

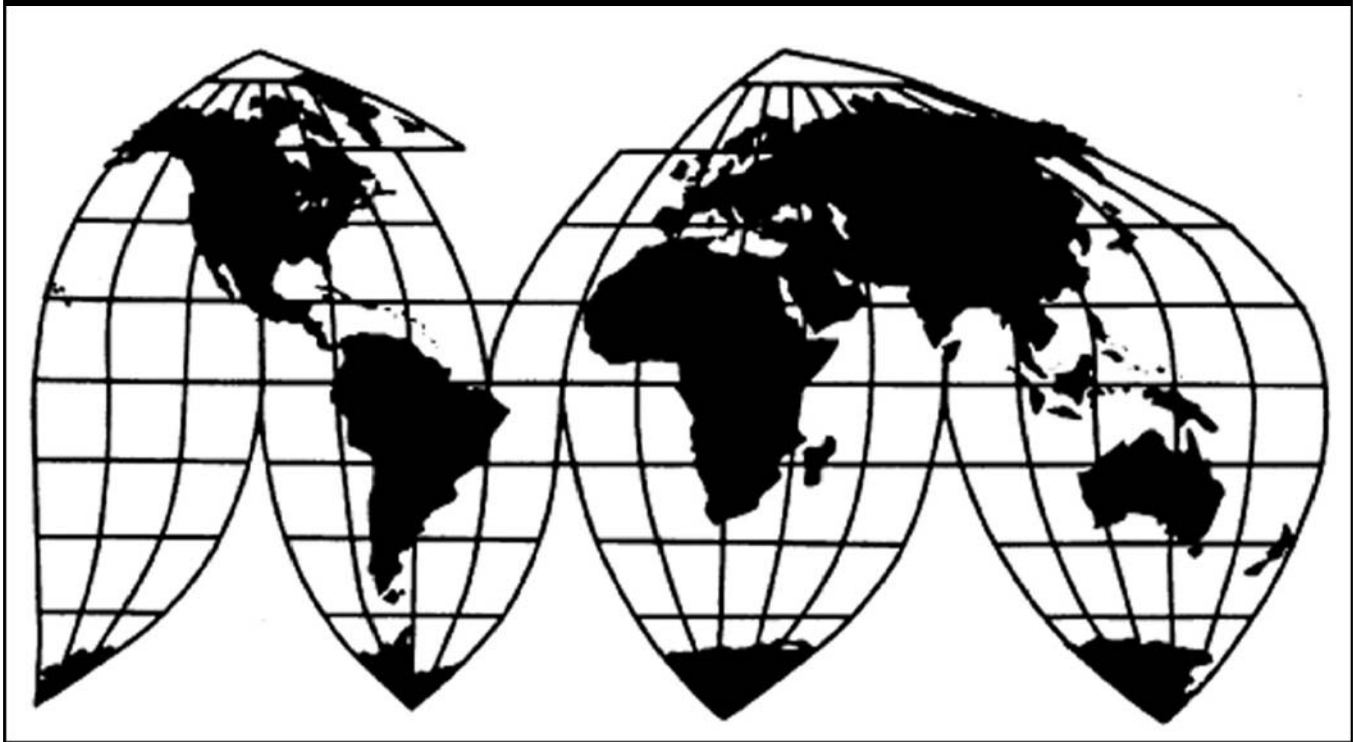
Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand

Investigation Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review)
and AA1921-188 (Third Review)

Publication 4114

November 2009

U.S. International Trade Commission



Washington, DC 20436

U.S. International Trade Commission

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Note.—Information that would reveal confidential operations of individual concerns may not be published and therefore has been deleted from this report. Such deletions are indicated by asterisks.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

Investigation Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)

PRESTRESSED CONCRETE STEEL WIRE STRAND FROM BRAZIL, INDIA, JAPAN, KOREA, MEXICO, AND THAILAND

DETERMINATIONS

On the basis of the record¹ developed in the subject five-year reviews, the United States International Trade Commission (“Commission”) determines, pursuant to section 751(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. § 1675(c)), that revocation of the countervailing duty order on prestressed concrete steel wire strand (“PC strand”) from India and antidumping duty orders on PC strand from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand, as well as the antidumping duty finding on PC strand from Japan, would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time.

BACKGROUND

The Commission instituted these reviews on December 1, 2008 (73 FR 72834) and determined on March 6, 2009 that it would conduct full reviews (74 FR 11967, March 20, 2009). Notice of the scheduling of the Commission’s reviews and of a public hearing 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* on April 2, 2009 (74 FR 15000). The hearing was held in Washington, DC, on September 30, 2009, and all persons who requested the opportunity were permitted to appear in person or by counsel.

¹ The record is defined in sec. 207.2(f) of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR § 207.2(f)).

VIEWS OF THE COMMISSION

Based on the record in these five-year reviews, we determine under section 751(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (“the Act”), that revocation of the antidumping duty orders on prestressed concrete steel wire strand (“PC strand”) from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand, and the antidumping finding on PC strand from Japan, as well as revocation of the countervailing duty order on PC strand from India, would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time.

I. BACKGROUND

A. Original Determinations

In November 1978, the Commission determined that a domestic industry was injured by reason of less than fair value imports of PC strand from Japan,¹ and the Department of the Treasury issued an antidumping duty finding on imports of PC strand from Japan in December 1978.² In January 2004, the Commission determined that a domestic industry was materially injured by reason of subsidized imports of PC strand from India and less than fair value imports of PC strand from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand (“2004 Original Determinations”).³ Commerce subsequently issued a countervailing duty order on imports of PC strand from India and antidumping duty orders on imports of PC strand from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand.⁴

B. Commission’s Five-Year Reviews of the Japan Finding

In January 1999, the Commission completed its first expedited five-year review of the antidumping duty finding on PC strand from Japan and determined that revocation of the finding would be likely to lead to a continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time.⁵ As a result of the affirmative five-year review determinations by Commerce and the Commission, Commerce issued a continuation of the antidumping duty finding.⁶

In June 2004, the Commission completed its second expedited five-year review of the antidumping duty finding on PC strand from Japan and again determined that revocation of the finding would be likely to lead to a continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United

¹ Steel Wire Strand for Prestressed Concrete from Japan, Investigation No. AA1921-188, USITC Pub. 928, November 1978, (“Japan Original Injury Determination”).

² Steel Wire Strand for Prestressed Concrete from Japan, 43 Fed. Reg. 57599 (December 8, 1978).

³ Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand From Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand, Investigations Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Final), USITC Pub. 3663 (January 2004).

⁴ Notice of Antidumping Duty Order: Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from the Republic of Korea, Notice of Antidumping Duty Order: Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from India, Notice of Amended Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value and Antidumping Duty Order: Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Thailand, Notice of Antidumping Duty Order: Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, Notice of Antidumping Duty Order: Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Mexico, 69 Fed. Reg. 4109-4113 (January 28, 2004); and Notice of Countervailing Duty Order: Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand From India, 69 Fed. Reg. 5319 (February 4, 2004).

⁵ Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Japan, Investigation No. AA1921-188 (Review), USITC Pub. 3156, February 1999 (“Japan First Injury Review”).

⁶ Continuation of Antidumping Finding: Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand From Japan, 64 Fed. Reg. 40554 (July 27, 1999).

States within a reasonably foreseeable time.⁷ Commerce again issued a continuation of the antidumping duty finding on imports of PC strand from Japan.⁸

C. The Current Reviews

The Commission instituted these five-year reviews on December 1, 2008.⁹ The Commission received responses to the notice of institution from domestic producers American Spring Wire Corp., Insteel Wire Products Co., and Sumiden Wire Products Corp. (collectively the “Domestic Producers”);¹⁰ Mexican producers Aceros Cameasa S.A. de C.V. and Deacero S.A. de C.V. (collectively the “Mexican Respondents”); and Korean producer Dong-Il Steel Mfg., Ltd. The Commission determined that the domestic interested party group response was adequate for all reviews and that the respondent interested party group response was adequate for the reviews on the orders on subject imports from Korea and Mexico and inadequate for all other reviews. The Commission decided to conduct full reviews of the orders on subject imports from Korea and Mexico in light of the adequate domestic and respondent interested party responses. It determined to conduct full reviews in each of the other reviews to promote administrative efficiency.¹¹

Commerce expedited its five-year reviews with respect to the subject imports and published final affirmative review determinations concerning the antidumping duty orders and finding on March 26, 2009,¹² and its final affirmative review determination with respect to the countervailing duty order on April 8, 2009.¹³

The Commission received briefs from the Domestic Producers and from the Mexican Respondents. Both the Domestic Producers and the Mexican Respondents appeared at the Commission hearing, as did representatives of the Mexican Government and the President of the Steel Manufacturers Association. The Mexican Government also made a posthearing submission.

Five U.S. producers, accounting for all U.S. production of PC strand in 2008, provided complete responses to the Commission’s questionnaire.¹⁴ The Commission received usable questionnaire responses from 22 importers and 21 purchasers of PC strand.¹⁵ The Commission also received at least partial responses to foreign producers’ questionnaires from the sole Brazilian producer, one Indian producer that estimated that it accounted for *** percent of Indian production of subject merchandise in 2008, two current or former producers in Japan that estimated they accounted for *** percent of Japanese production of subject merchandise in 2008; two producers in Korea that estimated that they accounted for *** percent of Korean production of subject merchandise in 2008; both producers in Mexico; and one

⁷ Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Japan, Investigation No. AA1921-188 (Second Review), USITC Pub. 3699 (June 2004) (“Japan Second Injury Review”).

⁸ Continuation of Antidumping Duty Findings: Prestressed Concrete Wire Strand from Japan and Pressure Sensitive Plastic Tape From Italy, 69 Fed. Reg. 35584 (June 25, 2004).

⁹ 73 Fed. Reg. 72834 (December 1, 2008).

¹⁰ As noted below, there are currently two other domestic producers of PC strand, who did not respond to the notice of institution.

¹¹ See Confidential Staff Report (“CR”), at Appendix A (reproducing Explanation of Commission Determinations on Adequacy), Public Staff Report (“PR”) at Appendix A.

¹² 74 Fed. Reg. 13189 (March 26, 2009).

¹³ 74 Fed. Reg. 15938 (April 8, 2009).

¹⁴ CR at III-1, PR at III-1. The five producers are: American, Insteel, Rettco/MMI, Strandtech, and Sumiden.

¹⁵ CR at IV-1 and VI-41, PR at IV-1 and VI-33.

Thai producer that estimated that it accounted for *** percent of Thai production of subject merchandise in 2008.¹⁶

II. DOMESTIC LIKE PRODUCT

In making its determination under section 751(c) of the Tariff Act, the Commission defines “the domestic like product” and the “industry.”¹⁷ The Tariff Act defines “domestic like product” as “a product which is like, or in the absence of like, most similar in characteristics and uses with, the article subject to an investigation under this subtitle.”¹⁸ The Commission’s practice in five-year reviews is to look to the like product definition from the original determinations and any completed reviews and consider whether the record indicates any reason to revisit the prior finding(s).¹⁹

A. Product Description

Commerce has defined the scope of the countervailing duty order on imports of PC strand from India and the antidumping duty orders on imports of PC strand from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand as follows:

steel strand produced from wire of non-stainless, non-galvanized steel, which is suitable for use in prestressed concrete (both pre-tensioned and post-tensioned) applications. The product definition encompasses covered and uncovered strand and all types, grades, and diameters of PC strand.²⁰

Commerce has defined the scope of the finding on imports of PC strand from Japan as follows:

steel wire strand, other than alloy steel, not galvanized, which is stress-relieved and suitable for use in prestressed concrete.²¹

PC strand consists of multiple steel wires wound together to produce a strong, flexible product that is used to strengthen concrete structures. It is commonly available in three grades, in covered and uncovered form, and in several nominal diameters. The most common PC strand configuration consists of six wires wound helically around a single wire core. Nominal diameters of PC strand typically range

¹⁶ CR at IV-26-27, IV-32, IV-40, IV-45, IV-52, and IV-60, PR at IV-17, IV-19, IV-23-24, IV-27, and IV-30. The record also contains information from the domestic industry regarding producers in the subject countries.

¹⁷ 19 U.S.C. § 1677(4)(A).

¹⁸ 19 U.S.C. § 1677(10); *see, e.g., Cleo, Inc. v. United States*, 501 F.3d 1291, 1299 (Fed. Cir. 2007); *NEC Corp. v. Department of Commerce*, 36 F. Supp. 2d 380, 383 (Ct. Int’l Trade 1998); *Nippon Steel Corp. v. United States*, 19 CIT 450, 455 (1995); *Timken Co. v. United States*, 913 F. Supp. 580, 584 (Ct. Int’l Trade 1996); *Torrington Co. v. United States*, 747 F. Supp. 744, 748-49 (Ct. Int’l Trade 1990), *aff’d*, 938 F.2d 1278 (Fed. Cir. 1991); *see also S. Rep. No. 249*, 96th Cong., 1st Sess. 90-91 (1979).

¹⁹ *See, e.g., Internal Combustion Industrial Forklift Trucks From Japan*, Inv. No. 731-TA-377 (Second Review), USITC Pub. 3831 at 8-9 (December 2005); *Crawfish Tail Meat From China*, Inv. No. 731-TA-752 (Review), USITC Pub. 3614 at 4 (July 2003); *Steel Concrete Reinforcing Bar From Turkey*, Inv. No. 731-TA-745 (Review), USITC Pub. 3577 at 4 (February 2003).

