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Trade Briefs

ITC Releases Report on Global Beef Trade

The International Trade Commission (ITC) released a report on “Global Beef Trade: Effects of Animal Health, Sanitary, Food Safety, and Other Measures on U.S. Beef Exports.” The report was requested by the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance in April 2007. The report identifies Korea and Japan as maintaining policies of restricting access for U.S. beef in their markets. In addition, the report identifies the Korean restrictions on beef as a major factor in the failure of the U.S. Congress to ratify the pending Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA).

The ITC’s report says that the greatest losses to the U.S. beef industry result from trade barriers imposed by Korea and Japan. Many countries, including Korea and Japan, instituted restrictions on American beef after an outbreak of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in U.S. cattle in 2003. But while several other significant beef importers have resumed importing American beef since then, Korea and Japan have continued to systematically restrict these imports. According to the report, these two countries account for over 85% of lost export sales caused by BSE-related restrictions from 2004 to 2007.

On top of BSE-related bans and restrictions, the ITC says that Korea and Japan maintain further barriers to U.S. beef exports. Both nations have cumbersome document inspection procedures, and both nations give significant support to domestic beef producers. Korea also carries a higher inspection rate on this product.

Moreover, the ITC asserts that Korea and Japan’s restrictions on American beef are more stringent than those described by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). However, neither country is required in any way to follow these international standards.

The dispute over beef has become a major issue in the U.S. Congress’s consideration of the KORUS FTA, as powerful Member of Congress have criticized the agreement for failing to adequately open Korea’s market to American beef.

The ITC report was greeted by Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT) as confirmation of his suspicions about Japanese and Korean restrictions. He said, “While I’m pleased that Korea is accepting some U.S. beef, it is clear that USDA and USTR must redouble their efforts to fully open markets in Japan, China and the rest of the world to safe, delicious U.S. beef. Removing these barriers must be a top priority.”

Dumping Watch

Affirmative Preliminary Determination in AD Investigation into Chinese Steel Threaded Rod

On October 8, the Department of Commerce (DOC) gave notice that it had preliminarily determined in its antidumping investigation into certain steel threaded rod (CSTR) from China that this product is being, or is likely to be, sold in the U.S. at less than fair value (LTFV).

In March 2008, the DOC received a petition from Vulcan Threaded Products, Inc. to challenge the imports of CSTR from China. Later that month, the International Trade Commission (ITC) preliminarily determined that there was a reasonable indication that American producers would be materially injured by these imports, and summarily initiated an investigation. As a result of this investigation, the DOC has come to a preliminary determination that Chinese imports of CSTR were being sold at LTFV. Because China is designated as a non-market economy, the DOC calculated its dumping margins based on costs of the factors of production in surrogate market-economy countries. Specifically, the DOC used India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Colombia, and Thailand as surrogate countries because of their comparable economic development to that of China.

The weighted-average dumping margins were calculated to be between 77.85% and 206.00%. The DOC will instruct Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to suspend liquidation of CSTR from China and to require a cash deposit or bond equal to the weighted-average amount by which the normal value exceeds U.S. price. The DOC will make a final determination within 75 days.

ITC Schedules Final Phase AD and CVD Investigations into Chinese Welded Stainless Steel Pressure Pipe

On October 6, the International Trade Commission (ITC) gave notice of its scheduling final phase countervailing duty (CVD) and antidumping (AD) investigations into imports of welded stainless steel pressure pipe from China.

The final phase of these investigations is being scheduled because of the preliminary determinations by the Department of Commerce (DOC). The DOC preliminarily determined that government subsidies were provided to Chinese producers of this type of stainless pressure pipe. The DOC also preliminarily determined that this product was being sold in the U.S. at less than fair value. The petitioners in this investigation were Bristol Metals (Bristol, TN), Felker Brothers Corp. (Marshfield, WI), Marcegaglia USA Inc. (Munhall, PA), Outoukumpu Stainless Pipe, Inc. (Schaumburg, IL), and the United Steel Workers of America (Pittsburgh, PA).

The commission will hold a hearing at 9:30 a.m. on January 13, 2009.

Federal Register Notices

International Trade Administration

Stanford University; Notice of Decision on Application for Duty- Free Entry of Electron Microscopes. 73 FR 60239. October 10, 2008.

(A-475-818) Certain Pasta from Italy: Notice of Extension of Final Results of Antidumping Duty Changed Circumstances Review. 73 FR 60239-60240. October 10, 2008.

