

of the Appellate Body. An appointment to review the public file may be made by calling the USTR Reading Room at (202) 395-6186. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Daniel E. Brinza,

*Assistant United States Trade Representative,
for Monitoring and Enforcement.*

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket No. WTO/DS-343]

WTO Dispute Settlement Proceeding Regarding United States— Antidumping Measures on Shrimp From Thailand

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the United States Trade Representative (“USTR”) is providing notice that on September 15, 2006, Thailand requested the establishment of a panel under the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (“WTO Agreement”). That request may be found at <http://www.wto.org> contained in a document designated as WT/DS343/7. USTR invites written comments from the public concerning the issues raised in this dispute.

DATES: Although USTR will accept any comments received during the course of the dispute settlement proceedings, comments should be submitted on or before November 30, 2006 to be assured of timely consideration by USTR.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted (i) Electronically, to FR0619@ustr.eop.gov, Attn: “Thailand Shrimp Zeroing/Bond Dispute (DS343)” in the subject line, or (ii) by fax, to Sandy McKinzy at (202) 395-3640. For documents sent by fax, USTR requests that the submitter provide a confirmation copy to the electronic mail address listed above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elissa Alben, Assistant General Counsel, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508, (202) 395-9622.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 127(b) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (“URAA”) (19 U.S.C. 3537(b)(1)) requires that notice and opportunity for comment be provided after the United States submits or

receives a request for the establishment of a WTO dispute settlement panel. Consistent with this obligation, USTR is providing notice that a dispute settlement panel has been requested pursuant to the WTO *Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes* (“DSU”). The panel will hold its meetings in Geneva, Switzerland.

Major Issues Raised by Thailand

On August 4, 2004, the Department of Commerce published in the **Federal Register** notice of its affirmative preliminary less-than-fair-value (“LTFV”) determination in an investigation concerning certain frozen and canned warm water shrimp from Thailand (69 FR 47,100). On December 23, 2004, the Department of Commerce published notice of its affirmative final LTFV determination (69 FR 76,918), and on February 1, 2005, the Department of Commerce published an amended final LTFV determination, along with an antidumping duty order, covering only certain frozen warm water shrimp from Thailand (70 FR 5145). The latter notice contains the final margins of LTFV sales, as provided in section 733 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended.

In its request for the establishment of a panel, Thailand alleges that the United States used “the practice known as ‘zeroing’ to calculate dumping margins for each investigated Thai exporter” and that “[t]he effect of the use of this practice was ‘artificially’ to create margins of dumping where none would otherwise have been found or, at a minimum, to inflate margins of dumping and hence to impose inaccurate definitive antidumping measures on imports of shrimp from Thailand,” in violation of Articles 2.4.2, 2.1, 2.4, and 9.3 of the AD Agreement. In addition, Thailand alleges that the United States has imposed on importers of shrimp from Thailand a requirement to maintain a continuous entry bond in the amount of the applicable antidumping duty margin multiplied by the value of imports of shrimp imported by the importer in the preceding year, and that the imposition of the continuous bond requirement on importers of shrimp from Thailand “constitutes specific action against dumping” not in accordance with Article 18.1 of the AD Agreement. Thailand also states that the imposition of the continuous bond requirement on importers of shrimp from Thailand is inconsistent with GATT Article IV:2 and Note 1, paragraphs 2 and 3 to *Article VI* of the GATT, as well as Articles 7.2, 7.4, 7.5, 9.1, 9.2, and 9.3 of the AD Agreement, that it “constitutes a

restriction on importation prohibited under Article XI:1” or alternately is inconsistent with Article I:1 or Article II:1(a) and (b) of the GATT, and that by applying the continuous bond requirement to shrimp from Thailand and five other countries, the United States fails to administer its customs laws, regulations, and administrative rulings in a uniform, impartial, or reasonable manner, in violation of GATT Article X:3(a). Thailand also states that the continuous bond requirement is not justified under Article XX(d) of the GATT, in particular because it is not necessary to secure compliance with U.S. laws and regulations and has been applied in a manner constituting arbitrary and unjustifiable discrimination and a disguised restriction on international trade.

Public Comment: Requirements for Submissions

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning the issues raised in this dispute. Persons may submit their comments either (i) Electronically, to FR0619@ustr.eop.gov, Attn: “Thailand Shrimp Zeroing/Bond Dispute (DS343)” in the subject line, or (ii) by fax to Sandy McKinzy at (202) 395-3640. For documents sent by fax, USTR requests that the submitter provide a confirmation copy to the electronic mail address listed above.

USTR encourages the submission of documents in Adobe PDF format, as attachments to an electronic mail. Interested persons who make submissions by electronic mail should not provide separate cover letters; information that might appear in a cover letter should be included in the submission itself. Similarly, to the extent possible, any attachments to the submission should be included in the same file as the submission itself, and not as separate files.

A person requesting that information contained in a comment submitted by that person be treated as confidential business information must certify that such information is business confidential and would not customarily be released to the public by the submitter. Confidential business information must be clearly designated as such and the submission must be marked “BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL” at the top and bottom of the cover page and each succeeding page.

