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Trade Briefs

USTR Releases 2010 Trade Policy Agenda, 2009 Annual Report

On Monday, March 1, the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) released its 2010 Trade Policy Agenda and 2009 Annual Report of the President of the U.S. on the Trade Agreements Program. The President is required to submit an annual trade policy agenda to Congress under Section 163 of the Trade Act of 1974. The USTR is responsible for the preparation of this report.

The 2010 Trade Policy Agenda and 2009 Annual Report includes a discussion of the President's policy priorities in the Agenda section. With regard to Japan, the Agenda says that the President and USTR intend to continue to "build consensus and advance work" within the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

The Report also discusses the World Trade Organization, outstanding bilateral and regional trade negotiations and trade agreements. The Report further outlines other trade activities, such as environmental, labor-related, anti-counterfeiting, and import safety initiatives. The Report covers U.S. trade enforcement activities, including the enforcement of trade agreements and U.S. trade laws. Finally, the Report spells out the USTR's trade policy development programs, like Trade Capacity Building (TCB) and public input and transparency.

The Report also specifically addresses U.S.-Japan trade relations. According to the Report, the U.S. worked through the U.S.-Japan Regulatory Reform and Competition Policy Initiative to expand opportunities for U.S. businesses. The Report listed the following Initiative accomplishments: strengthening Japan's Copyright law; winning Japan's approval of new food additives used in U.S. food products; strengthening Japan's competition law regime; cutting the lag time in Japan's regulatory process for approval of new medicines and medical devices; and enacting a new law allowing non-bank providers of electronic fund transfer services to operate in Japan. Furthermore, the Report describes "senior-level engagement" with Japan to address concerns over autos and beef as well as third country trade. Concerns.

Dumping Watch

Final Results in AD Review Regarding CTL Plate from China

On February 24, the Department of Commerce (DOC) gave notice of final results in the administrative review of the antidumping (AD) duty order on certain cut-to-length carbon steel plate (CTL plate) from China. In response to timely requests submitted by Nucor Corporation (Nucor) and ArcelorMittal USA, Inc. (ArcelorMittal), the DOC initiated this review on December 24, 2008. On August 10, 2009, the DOC announced that it had preliminarily determined that Hunan Valin Xiangtan Iron & Steel Co., Ltd. (Valin Xiangtan) did not make sales of the subject merchandise to the U.S. at prices below normal value and that the dumping margin for Valin Xiangtan for the period of review is 0.00%. Also, the DOC preliminarily rescinded this review with respect to Anshan Iron & Steel Group (Anshan), Baoshan, and Baosteel Group due to the fact that ArcelorMittal had withdrawn its request for initiation of an administrative review for these three companies. Today, the DOC announced final results, and Valin Xiangtan's rate remains at 0.00%. However, the all others rate for China was found to be 128.59%.

Federal Register Notices

International Trade Administration

Civil Nuclear Trade Advisory Committee Public Meeting 75 FR 8922-8923, February 26, 2010.

[A-475-059] Pressure Sensitive Plastic Tape from Italy: Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty Changed Circumstances Review 75 FR 8925-8926, February 26, 2010.

[A-274-804] Carbon and Certain Alloy Steel Wire Rod from Trinidad and Tobago; Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review 75 FR 8650-8651, February 25, 2010.

[A-570-964, A-201-838] Seamless Refined Copper Pipe and Tube From the People's Republic of China and Mexico: Postponement of Preliminary Determinations of Antidumping Duty Investigations 75 FR 8677, February 25, 2010.

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Survey of Non-Tariff Trade Barriers to the U.S. Environmental Industry 75 FR 8300-8301, February 24, 2010.

[A-570-849] Certain Cut-to-Length Carbon Steel Plate From the People's Republic of China: Final Results of the 2007-2008 Administrative Review of the Antidumping Duty Order 75 FR 8301-8303, February 24, 2010.

[Application 10-00001] Export Trade Certificate of Review 75 FR 8040-8042, February 23, 2010.

[A-489-807] Certain Steel Concrete Reinforcing Bars From Turkey: Notice of Court Decision Not in Harmony With Final Results of Administrative Review 75 FR 7562-7563, February 22, 2010.

[A-533-843] Certain Lined Paper Products from India: Notice of Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review 75 FR 7563-7566, February 22, 2010.

[A-570-878] Saccharin from the People's Republic of China: Final Results of Changed Circumstances Review 75 FR 7566-7567, February 22, 2010.

International Trade Commission

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Extension 75 FR 8991-8993, February 26, 2010.

[Investigation Nos. 701-TA-465 and 731-TA-1161 (Final)] Certain Steel Grating From China 75 FR 8746-8747, February 25, 2010.

[Investigation No. 731-TA-1059 (Review)] Expedited Review Scheduling Notice; Hand Trucks and Certain Parts Thereof From China 75 FR 8745-8746, February 25, 2010.

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposed Collection; Comment Request 75 FR 8301-8303, February 24, 2010.

[Inv. No. 337-TA-704] In the Matter of Certain Mobile Communications and Computer Devices and Components Thereof; Notice of Investigation 75 FR 8399-8400, February 24, 2010.

[Inv. No. 337-TA-705] In the Matter of Certain Notebook Computer Products and Components Thereof; Notice of Investigation 75 FR 8400, February 24, 2010.

[Inv. No. 337-TA-706] In the Matter of Certain Wireless Communications System Server Software, Wireless Handheld Devices and Battery Packs; Notice of Investigation 75 FR 8400-8401, February 24, 2010.

[USITC SE-10-002] Government in the Sunshine Act Meeting Notice 75 FR 8401, February 24, 2010.

[Inv. No. 337-TA-655] In the Matter of Certain Cast Steel Railway Wheels, Processes for Manufacturing or Relating to Same and Certain Products Containing Same; Issuance of a Limited Exclusion Order and Cease and Desist Orders; Termination of the Investigation 75 FR 8114-8115, February 23, 2010.

[Investigation No. 337-TA-672] In the Matter of Certain Electronic Devices Having Image Capture or Display Functionality and Components Thereof; Notice of a Commission Determination Not To Review an Initial Determination Terminating the Investigation Based on a Settlement Agreement 75 FR 8115, February 23, 2010.

[Inv. No. 337-TA-703] In the Matter of Certain Mobile Telephones and Wireless Communication Devices Featuring Digital Cameras, and Components Thereof; Notice of Investigation 75 FR 8112-8113, February 23, 2010.

[Investigation No. 731-TA-130 (Third Review)] Chloropicrin From China 75 FR 8112, February 23, 2010.

[Investigation Nos. 701-TA-474 and 731-TA-1176 (Preliminary)] Drill Pipe From China 75 FR 8113-8114, February 23, 2010.

[Investigation Nos. 731-TA-776-779 (Second Review)] Preserved Mushrooms From Chile, China, India, and Indonesia 75 FR 8111-8112, February 23, 2010.

[Investigation No. AA1921-167 (Third Review)] Pressure Sensitive Plastic Tape From Italy 75 FR 8114, February 23, 2010.

[Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Final)] Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand From China 75 FR 8113, February 23, 2010.

Office of the U.S. Trade Representative

[Docket No. WTO/DS404] WTO Dispute Settlement Proceeding Regarding United States--Anti-Dumping Measures on Certain Shrimp From Viet Nam 75 FR 8177-8178, February 23, 2010.

The Week Ahead

- On March 2, the ITC will hold a hearing on the probable economic effect investigation of the U.S.-Trans-Pacific Partnership FTA.