²⁰ 74 Fed. Reg. 15938 (April 8, 2009).

²¹ 74 Fed. Reg. 13189 (March 26, 2009).

from 0.25 to 0.70 inch, while the three common grade designations (250, 270, and 300) correspond to the minimum ultimate strength of the product in thousands of pounds per square inch.²²

PC strand is used in the construction of prestressed concrete structural components to introduce compression into the concrete. This compression offsets or neutralizes forces within the concrete that occur when it is subjected to loads. Typical applications of prestressed concrete include parking garages, bridge decks, bridge girders, pilings, precast concrete panels and structural supports, roof trusses, floor supports, and certain concrete foundations.²³

PC strand may be pre-tensioned or post-tensioned. Pre-tensioned PC strand is tensioned (pulled tightly and slightly elongated) using a calibrated tensioning apparatus, and concrete is cured around the PC strand. After the concrete has cured, the tension is released and the tensile force of the strand induces a compressive force in the concrete. For post-tensioned PC strand, there is no bond between the PC strand and the cured concrete. Instead, the PC strand is tensioned using a calibrated tensioning apparatus after the concrete has cured. In post-tensioned prestressed concrete, permanent mechanical anchors remain in place to maintain tension after the removal of the tensioning apparatus. Whether PC strand is sold for pre- or post-tensioned applications, it serves the same purpose of imparting compressive forces into concrete so that it can withstand tensile stress without cracking.²⁴

B. Original Determinations

Although the Commission did not make a domestic like product determination in its original determination concerning Japan in 1979, in its expedited first and second five-year reviews of that finding it found the appropriate definition of the domestic like product to be the same as Commerce's scope, that is, all steel wire strand, other than alloy steel, not galvanized, which has been stress-relieved and is suitable for use in prestressed concrete.²⁵

In its 2004 Original Determinations, the Commission found the domestic like product to be all PC strand co-extensive with Commerce's scope, that is, steel strand produced from wire of non-stainless, non-galvanized steel that is suitable for use in prestressed concrete (both pre-tensioned and post-tensioned) applications and that encompasses covered and uncovered strand and all types, grades, and diameters of PC strand. The Commission considered and rejected an argument that covered and uncovered PC strand should be treated as separate like products.²⁶

C. Analysis and Conclusion

No new facts have been presented to warrant a conclusion different from that in the 2004 Original Determinations and the first and second reviews of the Japan finding. Moreover, no party raised any objections to the Commission's proposed definition of the domestic like product in either their responses to the notice of institution²⁷ or their briefs.²⁸

²² CR at I-27-28, PR at I-25.

²³ CR at I-28, PR at I-25.

²⁴ CR at I-28-29, PR at I-25-26.

²⁵ Japan First Injury Review at 4 and Japan Second Injury Review at 4-6.

²⁶ 2004 Original Determinations at 9-10, n.43.

²⁷ Response to Commission's Notice of Institution of Domestic Interested Parties, Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)), January 16, 2009, at 24; Response to Commission's Notice of Institution of Dong-I1 Steel Mfg. Co., Ltd., Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)),

(continued...)

Therefore, we define the domestic like product to encompass “steel strand produced from wire of non-stainless, non-galvanized steel, which is suitable for use in prestressed concrete (both pre-tensioned and post-tensioned) applications and that encompasses covered and uncovered strand and all types, grades, and diameters of PC strand,” which is how Commerce has defined the scope of the countervailing duty order on imports of PC strand from India and the antidumping duty orders on imports of PC strand from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand. We recognize that the description of the scope of these orders differs in a number of technical respects from that of the scope of the Japan finding, but we find that these differences lack significance.

III. DOMESTIC INDUSTRY

Section 771(4)(A) of the Tariff Act defines the relevant industry as the domestic “producers as a whole of a domestic like product, or those producers whose collective output of a domestic like product constitutes a major proportion of the total domestic production of the product.”²⁹ In defining the domestic industry, the Commission’s general practice has been to include in the industry producers of all domestic production of the like product, whether toll-produced, captively consumed, or sold in the domestic merchant market.

In its original determination regarding Japan, the Commission defined the domestic industry as “facilities in the United States devoted to the production of steel wire strand for prestressed concrete,”³⁰ and in its expedited first and second reviews the Commission defined the domestic industry as all producers of PC strand.³¹

In the 2004 Original Determinations, the Commission defined the domestic industry to include all producers of PC strand and determined that plastic coating did not constitute sufficient production-related activity to qualify coaters as members of the domestic industry producing PC strand.³²

No new facts have been presented to warrant a conclusion different from that in the 2004 Original Determinations and the first and second reviews of the Japan finding. Moreover, no party raised any objections to this domestic industry definition. Therefore, based on our definition of the domestic like product, we define the domestic industry to include all producers of the domestic like product.³³

²⁷ (...continued)

January 20, 2009, item (11); and Response to Commission’s Notice of Institution of Camesa and Deacero, Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)), January 21, 2009, at 10.

²⁸ See Mexican Respondents’ Prehearing Brief and Posthearing Brief.

²⁹ 19 U.S.C. § 1677(4)(A). The definitions in 19 U.S.C. § 1677 are applicable to the entire subtitle containing the antidumping and countervailing duty laws, including 19 U.S.C. §§ 1675 and 1675a. See 19 U.S.C. § 1677. The related party provision provides that producers that are related to an exporter or importer of subject merchandise or which are themselves importers may be excluded in appropriate circumstances. 19 U.S.C. § 1677(4)(B).

³⁰ Japan Original Injury Determination at 4.

³¹ Japan First Injury Review at 4 and Japan Second Injury Review at 6-7.

³² 2004 Original Determinations at 10-12. In these reviews, Commission staff found that none of the domestic PC strand producers grease and cover bare PC strand in-house. Instead, these services are performed by domestic purchasers of bare strand. CR at III-8, PR at III-4-5.

³³ One of the firms producing PC strand, Rettco Steel, produces the product under a toll arrangement with another firm, MMI Products, Inc., under which MMI provides Rettco with the raw material and pays a conversion fee for Rettco to produce finished PC strand, which MMI then sells. CR at I-35 n.77, PR at I-30 n.77. Pursuant to our standard practice, we treat Rettco, the toller, and not MMI, the tollee, as the domestic producer, as it is Rettco that engages in the production activity. We note, however, that certain data and information are solely in the possession

(continued...)

IV. CUMULATION

A. Original Investigations

In the 2004 Original Determinations, the Commission cumulated imports from the five countries subject to those investigations. With respect to fungibility, the Commission found that the domestic like product and PC strand from each of the subject sources were generally interchangeable, notwithstanding Buy America(n) restrictions and substantial imports of plastic-coated PC strand from Mexico. The Commission also found overlapping geographic markets for subject imports and the domestically produced product because the domestic like product and imports from all subject countries were generally marketed throughout the United States. The Commission found an overlap of channels of distribution because most of the domestic like product and most subject imports were sold to end users. Finally, the domestic like product and imports from all subject countries were present in the U.S. market throughout the period examined.³⁴

B. Legal Standard

With respect to five-year reviews, section 752(a) of the Tariff Act provides as follows:

the Commission may cumulatively assess the volume and effect of imports of the subject merchandise from all countries with respect to which reviews under section 1675(b) or (c) of this title were initiated on the same day, if such imports would be likely to compete with each other and with domestic like products in the United States market. The Commission shall not cumulatively assess the volume and effects of imports of the subject merchandise in a case in which it determines that such imports are likely to have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry.³⁵

Cumulation therefore is discretionary in five-year reviews, unlike original investigations, which are governed by section 771(7)(G)(I) of the Act.³⁶ The Commission may exercise its discretion to cumulate, however, only if the reviews are initiated on the same day, the Commission determines that the subject imports are likely to compete with each other and the domestic like product in the U.S. market, and imports from each such subject country are not likely to have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry in the event of revocation. Our focus in five-year reviews is not only on present conditions of competition, but also on likely conditions of competition in the reasonably foreseeable future.

³³ (...continued)
of the tollee.

³⁴ Original Determinations, USITC Pub. 3663 at 15.

³⁵ 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(7).

³⁶ 19 U.S.C. § 1677(7)(G)(i); *see also, e.g., Allegheny Ludlum Corp. v. United States*, 475 F. Supp. 2d 1370, 1378 (Ct. Int'l Trade 2006) (recognizing the wide latitude the Commission has in selecting the types of factors it considers relevant in deciding whether to exercise discretion to cumulate subject imports in five-year reviews); Nucor v. United States, 569 F. Supp. 2d 1328, 1337-38 (Ct. Int'l Trade 2008); United States Steel Corp. v. United States, Slip Op. 08-82 (Aug. 5, 2008).

The statutory threshold for cumulation is satisfied in these reviews, because all of the reviews of PC strand, including the review of the antidumping duty finding on PC strand from Japan, which has not previously been considered for cumulation, were initiated on the same day.³⁷

We consider three issues in deciding whether to exercise our discretion to cumulate the subject imports: (1) whether imports from any of the subject countries are precluded from cumulation because they are likely to have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry; (2) whether there is a likelihood of a reasonable overlap of competition among imports of PC strand from the subject countries and the domestic like product; and (3) other considerations, such as whether there are similarities and differences in the likely conditions of competition under which subject imports are likely to compete in the U.S. market for PC strand.^{38 39} Domestic Producers ask the Commission to exercise its discretion to cumulate imports from all six subject countries,⁴⁰ and Mexican Respondents argue that imports from Mexico should not be cumulated with those of the other five subject countries.⁴¹

Based on the record, we find that subject imports from each of the six countries would not be likely to have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry in the event of revocation. We also find a likely reasonable overlap of competition among the imports from the subject countries and between the subject imports and the domestic like product in the event of revocation. We do not find significant differences in the likely conditions of competition affecting imports from the countries subject to these reviews. We therefore exercise our discretion to cumulate subject imports from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand.

C. Likelihood of No Discernible Adverse Impact

The statute precludes cumulation if the Commission finds that subject imports from a country are likely to have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry.⁴² Neither the statute nor the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (“URAA”) Statement of Administrative Action (“SAA”) provides specific guidance on what factors the Commission is to consider in determining that imports “are likely to

³⁷ 73 Fed. Reg. 72834 (December 1, 2008). Subject imports from Japan are now eligible for cumulation because of the timing of the initiation of Commerce’s third review.

³⁸ Vice Chairman Pearson and Commissioner Okun note that while they consider the same issues discussed in this section in determining whether to exercise their discretion to cumulate the subject imports, their analytical framework begins with whether imports from the subject countries are likely to face similar conditions of competition. For those subject imports which are likely to compete under similar conditions of competition, they next proceed to consider whether there is a likelihood of a reasonable overlap of competition whereby those imports are likely to compete with each other and with the domestic like product. Finally, if based on that analysis they intend to exercise their discretion to cumulate one or more subject countries, they analyze whether they are precluded from cumulating such imports because the imports from one or more subject countries, assessed individually, are likely to have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry. See Steel Concrete Reinforcing Bar From Belarus, China, Indonesia, Korea, Latvia, Moldova, Poland, and Ukraine, Invs. Nos. 731-TA-873 to 875, 877 to 880, and 882 (Review), USITC Pub. 3933 (July 2007) (Separate and Dissenting Views of Chairman Daniel R. Pearson and Commissioner Deanna Tanner Okun Regarding Cumulation). Accord Nucor Corp. v. United States, Slip Op. 09-16 at 23-25 (Ct. Int’l Trade March 9, 2009); Nucor Corp. v. United States, Slip Op. 08-141 at 39-43 (Ct. Int’l Trade, December 23, 2008).

³⁹ As explained below, Commissioners Lane and Pinkert apply a different analytical framework in determining whether other considerations justify exercising their discretion to cumulate the subject imports.

⁴⁰ See, e.g., Domestic Producers’ Prehearing Brief at 6-37.

⁴¹ See, e.g., Mexican Respondents’ Prehearing Brief at 7-8 and 21-23.

⁴² 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(7).

have no discernible adverse impact” on the domestic industry.⁴³ With respect to this provision, the Commission generally considers the likely volume of subject imports and the likely impact of those imports on the domestic industry within a reasonably foreseeable time if the orders are revoked.

Based on the record, we do not find that imports from any of the subject countries are likely to have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry in the event of revocation of the orders or the finding. Our analysis for each of the subject countries takes into account the nature of the product and the behavior of subject imports in the original investigations. Imports from each of the subject countries are likely to be substitutable for, and competitive with, domestically produced PC strand.⁴⁴ Such competition is likely to be based, at least in part, on price, due to the importance of price in purchasing decisions.⁴⁵ For sales of PC strand to the pre-tensioned and post-tensioned applications combined, producers in each of the subject countries undersold U.S. producers in the large majority of pricing comparisons during the original investigations.⁴⁶

Brazil. Brazil was a significant exporter of the subject merchandise to the United States during the original period of investigation.⁴⁷ It accounted for the third largest share of imports from among the subject countries.⁴⁸ The capacity of the sole producer of PC strand in Brazil has *** since the imposition of the antidumping duty order in 2004.⁴⁹ There is, however, some evidence in the record that the Brazilian producer may have plans to expand its production capacity for stranded wires and other long products.⁵⁰ The Brazilian producer’s capacity utilization *** in interim 2009 as compared with interim 2008.⁵¹ For these reasons, we do not find that PC strand imports from Brazil would likely have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry if the relevant order were revoked.