[A-552-801] Import Administration; Certain Frozen Fish Fillets From Vietnam: Extension of Time Limit for Final Results of Changed Circumstances Review. 73 FR 60240. October 10, 2008.

A-489-501 Welded Carbon Steel Pipe and Tube from Turkey: Notice of Intent to Rescind Antidumping Duty Administrative Review, In Part. 73 FR 60240-60241. October 10, 2008.

(A-351-840) Certain Orange Juice from Brazil: Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Changed Circumstances Review and Intent Not to Revoke, In Part. 73 FR 60241-60244. October 10, 2008.

(A-351-840) Certain Orange Juice from Brazil; Notice of Extension of Time Limits for Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review. 73 FR 59603. October 9, 2008.

A-570-878 Saccharin from the People's Republic of China: Notice of Final Results of Expedited Sunset Review of Antidumping Duty Order. 73 FR 59604. October 9, 2008.

[A-331-802, A-533-840, A-570-893, A-549-822] Certain Frozen Warmwater Shrimp from Ecuador, India, the People's Republic of China, and Thailand: Notice of Extension of Time Limits for the Preliminary Results of the Third Administrative Reviews. 73 FR 58931. October 8, 2008.

(A-570-932) Certain Steel Threaded Rod from the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value. 73 FR 58931-58941. October 8, 2008.

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Comment Card for E-mail Taglines 73 FR 58536-58537, October 7, 2008.

[A-602-806] Antidumping Duty Order: Electrolytic Manganese Dioxide From Australia: 73 FR 58538-58539, October 7, 2008.

[A-570-919] Antidumping Duty Order: Electrolytic Manganese Dioxide From the People's Republic of China: 73 FR 58537-58538, October 7, 2008.

[A-570-901] Certain Lined Paper Products from the People's Republic of China: Notice of Preliminary Results of the Antidumping Duty Administrative Review 73 FR 58540-58548, October 7, 2008.

[A-533-843] Certain Lined Paper Products From India: Preliminary Results of the First Antidumping Duty Administrative Review 73 FR 58548-58555, October 7, 2008.

[A-570-918] Notice of Antidumping Duty Order: Steel Wire Garment Hangers from the People's Republic of China. 73 FR 58111-58112. October 6, 2008.

Environmental Technologies Trade Advisory Committee (ETTAC), Request for Nominations. 73 FR 58112-58113. October 6, 2008.

[A-570-890] Wooden Bedroom Furniture From the People's Republic of China: Extension of Time Limits for the Preliminary Results of the Antidumping Duty Administrative Review and New Shipper Reviews. 73 FR 58113. October 6, 2008.

[A-570-894] Certain Tissue Paper Products from the People's Republic of China: Final Results and Final Rescission, in Part, of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review. 73 FR 58113-58115. October 6, 2008.

(A-570-848) Freshwater Crawfish Tail Meat From the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review and Intent to Rescind Review in Part. 73 FR 58115-58121. October 6, 2008.

[C-533-844] Certain Lined Paper Products From India: Notice of Preliminary Results of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review. 73 FR 58121-58126. October 6, 2008.

International Trade Commission

[Investigation No. 337-TA-619] In the Matter of: Certain Flash Memory Controllers, Drives, Memory Cards, and Media Players and Products Containing Same; Notice of Commission Decision Not To Review an Initial Determination Granting-in- Part Complainant's Motion To Amend the Complaint and Amending the Notice of Investigation. 73 FR 60322. October 10, 2008.

[Investigation Nos. 731-TA-1124 and 1125 (Final)] Electrolytic Manganese Dioxide From Australia and China. 73 FR 60322-60323. October 10, 2008.

[Inv. No. 337-TA-564; Enforcement Proceeding] In the Matter of Certain Voltage Regulators, Components Thereof and Products Containing Same; Notice of Institution of Formal Enforcement Proceeding. 73 FR 60323-60324. October 10, 2008.

[Investigation Nos. 701-TA-454 and 731-TA-1144 (Final)] Welded Stainless Steel Pressure Pipe From China. 73 FR 58265-58267. October 6, 2008.

The Week Ahead

- Tuesday, October 14, the ITC held a hearing on the final phase antidumping investigation into sodium metal from France.
- Thursday, October 16, the ITC will hold a hearing on a five-year sunset review of the antidumping duty order on steel concrete reinforcing bar from Turkey.