

Fair Value Comparisons

Based on the data provided by the petitioner, there is reason to believe that imports of paintbrushes and paintbrush heads, other than natural bristle paintbrushes and paintbrush heads, from the PRC and paintbrushes and paintbrush heads from Indonesia are being, or are likely to be, sold at less than fair value.

Allegations and Evidence of Material Injury and Causation

The petitioner alleges that the U.S. industry producing the domestic like product is being materially injured, and is threatened with material injury, by reason of imports of the subject merchandise sold at less than NV. The allegations of injury and causation are supported by relevant evidence including business proprietary data from the members of PATAC and U.S. Customs import data. The Department assessed the allegations and supporting evidence regarding material injury and causation and determined that these allegations are sufficiently supported by accurate and adequate evidence and meet the statutory requirements for initiation. See Initiation Checklist (public version on file in the Central Records Unit of the Department of Commerce, Room B-099).

Initiation of Antidumping Investigations

We have examined the petitions on paintbrushes and paintbrush heads, other than natural bristle paintbrushes and paintbrush heads, from the PRC and paintbrushes and paintbrush heads from Indonesia and have found that they meet the requirements of section 732 of the Act. Therefore, we are initiating antidumping duty investigations to determine whether imports of paintbrushes and paintbrush heads, other than natural bristle paintbrushes and paintbrush heads, from the PRC and paintbrushes and paintbrush heads from Indonesia are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value. Unless extended, we will make our preliminary determinations for the antidumping duty investigations by January 10, 2000.

Distribution of Copies of the Petitions

In accordance with section 732(b)(3)(A) of the Act, a copy of the public version of each petition has been provided to the representatives of the governments of the PRC and Indonesia. We will attempt to provide a copy of the public version of each petition to each exporter named in the petition (as appropriate).

International Trade Commission Notification

We have notified the ITC of our initiations, as required by section 732(d) of the Act.

Preliminary Determinations by the ITC

The ITC will determine by September 16, 1999, whether there is a reasonable indication that imports of paintbrushes and paintbrush heads, other than natural bristle paintbrushes and paintbrush heads, from the PRC and paintbrushes and paintbrush heads from Indonesia are causing material injury, or threatening to cause material injury, to a U.S. industry. Negative ITC determinations will result in the particular investigations being terminated; otherwise, the investigations will proceed according to statutory and regulatory time limits.

This notice is published in accordance with section 777(i)(1) of the Act.

Dated: August 23, 1999.

Richard W. Moreland,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

District Export Council Nomination Opportunity

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of Opportunity to Serve as a Member of One of the Fifty-five District Export Councils.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Commerce is currently seeking expressions of interest from individuals in serving as a member of one of the fifty-five District Export Councils (DECs) nationwide. The DECs are closely affiliated with the Export Assistance Centers (EACs) of the Commercial Service. DECs combine the energies of more than 1,500 exporters and private and public export service providers who volunteer their time to supply specialized expertise to small and medium-sized businesses in their local communities who are interested in exporting. DEC members volunteer at their own expense.

DATES: Applications for nomination to a DEC must be received by the designated local DEC representative by September 10, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Stone, International Trade

Specialist, the Commercial Service, tel. 202-482-6298. Additional information about the DECs is also found on the National DEC Homepage at <http://www.ita.doc.gov/dec>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Providing their expertise and mentoring services, DEC members help local firms move from their first international business plan to their first export sale. The DECs create seminars that simplify trade finance, host international buyer delegations, design breakthrough exporting guides, put exporters on the Internet, and help build local partnerships that strengthen export assistance programs. Because DEC members represent both the users and providers of local export assistance services, they can identify gaps in the export services that EACs provide to U.S. businesses and thus shape EAC international trade programs to better meet local business needs.

Selection Process

About half of the approximately 30 positions on each of the 55 DECs will be open for nominations for the term that begins January 1, 2000, and ends December 31, 2003. Nominees are recommended by the local DEC Executive Secretary in consultation with the DEC and with other local export promotion partners. After undergoing a review process, DEC nominees are then selected and appointed to DEC membership by the Secretary of Commerce.

Membership Criteria

Each DEC is interested in nominating highly-motivated people active in the local exporting community. Membership composition on the DECs include: exporters (such as representatives from manufacturing, the services industry, and export trading companies); bankers; U.S. Small Business Administration representatives; state and local officials; and other "partners" including international lawyers and accountants as well as representatives from world trade centers, chambers of commerce, export management companies, labor and freight forwarders.

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 1501 *et seq.*, 15 U.S.C. 4721.

Dated: August 19, 1999.

Daniel J. McLaughlin,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Domestic Operations, U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service.

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