⁴³ SAA, H.R. Rep. No. 103-316, vol. I at 887 (1994).

⁴⁴ CR at II-25-31, PR at II-15-20.

⁴⁵ CR/PR at Table II-6.

⁴⁶ In the original investigations, the combined price data for pre-tensioned and post-tensioned applications showed that subject imports from Brazil undersold the domestic like product in 14 of 14 price comparisons; subject imports from India undersold the domestic like product in 14 of 14 price comparisons; subject imports from Japan undersold the domestic like product in 12 of 16 comparisons; subject imports from Korea undersold the domestic like product in 14 of 14 price comparisons; subject imports from Mexico undersold the domestic like product in 13 of 14 price comparisons; and subject imports from Thailand undersold the domestic like product in 12 of 14 price comparisons. CR/PR at Table V-5, Note. Price data in the original investigation concerning PC strand from Japan were not presented on the basis of application; accordingly, comparable historical price data for all countries can only be shown based on combined data for pre-tensioned and post-tensioned applications.

⁴⁷ During the period examined in the original investigations, the volume of U.S. shipments of subject imports from Brazil was 31.4 million pounds in 2000, 22.1 million pounds in 2001, and 23.1 million pounds in 2002. CR/PR at Table I-1.

⁴⁸ Id.

⁴⁹ CR/PR at Table IV-14.

⁵⁰ CR at IV-28, PR at IV-18, and Domestic Producers’ Prehearing Brief at 8. The Brazilian producer did not respond to questions concerning planned capacity expansions in its questionnaire response.

⁵¹ The Brazilian producer’s capacity utilization fell from *** percent in interim 2008 to *** percent in interim 2009. CR/PR at Table IV-14.

India. Imports from India increased steadily during the original period of investigation.⁵² The estimated capacity of the Indian PC strand industry has increased substantially since that time.⁵³ Only one of the four producers of PC strand in India responded to the foreign producer questionnaire in these reviews.⁵⁴ Because of this lack of participation in these reviews by Indian producers, we do not have full reported data on excess capacity in India. The Indian PC strand industry, however, did have substantial unused capacity during the original investigation, when its capacity utilization rate ranged between *** percent and *** percent in the full years of the period examined.⁵⁵ Based on the information provided by the one responding Indian producer, it appears that the Indian PC strand industry is at least moderately export oriented.⁵⁶ For these reasons, we do not find that PC strand imports from India would likely have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry if the relevant orders were revoked.

Japan. While imports from Japan decreased both absolutely and relative to U.S. consumption between 1974 and 1977,⁵⁷ they held over 60 percent of the U.S. market in both 1976 and 1977.⁵⁸ Since 2004 (the year of the last five-year review), imports from Japan have been present in the market in each year, in amounts ranging from 1.4 million pounds to 2.0 million pounds.⁵⁹ It is believed that there are currently four subject producers of PC strand in Japan, but only two Japanese producers, which are believed to have the *** capacity to produce PC strand in Japan, responded to the Commission's foreign producer questionnaire.⁶⁰ One of these firms reportedly ceased production of PC strand in ***.⁶¹ The estimated capacity of the PC strand industry in Japan has declined since the last five-year review of the finding, but still remains substantial.⁶² Because of the lack of participation in these reviews by other Japanese producers, we do not have full reported data on excess capacity in Japan. During the most recent five-year review, however, the Commission found that Japanese producers subject to the antidumping finding had substantial excess capacity to manufacture PC strand.⁶³ The Commission estimated that those producers were operating at a capacity utilization rate of only *** percent and that the excess capacity of those producers could supply *** percent of the U.S. market.⁶⁴ For these reasons,

⁵² During the period examined in the original investigations, the volume of U.S. shipments of subject imports from India was 9.4 million pounds in 2000, 13.6 million pounds in 2001, and 14.4 million pounds in 2002. CR/PR at Table I-1.

⁵³ The Indian PC strand industry's capacity rose from approximately *** pounds in 2002 to approximately *** pounds in 2008, or by *** percent. CR at IV-33, PR at IV-20.

⁵⁴ CR at IV-32, PR at IV-19. This producer's capacity utilization increased from *** percent in 2003 to *** percent in 2008. CR/PR at Table IV-16.

⁵⁵ Memorandum INV-AA-191 (December 19, 2003) at Table VII-2.

⁵⁶ That producer, Usha Martin, exported *** percent of its shipments in 2008. CR/PR at Table IV-15. The largest producer of PC strand in the original investigation, Tata Iron and Steel Co., exported *** percent of its production in 2002. Id.

⁵⁷ Imports from Japan were 295.3 million pounds in 1974, 166.8 million pounds in 1975, 139.1 million pounds in 1976, and 176.5 million pounds in 1977. CR/PR at Table I-1.

⁵⁸ Japan Original Injury Determination at 5.

⁵⁹ CR/PR at Table I-1.

⁶⁰ CR at IV-39-40, PR at IV-22-23.

⁶¹ Id. The remaining producer reported that its capacity utilization was *** percent in 2008. CR/PR at Table IV-17.

⁶² The estimated capacity of the Japanese industry was *** pounds in 2003 and *** pounds in 2008. CR/PR at Tables IV-17 and IV-9.

⁶³ Japan Second Injury Review at 11.

⁶⁴ Japan Second Injury Review Confidential Views at 15.

we do not find that PC strand imports from Japan would likely have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry if the finding were revoked.

Korea. Imports from Korea increased sharply during the original period of investigation.⁶⁵ Subject imports from Korea have remained in the U.S. market even after the imposition of the antidumping duty order, albeit at smaller volumes.⁶⁶ The estimated capacity of the Korean PC strand industry has remained relatively stable since that time.⁶⁷ The capacity utilization of the two Korean producers that responded to the Commission's questionnaire was *** lower in interim 2009 than in interim 2008.⁶⁸ Because of the lack of participation in these reviews by other Korean producers, we do not have full reported data on excess capacity in Korea, but the Korean PC strand industry had substantial unused capacity during the original investigation, when its capacity utilization rate ranged between *** percent and *** percent.⁶⁹ For these reasons, we do not find that PC strand imports from Korea would likely have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry if the relevant order were revoked.

Mexico. Imports from Mexico increased sharply during the original period of investigation,⁷⁰ and Mexico was the second largest source of subject imports.⁷¹ The capacity of the Mexican PC strand industry has increased substantially since that time.⁷² The Mexican industry's capacity utilization rate has also fallen substantially since the original investigation, declining from *** percent in 2002 to *** percent in 2008, and from *** percent in interim 2008 to *** percent in interim 2009.⁷³

We do not find that PC strand imports from Mexico would likely have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry. The Mexican Respondents argue that both Mexican producers have come under new ownership since the original investigation and the new owners, which have interests in non-PC strand wire products operations in the United States, have no "incentive to operate as a detractive presence in the U.S. PC strand market."⁷⁴ There is no reason to believe that Mexican PC strand producers will not pursue their commercial interests. Given their current *** and the proximity of the large U.S. PC strand market, they can be expected to seek to reenter that market in the event the antidumping duty order is revoked.⁷⁵ It is unclear why their relationships with U.S. producers of other steel products would act as

⁶⁵ During the period examined in the original investigations, the volume of U.S. shipments of subject imports from Korea was 38.3 million pounds in 2000, 42.6 million pounds in 2001, and 63.7 million pounds in 2002. CR/PR at Table I-1.

⁶⁶ Since the imposition of the order, annual imports from Korea have ranged from 0.3 million pounds to 4.0 million pounds. CR/PR at Table C-1.

⁶⁷ The Korean PC strand industry's capacity was approximately *** pounds in 2002 and approximately *** pounds in 2008, based in part on estimates provided by Domestic Producers. CR at IV-46, PR at IV-25. Based on estimates provided by one of the two Korean producers that responded to the Commission's questionnaire, the Korean industry's capacity was *** pounds in 2009. CR at IV-46 n.48, PR at IV-25 n.48.

⁶⁸ The capacity utilization rate of the two responding Korean producers fell from *** percent in interim 2008 to *** percent in interim 2009. CR/PR at Table IV-20.

⁶⁹ Memorandum INV-AA-191 (December 19, 2003) at Table VII-4.

⁷⁰ During the period examined in the original investigations, the volume of U.S. shipments of subject imports from Mexico was 31.9 million pounds in 2000, 37.1 million pounds in 2001, and 53.0 million pounds in 2002. CR/PR at Table I-1.

⁷¹ 2004 Original Determinations at Table C-4.

⁷² The Mexican PC strand industry's capacity rose from *** pounds in 2002 to *** pounds in 2008, or by *** percent. CR/PR at Table IV-21.

⁷³ CR/PR at Tables IV-21 and IV-22.

⁷⁴ Mexican Respondents' Prehearing Brief at 8.

⁷⁵ See Foreign Producer Questionnaire Response of Camesa at pp. 3 and 5 (indicating that ***).

a disincentive to exporting to the United States or prevail over their clear commercial interest in selling more PC strand.

We find that there is little if any evidence in the record that Mexican producers would face any significant barriers to re-entering the U.S. market if the order were revoked or that they would have to “start from scratch” in the U.S. market. The record indicates that any pre-certification requirements can be met easily and quickly.⁷⁶ Moreover, although Mexican PC strand producers have not exported their product to the United States since ***, both of the Mexican producers had related PC strand production facilities in the United States, and thus maintained contacts with U.S. customers, more recently than ***.⁷⁷ Also, Buy America(n)⁷⁸ requirements apply to approximately one-third of the U.S. PC strand market, leaving the majority of the market open to competition from subject imports, including those from Mexico.

The Mexican Government provided the Commission a list of approved infrastructure projects related to Mexico’s National Infrastructure Plan.⁷⁹ However, the information provided lacks the level of specificity the Commission requested⁸⁰ and does not permit us to determine how much of the Mexican Respondents’ 2009 and 2010 production of PC strand is currently contractually committed to funded and approved domestic projects or to otherwise conclude that a specific volume of production is not likely to be available for export.

We recognize that the Mexican PC strand industry was much less export oriented in 2008 than it was in 2002.⁸¹ This is not a reason, however, to conclude that subject imports from Mexico would have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry upon revocation of the order. The Mexican industry has a low rate of capacity utilization and substantial unused capacity. Its capacity utilization rate was only *** percent in 2008, and it had almost *** pounds of unused capacity,⁸² an amount that exceeds *** percent of U.S. apparent consumption in 2008.⁸³ In light of this substantial unused capacity, and the

⁷⁶ E.g., Hearing Tr. at 87 (Wagner, Insteel).

⁷⁷ PCS, a U.S. PC strand producer that was related to the Mexican producer Camesa, operated a plant in Rosenberg, TX from *** to the end of ***; and EMC, another domestic producer, that was related to the Mexican producer Cablesa, operated a plant in Phoenix, AZ from *** until *** 2007. CR at I-35 and III-3-4, PR at I-30 and III-2, CR/PR at Figure I-1. In addition, Mexican producer ***. CR at IV-2, PR at IV-2.

⁷⁸ “Buy America” requirements apply to iron and steel products and their coatings that are purchased for the Federal-aid highway construction program. Under “Buy America,” Federal-aid funds may not be obligated for a project unless iron and steel products used in such projects are manufactured in the United States (with limited exceptions). In addition, under an alternate-bid procedure, foreign-source materials may be used if the total project bid using foreign-source materials is 25 percent less than the lowest total bid using domestic materials. “Buy American” is a separate and distinct program from “Buy America” and has different rules. The Buy American Act, which covers specified products, requires the Federal Government to purchase domestic goods and services unless the head of the agency involved in the procurement has determined that the prices of the domestic suppliers are “unreasonable” or that their purchase would be “inconsistent with the public interest.” CR at II-25 n.22, PR at II-16 n.22.

⁷⁹ Mexican Respondents contend that a substantial part of Mexican PC strand production is dedicated to the Mexican home market, which, they maintain, is expected to grow strongly as a result of increased infrastructure spending in Mexico, especially under Mexico’s National Infrastructure Plan. Mexican Respondents’ Prehearing Brief at 18-19 and Posthearing Brief at Exh. 1 p. 3.

⁸⁰ Hearing Tr. at 18 (Commissioner Okun).

⁸¹ Exports constituted *** percent of the Mexican industry’s shipments in 2002 and *** percent of shipments in 2008. CR/PR at Table IV-21.

⁸² CR/PR at Table IV-22.

