

July 14, 2008

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

Re: Quantity and Value Questionnaire for the Countervailing Duty Investigation of Certain Tow-Behind Lawn Groomers and Certain Parts Thereof from the People's Republic of China

Dear Sir or Madam:

On July 14, 2008, the Department of Commerce (the Department) initiated a countervailing duty investigation to determine whether producers/exporters of certain non-motorized tow-behind lawn groomers and certain parts thereof (lawn groomers) from the People's Republic of China (PRC) have benefitted from countervailable subsidies bestowed by the Government of the PRC. We initiated the investigation based on a petition filed by Agri-Fab, Inc., on behalf of the United States industry producing the merchandise under investigation. The period of investigation (POI) is January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007.

In advance of the issuance of the full countervailing duty questionnaire, the Department requests that you respond to Attachment I to this letter, which requests information on the quantity (in pieces) and U.S. dollar sales value of all of your exports/shipments of lawn groomers to the United States during the POI. A definition of the merchandise covered by the scope of this investigation is included in Attachment II. General instructions for responding to this letter are contained in Attachment III. **Please be advised that receipt of this letter does not indicate that you or your exporter will be chosen as a mandatory respondent. In addition, please be aware that your response to this letter may be subject to an on-site verification by Department officials.**

Your response to the Quantity and Value (Q&V) questionnaire in Attachment I must be received by the Department no later than **July 28, 2008**.

Please note that your submission in response to the Q&V questionnaire in Attachment I and all subsequent submissions to the Department must be served on all interested parties. The service instructions are included in Attachment III. The list of interested parties may be found at <http://www.ia.ita.doc.gov/apo/apo-svc-lists.html>.

We appreciate your attention to these matters. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Gene Calvert or Paul Matino at (202) 482-3586 and (202) 482-4146, respectively.

Sincerely,

Barbara E. Tillman
Director
AD/CVD Operations, Office 6

Enclosure

Attachment I

Where it is not practicable to examine all known producers/exporters of subject merchandise, section 777A(e)(2) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, permits us to investigate (1) a sample of exporters, producers, or types of products that is statistically valid based on the information available at the time of selection, or (2) exporters and producers accounting for the largest volume and value of the subject merchandise that can be reasonably examined.

In the chart below, please provide the total quantity (in pieces) and total value (in U.S. dollars) of all your sales of merchandise covered by the scope of this investigation (see Attachment II to this questionnaire), produced in the People's Republic of China, and exported/shipped to the United States during calendar year 2007 (January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007).

	All Exports of Subject Merchandise	
	Total Quantity (No. of Pieces)	Total Value (US\$)
Exports to the United States		

If you reported above that your company exported subject merchandise to the United States during the period January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007, please answer the following questions:

1. Are you a producer of subject merchandise? If yes, do you export directly to the United States, or through a trading company? If you export your products through a trading company, please provide the name of the trading company.

2. If you are a trading company, please identify (and provide the name and address of) the producers of subject merchandise for whom you exported subject merchandise to the United States during the period January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007.

3. Regardless of whether you are a producer or an exporter, you must respond to this question. Please place a check mark beside each type of lawn groomer that you produced or exported to the United States during the period January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007.

_____ Dethatchers

_____ Sweepers

_____ Aerators

_____ Spreaders

ATTACHMENT II

Scope of the Countervailing Duty Investigation Lawn Groomers from the People's Republic of China

The scope of this investigation covers certain non-motorized tow behind lawn groomers (“lawn groomers”), manufactured from any material, and certain parts thereof. Lawn groomers are defined as lawn sweepers, aerators, dethatchers, and spreaders. Unless specifically excluded, lawn groomers that are designed to perform at least one of the functions listed above are included in the scope of this investigation, even if the lawn groomer is designed to perform additional non-subject functions (e.g., mowing).

All lawn groomers are designed to incorporate a hitch, of any configuration, which allows the product to be towed behind a vehicle. Lawn groomers that are designed to incorporate both a hitch and a push handle, of any type, are also covered by the scope of this investigation. The hitch and handle may be permanently attached or removable, and they may be attached on opposite sides or on the same side of the lawn groomer. Lawn groomers designed to incorporate a hitch, but where the hitch is not attached to the lawn groomer, are also included in the scope of the investigation.

