FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Darla D. Brown, Office of Policy for Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482–3207.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Applicable Statute and Regulations

Unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (''the Act''), are references to the provisions effective January 1, 1995, the effective date of the amendments made to the Act by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (''URAA''). In addition, unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the Department's regulations are to 19 CFR part 351 (1999) in general. Guidance on methodological or analytical issues relevant to the Department's conduct of sunset reviews is set forth in the Department's Policy Bulletin 98:3—*Policies Regarding the Conduct of Five-year (''Sunset'') Reviews of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Orders; Policy Bulletin*, 63 FR 18871 (April 16, 1998) (''*Sunset Policy Bulletin*'').

Background

On September 1, 1999, the Department initiated a sunset review of the countervailing duty order on CTL plate from Belgium (64 FR 47767), pursuant to section 751(c) of the Act. On the basis of a notice of intent to participate and adequate substantive response filed on behalf of domestic interested parties and inadequate response from respondent interested parties, we determined to conduct an expedited review. The Department has conducted this sunset review in accordance with sections 751(c) and 752 of the Act.

Scope

The products covered by this order are certain cut-to-length carbon steel plate. These products include hot-rolled carbon steel universal mill plates (*i.e.*, flat-rolled products rolled on four faces or in a closed box pass, of a width exceeding 150 millimeters but not exceeding 1,250 millimeters and of a thickness of not less than 4 millimeters, not in coils and without patterns in relief), of rectangular shape, neither clad, plated nor coated with metal, whether or not painted, varnished, or coated with plastics or other nonmetallic substances; and certain hot-rolled carbon steel flat-rolled products in straight lengths, of rectangular shape, hot rolled, neither clad, plated, nor coated with metal, whether or not painted, varnished, or coated with plastics or other nonmetallic substances, 4.75 millimeters or more in thickness and of a width which exceeds 150 millimeters and measures at least twice the thickness, as currently classifiable in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (''HTS'') under subheadings 7208.31.0000, 7208.32.0000, 7208.33.1000, 7208.33.5000, 7208.41.0000, 7208.42.0000, 7208.43.0000, 7208.90.0000, 7210.70.3000, 7210.90.9000, 7211.11.0000, 7211.12.0000, 7211.21.0000, 7211.22.0045, 7211.90.0000, 7212.40.1000, 7212.40.5000, and 7212.50.0000. Included in this review are flat-rolled products of non-rectangular cross-section where such cross-section is achieved subsequent to the rolling process (*i.e.*, products which have been ''worked after rolling'')—for example, products which have been beveled or rounded at the edges. Excluded from this order is grade X–70 plate. The HTS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes only. The written description of the scope remains dispositive.

Analysis of Substantive Response

All issues raised in the substantive responses and rebuttals by parties to this sunset review are addressed in the ''Issues and Decision Memorandum'' (''Decision Memo'') from Jeffrey A. May, Director, Office of Policy, Import Administration, to Robert S. LaRussa, Assistant Secretary for Import Administration, dated March 29, 2000, which is hereby adopted by this notice. The issues discussed in the attached Decision Memo include the likelihood of continuation or recurrence of a countervailable subsidy and the net subsidy rate likely to prevail were the order revoked. Parties can find a complete discussion of all issues raised in this review and the corresponding recommendations in this public memorandum which is on file in room B–099 of the main Commerce building.

In addition, a complete version of the Decision Memo can be accessed directly on the Web at *www.ita.doc.gov/import admin/records/frn/*. The paper copy and electronic version of the Decision Memo are identical in content.

Final Results of Review

We determine that revocation of the countervailing duty order on CTL plate from Belgium would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of a countervailable subsidy. The net countervailable subsidy is 23.15 percent *ad valorem* for Cockerill, 1.05 percent *ad valorem* for Fafer, and 5.92 percent *ad valorem* for ''all others.''