⁸³ Apparent U.S. consumption of PC strand was 943 million pounds in 2008. CR/PR at Table C-1.

proximity of the Mexican industry to the large U.S. market,⁸⁴ it is reasonable to expect that exports to the United States would again play an important role for the Mexican industry were the order to be revoked, as they did before the imposition of the order.⁸⁵

Mexican Respondents argued that competition from non-subject imports, especially those from China, would make it difficult for Mexican producers to increase sales in the U.S. market.⁸⁶ However, there is evidence in the record that Mexican PC strand is able to compete with PC strand from China in at least some third country markets.⁸⁷

The Mexican Respondents argued that imports from Mexico would not have adverse price effects on the domestic industry.⁸⁸ They maintain that one Mexican producer's prices in its home market ***. This comparison is invalid, however, because they compare *prices* of one (unnamed) Mexican producer with *AUVs* in the United States, an "apples-to-oranges" comparison. It also is not clear that the time periods for the prices and *AUVs* are the same, or how the "average" Mexican price (an average of prices for covered and uncovered strand) was derived. Moreover, other evidence in the record (such as the views of U.S. purchasers as to price leadership and the *AUVs* of Mexican exports to third country markets as compared with the *AUVs* for U.S. shipments by U.S. producers) tends to refute Mexican Respondents' contention that they would not undersell the U.S. product in the event of revocation.^{89 90}

For these reasons, in particular the increase in imports from Mexico during the original investigations,⁹¹ the subsequent increase in the Mexican industry's production capacity, the large amount of unused Mexican capacity, and Mexico's geographic proximity to the U.S. market, we do not find that PC strand imports from Mexico would likely have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry if the relevant order were revoked.

⁸⁴ In this regard, we note that a representative from one of the Mexican producers testified that the proximity of the Mexican industry to the United States would be an asset for selling to the U.S. market. Hearing Tr. at 216 and 234 (Gomez, Camesa). Mexico was also identified by an importer as "the country with the greatest ability to compete" due to its proximity to Texas. *** Importer Questionnaire Response at 42. All imports from Mexico during the period of review were entered through Laredo or El Paso, Texas (CR/PR at Table IV-7). Texas is part of the Southwest and Rocky Mountain states region, which accounted for *** U.S. shipments of PC strand for post-tensioning applications. Much of this PC strand is used for slab-on-grade applications, which are generally not subject to Buy America(n) requirements. CR at I-29, II-19-20, and II-25 n.22, PR at I-26, II-12, and II-16 n.22.

⁸⁵ Before the order was imposed, Mexico's exports of PC strand to the United States exceeded its home market shipments. Domestic Producers' Posthearing Brief at 7. We also note that the Mexican Respondents' argument as to why the unused capacity in Mexico does not pose a threat to the U.S. PC strand industry, see Mexican Respondents' Posthearing Brief at 7-10, is based on unsubstantiated assumptions.

⁸⁶ Mexican Respondents' Prehearing Brief at 5.

⁸⁷ Hearing Tr. at 190 and 192 (Gomez, Camesa).

⁸⁸ Mexican Respondents' Prehearing Brief at 20 and Posthearing Brief at Exh. 1, p. 4.

⁸⁹ CR/PR at Table II-4 (purchaser opinions), and CR/PR at Table IV-22 (*AUVs* of Mexican exports) compared with CR/PR at Table C-1 (*AUVs* of U.S. shipments by U.S. producers).

⁹⁰ Finally, the Mexican Respondents argue that any modest increase in Mexican imports would not adversely affect the domestic industry's financial results. This argument is flawed, however, because it rests on the questionable assumption that the domestic industry's displaced sales volume due to the hypothetical increase in Mexican imports would have the same unit net sales value, unit cost of goods sold, and unit selling, general, and administrative expenses as reflected in table C-4 of the staff report.

⁹¹ In assessing whether PC strand imports from Mexico would likely have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry, Chairman Aranoff and Commissioner Okun relied primarily on information on the record subsequent to the change in ownership of Mexican Respondents, with emphasis on the current abilities of, and market incentives facing, Mexican producers, and placed limited weight on data from the original investigations as to Mexico.

Thailand. Imports from Thailand increased over the original period of investigation.⁹² The estimated capacity of the Thai PC strand industry has increased substantially since that time.⁹³ Only one of the six producers of PC strand in Thailand responded to the foreign producer questionnaire in these reviews.⁹⁴ Because of this lack of participation by the vast majority of Thai producers, we do not have full reported data on excess capacity in Thailand. The Thai PC strand industry, however, had substantial unused capacity during the original investigation, when its capacity utilization rate ranged between *** percent and *** percent.⁹⁵ For these reasons, we do not find that PC strand imports from Thailand would likely have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry if the relevant order were revoked.

D. Likelihood of a Reasonable Overlap of Competition

The Commission generally has considered four factors intended to provide a framework for determining whether the imports compete with each other and with the domestic like product.⁹⁶ Only a “reasonable overlap” of competition is required.⁹⁷ In five-year reviews, the relevant inquiry is whether there likely would be competition even if none currently exists because the subject imports are absent from the U.S. market.⁹⁸

In the 2004 Original Determinations, the Commission found a reasonable overlap of competition among the five subject countries and the domestic like product. Although the Commission cumulated subject imports from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand in the 2004 Original Determinations, the issue of whether to cumulate imports from Japan with imports from those other countries arises for the first time in these reviews.

The Mexican Respondents contend that imports from Mexico should not be cumulated with those from the other subject countries (including Japan) because several factors relevant to the Commission’s

⁹² During the period examined in the original investigations, the volume of U.S. shipments of subject imports from Thailand was 7.6 million pounds in 2000, 13.9 million pounds in 2001, and 10.7 million pounds in 2002. CR/PR at Table I-1.

⁹³ The Thai PC strand industry’s capacity rose from approximately *** pounds in 2002 to approximately *** pounds in 2008, or by *** percent. CR at IV-61, PR at IV-30.

⁹⁴ CR at IV-60, PR at IV-30. This producer reported that its capacity utilization rate *** from *** percent in 2003 to *** percent in 2008, and that it was *** percent in interim 2008 and *** percent in interim 2009. CR/PR at Table IV-24.

⁹⁵ Memorandum INV-AA-191 (December 19, 2003) at Table VII-11.

⁹⁶ The four factors generally considered by the Commission in assessing whether imports compete with each other and with the domestic like product are as follows: (1) the degree of fungibility between the imports from different countries and between imports and the domestic like product, including consideration of specific customer requirements and other quality related questions; (2) the presence of sales or offers to sell in the same geographical markets of imports from different countries and the domestic like product; (3) the existence of common or similar channels of distribution for imports from different countries and the domestic like product; and (4) whether the imports are simultaneously present in the market. *See, e.g., Wieland Werke, AG v. United States*, 718 F. Supp. 50 (Ct. Int’l Trade 1989).

⁹⁷ *See Mukand Ltd. v. United States*, 937 F. Supp. 910, 916 (Ct. Int’l Trade 1996); *Wieland Werke*, 718 F. Supp. at 52 (“Completely overlapping markets are not required.”); *United States Steel Group v. United States*, 873 F. Supp. 673, 685 (Ct. Int’l Trade 1994), *aff’d*, 96 F.3d 1352 (Fed. Cir. 1996). We note, however, that there have been investigations where the Commission has found an insufficient overlap in competition and has declined to cumulate subject imports. *See, e.g., Live Cattle From Canada and Mexico*, Inv. Nos. 701-TA-386 and 731-TA-812 to 813 (Prelim.), USITC Pub. 3155 at 15 (Feb. 1999), *aff’d sub nom. Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Foundation v. United States*, 74 F. Supp. 2d 1353 (Ct. Int’l Trade 1999); *Static Random Access Memory Semiconductors from the Republic of Korea and Taiwan*, Inv. Nos. 731-TA-761 to 762 (Final), USITC Pub. 3098 at 13-15 (Apr. 1998).

⁹⁸ *See generally Cheflene Corp. v. United States*, 219 F. Supp. 2d 1313, 1314 (Ct. Int’l Trade 2002).

analysis support not cumulating. Specifically, they argue that the fungibility of imports from Mexico and the domestic like product is limited by Buy America(n) requirements and the segmentation of the U.S. market into pre-tensioned and post-tensioned applications. They also argue that, because there have been no imports from Mexico since shortly after the imposition of the order, Mexican producers do not sell in the same geographic market as U.S. producers, do not have similar channels of distribution, and are not simultaneously in the market.⁹⁹

The Domestic Producers argue that there is a likely reasonable overlap of competition among imports from the different subject countries and between the subject imports and the domestic like product. First, they point to the evidence of product fungibility in the 2004 Original Determinations and contend that the record in these reviews continues to support a finding of fungibility. In this connection, they argue that the percentage of the domestic PC strand market that is comprised of Buy America(n) sales is largely the same as it was in the original investigations.¹⁰⁰ Second, Domestic Producers argue that there is a reasonable overlap in channels of distribution because PC strand, regardless of source, is predominantly sold to end users. They maintain that an overlap in channels of distribution continues to be observable, even if end users are divided into post-tensioners and pre-tensioners.¹⁰¹ Third, Domestic Producers maintain that subject imports and the domestic like product overlap in sales in the same geographic markets.¹⁰² Finally, Domestic Producers argue that, if the orders were revoked, subject imports and the domestic like product would likely be sold in the U.S. market at the same time, as was the case in the original investigations.¹⁰³

1. Fungibility¹⁰⁴

All U.S. producers and a majority of purchasers and importers reported in this review that the domestic like product, subject imports, and nonsubject imports are always interchangeable.¹⁰⁵ Most purchasers reported that the domestic product was superior in terms of delivery time and technical support/service, but that it was inferior in terms of price. For nearly all other factors, the responding purchasers rated the domestic product and subject imports as comparable.¹⁰⁶

We recognize that the interchangeability of subject imports with the domestic like product is limited somewhat by the existence of end uses that are subject to Buy America(n) requirements. We note, however, that such requirements applied to only about one-third of total apparent U.S. consumption of PC strand during the review period, leaving the majority of the U.S. market open to competition between subject imports and the domestic like product.¹⁰⁷ Nor is there evidence in the record that the percentage of sales subject to Buy America(n) requirements is likely to increase in the reasonably foreseeable future.

⁹⁹ Mexican Respondents' Posthearing Brief, Exh. 1, at 8-9.

¹⁰⁰ Domestic Producers' Prehearing Brief at 28-30.

¹⁰¹ Domestic Producers' Prehearing Brief at 30-32.

¹⁰² Domestic Producers' Prehearing Brief at 32.

¹⁰³ Domestic Producers' Prehearing Brief at 32-33.

¹⁰⁴ Commissioner Lane notes that, with respect to fungibility, her analysis does not require such similarity of products that a perfectly symmetrical fungibility is required and that this factor would be better described as an analysis of whether subject imports from each country and the domestic like product could be substituted for each other. See Separate Views of Commissioner Charlotte R. Lane, Certain Lightweight Thermal Paper from China, Germany, and Korea, Invs. Nos. 701-TA-451 and 731-TA-1126-1128 (Prelim.), USITC Pub. 3964 at 32-33 (Nov. 2007).

¹⁰⁵ CR/PR at Table II-5.

¹⁰⁶ CR/PR at Table II-4.

¹⁰⁷ CR at IV-15, PR at IV-8

We note also that Buy America(n) requirements do not limit the fungibility of imports from the different subject countries.

The fungibility of subject imports and the domestic like product may also be limited somewhat by their different concentrations in the markets for pre-tensioned and post-tensioned applications (the distinction between these applications is discussed below in Section V.B.2.a.). Almost all of the U.S. shipments by importers from the three subject countries for which data were provided by type of application (Brazil, Korea, and Thailand) went to post-tensioned applications during the period of review.¹⁰⁸ The majority of the domestic industry's shipments, however, were for pre-tensioned applications.¹⁰⁹ Nevertheless, notwithstanding this difference as to predominant applications, there is no difference between the PC strand that is sold in the pre-tensioned and post-tensioned markets, nor is there likely to be any such difference in the reasonably foreseeable future.¹¹⁰ Moreover, subject imports have been sold in the pre-tensioned market,¹¹¹ and the domestic industry has expressed an interest in selling more PC strand in the post-tensioned market.¹¹²

2. Common or Similar Channels of Distribution

In the 2004 Original Determinations, the Commission found that most PC strand was sold directly to end users.¹¹³ In these reviews, all domestically produced PC strand and all PC strand imported from Brazil, India, Korea, and Thailand during the period of review was sold directly to end users.¹¹⁴ There is no evidence in the record that this commonality in channels of distribution is likely to change in the reasonably foreseeable future.

3. Same Geographic Markets

In the 2004 Original Determinations, the Commission found overlapping geographic markets for subject imports and domestically produced PC strand.¹¹⁵ During the period covered by these reviews, PC strand produced in the United States was sold nationwide.¹¹⁶ Despite a concentration of import entries into the Gulf region and the West Coast,¹¹⁷ at least some importers of subject merchandise reported selling in all regions of the United States.¹¹⁸ There is no evidence in the record that subject imports would not again compete in the same geographic markets with domestically produced PC strand in the reasonably foreseeable future upon revocation of the orders and the finding.

¹⁰⁸ CR at IV-10, PR at IV-7 and CR/PR at Tables IV-3 through IV-5.

¹⁰⁹ In the January 2003-June 2009 period, more than two-thirds of the domestic industry's shipments were for pre-tensioned applications, and less than one-third were for post-tensioned applications. In addition, there was a shift by the domestic industry away from post-tensioned applications in this period. In 2003, *** percent of the domestic producers' U.S. shipments were for pre-tensioned applications; by 2008, this percentage had increased to *** percent. CR at IV-9-10, PR at IV-7.