Lawn sweepers consist of a frame, as well as a series of brushes attached to an axle or shaft which allows the brushing component to rotate. Lawn sweepers also include a container (which is a receptacle into which debris swept from the lawn or turf is deposited) supported by the frame. Aerators consist of a frame, as well as an aerating component that is attached to an axle or shaft which allows the aerating component to rotate. The aerating component is made up of a set of knives fixed to a plate (known as a “plug aerator”), a series of discs with protruding spikes (a “spike aerator”), or any other configuration, that are designed to create holes or cavities in a lawn or turf surface. Dethatchers consist of a frame, as well as a series of tines designed to

remove material (e.g., dead grass or leaves) or other debris from the lawn or turf. The dethatcher tines are attached to and suspended from the frame. Lawn spreaders consist of a frame, as well as a hopper (i.e., a container of any size, shape, or material) that holds a media to be spread on the lawn or turf. The media can be distributed by means of a rotating spreader plate that broadcasts the media (“broadcast spreader”), a rotating agitator that allows the media to be released at a consistent rate (“drop spreader”), or any other configuration.

Lawn dethatchers with a net fully-assembled weight (i.e., without packing, additional weights, or accessories) of 100 pounds or less are covered by the scope of the investigation. Other lawn groomers—sweepers, aerators, and spreaders—with a net fully-assembled weight (i.e., without packing, additional weights, or accessories) of 200 pounds or less are covered by the scope of the investigation.

Also included in the scope of the investigation are modular units, consisting of a chassis that is designed to incorporate a hitch, where the hitch may or may not be included, which allows modules that perform sweeping, aerating, dethatching, or spreading operations to be interchanged. Modular units—when imported with one or more lawn grooming modules—with a fully assembled net weight (i.e., without packing, additional weights, or accessories) of 200 pounds or less when including a single module, are included in the scope of the investigation. Modular unit chasses, imported without a lawn grooming module and with a fully assembled net weight (i.e., without packing, additional weights, or accessories) of 125 pounds or less, are also covered by the scope of the investigation. When imported separately, modules that are designed to perform subject lawn grooming functions (i.e., sweeping, aerating, dethatching, or spreading), with a fully assembled net weight (i.e., without packing, additional weights, or accessories) of 75 pounds or less, and that are imported with or without a hitch, are also covered by the scope.

Lawn groomers, assembled or unassembled, are covered by this investigation. For purposes of this investigation, “unassembled lawn groomers” consist of either 1) all parts necessary to make a fully assembled lawn groomer, or 2) any combination of parts, constituting a less than complete, unassembled lawn groomer, with a minimum of two of the following “major components”:

- 1) an assembled or unassembled brush housing designed to be used in a lawn sweeper, where a brush housing is defined as a component housing the brush assembly, and consisting of a wrapper which covers the brush assembly and two end plates attached to the wrapper;
- 2) a sweeper brush;
- 3) an aerator or dethatcher weight tray, or similar component designed to allow weights of any sort to be added to the unit;
- 4) a spreader hopper;
- 5) a rotating spreader plate or agitator, or other component designed for distributing media in a lawn spreader;
- 6) dethatcher tines;
- 7) aerator spikes, plugs, or other aerating component; or
- 8) a hitch.

The major components or parts of lawn groomers that are individually covered by this investigation under the term “certain parts thereof” are: (1) brush housings, where the wrapper and end plates incorporating the brush assembly may be individual pieces or a single piece; and (2) weight trays, or similar components designed to allow weights of any sort to be added to a dethatcher or an aerator unit.

