Manufacturing Corporation of America plant, in Newnan, Georgia) to include the manufacture of all-terrain vehicles under FTZ procedures, the Board, finding that the requirements of the FTZ Act and the Board's regulations have been satisfied, and that the proposal is in the public interest, approves the application.

Approval is subject to the FTZ Act and the Board's regulations, including § 400.28; and, further to the existing restrictions described in FTZ Board Order 433.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 30th day of March 1998.

Robert S. LaRussa,

Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Import Administration, Alternate Chairman, Foreign-Trade Zones Board.

Attest:

Dennis Puccinelli,

Acting Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98–9098 Filed 4–6–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Order No. 966]

Grant of Authority for Subzone Status, Halter Marine, Inc. (Shipbuilding), Lockport, LA

Pursuant to its authority under the Foreign-Trade Zones Act of June 18, 1934, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a–81u), the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) adopts the following Order:

Whereas, by an Act of Congress approved June 18, 1934, an Act ''To provide for the establishment * * * of foreign-trade zones in ports of entry of the United States, to expedite and encourage foreign commerce, and for other purposes,'' as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a–81u) (the FTZ Act), the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) is authorized to grant to qualified corporations the privilege of establishing foreign-trade zones in or adjacent to U.S. Customs ports of entry;

Whereas, the Board's regulations (15 CFR Part 400) provide for the establishment of special-purpose subzones when existing zone facilities cannot serve the specific use involved;

Whereas, an application from the South Louisiana Port Commission, grantee of FTZ 124, for authority to establish special-purpose subzone status for the Halter Marine, Inc., shipyard in Lockport, Louisiana, was filed by the Board on July 16, 1997, and notice inviting public comment was given in the **Federal Register** (FTZ Docket 60–97, 62 FR 39808, 7–24–97); and,

Whereas, the Board adopts the findings and recommendations of the examiner's report, and finds that the requirements of the FTZ Act and Board's regulations would be satisfied, and that approval of the application would be in the public interest if approval were given subject to the standard shipyard restriction on foreign steel mill products;

Now, therefore, the Board hereby grants authority for subzone status at the Halter Marine, Inc., shipyard in Lockport, Louisiana (Subzone 124G), at the location described in the application, subject to the FTZ Act and the Board's regulations, including § 400.28, and subject to the following special conditions:

1. Any foreign steel mill products admitted to the subzone, including plate, angles, shapes, channels, rolled steel stock, bars, pipes and tubes, not incorporated into merchandise otherwise classified, and which is used in manufacturing, shall be subject to Customs duties in accordance with applicable law, if the same item is then being produced by a domestic steel mill; and,

2. In addition to the annual report, Halter Marine, Inc., shall advise the Board's Executive Secretary (§ 400.28(a)(3)) as to significant new contracts with appropriate information concerning foreign purchases otherwise dutiable, so that the Board may consider whether any foreign dutiable items are being imported for manufacturing in the subzone primarily because of subzone status and whether the Board should consider requiring Customs duties to be paid on such items.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 30th day of March 1998.

Robert S. LaRussa,

Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Import Administration, Alternate Chairman, Foreign-Trade Zones Board.

Attest:

Dennis Puccinelli,

Acting Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98–9096 Filed 4–6–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Docket 15–98]

Foreign-Trade Zone 92—Pascagoula, MS, Request for Manufacturing Authority, Friede Goldman International, Inc., (Shipbuilding/Offshore Drilling Platforms)

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) by Greater Gulfport/Biloxi Foreign Trade Zone, Inc., grantee of FTZ 92, pursuant to § 400.32(b)(1) of the Board's regulations (15 CFR Part 400), requesting authority on behalf of Friede Goldman International, Inc. (FGI) and its subsidiary HAM Marine, Inc., for the manufacture, refurbishment, and repair of ships, offshore oil and gas drilling rigs, and other marine vessels under FTZ procedures within FTZ 92. It was formally filed on March 27, 1998.

FGI operates an 85-acre facility (1,200 employees) within FTZ 92-Site 5 (Greater Gulfport/Biloxi Foreign Trade Zone, Inc.) for the manufacture, refurbishment, and repair of ships, offshore oil and gas drilling rigs, and other marine vessels (HTSUS headings 8901, 8902, 8904, 8905, or 8906). Currently, components purchased from foreign sources comprise 30 percent of the finished product's value, including a semi-finished hull and superstructure. On future projects, foreign content is expected to range from 30 to 70 percent of the finished products' value. The duty rates on the imported components currently range from free to 15.2 percent.

This application requests authority to allow HAM Marine to conduct the activity under FTZ procedures, subject to the ''standard shipyard restriction'' applicable to foreign-origin steel mill products, which requires that full duties be paid on such items.

FTZ procedures would exempt HAM Marine from Customs duty payments on the foreign components used in export activity (currently 100% of shipments). On its domestic sales, the company would be able to choose the duty rate that applies to finished oceangoing vessels (duty free) for foreign components such as the hull and superstructure noted above. Foreign-sourced steel mill products, such as pipe and plate, would be subject to the full Customs duties applicable to those items. FTZ procedures would also exempt certain merchandise from certain *ad valorem* inventory taxes. The application indicates that the savings would help improve the facility's international competitiveness.