¹¹⁰ Hearing Tr. at 116 (Wagner, Insteel).

¹¹¹ CR/PR at Tables V-3 and V-5 Note.

¹¹² CR at III-14, PR at III-8.

¹¹³ 2004 Original Injury Determination at 15.

¹¹⁴ CR/PR at Table II-1. U.S. importers did not report shipments of imports of PC strand from Japan or Mexico during the review period. CR/PR at Table II-1 n.1.

¹¹⁵ 2004 Original Injury Determination at 15.

¹¹⁶ CR/PR at Table V-1.

¹¹⁷ CR/PR at Table IV-7.

¹¹⁸ CR/PR at Table V-1.

4. Simultaneous Market Presence

In the 2004 Original Determinations, the Commission found that the subject imports and the domestic like product were simultaneously present in the U.S. market.¹¹⁹ Imports from all six subject countries were present in the U.S. market during 2003-2004.¹²⁰ Subject imports from Brazil and India have been essentially absent from the U.S. market since 2004, and those from Thailand have been essentially absent since 2005. Subject imports from Korea were present in each full year of the review period.¹²¹ As discussed above, each of the subject countries is likely to resume or increase its exports to the United States upon revocation of the orders and the finding. It follows that the subject imports and the domestic like product are likely to be simultaneously present in the U.S. market in the reasonably foreseeable future upon revocation.

5. Conclusion

Based on the traditional four competition factors that the Commission considers, we conclude that imports from the subject countries are fungible, would likely move in the same channels of distribution, and would likely compete simultaneously in the same geographic markets upon revocation of the orders and the finding. We note that the focus of the Commission's inquiry in five-year reviews is whether there would likely be competition *upon revocation of the relevant orders*, even if there currently are no imports from a subject country.¹²² Thus, the Mexican Respondents' argument that there is not a reasonable overlap of competition between Mexican imports and the domestic like product because Mexican PC strand has largely been absent from the U.S. market since the imposition of the orders is unavailing.

Accordingly, we conclude that there likely would be a reasonable overlap of competition between the subject imports and the domestic like product and among the subject imports if the antidumping duty orders, the countervailing duty order, and the finding were revoked.

¹¹⁹ 2004 Original Injury Determination at 15.

¹²⁰ We note, however, that most of the imports from Japan and all of the imports from Mexico appear to involve nonsubject merchandise. CR/PR at Table IV-1 Note.

¹²¹ CR/PR at Table IV-1.

¹²² See, e.g., Cheflene Corp. v. United States, 219 F. Supp. 2d 1313, 1314 (Ct. Int'l Trade 2002) ("The statute and legislative history are clear: the Commission is not required to find that subject imports currently compete in the U.S. market.").

E. Other Considerations¹²³

In determining whether to exercise our discretion to cumulate the subject imports, we assess whether the subject imports from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand are likely to compete under similar or different conditions in the U.S. market in the event of revocation.¹²⁴ Based on the current record, we do not find any significant differences in likely conditions of competition among imports from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand.

Mexican Respondents argue that Mexico's unique status among the subject countries as a net importer of PC strand in every year since 2003 warrants a decision not to cumulate imports from Mexico.¹²⁵ Mexico's current status as a net importer, under the discipline of the order, is not enough to persuade us that imports from Mexico would likely compete under different conditions in the U.S. market than imports from the other subject countries in the event of revocation of the order. In light of the Mexican industry's export orientation in the original investigations (when it was a leading source of subject imports and (in 2003) accounted for 4.7 percent of the U.S. market),^{126 127} its current substantial excess capacity, and its close proximity to the U.S. market, we do not find that Mexico's current status as a net importer alone sufficiently differentiates Mexican producers from producers in other subject countries, which we find would also resume and/or increase exports to the United States if the orders and antidumping duty finding are lifted.

Accordingly, we exercise our discretion to cumulate subject imports from each of the subject countries.

¹²³ Commissioners Lane and Pinkert explain their analysis of other considerations as follows. Where, in a five-year review, they do not find that the subject imports would be likely to have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry if the orders were revoked, and find that such imports would be likely to compete with each other and with the domestic like product in the U.S. market, they cumulate such imports unless there is a condition or propensity – not merely a trend – that is likely to persist for a reasonably foreseeable time and that significantly limits competition such that cumulation is not warranted.

Based on the record in these reviews, they find that there is no such condition or propensity with respect to the subject imports. They note that only the Mexican Respondents have argued otherwise. They do not agree with the Mexican Respondents that Mexico's status as a net importer – during a period in which its exports to its principal foreign market (the United States) are restricted by an antidumping duty order – is a condition or propensity that is likely to persist for a reasonably foreseeable time and significantly limits competition. See Mexican Respondents' Posthearing Brief, Exh. 1 at 12.

In sum, they find no justification for exercising their discretion not to cumulate the subject imports from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand, and they have cumulated them in these reviews.

¹²⁴ See, e.g., Allegheny Ludlum Corp., 475 F. Supp. 2d at 1378 (recognizing the wide latitude the Commission has in selecting the type of factors it considers relevant in deciding whether to exercise discretion to cumulate subject imports in five-year reviews); Nucor v. United States, 569 F. Supp. 2d at 1337-38; United States Steel, Slip Op. 08-82.

¹²⁵ Mexican Respondents' Posthearing Brief at 10-12.

¹²⁶ CR/PR at Table I-1.

¹²⁷ For purposes of their determinations with respect to cumulation and likelihood of material injury, Chairman Aranoff and Commissioner Okun relied primarily on information on the record subsequent to the change in ownership of Mexican Respondents, with emphasis on the current abilities of, and market incentives facing, Mexican producers, and placed limited weight on data from the original investigations as to Mexico.

V. LIKELIHOOD OF CONTINUATION OR RECURRENCE OF MATERIAL INJURY IF THE ANTIDUMPING DUTY ORDERS, THE ANTIDUMPING DUTY FINDING, AND THE COUNTERVAILING DUTY ORDER ARE REVOKED

A. Legal Standards

In a five-year review conducted under section 751(c) of the Act, Commerce will revoke an antidumping or countervailing duty order unless (1) it makes a determination that dumping or subsidization is likely to continue or recur and (2) the Commission makes a determination that revocation of the antidumping or countervailing duty order “would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury within a reasonably foreseeable time.”¹²⁸ The SAA states that “under the likelihood standard, the Commission will engage in a counterfactual analysis; it must decide the likely impact in the reasonably foreseeable future of an important change in the status quo – the revocation or termination of a proceeding and the elimination of its restraining effects on volumes and prices of imports.”¹²⁹ Thus, the likelihood standard is prospective in nature.¹³⁰ The U.S. Court of International Trade has found that “likely,” as used in the five-year review provisions of the Act, means “probable,” and the Commission applies that standard in five-year reviews.^{131 132 133}

The statute states that “the Commission shall consider that the effects of revocation or termination may not be imminent, but may manifest themselves only over a longer period of time.”¹³⁴ According to

¹²⁸ 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a).

¹²⁹ SAA at 883-84. The SAA states that “{t}he likelihood of injury standard applies regardless of the nature of the Commission’s original determination (material injury, threat of material injury, or material retardation of an industry). Likewise, the standard applies to suspended investigations that were never completed.” *Id.* at 883.

¹³⁰ While the SAA states that “a separate determination regarding current material injury is not necessary,” it indicates that “the Commission may consider relevant factors such as current and likely continued depressed shipment levels and current and likely continued {sic} prices for the domestic like product in the U.S. market in making its determination of the likelihood of continuation or recurrence of material injury if the order is revoked.” SAA at 884.

¹³¹ See NMB Singapore Ltd. v. United States, 288 F. Supp. 2d 1306, 1352 (Ct. Int’l Trade 2003) (“‘likely’ means probable within the context of 19 U.S.C. § 1675(c) and 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)”), *aff’d mem.*, 140 Fed. Appx. 268 (Fed. Cir. 2005); Nippon Steel Corp. v. United States, 26 CIT 1416, 1419 (2002) (same); Usinor Industeel, S.A. v. United States, 26 CIT 1402, 1404 nn.3, 6 (2002) (“more likely than not” standard is “consistent with the court’s opinion”; “the court has not interpreted ‘likely’ to imply any particular degree of ‘certainty’”); Indorama Chemicals (Thailand) Ltd. v. United States, Slip Op. 02-105 at 20 (Ct. Int’l Trade Sept. 4, 2002) (“standard is based on a likelihood of continuation or recurrence of injury, not a certainty”); Usinor v. United States, 26 CIT 767, 794 (2002) (“‘likely’ is tantamount to ‘probable,’ not merely ‘possible’”).

¹³² For a complete statement of Commissioner Okun’s interpretation of the likely standard, see Additional Views of Vice Chairman Deanna Tanner Okun Concerning the “Likely” Standard in Certain Seamless Carbon and Alloy Steel Standard, Line and Pressure Pipe From Argentina, Brazil, Germany, and Italy, Invs. Nos. 701-TA-362 (Review) and 731-TA-707 to 710 (Review)(Remand), USITC Pub. 3754 (Feb. 2005).

¹³³ Commissioner Lane notes that, consistent with her views in Pressure Sensitive Plastic Tape From Italy, Inv. No. AA1921-167 (Second Review), USITC Pub. 3698 (June 2004), she does not concur with the U.S. Court of International Trade’s interpretation of “likely,” but she will apply the Court’s standard in these reviews and all subsequent reviews until either Congress clarifies the meaning or the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit addresses this issue.

¹³⁴ 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(5).

the SAA, a “‘reasonably foreseeable time’ will vary from case-to-case, but normally will exceed the ‘imminent’ timeframe applicable in a threat of injury analysis in original investigations.”¹³⁵

Although the standard in a five-year review is not the same as the standard applied in an original antidumping duty investigation, it contains some of the same fundamental elements. The statute provides that the Commission is to “consider the likely volume, price effect, and impact of imports of the subject merchandise on the industry if the orders are revoked or the suspended investigation is terminated.”¹³⁶ It directs the Commission to take into account its prior injury determination, whether any improvement in the state of the industry is related to the order or the suspension agreement under review, whether the industry is vulnerable to material injury if the orders are revoked or the suspension agreement is terminated, and any findings by Commerce regarding duty absorption pursuant to 19 U.S.C. § 1675(a)(4).¹³⁷ The statute further provides that the presence or absence of any factor that the Commission is required to consider shall not necessarily give decisive guidance with respect to the Commission’s determination.¹³⁸

In evaluating the likely volume of imports of subject merchandise if the orders under review are revoked and the suspended investigations are terminated, the Commission is directed to consider whether the likely volume of imports would be significant either in absolute terms or relative to production or consumption in the United States.¹³⁹ In doing so, the Commission must consider “all relevant economic factors,” including four enumerated factors: (1) any likely increase in production capacity or existing unused production capacity in the exporting country; (2) existing inventories of the subject merchandise, or likely increases in inventories; (3) the existence of barriers to the importation of the subject merchandise into countries other than the United States; and (4) the potential for product shifting if production facilities in the foreign country, which can be used to produce the subject merchandise, are currently being used to produce other products.¹⁴⁰

In evaluating the likely price effects of subject imports if the orders and finding under review were revoked, the Commission is directed to consider whether there is likely to be significant underselling by the subject imports as compared to the domestic like product and whether the subject imports are likely to enter the United States at prices that otherwise would have a significant depressing or suppressing effect on the price of the domestic like product.¹⁴¹

In evaluating the likely impact of imports of subject merchandise if the orders and finding under review are revoked, the Commission is directed to consider all relevant economic factors that are likely to have a bearing on the state of the industry in the United States, including but not limited to the following: (1) likely declines in output, sales, market share, profits, productivity, return on investments, and utilization of capacity; (2) likely negative effects on cash flow, inventories, employment, wages, growth,

¹³⁵ SAA at 887. Among the factors that the Commission should consider in this regard are “the fungibility or differentiation within the product in question, the level of substitutability between the imported and domestic products, the channels of distribution used, the methods of contracting (such as spot sales or long-term contracts), and lead times for delivery of goods, as well as other factors that may only manifest themselves in the longer term, such as planned investment and the shifting of production facilities.” *Id.*

¹³⁶ 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(1).

¹³⁷ 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(1). We note that no duty absorption findings have been made by Commerce.

¹³⁸ 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(5). Although the Commission must consider all factors, no one factor is necessarily dispositive. SAA at 886.

¹³⁹ 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(2).

¹⁴⁰ 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(2)(A-D).

¹⁴¹ *See* 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(3). The SAA states that “{c}onsistent with its practice in investigations, in considering the likely price effects of imports in the event of revocation and termination, the Commission may rely on circumstantial, as well as direct, evidence of the adverse effects of unfairly traded imports on domestic prices.” SAA at 886.

ability to raise capital, and investment; and (3) likely negative effects on the existing development and production efforts of the industry, including efforts to develop a derivative or more advanced version of the domestic like product.¹⁴² All relevant economic factors are to be considered within the context of the business cycle and the conditions of competition that are distinctive to the industry. As instructed by the statute, we have considered the extent to which any improvement in the state of the domestic industry is related to the orders at issue and whether the industry is vulnerable to material injury if the orders were revoked.¹⁴³

As discussed above, the Commission received a limited number of foreign producer questionnaire responses. Accordingly, we have relied on the facts otherwise available when appropriate in these reviews, which consist primarily of information from the original investigations, information submitted in these reviews, including by the domestic industry, and information available from published sources.^{144 145}

B. Conditions of Competition and Business Cycle

In evaluating the likely impact of the subject imports on the domestic industry, the statute directs the Commission to consider all relevant economic factors “within the context of the business cycle and conditions of competition that are distinctive to the affected industry.”¹⁴⁶

¹⁴² 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(4).

