annealed pipe in 1990; the following year, Chang Tieh purchased and installed an annealing furnace permitting it to produce ASTM A312 heat-treated pipe, the subject merchandise of the antidumping duty order. While the non-annealed pipe was intended almost exclusively for domestic consumption, the addition of the annealing furnace allowed Chang Tieh to target export markets.

In 1993 Chang Mien sought to merge Chang Tieh and another firm, Jumbo Stainless Steel Corporation (Jumbo), into a single entity bearing the Chang Mien name. The merger was prompted by Chang Mien's desire to become a publicly-traded company on Taiwain's stock exchange. The merger of the affiliated companies into one larger, consolidated entity would make Chang Mien more attractive to investors in the market. Chang Mien's 1991–1992 audited financial statements noted that a resolution to absorb Chang Tieh and Jumbo with Chang Mien was adopted by the stockholders on October 16, 1992. The Company (*i.e.* Chang Mien) would be the continuing company, while Chang Tieh and Jumbo would be the merged companies and cease to exist. The merger of Chang Tieh and Jumbo was approved by the Fair Trade Commission of the Executive Yuan on March 16, 1993.

Chang Mien maintains that it was related to or affiliated with respondent Chang Tieh, since both companies were owned by the same individual. As such, Chang Mien asserts in its request for review that it should have been excluded from the antidumping duty order *ab initio* (*see* Chang Mien's Request for § 751(b) Review, September 11, 1996, Public Version, p. 2). Therefore, Chang Mien maintains that when it absorbed Chang Tieh, it assumed Chang Tieh's exclusion from the antidumping duty order.

Basing our analysis on the four criteria cited above and evidence on the record, we have preliminarily determined that Chang Mien is the successor-in-interest to Chang Tieh. First, during the LTFV investigation, the Department established Chang Tieh's relationship with Chang Mien by virtue of common ownership by the same individual. In addition, the management and organizational structure of the former Chang Tieh, while undergoing some changes since the Department's 1991 period of investigation, remained essentially intact in the time following the March 1993 merger. The production facilities, although upgraded to some extent, are virtually the same, maintaining the same production capacity. Although Chang Mien has recently added new suppliers as the business environment changed, for the years immediately following the merger, Chang Mien continued to deal with essentially the same steel suppliers as those used by Chang Tieh prior to the merger. Chang Mien's customer base has changed considerably from the customers served by Chang Tieh, due to customer name changes, bankruptcy, new customers, etc. However, given that Chang Mien absorbed Chang Tieh more than four years ago we would expect change in the customer base. Moreover, changes in the U.S. customer base are understandable, given that Chang Tieh was a first-time entrant into the U.S. pipe market during the 1991 POI. Therefore, factors other than the merger of Chang Tieh with Chang Mien, contributed to the evolution to customer base.

As stated previously, we do not consider any one factor dispositive; our decision is based on the totality of the evidence. Our analysis of the evidence on the record leads us to preliminarily determine that Chang Mien is the successor-in-interest to Chang Tieh, since it essentially operates as the same entity as the former company, maintaining the same management, production facilities, and supplier relationships as did Chang Tieh prior to its merger with Chang Mien.

Interested parties may submit case briefs and/or written comments no later than 30 days after the date of publication of these preliminary results. Rebuttal briefs and rebuttals to written comments, limited to issues raise din such briefs or comments, may be filed no later than 37 days after the date of publication. The Department will publish the final results of this changed circumstances review which will include its analysis of any such written comments.

This notice is in accordance with section 751(b) of the Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1675(b)), and section 353.22(f) of the Department's regulations.

Dated: March 31, 1998.

Robert S. LaRussa,

Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 98–9099 Filed 4–6–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Case Western Reserve University, et al.; Notice of Consolidated Decision on Applications for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instruments

This is a decision consolidated pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Materials Importation Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89–651, 80 Stat. 897; 15 CFR part 301). Related records can be viewed between 8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. in Room 4211, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Comments: None received. *Decision:* Approved. No instrument of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instruments described below, for such purposes as each is intended to be used, is being manufactured in the United States.

Docket Number: 97–074. *Applicant:* Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH 44106. *Instrument:* Stopped-Flow Spectrometer, Model SX.18MV. *Manufacturer:* Applied Photophysics Ltd., United Kingdom. *Intended Use:* See notice at 62 FR 47645, September 10, 1997. *Reasons:* The foreign instrument provides: (1) Sub-millisecond dead time, (2) two photomultipliers at different angles to allow detection of both fluorescence and absorbance on immediately subsequent reactions and (3) superior performance on test specimens to be used in the planned research. *Advice received from:* National Institutes of Health, March 4, 1998.