The products for which relief is sought specifically exclude the following: 1) agricultural implements designed to work (e.g., churn, burrow, till, etc.) soil, such as cultivators, harrows, and plows; 2) lawn or farm carts and wagons that do not groom lawns; 3) grooming products incorporating a motor or an engine for the purpose of operating and/or propelling the lawn groomer; 4) lawn groomers that are designed to be hand held or are designed to be attached directly to the frame of a vehicle, rather than towed; 5) “push” lawn grooming products that incorporate a push handle rather than a hitch, and which are designed solely to be manually

operated; 6) dethatchers with a net assembled weight (i.e., without packing, additional weights, or accessories) of more than 100 pounds, or lawn groomers—sweepers, aerators, and spreaders—with a net fully-assembled weight (i.e., without packing, additional weights, or accessories) of more than 200 pounds; and 7) lawn rollers designed to flatten grass and turf, including lawn rollers which incorporate an aerator component (e.g., “drum-style” spike aerators).

The lawn groomers that are the subject of this investigation are currently classifiable in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (“HTSUS”) statistical reporting numbers 8432.40.0000, 8432.80.0000, 8432.90.0030, 8432.90.0080, 8479.89.9897, 8479.90.9496, and 9603.50.0000. These HTSUS provisions are given for reference and customs purposes only, and the description of merchandise is dispositive for determining the scope of the product included in this investigation.

ATTACHMENT III

Instructions for Filing the Response

The following information concerns the procedures interested parties must use the when submitting information regarding the countervailing duty investigation on lawn groomers from the PRC:

1. The submission must be properly labeled for submission to the official record in accordance with section 351.303(d)(2) of the Department's regulations.

All submissions that you file with the Department during the course of this investigation must contain a case heading in the upper right-hand corner of first page of the document. The case heading should appear as follows:

C-570-940
Total Pages: XX
POI: 01/01/2007 – 12/31/2007
Office 6/IA
Proprietary Document, Public Document, or Public Version (please choose one)
Document may be released under APO (if a proprietary document)

The Departments notes that the POI is January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007.

2. The submission must be properly addressed. All future submissions that you file with the Department should be addressed to:

Secretary of Commerce
Attn: Import Administration
APO/Dockets Unit, Room 1870
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230
(Attn: Gene Calvert, Room 7866)

3. **Proprietary versions** of the response should be submitted on the day specified in the cover letter. The **public version** of the response may be filed one business day after the proprietary version.
4. File the original and six copies of the proprietary version. However, if you file an electronic copy of the proprietary version in Word Perfect for Windows format or Microsoft Word, you need file only the original version and four copies. In case of any difference between the hardcopy narrative response and the content of the electronic media, the hardcopy narrative response is the controlling version.

File the original and three copies of the public version of your narrative response and attachments, including sample printouts.

5. Submit the required certification of accuracy. Providers of information and the person(s) submitting it, if different (e.g., a legal representative), must certify that they have read the submission and that the information submitted is accurate and complete. The Department cannot accept responses to the letter that do not contain the certification statements. A form for such certification is included at Attachment III(A). You may photocopy this form and submit a completed copy with each of your submissions.
6. The submission must be served on all other persons on the service list and accompanied by a proper certificate of service for this case in accordance with section 351.303(f)(1)-(2) of the Department's regulations, which states:

(1)(i) *In General.* Except as provided in § 351.202(c) (filing of petition), § 351.207(f)(1) (submission of proposed suspension agreement), and paragraph (f)(3) of this section, a person filing a document with the Department simultaneously must serve a copy of the document on all other persons on the service list by personal service or first class mail.

(ii) *Service of public versions or a party's own business proprietary information.* Notwithstanding paragraphs (f)(1)(i) and (f)(3) of this section, service of the public version of a document or of the business proprietary version of a document containing only the server's own business proprietary information, on persons on the service list, may be made by facsimile transmission or other electronic transmission process, with the consent of the person to be served.

(2) *Certificate of Service.* Each document filed with the Department must include a certificate of service listing each person served (including agents), the type of document served, and the date and method of service on each person. The Secretary may refuse to accept any document that is not accompanied by a certificate of service.

This public service list contains the names of parties which have not waived their service rights in the review. When you submit a proprietary document to the Department, you must serve a copy of this document to **each party listed on the APO service list**. When you submit a public document or a public version of a proprietary document to the Department, you must serve a copy of this document on each party listed on the public service list. In addition, you must provide the Department with a certificate of service

that documents that you have served the appropriate documents to the parties on the service lists. A form for such certification is included in Attachment III(B).