¹⁴³ The SAA states that in assessing whether the domestic industry is vulnerable to injury if the order is revoked, the Commission “considers, in addition to imports, other factors that may be contributing to overall injury. While these factors, in some cases, may account for the injury to the domestic industry, they may also demonstrate that an industry is facing difficulties from a variety of sources and is vulnerable to dumped or subsidized imports.” SAA at 885.

¹⁴⁴ 19 U.S.C. § 1677e(a) authorizes the Commission to “use the facts otherwise available” in reaching a determination when (1) necessary information is not available on the record or (2) an interested party or any other person withholds information requested by the agency, fails to provide such information in the time or in the form or manner requested, significantly impedes a proceeding, or provides information that cannot be verified pursuant to 19 U.S.C. § 1677m(i). The verification requirements in 19 U.S.C. § 1677m(i) are applicable only to Commerce. See Titanium Metals Corp. v. United States, 155 F. Supp. 2d 750, 765 (Ct. Int’l Trade 2002) (“the ITC correctly responds that Congress has not required the Commission to conduct verification procedures for the evidence before it, or provided a minimum standard by which to measure the thoroughness of Commission investigations.”).

¹⁴⁵ Commissioner Okun notes that the statute authorizes the Commission to take adverse inferences in five-year reviews, but such authorization does not relieve the Commission of its obligation to consider the record evidence as a whole in making its determination. See 19 U.S.C. § 1677e. She generally gives credence to the facts supplied by the participating parties and certified by them as true, but bases her decision on the evidence as a whole, and does not automatically accept participating parties’ suggested interpretations of the record evidence. Regardless of the level of participation, the Commission is obligated to consider all evidence relating to each of the statutory factors and may not draw adverse inferences that render such analysis superfluous. “In general, the Commission makes determinations by weighing all of the available evidence regarding a multiplicity of factors relating to the domestic industry as a whole and by drawing reasonable inferences from the evidence it finds most persuasive.” SAA at 869.

¹⁴⁶ 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(4).

1. The Commission's Original Determinations and Prior Reviews of the Japan Finding

a. Original Determination and Prior Reviews With Respect to Japan Finding

The Commission did not discuss conditions of competition in its original injury determination with respect to imports from Japan.¹⁴⁷ The staff report in that investigation, however, observed that there was a strand shortage in the United States in 1973 and 1974, in response to which domestic and foreign capacity was expanded. This expansion, however, was followed by a recession in 1975.¹⁴⁸

In its first five-year review, the Commission noted that, since the original Japan finding, the total U.S. supply of PC strand had expanded significantly and the market share held by imports from Japan had dropped precipitously, while nonsubject imports became more important in the U.S. market. The Commission explained that demand for PC strand was derived from its use in construction. It characterized PC strand as predominantly a commodity product for which competition was based mostly on price, and it noted that sales of PC strand had become concentrated in certain grades and sizes.¹⁴⁹

In its second five-year review, the Commission again noted that demand for PC strand was derived from its use in construction. It found that demand for PC strand had been strong since the first review, but that imports from Japan had remained largely absent from the market, which was supplied by the domestic industry and nonsubject imports. It again characterized PC strand as predominantly a commodity product, for which competition was based mostly on price.¹⁵⁰

b. Original Determinations With Respect to Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand

In the 2004 Original Determinations, the Commission observed that demand for PC strand is derived from demand for prestressed concrete, which, in turn, is derived from demand for construction projects, particularly infrastructure projects, commercial and institutional construction, large housing projects and, to a lesser degree, single-family housing. The Commission stated that purchasers were evenly divided on the question of whether demand for prestressed concrete had increased or decreased. Apparent U.S. consumption had declined between 2000 and 2003, but was higher in interim 2003 than in interim 2002. The Commission noted that there was disagreement among the parties as to the existence and significance of market distinctions based on pre-tensioned versus post-tensioned PC strand applications. It concluded, however, that the U.S. market was not strictly segmented.¹⁵¹

The Commission explained that the domestic industry was the largest source of supply to the U.S. market (although its market share fell below 70 percent over the period of investigation) and that cumulated subject imports supplied more than 20 percent of the U.S. market, while nonsubject imports accounted for less than 10 percent. U.S. producers were the predominant suppliers to pre-tensioned customers; post-tensioned customers, however, were increasingly supplied by subject imports.¹⁵²

The Commission found PC strand to be a largely undifferentiated product that was generally produced in a single form, size, and strength. It noted that Buy America(n) restrictions or preferences

¹⁴⁷ Japan Original Injury Determination at 3-10.

¹⁴⁸ Japan Original Injury Determination at A-11.

¹⁴⁹ Japan First Injury Review at 6-8.

¹⁵⁰ Japan Second Injury Review at 8-10.

¹⁵¹ 2004 Original Injury Determinations at 16-17.

¹⁵² 2004 Original Injury Determinations at 17.

applied to about 30 percent of the entire U.S. PC strand market, largely in pre-tensioned applications. Finally, the Commission explained that subject imports and domestically produced PC strand were generally substitutable, with price being an important factor in purchasing decisions.¹⁵³

2. The Current Proceedings

We find the following conditions of competition relevant to our determinations in these reviews.

a. Demand

Most market participants either stated that U.S. demand for PC strand had fluctuated since 2003 or that it decreased.¹⁵⁴ Apparent U.S. consumption of PC strand increased from 805.9 million pounds in 2003 to 1.1 billion pounds in 2006, and then fell to 942.7 million pounds in 2008.¹⁵⁵ Apparent U.S. consumption was 557.8 million pounds in interim 2008 and 229.1 million pounds in interim 2009.¹⁵⁶

Most U.S. producers and importers reported that demand is expected to continue to decline in the near term (at least the next 12 months) and that any recovery in demand depends on a recovery in construction.¹⁵⁷ The Domestic Producers maintain in these reviews that they have not benefitted from Federal stimulus spending under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and that this legislation is unlikely to have any significant effect on demand for PC strand in the reasonably foreseeable future, because most of the stimulus spending to date has been directed to “shovel ready” projects, such as road paving, that do not use PC strand.¹⁵⁸

PC strand may be pre-tensioned or post-tensioned. Most pre-tensioned concrete elements are prefabricated in a factory and must be transported to the construction site. Pre-tensioned concrete components may be used in balconies, lintels, floor slabs, beams, or foundation piles. In contrast, post-tensioning takes place on the job site in cast-in-place applications. The predominant end uses of post-tensioned PC strand are in slab-on-grade construction and in buildings for floors with moderate to long spans and moderate floor loads such as in parking garages and residential buildings.¹⁵⁹ During the period of review, most of the subject imports were sold for post-tensioned applications, while the domestic product was sold mostly for pre-tensioned applications.¹⁶⁰ According to data on U.S. producers’ U.S. shipments, Buy America(n) provisions are much more prevalent with respect to sales of PC strand to pre-tensioned customers.¹⁶¹

¹⁵³ 2004 Original Injury Determinations at 17-18.

¹⁵⁴ CR at II-20-21, PR at II-13.

¹⁵⁵ CR at II-20, PR at II-12.

¹⁵⁶ Id.

¹⁵⁷ CR at II-22, PR at II-13.

¹⁵⁸ CR at II-23, PR at II-14.

¹⁵⁹ CR at I-28-29, PR at I-25-26.

¹⁶⁰ See CR/PR at Table III-5 (breakdown of U.S. producers’ U.S. shipments by application) and Table II-1 (breakdown of importers’ U.S. shipments by application).

¹⁶¹ See CR/PR at Table III-5. During the period of review, *** percent of U.S. producers’ U.S. shipments for pre-tensioned applications were subject to Buy America(n) restrictions, whereas *** percent of U.S. producers’ U.S. shipments for post-tensioned applications were subject to Buy America(n) restrictions. See CR/PR at Table III-5.

b. Supply

There have been a number of changes in the identity of the suppliers of PC strand to the U.S. market since the 2004 Original Determinations. Two Mexican PC strand producers set up production facilities in the United States, but later closed those facilities.¹⁶² Another domestic producer, Rettco/MMI, commenced production in 2005.¹⁶³ The domestic industry's capacity grew from 742 million pounds in 2003 to 904 million pounds in 2008.¹⁶⁴ There are currently five domestic producers of PC strand.¹⁶⁵

Subject imports from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand largely left the market, or continued at much reduced levels, after the imposition of the antidumping orders and the countervailing duty order in 2004.¹⁶⁶ Imports of PC strand from China, however, increased rapidly over the period of review.¹⁶⁷ By 2008, imports from China accounted for 40.5 percent of apparent U.S. consumption.¹⁶⁸

c. Other Conditions

As explained above in the discussion of cumulation, market participants find subject imports from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand to be generally interchangeable with one another and for the domestic like product. Purchasers listed quality, price, and product consistency as the three most important factors affecting their PC strand purchasing decisions.^{169 170}

¹⁶² CR at I-35, PR at I-30.

¹⁶³ CR/PR at Figure I-1.

¹⁶⁴ CR/PR at Table C-1.

¹⁶⁵ These are: American, Insteel, Rettco/MMI, Strandtech, and Sumiden. CR at I-35, PR at I-30.

¹⁶⁶ CR/PR at Table I-1.

¹⁶⁷ CR/PR at Table IV-1.

¹⁶⁸ CR/PR at Tables IV-1 and I-11. Imports of PC strand from China are currently subject to antidumping and countervailing duty investigations. See Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from China, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Preliminary), USITC Pub. 4086 (July 2009).

¹⁶⁹ CR/PR at Table II-3.

¹⁷⁰ Vice Chairman Pearson notes that over the entire period under review, there were no U.S. imports of coated PC strand reported from any of the subject countries. CR at V-4 n.6, PR at V-3 n.6. During the original investigations, however, Mexico, unlike other subject countries, sent the majority of its U.S. import shipments in the form of coated PC strand. The proportion of coated PC strand within total U.S. shipments of PC strand imports from Mexico rose steadily from *** percent in 2000 to *** percent in 2002, and was *** percent in the first half of 2003. 2003 Staff Report at Table IV-8. In fact, Mexican Respondents argued during the original investigations that coated PC strand should have been defined as a separate like product, an argument that was not adopted by the Commission. Confidential Views of the Commission at 14 n.43. Mexico was the only country to have sent a significant quantity of coated PC strand to the United States during the original investigations; although *** sent some coated PC strand to the United States in 2001 and 2002, the quantities shipped by *** amounted to *** of what Mexico sent to the United States in both of those years. 2003 Staff Report at Table IV-8. While Vice Chairman Pearson might have concluded, given the prior focus of the Mexican industry on exporting coated PC strand, that imports from Mexico would have competed in the U.S. market under different conditions of competition from other subject countries were the order to have been revoked, the parties did not present any arguments on this issue that would have enabled him to draw such a conclusion.

Approximately one-third of the domestic PC strand market was subject to Buy America(n) restrictions during the period of review, which is about the same proportion as in the original investigations.¹⁷¹

Wire rod costs are an important component of the total cost of producing PC strand.¹⁷² Global prices of wire rod increased in the beginning of 2008, peaked in August of that year, and then declined to pre-2008 levels.¹⁷³

C. Revocation of the Antidumping Duty Orders, the Antidumping Duty Finding, and the Countervailing Duty Order Is Likely to Lead to Continuation or Recurrence of Material Injury

1. Likely Volume of Cumulated Subject Imports

a. The Commission's Original Determination and Prior Reviews of the Japan Finding

Imports from Japan were 295.3 million pounds in 1974, 166.8 million pounds in 1975, 139.1 million pounds in 1976, and 176.5 million pounds in 1977.¹⁷⁴ Despite this decrease, imports from Japan held over 60 percent of the U.S. market in both 1976 and 1977.¹⁷⁵

In its first five-year review, the Commission found that Japanese capacity far exceeded domestic demand and that Japan and other Asian countries were experiencing a severe recession, while demand for PC strand in the United States was strong. The Commission also examined the past export behavior of Japanese producers. Before the imposition of the finding in 1978, Japanese producers had exported about two-thirds of their total production to the United States, and these exports fell sharply after the antidumping finding was in place. Based on the foregoing, the Commission found that the volume of imports from Japan likely would be significant and likely would increase significantly if the orders were revoked.¹⁷⁶

In its second five-year review, the Commission noted that Japanese producers subject to the finding continued to have substantial excess capacity and that the exportation of even a limited amount of this capacity to the United States would result in significant volume increases. It found that then-prevailing market conditions (buoyant construction activity in the United States, compared with sluggish demand in Japan) created incentives for Japanese producers to target the U.S. market. The Commission also explained that the recent imposition of antidumping duties on imports of PC strand from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand and countervailing duties on imports from India would create an opening for imports from Japan to reenter the market if the finding on Japan were revoked. Based on the foregoing, the Commission found that subject imports likely would be significant, both in absolute terms and relative to production and consumption in the United States, if the finding was revoked.¹⁷⁷

¹⁷¹ CR at IV-15, PR at IV-8. As noted above, Buy America(n) restrictions are more common with respect to sales for pre-tensioned applications.