Docket Number: 97–099. *Applicant:* Indiana/Purdue University, Indianapolis, IN 46202. *Instrument:* Xenon Flashlamp, Model JML–C2. *Manufacturer:* Hi-Tech Scientific, United Kingdom. *Intended Use:* See notice at 63 FR 5504, February 3, 1998. *Reasons:* The foreign instrument provides a liquid light guide to focus light directly on the specimen with a pulse power of 240 kW for a 1 ms duration. *Advice received from:* National Institutes of Health, January 5, 1998.

Docket Number: 97–100. *Applicant:* University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92093–0931. *Instrument:* Digital Sleep Recorder, Model VitaPort 2. *Manufacturer:* TEMEC Instruments BV, The Netherlands. *Intended Use:* See notice at 63 FR 5504, February 3, 1998. *Reasons:* The foreign instrument provides: (1) Electronic measurement of electrophysical (e.g. EEG and EOG) and cardio-respiratory (e.g. ECG and RIP–

THOR) parameters and (2) minimized weight, power consumption and physical dimensions appropriate for space flight. *Advice received from:* National Institutes of Health, January 5, 1998.

Docket Number: 97–104. *Applicant:* University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309–0008. *Instrument:* Experimental Set-ups (Frames & Trusses). *Manufacturer:* Hi-Tech Scientific Ltd., United Kingdom. *Intended Use:* See notice at 63 FR 5364, February 2, 1998. *Reasons:* The foreign instrument provides a small mechanical apparatus with instrumentation which serves as a mock-up of structures, such as a truss, frame or bridge, which students can use to perform basic experiments in structural engineering. *Advice received from:* A university laboratory instructor, March 19, 1998.

Docket Number: 97–107. *Applicant:* University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL 61801. *Instrument:* Near-Field Scanning Optical Microscope. *Manufacturer:* Witec GmbH, Germany. *Intended Use:* See notice at 63 FR 5504, February 3, 1998. *Reasons:* The foreign instrument provides: (1) operation in both transmission and reflection mode, (2) operation in liquids and (3) three separate piezo-drivers for X,Y,Z translation. *Advice received from:* National Institutes of Health, March 5, 1998.

Docket Number: 98–003. *Applicant:* University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405. *Instrument:* (40 each) HV Stopcock (Laboratory Glassware). *Manufacturer:* Louwers Hapert Glasstechnics BV, The Netherlands. *Intended Use:* See notice at 63 FR 8164, February 18, 1998. *Reasons:* The foreign instrument provides a unique remotely controlled high vacuum stopcock for use in automated processing systems for production of doubly labelled water. *Advice received from:* National Institutes of Health, March 5, 1998.

The National Institutes of Health and a university laboratory instructor advise that (1) the capabilities of each of the foreign instruments described above are pertinent to each applicant's intended purpose and (2) they know of no domestic instrument or apparatus of equivalent scientific value for the intended use of each Instrument.

We know of no other instrument or apparatus being manufactured in the United States which is of equivalent scientific value to any of the foreign instruments.

Frank W. Creel,

Director, Statutory Import Programs Staff.

[FR Doc. 98–8972 Filed 4–6–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

TITLE: Emergency Beacon Registrations.

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before June 8, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to NOAA/NESDIS, James Bailey, Chief, Direct Services Division E/SP3, 4700 Silver Hill Road, Stop 9909, Washington, DC 20233–9909. Toll-free 1–888–212–7283.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

Search and Rescue instruments on NOAA's weather satellites can detect distress signals from emergency beacons, which are often used on ships and aircraft. NOAA relays emergency signals to the Coast Guard and Air Force for rescue efforts. The Federal Communications Commission requires that emergency beacons be registered with NOAA. Registration information is provided to the Coast Guard with alert information to enable it to track down owners when false alarms take place and to provide vital descriptive characteristics to speed response in actual distress cases.

II. Method of Collection

The information is collected on a form enclosed in the packaging of new emergency beacons. The form is also available on the World-Wide-Web.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0648–0295.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular Submission.

Affected Public: Not-for-profit institutions; individuals; business or other for-profit; State, Local, or Tribal governments; and the Federal government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 10,000.

Estimated Time Per Response: 15 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 2,500 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Cost: $0 (no capital expenditures are required for the registration).

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: April 1, 1998.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 98–9011 Filed 4–6–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3512–12–P