



FACT SHEET

Commerce Preliminarily Finds Subsidization of Ni-Resist Piston Inserts from Argentina

- On June 30, the Department of Commerce (Commerce) announced its affirmative preliminary determination in the countervailing duty investigation on imports of Ni-Resist Piston Inserts (piston inserts) from Argentina.
- Subsidies are financial assistance from foreign governments that benefit the production, manufacture, or exportation of goods.
- Commerce preliminarily determined that Argentine producers/exporters of piston inserts have received countervailable subsidies at 5.42 percent.
- Mandatory respondent, Clorindo Appo SRL, received a preliminary subsidy rate of 5.42 percent. Because Clorindo Appo SRL was the only respondent, all other Argentine producers/exporters received a preliminary subsidy rate 5.42 percent.
- As a result of this preliminary determination, Commerce will instruct U.S. Customs and Border Protection to collect a cash deposit or bond on imports of piston inserts from Argentina.
- The petitioner for this investigation is Korff Holdings, LLC, dba Quaker City Castings (OH).
- The merchandise subject to this investigation includes all piston inserts regardless of size, thickness, weight, or outside diameter. Piston inserts may also be called other names including, but not limited to, “Ring Carriers,” or “Alfin Inserts.” Ni-resist inserts are alloyed cast iron rings, composed of the material known as Ni-resist, of the chemical composition: 13.5% – 17.5% Ni (nickel), 5.5% – 8.0% Cu (copper), 0.8% – 2.0% Cr (chrome), 0.5% – 1.5% Mn (manganese), 1.0% – 3.0% Si (silicon), 2.4% – 3.0% C (carbon). The cast iron composition is produced primarily to the material specifications of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), ASTM A-436 grade 1.
- Excluded from the scope of the investigation are: (1) piston rings or (2) any other product manufactured using the Ni-resist material.
- Piston inserts are currently classifiable under the subheading 8409.99.91.90 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS). While the HTSUS subheading is provided for convenience and customs purposes, Commerce’s written description governs the scope of the investigation.
- In 2007, imports of piston inserts from Argentina were valued at an estimated US\$5 million.

NEXT STEPS

- Commerce is currently scheduled to issue its final determination in September 2009.
- If Commerce makes an affirmative final determination, and the U.S. International Trade Commission makes an affirmative final determination that imports of piston inserts from Argentina materially injure, or threaten material injury to, the domestic industry, Commerce will issue a countervailing duty order.

PRELIM SUBSIDY RATES:

COUNTRY	PRODUCER/EXPORTER	SUBSIDY RATE
ARGENTINA	Clorindo Appo SRL	5.42%
	All Others	5.42%

CASE CALENDAR:

EVENT	DATE
Petition Filed	January 26, 2009
DOC Initiation Date	February 17, 2009
ITC Preliminary Determination	March 12, 2009
DOC Preliminary Determination	June 29, 2009
DOC Final Determination	September 14, 2009
ITC Final Determination*	October 29, 2009
Issuance of Order**	November 5, 2009

* This will take place only in the event of a final affirmative determination by Commerce.

** This will take place only in the event of final affirmative determinations by both Commerce and the ITC.

IMPORT STATISTICS:

	2006	2007	2008 (Jan.-Sept.)
Volume (kg)	982,003	560,085	196,434
Value (\$US)	5,937,865	4,981,645	1,432,829

Source: Petitioner's estimates of the volume and value of U.S. imports of subject merchandise from Argentina, as noted in the petition.