¹⁷² CR at V-1, PR at V-1.

¹⁷³ CR at IV-70, PR at IV-36.

¹⁷⁴ CR/PR at Table I-1.

¹⁷⁵ Japan Original Injury Determination at 5.

¹⁷⁶ Japan First Injury Review at 8-10.

¹⁷⁷ Japan Second Injury Review at 10-12.

b. The Commission's Original Determinations With Respect to Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand

In the 2004 Original Determinations, the Commission found that the volume of cumulated subject imports from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand increased during the period of investigation from 118.6 million pounds in 2000 to 129.2 million pounds in 2001, then jumped sharply to 164.9 million pounds in 2002. Their market share increased from 15.1 percent of the U.S. market in 2000 to 22.0 percent in 2002. The Commission noted that subject imports were focused on sales to post-tensioned customers, where they displaced domestic producers from a significant volume of domestic sales and market share. The Commission found the volume of subject imports, both in absolute terms and relative to production and consumption in the United States, as well as the increase in that volume, to be significant.¹⁷⁸

c. The Current Reviews

Several factors support the conclusion that cumulated subject import volume is likely to be significant in the event of revocation.

First, there is considerable production capacity in the subject countries. The aggregate estimated capacity in the six countries grew from 1,038 million pounds in 2002/2003 to 1,253 million pounds in 2008/2009, or by about 20 percent.¹⁷⁹

Second, there is significant unused capacity in the subject countries. Producers in *** reported decreasing capacity utilization. Although we are unable to quantify precisely the unused production capacity in the subject countries because of the failure of many subject producers to respond to the Commission's questionnaire in these reviews, it is clear that the excess capacity has become substantial, especially in interim 2009, as the effects of the worldwide economic slowdown have deepened. The Brazilian producer's capacity utilization was *** percent in interim 2008 compared to *** percent in interim 2009.¹⁸⁰ Because of a lack of participation in these reviews by Indian PC strand producers, we do not have full data on current excess capacity in India, but the Indian industry had unused capacity during the original investigations, when its capacity utilization rate ranged between *** percent and *** percent.¹⁸¹ Because of a lack of participation in these reviews by Japanese PC strand producers, we do not have full data on current excess capacity in Japan, but during the most recent five-year review, the Commission found that Japanese producers subject to the antidumping finding were operating at only *** percent capacity utilization and had substantial excess capacity to manufacture PC strand.¹⁸² The capacity utilization rate of the two responding Korean producers was *** percent in interim 2008 and *** percent in interim 2009.¹⁸³ The Korean industry also had substantial unused capacity during the original investigations, when its capacity utilization rate ranged between *** percent and *** percent.¹⁸⁴ The Mexican industry's capacity utilization rate fell from *** percent in 2002 to *** percent in 2008, and was *** percent in interim 2008 and *** percent in interim 2009.¹⁸⁵ Because of a lack of participation in these reviews by Thai PC strand producers, we do not have full data on current excess capacity in Thailand, but

¹⁷⁸ 2004 Original Injury Determinations at 18-20.

¹⁷⁹ CR/PR at Table IV-9.

¹⁸⁰ CR/PR at Table IV-14.

¹⁸¹ Memorandum INV-AA-191 (December 19, 2003) at Table VII-2.

¹⁸² Japan Second Injury Review Confidential Views at 15.

¹⁸³ CR/PR at Table IV-20.

¹⁸⁴ Memorandum INV-AA-191 (December 19, 2003) at Table VII-4.

¹⁸⁵ CR/PR at Tables IV-21 and IV-22.

the Thai PC strand industry had substantial unused capacity during the original investigations, when its capacity utilization rate ranged between *** percent and *** percent.¹⁸⁶ The aggregate excess capacity among the subject countries will likely provide a strong incentive for producers of PC strand in the subject countries to increase shipments to export markets, including the United States, if the orders and the finding are revoked.

Third, it appears that the PC strand industries in at least some of the subject countries depend to a significant degree on exports. We recognize that the ratios of exports to total shipments by producers in Brazil and Mexico have declined sharply since the original investigations.¹⁸⁷ Because of a lack of full participation by the producers in the other subject countries, we do not have full information on their degree of export orientation. Information from the original investigations, however, shows that the industries in those countries were highly export oriented.¹⁸⁸ There is no information in the record suggesting that those countries that were export oriented in the original investigations, and for which we do not have full information, have directed their focus away from exports.¹⁸⁹

Finally, the United States is an attractive market for foreign producers because of its size. The United States was the world's largest importer of iron or steel stranded wire, ropes, cables, and cordage during the period of review.^{190 191}

Accordingly, based on the demonstrated ability of the PC strand producers in the subject countries to increase imports into the U.S. market rapidly, their substantial production capacity and unused capacity, and the attractiveness of the U.S. market, we find that the likely volume of subject imports, both in absolute terms and as a share of the U.S. market, would be significant in the event of revocation.

¹⁸⁶ Memorandum INV-AA-191 (December 19, 2003) at Table VII-11.

¹⁸⁷ This ratio declined from *** percent in 2002 to *** percent in 2008 for the Brazilian industry, and from *** percent to *** percent in the same period for the Mexican industry. CR/PR at Tables IV-13 and IV-21.

¹⁸⁸ The ratio of exports to total shipments in 2002 was *** percent for the Indian industry, *** percent for the Korean industry, and *** percent for the Thai industry. CR/PR at Tables IV-16, IV-19, and IV-23. This ratio for the Japanese industry was *** percent in 1977, the last year for which such information is available. CR/PR at Table IV-17.

¹⁸⁹ For purposes of their determination with respect to the likely volume of subject imports, Chairman Aranoff and Commissioner Okun relied primarily on information on the record subsequent to the change in ownership of Mexican Respondents, with emphasis on the current abilities of, and market incentives facing, Mexican producers, and placed limited weight on data from the original investigations as to Mexico.

¹⁹⁰ CR at IV-66, PR at IV-33.

¹⁹¹ We have also considered the other economic factors enumerated in the statute in connection with the likely volume analysis. The evidence in the record with respect to existing inventories of the subject merchandise, or likely increases in inventories, is incomplete (due to the lack of information from many foreign producers) and inconclusive. See CR/PR at Tables IV-13, IV-15, IV-17, IV-19, IV-21, and IV-23. With respect to third country import barriers, South Africa maintains an antidumping duty order on stranded wire, ropes, and cables (including PC strand) from Korea and a countervailing duty order on such products from India. CR at IV-25-IV-26, PR at IV-16-17. The potential for product shifting is not a relevant factor in these reviews. CR at II-10-16, PR at II-6-10.

2. Likely Price Effects of Cumulated Subject Imports

a. The Commission's Original Determination and Prior Reviews of the Japan Finding

During the original investigation of imports from Japan, the Commission found that subject imports consistently undersold the domestic product for most of the period examined, resulting in lost sales and price depression.¹⁹²

In its first five-year review, the Commission found that imports of subject merchandise would likely have significant negative price effects if the finding were revoked. The record contained little pricing data. The Commission noted that the commodity nature of the product resulted in competition being largely price-based, a factor of particular significance insofar as the types of products commonly sold had narrowed since the original investigation in 1978. The Commission further noted that average unit values for domestic shipments were declining despite generally high demand levels. Subject producers, the Commission found, likely would win sales upon re-entering the U.S. market by discounting from prevailing price levels. The Commission therefore concluded that significant underselling was likely in the event the finding were revoked and that such pricing practices would likely have a significant depressing or suppressing effect on domestic prices.¹⁹³

In its second five-year review, the Commission found that the significance of price in sourcing decisions, the high degree of interchangeability of PC strand, and the diversity of sources of supply were factors that were unchanged from the first review. The record again contained little pricing data, and the Commission did not rely on that data. The Commission observed that the 2003-04 investigations confirmed the intense, price-based nature of competition in the domestic PC strand market and that the competitive conditions in this market were such that subject imports would likely re-enter at prices below prevailing levels in order to win sales. Given the importance of price in the PC strand market, the interchangeability of subject imports and domestically produced PC strand, the likely significant volume of imports, the likely significant underselling by such imports, the pricing practices demonstrated in the original investigation, and the incentives for subject imports to enter the U.S. market, the Commission concluded that, if the antidumping finding were revoked, significant volumes of PC strand from Japan likely would significantly undersell the domestic like product to gain market share and likely would have significant depressing or suppressing effects on the prices of the domestic like product.¹⁹⁴

b. The Commission's Original Determinations With Respect to Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico and Thailand

In the 2004 Original Determinations of the five subject countries, the Commission found that significant injurious price effects resulted from the subject imports underselling domestically produced PC strand. The Commission found that the record on underselling by subject imports was mixed. The Commission noted that, with respect to combined sales to pre-tensioned and post-tensioned customers, "imports from all subject countries combined undersold the comparable domestic product in all 14 quarters by margins ranging from 4.5 to 13.6 percent." On an individual country basis, subject imports undersold the domestic product in 67 out of 70 comparisons. With respect to sales to pre-tensioned customers only, subject imports undersold comparable domestic products in 15 of 21 possible comparisons. However, with respect to sales to post-tensioned customers only, subject imports undersold comparable domestic products in 28 out of 70 possible comparisons. On balance, the Commission found, based on record evidence, that

¹⁹² Japan Original Injury Determination at 6.

¹⁹³ Japan First Injury Review at 10-11.

¹⁹⁴ Japan Second Injury Review at 12-14.

“significant volumes of the subject merchandise depressed U.S. prices, resulted in substantial lost sales and lost revenues, and had significant adverse price effects on the U.S. industry.”¹⁹⁵

c. The Current Reviews

Price remains an important factor in the purchase of PC strand, with nearly all purchasers reporting that price is “very important” to their purchasing decisions.¹⁹⁶

Even under the discipline of the finding and the orders, the pricing data in these reviews indicate a mixture of overselling and underselling by subject imports. The Commission collected pricing data on two products.¹⁹⁷ These products accounted for approximately 59.9 percent of U.S. shipments, 8.8 percent of U.S. commercial shipments of imports from Brazil, 42.3 percent of U.S. commercial shipments of imports from India, 53.3 percent of U.S. commercial shipments of imports from Korea, and 50.1 percent of U.S. commercial shipments of imports from Thailand during January 2003 - June 2009.¹⁹⁸ The data indicate that cumulated subject imports undersold the domestic like product in these reviews in 12 out of 23 quarterly comparisons.¹⁹⁹

Quarterly prices for U.S. produced PC strand increased substantially in 2004, were relatively stable during 2005-2007, increased substantially in the beginning of 2008, and then fell toward the end of 2008 and in the first half of 2009. The limited price data for subject imports from Korea and Thailand appeared to track U.S. prices in 2003 and the first two quarters of 2004, and the prices of Thai imports declined in the second half of 2004.²⁰⁰

In view of the factors motivating foreign producers of the subject merchandise to increase shipments to the United States and the degree of substitutability between subject and domestic PC strand, producers in the subject countries are likely to use underselling to increase market share in the United States. This underselling is likely to result in significant negative price effects in the event of revocation. Thus, given the likely significant volume of cumulated subject imports, the importance of price in the PC strand market, the interchangeability of subject imports and the domestic like product, the adverse price effects of low-priced imports in the original investigations²⁰¹ and the two reviews of imports from Japan, and the underselling that occurred during the period of these reviews even with the finding and the orders in place, we conclude that, if the orders and the finding under review were revoked, significant volumes of subject imports from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand likely would significantly undersell the domestic like product to gain market share and likely would have significant depressing and/or suppressing effects on the prices of the domestic like product.

¹⁹⁵ 2004 Original Determinations at 20-24.

¹⁹⁶ CR/PR at Table II-3.

¹⁹⁷ The pricing products were as follows: ½ inch, grade 270 (270,000 PSI), low relaxation, uncovered prestressed concrete strand sold for pre-tensioned applications; and ½ inch, grade 270 (270,000 PSI), low relaxation, uncovered prestressed concrete strand sold for post-tensioned applications. CR at V-4; PR at V-3.

¹⁹⁸ CR at V-4; PR at V-4. No price data were reported for sales of imported PC strand from Japan or Mexico. Id.

¹⁹⁹ CR/PR at Table V-5.

²⁰⁰ CR at V-10, PR at V-4.

²⁰¹ Mexican Respondents argued that revocation of the antidumping duty order on PC strand from Mexico is not likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury in part because Mexican producers mostly oversold the domestic product in the original investigations. Mexican Respondents’ Posthearing Brief at 11-12. Since we have decided to cumulate imports from Mexico with those from other subject countries, it is the pricing of all subject imports, not just those from Mexico, that is relevant to our analysis. Moreover, the Commission recognized in the 2004 Original Determinations that the record on underselling was mixed. 2004 Original Determinations at 20.