The list of interested parties you need to serve with a copy of your submissions, in accordance with section 351.303(f) of the Department's regulations, can also be found on our website at: <http://www.ia.ita.doc.gov/apo/apo-svc-lists.html>.

Start at "Active APOs and Service Lists." Begin your search with the product. Search alphabetically for "Tow Behind Lawn Groomers and Parts Thereof." Once you click on "Tow Behind Lawn Groomers and Parts Thereof," you will see the People's Republic of China (C-570-940). You should then click on People's Republic of China (C-570-940). There will be several options. Select "Investigation" to find the most up-to-date service list.

7. Request **proprietary treatment** for information submitted that you do not wish to be made publicly available. As a general rule, the Department places all correspondence and submissions received in the course of a countervailing duty proceeding in a public reading file. However, information deemed to be **proprietary information** will not be made available to the public. If you wish to make a request for proprietary treatment for particular information, refer to sections 351.304 and 351.304(a)(2) of the Department's regulations. Submit the request for proprietary treatment no later than one business day following the submission of the proprietary version of your response accompanied by:

(1) a non-proprietary (public) version of your response that is in sufficient detail to permit a reasonable understanding of the information submitted in confidence,¹ and/or

(2) an itemization of particular information that you believe you are unable to summarize. State the reasons why you cannot summarize each piece of information.

Responses, or portions thereof, that are not adequately summarized may be returned to you and not used.

8. Submit the statements required regarding limited release of proprietary information under the provisions of an **administrative protective order** (APO). U.S. law permits limited disclosure to representatives of parties (e.g., legal counsel) of certain business proprietary information, including electronic business proprietary information, under an APO. (Note that data received under an APO cannot be shared with others who are not covered by the APO.) Under the provisions governing APO disclosure, you must submit either:

(1) a statement agreeing to permit the release under APO of information submitted by you in confidence during the course of the proceeding, or

¹ Generally, numerical data are adequately summarized if grouped or presented in terms of indices or figures ranged within ten percent of the actual figure. If a particular portion of the data is voluminous, use ranged figures for at least one percent of the voluminous portion.

(2) a statement itemizing those portions of the information which you believe should not be released under APO, together with arguments supporting your objections to that release.

We are required by our regulations to reject, at the time of filing, submissions of business proprietary information that do not contain one of these statements. You must state in the upper right-hand corner of the cover letter accompanying your response whether you agree or object to release of the submitted information under APO. (See section 351.303 of the Department's regulations.)²

9. Place brackets ("[...]") around information for which you request business proprietary treatment. Place double brackets ("[[...]]") around information for which you request proprietary treatment and which you do not agree to release under APO.
10. Provide to all parties whose representatives have been granted an APO (as identified on the Department's website at: <http://www.ia.ita.doc.gov/apo/apo-svc-lists.html>) a complete copy of the submission, proprietary and public versions, except for that information which you do not agree to release under APO. If you exclude information because you do not agree to release it under APO, submit with your response to the Department a certificate of service and a copy of the APO version of the document containing the information that you agree may be released under APO. For parties that do not have access to information under APO, please provide a public version only.
11. Prepare your response in typed form and in English. Repeat the question to which you are responding in your narrative submission and place your answer directly below it.

² If you do not agree to release under APO all or part of the proprietary information, but we determine that the information should be released, you will have the opportunity to withdraw the information (see section 351.304(d) of our regulations). However, any information which you withdraw will be taken out of the official record and will not be used in our determination

ATTACHMENT III(A)

COMPANY OFFICIAL CERTIFICATION

I, _____, currently employed
(Name and Title)

by _____, certify that (1) I have
(Interested Party)

read the attached submission, and (2) the information contained in

this submission is, to the best of my knowledge, complete and

accurate.

(Signature of Certifying Official)

ATTACHMENT III(B)
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, _____, hereby certify that a copy of the

(Name of Certifying Official)

foregoing submission on behalf of _____,

(Company Name)

dated _____, was served by first class mail or by hand delivery (circle the method used) on the following parties:

(Business Proprietary Version)

On Behalf of

Name and address

(Public Version)

On Behalf of

Name and address

(Signature of Certifying Official)