SUPPLEMENT TO DEFINITIONS</u>–Continued

- 9. <u>Permanent magnet iron-chromium-cobalt alloy stainless strip</u> is a ductile stainless steel strip that 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
- 10. <u>Certain electrical resistance alloy steel</u> is 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
- 11. Certain martensitic precipitation-hardenable stainless steel is a 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

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.

<u>DEFINITIONS</u>--Continued

SUPPLEMENT TO DEFINITIONS-Continued

12. <u>Three specialty stainless steels typically used in certain industrial blades and surgical and</u> <u>medication instruments</u> are excluded from these reviews. They are described as follows:

(A) Stainless steel strip in coils used in the production of textile cutting tools (e.g., carpet knives). (Note. This list of uses is illustrative and provided for descriptive purposes only.) This steel is similar to AISI grade 420 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 sold under proprietary names such as "GIN4 Mo."⁴

(B) 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 100 square microns. An example of this product is "GIN5" steel.⁴

(C) The third specialty steel has a chemical composition by weight that is 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."⁴

13. In addition, Commerce revoked in part the antidumping duty orders with respect to imports of the following products:

(A). <u>Specialty magnet stainless steel strip product from Germany known as SemiVac 90</u> (*see* 66 FR 50173, October 20, 2001). The revoked product is a permanent magnet iron-chromium-cobalt stainless steel strip containing, by weight, 13 percent chromium, 6 percent cobalt, 71percent iron, 6 percent nickel and 4 percent molybdenum. The product is supplied in widths up to 1.27 cm (12.7 mm), inclusive, with a thickness between 45

⁴"GIN4 Mo," "GIN5," and "GIN6" are the proprietary grades of Hitachi Metals America, Ltd.

DEFINITIONS--Continued

and 75 microns, inclusive. This product exhibits magnetic remanence between 400 and 780 nWb, and coercivity of between 60 and 100 oersteds. This product is currently supplied under the trade name "SemiVac 90."

(B). <u>Stainless steel welding electrode strips from Japan that are manufactured in</u> <u>accordance with American Welding Society (AWS) specification ANSI/AWS A5.9-93</u> (*see* 65 FR 17856, April 5, 2000,). The revoked products are stainless steel welding electrode strips that are manufactured in accordance with American Welding Society (AWS) specification ANSI/AWS A5.9–93. The products are 0.5 mm in thickness, 60mm in width, and in coils of approximately 60 pounds each. The products are limited to the following AWS grade classifications: ER 308L, ER309L, ER 316L and ER 347, and a modified ER 309L or 309LCb which meets the following chemical composition limits (by weight): carbon—0.03% maximum; chromium -20.0–22.0%; nickel - 10.0–12.0%; molybdenum - 0.75% maximum; manganese -1.0–2.5%; silicon - 0.65% maximum; phosphorus - 0.03% maximum; sulfur - 0.03% maximum; copper - 0.75% maximum; columbium - 8 times the carbon level minimum -1.0% maximum.

(C). <u>Certain stainless steel used for razor blades, medical surgical blades, and industrial blades from Japan that are sold under proprietary names such as DSRIK7, DSRIKA, and DSRIK9 (see FR 65 54841, September 11, 2000). The revoked products are specialty products with a thickness of 0.15 mm to 1.000 mm, or 0.006 inches to 0.040 inches, and a width of 6 mm to 50 mm, or 0.250 inches to 2.000 inches. The edge of the products are slit, and the finish is bright. The steel contains the following chemical composition by weight: carbon 0.65% to 1.00%, silicon 1.00% maximum, manganese 1.00% maximum, phosphorus 0.35% maximum, sulfur 0.25% maximum, nickel 0.35% maximum, chromium 0.15% maximum, and molybdenum 0.30% maximum.</u>

(D). Certain stainless steel lithographic sheet from Japan that is made of 304-grade stainless steel (*see* 65 FR 64423, October 27, 2000). The revoked sheet is made of 304-grade stainless steel and must satisfy each of the following fifteen specifications. The sheet must (1) have an ultimate tensile strength of minimum 75 KSI; (2) a yield strength of minimum 30 KSI; (3) a minimum elongation of 40 percent; (4) a coil weight of 4000-6000 lbs.; (5) a width tolerance of -0/+0.0625 inch; and (6) a gauge tolerance of +/-0.001 inch. With regard to flatness, (7) the wave height and wave length dimensions must correspond to both edge wave and center buckle conditions; (8) the maximum wave height shall not exceed 0.75 percent of the wave length or 3 mm (0.118 inch), whichever is less; and (9) the wave length shall not be less than 100 mm (3.937 inch). With regard to the surface, (10) the surface roughness must be RMS (RA) 4-8; (11) the surface must be degreased and no oil will be applied during the slitting operation; (12) the surface

DEFINITIONS--Continued

finish shall be free from all visual cosmetic surface variations or stains in spot or streak form that affect the performance of the material; (13) no annealing border is acceptable; (14) the surface finish shall be free from all defects in raised or depression nature (e.g., scratches, gouges, pimples, dimples, etc.) exceeding 15 microns in size and with regard to dimensions; and (15) the thickness will be .0145+/-.001 and the widths will be either 38", 38.25", or 43.5" and the thickness for 39" material will be .0118 +/-.001 inches.

(E). Certain nickel clad stainless steel sheet from Japan (see 65 FR 77578, December 12, 2000). The revoked nickel clad stainless steel sheet must satisfy each of the following specifications. The sheet must: (1) Have a maximum coil weight of 1000 pounds; (2) with a coil interior diameter of 458 mm to 540 mm; (3) with a thickness of .33 mm and a width of 699.4 mm; (4) fabricated in three layers with a middle layer of grade 316L or UNS 531603 sheet and strip sandwiched between the two layers of nickel cladding, using a roll bonding process to apply the nickel coating to each side of the stainless steel, each nickel coating being not less than 99 percent nickel and a minimum 0.038 mm in thickness. The resultant nickel clad stainless steel sheet and strip also must meet the following additional chemical composition requirement (by weight): The first layer weight is 14%, specification Ni201 or N02201, carbon 0.009, sulfur 0.001, nickel 99.97, molybdenum 0.001, iron 0.01, and copper 0.001 for a combined total of 99.992. The second layer weight is 72%, specification 316L or UNS 513603, carbon 0.02, silicon 0.87, manganese 1.07, phosphorus 0.033, sulfur 0.001, nickel 12.08, chromium 17.81, molybdenum 2.26, and iron 65.856 for a combined total of 100. The third layer is 14%, specification Ni201 or N02201, carbon 0.01, sulfur 0.001, nickel 99.97, molybdenum 0.001, iron 0.01, and copper 0.001 for a combined total of 99.993. The weighted average weight is 100%. The following is the weighted average composition, by weight: carbon 0.01706, silicon 0.6264, manganese 0.7704, phosphorus 0.02376, sulfur 0.001, nickel 36.6892, chromium 12.8232, molybdenum 1.62748, iron 47.41912, and copper 0.00028. The above-described material sold as grade 316L and manufactured in accordance with UNS specification 531603. This material is reported under statistical reporting number 7219.90.00.20 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States.