investigations. The Commission will issue a final phase notice of scheduling which will be published in the Federal Register as provided in section 207.21 of the Commission's rules upon notice from the Department of Commerce (Commerce) of an affirmative preliminary determination in an investigation under section 733(b) of the Act, or, if the preliminary determinations are negative, upon notice of an affirmative final determination in an investigation under section 735(a) of the Act. Parties that filed entries of appearance in the preliminary phase of the investigations need not enter a separate appearance for the final phase of the investigations. Industrial users, and, if the merchandise under investigation is sold at the retail level, representative consumer organizations have the right to appear as parties in Commission antidumping and countervailing duty investigations. The Secretary will prepare a public service list containing the names and addresses of all persons, or their representatives, who are parties to the investigations.

Background

On November 5, 1996, a petition was filed with the Commission and the Department of Commerce by Geneva Steel Co., Provo, UT, and Gulf States Steel, Inc., Gadsden, AL, alleging that an industry in the United States is materially injured or threatened with material injury by reason of LTFV imports of cut-to-length carbon steel plate from China, Russia, South Africa, and Ukraine. Accordingly, effective November 5, 1996, the Commission instituted antidumping investigations Nos. 731–TA–753–756 (Preliminary).

Notice of the institution of the Commission's investigations and of a public conference to be held in connection therewith was given by posting copies of the notice in the Office of the Secretary, U.S. International Trade Commission, Washington, DC, and by publishing the notice in the Federal Register of November 13, 1996 (61 FR 58216). The conference was held in Washington, DC, on November 26, 1996, and all persons who requested the opportunity were permitted to appear in person or by counsel.

The Commission transmitted its determinations in these investigations to the Secretary of Commerce on December 20, 1996. The views of the Commission are contained in USITC Publication 3009 (December 1996), entitled *Cut-to-length Carbon Steel Plate from China, Russia, South Africa, and Ukraine: Investigations Nos. 731–TA–753–756 (Preliminary).*

Issued: December 20, 1996.

By order of the Commission.

Donna R. Koehnke,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96–33013 Filed 12–26–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7020–02–P

[Investigation 332–376]

Advice Concerning the Addition of Certain Pharmaceutical Products and Chemical Intermediates to the Pharmaceutical Appendix to the HTS

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Institution of investigation.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 20, 1996.

SUMMARY: Following receipt on December 18, 1996, of a request from the United States Trade Representative, the Commission instituted investigation No. 332–376, Advice Concerning the Addition of Certain Pharmaceutical Products and Chemical Intermediates to the Pharmaceutical Appendix to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, under section 115 of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3524) and section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1332(g)).

As requested by the USTR, the Commission will provide: (1) A summary description of the products contained in the existing Pharmaceutical Appendix and the modifications to be made to that Appendix; (2) an explanation of the relationship of the ''zero-for-zero'' initiative, including the Pharmaceutical Appendix, to the HTS; and (3) estimates of current U.S. imports and, where possible, U.S. exports, of the products included in the existing Pharmaceutical Appendix and the proposed additions to the Appendix, based on product groupings as necessary. The Commission will submit its report to the USTR by January 17, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Information on general aspects of the study may be obtained from Elizabeth Nesbitt, Office of Industries (202–205–3355) or, on legal aspects, from William Gearhart, Office of the General Counsel (202–205–3091). The media should contact Margaret O'Laughlin, Office of Public Affairs (202–205–1819). Hearing impaired individuals are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting the TDD terminal on (202–205–1810). A copy of the Federal Register notice announcing the institution of this investigation and the annex listing the products under consideration can be downloaded from the Commission's Internet server (http://www.usitc.gov or ftp://ftp.usitc.gov) or may be obtained by contacting the Office of the Secretary, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20436, or at 202–205–1802.

BACKGROUND: During the Uruguay Round, the United States and 16 other major trading countries agreed to the reciprocal elimination of duties on approximately 7,000 pharmaceutical products and chemical intermediates (the latter are to be used primarily for the production of pharmaceuticals), and their derivatives, resulting in the ''zero-for-zero'' initiative in pharmaceuticals. Effective January 1, 1995, U.S. imports of these products, as enumerated in the Pharmaceutical Appendix to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS), now enter free of duty under general note 13 to the tariff schedule. The 17 countries also agreed to conduct a review, at least once every 3 years, to identify products to be added to the Pharmaceutical Appendix. Negotiators from several countries, including the United States, have recently been engaged in the first review and have reached agreement on the addition of 496 pharmaceutical products and chemical intermediates. Addition to the list would provide duty-free treatment to these products and their derivatives.

According to the request letter from the USTR, a coalition of pharmaceutical companies from several WTO members (which the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) coordinated) submitted the initial list of candidates for addition to the existing Appendix to the pharmaceutical agreement. Moreover, the letter states that USTR consulted with the Administration's Industry Sector Advisory Committee-3 (ISAC–3; chemicals) throughout the negotiations and that this ISAC has endorsed the final list of items under consideration.

Section 111(b) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (the Act) authorizes the President, subject to the consultation and layover requirements of section 115 of the Act, to proclaim duty-free treatment under the ''zero-for-zero'' initiative for additional pharmaceutical products to be added, such as those now under consideration. One of the requirements set out in section 115 is that the President obtain advice regarding the proposed action from the United States International Trade Commission.