Information or advice contained in a comment submitted, other than business confidential information, may be determined by USTR to be confidential in accordance with section 135(g)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C.

2155(g)(2)). If the submitter believes that information or advice may qualify as such, the submitter—

(1) Must clearly so designate the information or advice;

(2) Must clearly mark the material as "SUBMITTED IN CONFIDENCE" at the top and bottom of the cover page and each succeeding page; and

(3) Is encouraged to provide a non-confidential summary of the information or advice.

Pursuant to section 127(e) of the URAA (19 U.S.C. 3537(e)), USTR will maintain a file on this dispute settlement proceeding, accessible to the public, in the USTR Reading Room, which is located at 1724 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508. The public file will include non-confidential comments received by USTR from the public with respect to the dispute; if a dispute settlement panel is convened or in the event of an appeal from such a panel, the U.S. submissions, the submissions, or non-confidential summaries of submissions, received from other participants in the dispute; the report of the panel and, if applicable, the report of the Appellate Body. An appointment to review the public file (Docket No. WT/DS-343, Thailand Shrimp Zeroing/ Bond Dispute) may be made by calling the USTR Reading Room at (202) 395-6186. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Daniel E. Brinza,

Assistant United States Trade Representative, for Monitoring and Enforcement.

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket No. WTO/DS-340]

WTO Dispute Settlement Proceeding Regarding China—Measures Affecting Imports of Automobile Parts

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) is providing notice that on September 15, 2006, in accordance with the *Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization* ("WTO Agreement"), the United States requested the establishment of a dispute settlement panel regarding China's treatment of imported motor vehicle parts, components, and accessories ("auto

parts"). That request may be found at <http://www.wto.org> contained in a document designated as WT/DS340/8. USTR invites written comments from the public concerning the issues raised in this dispute.

DATES: Although USTR will accept any comments received during the course of the dispute, comments should be submitted on or before November 30, 2006 to be assured of timely consideration by USTR.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted (i) Electronically, to FR0615@ustr.eop.gov, with "China Auto Parts (DS340)" in the subject line, or (ii) by fax, to Sandy McKinzy at (202) 395-3640, with a confirmation copy sent electronically to the electronic mail address above, in accordance with the requirements for submission set out below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Kelleher, Associate General Counsel, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508, (202) 395-3858.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 127(b) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA) (19 U.S.C. 3537(b)(1)), USTR is providing notice that the United States has requested the establishment of a WTO dispute settlement panel pursuant to the *WTO Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes* ("DSU"). Such panel, which would hold its meetings in Geneva, Switzerland, would be expected to issue a report on its findings and recommendations within nine months after it is established.

Major Issues Raised by the United States

China's regulations on imported auto parts appear to penalize manufacturers for using imported auto parts in the manufacture of vehicles in China. Although China bound its tariffs for auto parts at rates significantly lower than its tariff bindings for complete vehicles, China assesses a charge on imported auto parts equal to the tariff on complete vehicles, if the imported parts are incorporated into a vehicle that contains imported parts in excess of specified thresholds.

USTR believes that China's regulations are inconsistent with China's obligations under:

(1) Article III:2 of the *General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994* ("GATT 1994"), by imposing a charge on imported auto parts but not on domestic auto parts, and otherwise applying internal charges so as to afford protection to domestic production;

(2) Article III:4 of the GATT 1994, by treating imported auto parts less favorably than like domestic auto parts by imposing additional administrative burdens and additional charges upon manufacturers that use imported parts in excess of specified thresholds, thereby affecting the internal sale, offering for sale, purchase, transportation, distribution, or use of imported auto parts;

(3) Article III:5 of the GATT 1994, by requiring that a specified amount or proportion of the auto parts assembled into a complete motor vehicle be supplied from domestic sources, and otherwise applying internal quantitative regulations so as to afford protection to domestic production;

(4) Article 2.1 and paragraphs 1(a) and 2(a) of Annex 1 of the *Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures* ("TRIMs Agreement"), by requiring motor vehicle manufacturers in China to purchase or use domestic auto parts in order to obtain advantages such as the avoidance of administrative burdens and the payment of additional charges and by imposing restrictions which generally restrict the importation by a manufacturer of auto parts used in or related to its local production;

(5) Article II:1(a) and (b) of the GATT 1994, by according imported auto parts less favorable treatment than that provided for in its Schedule of Concessions and Commitments annexed to the GATT 1994 and imposing charges in excess of those set forth and provided therein;

USTR also considers that China's regulations are inconsistent with China's obligations under: Article 3 of the *Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures*, Article XI of the GATT 1994, and Parts I.1.2 and I.1.7 of the Protocol on the Accession of the People's Republic of China, including paragraphs 93 and 203 of the Working Party Report.

Public Comment: Requirements for Submissions

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning the issues raised in the dispute. Comments should be submitted (i) Electronically, to FR0615@ustr.eop.gov, with "China Auto Parts (DS340)" in the subject line, or (ii) by fax, to Sandy McKinzy at (202) 395-3640, with a confirmation copy sent electronically to the electronic mail address above.

USTR encourages the submission of documents in Adobe PDF format as attachments to an electronic mail. Interested persons who make submissions by electronic mail should not provide separate cover letters;