Although the programs included in our calculation of the net countervailable subsidy likely to prevail if the orders were revoked do not fall within the definition of an export subsidy under Article 3.1(a) of the Subsidies Agreement, they may be subsidies described in Article 6, if the net countervailable subsidy exceeds 5 percent, as measured in accordance with Annex IV of the Subsidies Agreement. The Department, however, has no information with which to make such a calculation, nor do we believe it appropriate to attempt such a calculation in the course of a sunset review.[1] Rather, we are providing the Commission the program descriptions contained in the Decision Memo.

This notice serves as the only reminder to parties subject to administrative protective order (''APO'') of their responsibility concerning the disposition of proprietary information disclosed under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305 of the Department's regulations. Timely notification of return/destruction of APO materials or conversion to judicial protective order is hereby requested. Failure to comply with the regulations and the terms of an APO is a sanctionable violation.

This five-year (''sunset'') review and notice are in accordance with sections 751(c), 752, and 777(i)(1) of the Act.

Dated: March 29, 2000.

Joseph A. Spetrini,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 00–8549 Filed 4–5–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[C–201–810]

Certain Cut-to-Length Carbon Steel Plate From Mexico; Final Results of Countervailing Duty Expedited Sunset Review

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of final results of countervailing duty expedited sunset review: certain cut-to-length carbon steel plate from Mexico.

SUMMARY: On September 1, 1999, the Department of Commerce (''the Department'') published the notice of

[1] Moreover, we note that as of January 1, 2000, Article 6.1 has ceased to apply (*see* Article 31 of the Subsidies Agreement).

initiation of the sunset review of the countervailing duty order on certain cut-to-length carbon steel plate (''cut-to-length plate'') from Mexico. On the basis of a notice of intent to participate and adequate substantive comments filed on behalf of domestic interested parties and inadequate response (in this case, no response) from respondent interested parties, we determined to conduct an expedited review. As a result of this review, the Department finds that revocation of the countervailing duty order would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of a countervailable subsidy. The net countervailable subsidy is identified in the Final Results of Review section of this notice.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 6, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark D. Young, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482–6397.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Statute and Regulations

Unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (''the Act''), are references to the provisions effective January 1, 1995, the effective date of the amendments made to the Act by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (''URAA''). In addition, unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the Department of Commerce's (''the Department's'') regulations are to 19 CFR part 351 (1999). Guidance on methodological or analytical issues relevant to the Department's conduct of sunset reviews is set forth in the Department's Policy Bulletin 98:3—Policies Regarding the Conduct of Five-year (''Sunset'') Reviews of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Orders; Policy Bulletin, 63 FR 18871 (April 16, 1998) (''Sunset Policy Bulletin'').

Background

On September 1, 1999, the Department published the notice of initiation of the sunset review of the countervailing duty order on cut-to-length plate from Mexico (64 FR 47767). The Department received a Notice of Intent to Participate on behalf of Bethlehem Steel Corporation and U.S. Steel Group, a unit of USX Corporation (''the domestic interested parties''), within the deadline specified in section 351.218(d)(1)(i) of the Sunset Regulations. The domestic interested parties claimed interested party status under section 771(9)(C) of the Act, as U.S. manufacturers of cut-to-length plate. We received a complete substantive response from the domestic interested parties on October 1, 1999, within the 30-day deadline specified in the Sunset Regulations under section 351.218(d)(3)(i). In their substantive response, the domestic interested parties stated that they were the petitioners in the original investigation of cut-to-length plate from Mexico. Furthermore, the domestic interested parties stated that they had participated in each subsequent segment of the case. We did not receive a substantive response from any respondent interested party to these proceedings. As a result, pursuant to section 751(c)(3)(B) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.218(e)(1)(ii)(C), the Department determined to conduct an expedited, 120-day, review of this order.