Issued: December 20, 1996.

By order of the Commission.

Donna R. Koehnke,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96–33014 Filed 12–26–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7020–02–P

[Investigation No. 332–360]

International Harmonization of Customs Rules of Origin

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Request for public comment on draft proposals for chapters 50–63 (Textiles).

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 20, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eugene A. Rosengarden, Director, Office of Tariff Affairs and Trade Agreements (O/TA&TA) (202–205–2595), or Jan Summers (202–205–2605).

Parties having an interest in particular products or HTS chapters and desiring to be included on a mailing list to receive available documents pertaining thereto should advise Diane Whitfield by phone (202–205–2610) or by mail at the Commission, 500 E St SW, Room 404, Washington, D.C. 20436. Hearing impaired persons are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal on 202–205–1810. The media should contact Margaret O'Laughlin, Director, Office of Public Affairs (202–205- 1819).

BACKGROUND: Following receipt of a letter from the United States Trade Representative (USTR) on January 25, 1995, the Commission instituted Investigation No. 332–360, International Harmonization of Customs Rules of Origin, under section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (60 FR 19605, April 19, 1995).

The investigation is intended to provide the basis for Commission participation in work pertaining to the Uruguay Round Agreement on Rules of Origin (ARO), under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 and adopted along with the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The ARO is designed to harmonize and clarify nonpreferential rules of origin for goods in trade on the basis of the substantial transformation test; achieve discipline in the rules' administration; and provide a framework for notification, review, consultation, and dispute settlement. These harmonized rules are intended to make country-of-origin determinations impartial, predictable, transparent, consistent, and neutral, and to avoid restrictive or distortive effects on international trade. The ARO provides that technical work to those ends will be undertaken by the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) (now informally known as the World Customs Organization or WCO), which must report on specified matters relating to such rules for further action by parties to the ARO. Eventually, the WTO Ministerial Conference is to ''establish the results of the harmonization work program in an annex as an integral part'' of the ARO.

In order to carry out the work, the ARO calls for the establishment of a Committee on Rules of Origin of the WTO and a Technical Committee on Rules of Origin (TCRO) of the WCO. These Committees bear the primary responsibility for developing rules that achieve the objectives of the ARO.

A major component of the work program is the harmonization of origin rules for the purpose of providing more certainty in the conduct of world trade. To this end, the agreement contemplates a 3-year WCO program, which was formally initiated in July, 1995. Under the ARO, the TCRO is to undertake (1) to develop harmonized definitions of goods considered wholly obtained in one country, and of minimal processes or operations deemed not to confer origin, (2) to consider the use of change in Harmonized System classification as a means of reflecting substantial transformation, and (3) for those products or sectors where a change of tariff classification does not allow for the reflection of substantial transformation, to develop supplementary or exclusive origin criteria based on value, manufacturing or processing operations or on other standards.

The draft rules for chapters 50–63 of the Harmonized System that are being made available for public comment cover goods that are not considered to be wholly made in a single country. The rules rely largely on the change of heading as a basis for ascribing origin. Copies of the proposed revised rules will be available from the Office of the Secretary at the Commission, from the Commission's Internet web server (http://www.usitc.gov), or by submitting a request on the Office of Tariff Affairs and Trade Agreements voice messaging system, 202–205–2592. Due to their length, the rules will not be available by FAX. These proposals are intended to serve as the basis for the U.S. proposal to the Technical Committee on Rules of Origin of the WCO. The proposals are based on the principles of application enacted by Congress in Section 334 of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3592) with respect to country of origin determinations for textile goods but may not necessarily reflect or restate existing Customs treatment in all cases for all current nonpreferential purposes. Based upon a decision of the Trade Policy Staff Committee, the proposals are intended for future harmonization for the nonpreferential purposes indicated in the ARO for application on a global basis. The proposals may undergo change as proposals from other government administrations and the private sector are received and considered.

Under the circumstances, the proposals should not be cited as authority for the application of current domestic law.

If eventually adopted by the TCRO for submission to the Committee on Rules of Origin of the World Trade Organization, these proposals would comprise an important element of the ARO work program to develop harmonized, non-preferential country of origin rules, as discussed in the Commission's earlier notice. Thus, in view of the importance of these rules, the Commission seeks to ascertain the views of interested parties concerning the extent to which the proposed rules reflect the standard of substantial transformation provided in the Agreement.

Forthcoming Commission notices will advise the public on the progress of the TCRO's work and will contain any harmonized definitions or rules that have been provisionally or finally adopted.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS: Interested persons are invited to submit written statements concerning this phase of the Commission's investigation. Written statements should be submitted as quickly as possible, and follow-up statements are permitted; but all statements must be received at the Commission by the close of business on February 7, 1997 in order to be considered. Information supplied to the Customs Service in statements filed pursuant to notices of that agency has been given to us and need not be separately provided to the Commission. Again, the Commission notes that it is particularly interested in receiving input from the private sector on the effects of the various proposed rules and definitions on U.S. exports. Commercial or financial information which a submitter desires the Commission to treat as confidential must be submitted on separate sheets of paper, each marked ''Confidential Business Information'' at the top. All submissions requesting confidential treatment must conform with the requirements of