In accordance with section 751(c)(5)(C)(v) of the Act, the Department may treat a review as extraordinarily complicated if it is a review of a transition order (*i.e.,* an order in effect on January 1, 1995). The review at issue concerns a transition order within the meaning of section 751(c)(6)(C)(i) of the Act. Therefore, the Department determined that the sunset review of the countervailing duty order on cut-to-length plate from Mexico is extraordinarily complicated and extended the time limit for completion of the final results of this review until not later than March 29, 2000, in accordance with section 751(c)(5)(B) of the Act.[1]

Scope of Reviews

The products covered by this countervailing duty order constitute one ''class or kind'' of merchandise: certain cut-to-length carbon steel plate. These products include hot-rolled carbon steel universal mill plates (*i.e.,* flat-rolled products rolled on four faces or in a closed box pass, of a width exceeding 150 millimeters but not exceeding 1,250 millimeters and of a thickness of not less than 4 millimeters, not in coils and without patterns in relief), of rectangular shape, neither clad, plated, nor coated with metal, whether or not painted, varnished, or coated with plastics or other nonmetallic substances; and certain hot-rolled carbon steel flat-rolled products in straight lengths, of rectangular shape, hot rolled, neither clad, plated, nor coated with metal, whether or not painted, varnished, or coated with plastics or other nonmetallic substances, 4.75 millimeters or more in thickness and of a width which exceeds 150 millimeters and measures at least twice the thickness, as currently classifiable in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (''HTSUS'') under item numbers 7208.31.0000, 7208.32.0000, 7208.33.1000, 7208.33.5000, 7208.41.0000, 7208.42.0000, 7208.43.0000, 7208.90.0000, 7210.70.3000, 7210.90.9000, 7211.11.0000, 7211.12.0000, 7211.21.0000, 7211.22.0045, 7211.90.0000, 7212.40.1000, 7212.40.5000, and 7212.50.0000. Included within the scope are flat-rolled products of non-rectangular cross-section where such cross-section is achieved subsequent to the rolling process (*i.e.,* products which have been ''worked after rolling''); for example, products which have been beveled or rounded at the edges. Excluded is grade X–70 plate. These HTSUS item numbers are provided for convenience and customs purposes. The Department's written description remains dispositive. There has not been a scope review of the subject merchandise from Mexico.[2]

This review covers all imports from all manufacturers and exporters of cut-to-length plate from Mexico.

Analysis of Comments Received

All issues raised in this case by parties to this sunset review are addressed in the ''Issues and Decision Memorandum'' (''Decision Memo'') from Jeffrey A. May, Director, Office of Policy, Import Administration, to Robert S. LaRussa, Assistant Secretary for Import Administration, dated March 29, 2000, which is hereby adopted by this notice. The issues discussed in the Decision Memo include the likelihood of continuation or recurrence of a countervailable subsidy, the net countervailable subsidy, and the nature of the subsidy. Parties can find a complete discussion of all issues raised in this review and the corresponding recommendations in this public memorandum, which is on file in room B–099 of the main Commerce Building.

In addition, a complete version of the Decision Memo can be accessed directly on the Web at www.ita.doc.gov/import admin/records/frn/. The paper copy and electronic version of the Decision Memo are identical in content.

Final Results of Reviews

We determine that revocation of the countervailing duty order on cut-to-

[1] See Extension of Time Limit for Final Results of Five-Year Reviews, 64 FR 71726 (December 22, 1999).

[2] However, The Department has made one scope ruling on the subject merchandise from Brazil. The following product was determined to be within the scope of the order: Profile Slabs manufactured by Companhia Siderurgica Tubarao, 62 FR 30569 (June 4, 1997).

length plate from Mexico would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of a countervailable subsidy at the rates listed below:

Mexican manufacturers/exporters	Net subsidy rate (percent)
Altos Hornos de Mexico S.A	25.87
All Others	20.25

Among the benefits provided by the GOM's countervailable programs the Department determined that those provided by the Bancomext Export Loans and PITEX Duty-Free Imports for Companies That Export were contingent upon export performance;[3] therefore, both programs fall within the purview of Article 3.1(a). Because receipt of a benefit under the 1986 Assumption of AHMSA's Debt program, the 1988 and 1990 Debt Restructuring of AHMSA Debt and the Resulting Discounted Prepayment in 1996 of AHMSA's Restructuring Debt Owed to the GOM program, and the Pre-privatization Lay-off Financing from the GOM and the 1991 Equity Infusion in Connection with the Debt to Equity Swap of PROCARSA program are types of debt forgiveness, these programs fall within the definition ''direct forgiveness of debt'' for purposes of Article 6.1(d) of the Subsidies Agreement. The GOM Equity Infusions program, the Immediate Deduction program, and IMIS Research and Development Grants program are not contingent on exports, nor are they ''direct forgiveness of debt.'' Therefore, these programs could be found inconsistent with Article 6.1[4] of the Subsidies Agreement if the net subsidy exceeds 5 percent *ad valorem* as measured in accordance with Annex IV of the Subsidies Agreement. However, the Department does not have enough information to calculate or determine whether the total *ad valorem* subsidization of the subject merchandise from these programs exceeds five-percent or whether they were meant to cover operating losses or to be used as direct forgiveness of debt. Nor does the Department believe such a calculation or determination would be appropriate in the course of a sunset review. Instead, we are providing the Commission with the program descriptions listed below.

[3] See Certain Cut-To-Length Carbon Steel Plate from Mexico: Final Results of Countervailing Duty Administrative Review, 65 FR 13368 (March 13, 2000).

[4] We note that as of January 1, 2000, Article 6.1 has ceased to apply (see Article 31 of the Subsidies Agreement).

Equity Infusions

This program enabled AHMSA to receive equity infusions from the GOM in 1977, each year from 1979 to 1987, in 1990, and in 1991. We determined that equity infusions by the GOM into AHMSA in these years were specific and made on terms inconsistent with commercial considerations.

IMIS Research and Development Grants

Under this program IMIS performed joint venture research and did not make the results of the joint venture publicly available, therefore the Department was not able to determine the exact value of IMIS's contributions to the joint venture.

Immediate Deduction

This program promotes investment by allowing the future deduction of fixed assets, at their present value, at the time of the investment. This program only applied to property used permanently within Mexico but outside of the metropolitan areas of Mexico City, Guadalajara, and Monterey. With respect to small firms (*i.e.,* firms with a gross income of 7 million pesos or less), the location restriction does not apply.

This notice also serves as the only reminder to parties subject to administrative protective orders (''APO'') of their responsibility concerning the return or destruction of proprietary information disclosed under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305 of the Department's regulations. Timely notification of the return or destruction of APO materials or conversion to judicial protective order is hereby requested. Failure to comply with the regulations and terms of an APO is a violation which is subject to sanction.

We are issuing and publishing these results and notice in accordance with sections 751(c), 752, and 777(i)(1) of the Act.

Dated: March 29, 2000.

Joseph A. Spetrini,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 00–8556 Filed 4–5–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[C–475–819]

Certain Pasta From Italy: Notice of Extension of Time Limit for the 1998 Countervailing Duty Administrative Review

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce is extending the time limit for the preliminary results of the third review of the countervailing duty order on certain pasta from Italy. The period of review is January 1 through December 31, 1998.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 6, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Craig Matney or Annika O'Hara, Office of AD/CVD Enforcement I, Import Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone (202) 482–1778 or (202) 482-3798, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Applicable Statute

Unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the statute are references to the provisions effective January 1, 1995, the effective date of the amendments made to the Tariff Act of 1930 (the Act) by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act. Unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the Department's regulations are to 19 CFR part 351 (1999).

Background

On August 30, 1999, the Department of Commerce (''the Department'') initiated the third countervailing duty administrative review of certain pasta from Italy, covering calendar year 1998. See *Initiation of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Administrative Reviews and Requests for Revocation in Part,* 64 FR 47167 (August 30, 1999). Corrections to the initiation notice were published in the **Federal Register** on September 8, 1999 (64 FR 48897) and November 4, 1999 (64 FR 60161). The preliminary results are currently due no later than April 3, 2000.

Statutory Time Limits

Section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), requires the Department to issue the preliminary results within 245 days after the last day of the anniversary month of the order for which a review is requested. However, if it is not practicable to issue the preliminary results within the time