3. Likely Impact of Cumulated Subject Imports²⁰²

a. The Commission's Original Determination and Prior Reviews of the Japan Finding

In the original investigation of imports from Japan, the Commission found that the domestic industry was being injured by reason of dumped imports from Japan. The industry experienced a declining rate of capacity utilization, a decrease in shipments, an increase in inventories, a drop in employment, and a precipitous decline in profitability between 1974 and 1977. The ratio of operating profit or loss to net sales for domestic producers dropped from a profit of about 20 percent in both 1974 and 1975 to a loss of 3 percent in 1976 and an even greater loss of 7 percent in 1977, the year in which Treasury found that imports from Japan were sold at less than fair value.²⁰³

In its first five-year review, the Commission found that the domestic industry was experiencing a cost-price squeeze in a highly competitive, price-based market supplied by some two dozen other sources that were contributing to an environment of declining prices. The Commission found that the domestic industry was vulnerable to material injury in this environment. It concluded that subject imports would likely have significant negative effects on the domestic industry's prices, output, profitability, capacity utilization, cash flow, and ability to raise capital and make future investments within a reasonably foreseeable time if the finding were revoked.²⁰⁴

In its second five-year review, the Commission found that the domestic industry was vulnerable to further injury if the antidumping finding on subject imports from Japan were revoked. The Commission

²⁰² The SAA states that in assessing whether the domestic industry is vulnerable to injury if the order is revoked, the Commission "considers, in addition to imports, other factors that may be contributing to overall injury. While these factors, in some cases, may account for the injury to the domestic industry, they may also demonstrate that an industry is facing difficulties from a variety of sources and is vulnerable to dumped or subsidized imports." SAA at 885, 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(4). Section 752(a)(6) of the Tariff Act states that "the Commission may consider the magnitude of the margin of dumping or the magnitude of the net countervailable subsidy" in making its determination in a five-year review. 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(6). The statute defines the "magnitude of the margin of dumping" to be used by the Commission in five-year reviews as "the dumping margin or margins determined by the administering authority under section 1675a(c)(3) of this title." 19 U.S.C. § 1677(35)(C)(iv). See also SAA at 887.

With respect to the antidumping duty order on subject imports from Brazil, Commerce found likely margins of 118.75 percent for Belgo Bekaert Arames S.A. and all others. With respect to the antidumping duty order on subject imports from India, Commerce found likely margins of 102.07 percent for Tata Iron and Steel Co., Ltd. and 83.65 percent for all others. With respect to the antidumping finding on subject imports from Japan, Commerce found likely margins of 13.30 percent for Shinko Wire Co., Ltd., 6.90 percent for Suzuki Metal Industry Co., Ltd., 4.50 percent for Tokyo Rope Mfg. Co., Ltd., and 9.76 percent for all others. With respect to the antidumping duty order on subject imports from Korea, Commerce found likely margins of 54.19 percent for Dong-Il Steel Mfg. Co. Ltd. and Kiswire Ltd., and 35.64 percent for all others. With respect to the antidumping duty order on subject imports from Mexico, Commerce found likely margins of 77.20 percent for Cablesa S.A. de C.V. and 62.78 percent for Aceros Camesa S.A. de C.V. and all others. With respect to the antidumping duty order on subject imports from Thailand, Commerce published a likely margin of 12.91 percent for Siam Industrial Wire Co. Ltd. and all others. 74 Fed. Reg. 13189 (March 26, 2009).

With respect to the countervailing duty order on subject imports from India, Commerce conducted an expedited sunset review and found a likely subsidy rate of 62.92 percent for all producers and exporters. 74 Fed. Reg. 15938 (April 8, 2009). Commerce further concluded that six of India's countervailable subsidy programs were prohibited subsidies within the meaning of Article 3.1 of the WTO Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures. Commerce Decision Memorandum C-533-829 from John M. Anderson to Ronald K. Lorentzen at 4-5 (March 1, 2009), found at <http://ia.ita.doc.gov/frn/summary/india/E9-7983-1.pdf>.

²⁰³ Japan Original Injury Determination at 4-5.

²⁰⁴ Japan First Injury Review 11-13.

concluded that subject imports would likely have significant negative effects on the domestic industry's prices, output, profitability, capacity utilization, cash flow, and ability to raise capital and make future investments within a reasonably foreseeable time if the finding were revoked.²⁰⁵

b. The Commission's Original Determinations With Respect to Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico and Thailand

In the 2004 Original Determinations, the Commission found that most indicators of the domestic industry's condition showed marked declines between 2000 and 2002 at a rate greater than the decline in apparent U.S. consumption. It attributed the domestic industry's performance declines in significant part to the increases in subject import volume and market share that had significant price depressing effects. It explained that Buy America(n) restrictions did not detract from its finding that subject imports had significant price effects, particularly insofar as Buy America(n) sales accounted for only approximately 30 percent of the domestic market. The Commission noted that the vast majority of subject imports were for post-tensioned sales, where subject imports had increased their sales rapidly and at the expense of domestic producers. Although subject imports accounted for only a small share of pre-tensioned sales, they had at least some impact on those sales, persistently underselling the domestic product and resulting in both lost sales and lost revenue.²⁰⁶

c. The Current Reviews

The condition of the domestic industry generally improved in the years 2003 through 2006 and then declined in 2007 and 2008, before deteriorating dramatically in interim 2009. Apparent U.S. consumption rose from 806 million pounds in 2003 to 1,112 million pounds in 2006 and then declined to 943 million pounds in 2008.²⁰⁷ It was 558 million pounds in interim 2008 and 229 million pounds in interim 2009.²⁰⁸ U.S. production of PC strand increased from 578 million pounds in 2003 to 673 million pounds in 2006 and then declined to 559 million pounds in 2008.²⁰⁹ It was 327 million pounds in interim 2008 and 172 million pounds in interim 2009.²¹⁰ U.S. shipments increased from 564 million pounds in 2003 to 627 million pounds in 2006 and then declined to 530 million pounds in 2008.²¹¹ They were 325 million pounds in interim 2008 and 183 million pounds in interim 2009.²¹² Net sales increased from 565 million pounds in 2003 to 661 million pounds in 2006 and then declined to 590 million pounds in 2008.²¹³ They were 341 million pounds in interim 2008 and 188 million pounds in interim 2009.²¹⁴ The domestic industry's capacity increased from 742 million pounds in 2003 to 904 million pounds in 2008, and was 455 million pounds in interim 2008 and 456 million pounds in interim 2009.²¹⁵ Capacity utilization

²⁰⁵ Japan Second Injury Review at 15.

²⁰⁶ 2004 Original Determinations at 24-27.

²⁰⁷ CR/PR at Table C-1.

²⁰⁸ Id.

²⁰⁹ Id.

²¹⁰ Id.

²¹¹ Id.

²¹² Id.

²¹³ Id.

²¹⁴ Id.

²¹⁵ Id.

increased irregularly from 77.9 percent in 2003 to 83.0 percent in 2006 and then declined to 61.8 percent in 2008. Capacity utilization was 72.0 percent in interim 2008 and 37.8 percent in interim 2009.²¹⁶

The domestic industry's employment-related indicators showed the same pattern of improvement from 2003 to 2006, followed by a deterioration through 2008 and a sharp decline in interim 2009. The industry's production and related workers (PRWs) increased from 315 in 2003 to 385 in 2006 and then declined to 331 in 2008.²¹⁷ The number of PRWs was 337 in interim 2008 and 253 in interim 2009.²¹⁸ The number of hours worked increased irregularly from 762,000 in 2003 to 856,000 in 2006 and then declined to 694,000 in 2008. Hours worked were 392,000 in interim 2008 and 244,000 in interim 2009. Hourly wages followed a similar pattern. Productivity increased irregularly from 2003 to 2008 and was lower in interim 2009 than in interim 2008.²¹⁹

The domestic industry's financial performance followed a similar pattern. Gross profits and operating income surged from 2003 to 2004 and reached a peak in 2005, before declining in subsequent years and turning to losses in interim 2009.²²⁰ The industry's operating income margin increased from 3.4 percent in 2003 to 17.0 percent in 2004 and then declined to 10.7 percent in 2008.²²¹ It was 15.9 percent in interim 2008 and negative 7.5 percent in interim 2009.²²² The industry's capital expenditures increased irregularly from 2003 to 2006 and then declined irregularly.^{223 224 225}

Based on the record in these reviews, we conclude that revocation of the orders and the finding would likely lead to a significant increase in the volume of subject imports that would undersell the domestic like product and significantly suppress or depress U.S. prices. We also find that the volume and price effects of the subject imports would likely have a significant adverse impact on the production, shipments, sales, market share, and revenues of the domestic industry. These reductions would have a direct adverse impact on the industry's profitability and employment as well as its ability to raise capital and make and maintain necessary capital investments. We conclude that, if the antidumping duty orders, the countervailing duty order, and the antidumping finding were revoked, subject imports from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand would be likely to have a significant adverse impact on the domestic industry within a reasonably foreseeable time.

We have considered the likely role of nonsubject imports in the U.S. market. Nonsubject imports took on an increasingly significant role in the U.S. market after the imposition of the antidumping and countervailing duty orders in 2004, at least until interim 2009, when they receded sharply. The U.S.

²¹⁶ Id.

²¹⁷ Id.

²¹⁸ Id.

²¹⁹ Id.

²²⁰ Id.

²²¹ Id.

²²² Id. We recognize that inventory write-down costs by one domestic producer (Insteel) were a *** component of the domestic industry's poor financial performance in interim 2009. It is unclear to what extent these inventory losses are related to the effects of subject imports. We note, however, that, even without the effects of these inventory write-downs, the domestic industry would still have suffered sharply lower operating income in interim 2009 than in interim 2008. CR at III-22 n.37, PR at III-13 n.37.

²²³ Id.

²²⁴ Chairman Aranoff, Vice Chairman Pearson, and Commissioner Okun find that, based on these data, and in light of the current economic conditions, the domestic industry is unlikely to perform as well in the near term as it did during most of the period of review. Nonetheless, given the industry's performance, albeit with declines, throughout the period, they do not find that the domestic industry is currently in a vulnerable state.

²²⁵ Commissioners Lane, Pinkert, and Williamson find, based on these data, that the domestic industry is in a weakened state and therefore vulnerable to the likely volume and price effects of subject imports.

market share of nonsubject imports rose from 16.7 percent in 2003 to 43.1 percent in 2008. It was 41.0 percent in interim 2008 and 19.1 percent in interim 2009.²²⁶ These nonsubject imports have increasingly come from China.²²⁷ As noted above, imports of PC strand from China are currently subject to ongoing antidumping and countervailing duty investigations.²²⁸ We find that the increasing presence of nonsubject imports has likely heightened the price sensitivity of the domestic PC strand market, but that these nonsubject imports are not likely to prevent subject imports from reentering the U.S. market in the event of the revocation of the antidumping duty orders, the countervailing duty order, and the antidumping finding. The presence of imports of PC strand from China does not diminish the attractiveness of the U.S. market to producers in the subject countries, especially given the large amount of unused capacity in those countries. We note that nonsubject imports were sharply lower in interim 2009 and that, although this decline may not be permanent, it is likely to provide increased opportunity for subject imports to reenter the U.S. market, at least in the reasonably foreseeable future. Accordingly, we find that subject imports are likely to have a significant adverse impact upon the domestic industry in the event of revocation, notwithstanding the presence of nonsubject imports in the U.S. market.

We have also considered the role of Buy America(n) requirements in the domestic PC strand market. With the exception of interim 2009, the proportion of the U.S. market subject to Buy America(n) requirements has remained relatively stable at about one-third of the market.²²⁹ In interim 2009, the share of the market accounted for by such requirements was *** percent.²³⁰ The Domestic Producers attribute this increase to a temporary decline in imports (which supply only non-Buy America(n) customers) in early 2009, due to a large overhang of imports in inventory.²³¹ The Domestic Producers do not expect any longer-term change in the proportion of the market that is subject to Buy America(n) requirements, and there is no evidence that any such long-term increase is likely in the reasonably foreseeable future.²³² In short, while Buy America(n) provisions may shield the domestic industry from direct competition with subject imports in a part of the domestic market, a substantial part of the market – about two thirds – is not shielded from such competition. Accordingly, we find that subject imports are likely to have a significant adverse impact upon the domestic industry in the event of revocation, notwithstanding that a part of the U.S. market is shielded from direct competition.

²²⁶ CR/PR at Table C-1.

²²⁷ See CR/PR at Table IV-1. In 2008, for example, out of a total of 406 million pounds of nonsubject imports, 382 million pounds were from China.

²²⁸ We note that the only relevant “subject” imports in these reviews are those that are subject to the countervailing duty order, the five antidumping duty orders, and the antidumping finding that are under review. E.g., Polyethylene Terephthalate Film, Sheet, and Strip from India and Taiwan, Invs. 701-TA-415 and 731-TA-933-934 (Review), USITC Pub. 3994 at 27 n.187.

²²⁹ CR at IV-15 n.11, PR at IV-8 n.11.

²³⁰ Id.

²³¹ Domestic Parties’ Posthearing Brief at Exh. 1, pp. 5-6.

²³² Hearing Tr. at 30 (Woltz, Insteel). The Mexican Respondents suggested that the proportion of the U.S. market that is subject to Buy America(n) requirements will continue to be higher in the reasonably foreseeable future than it was in most of the period of review, because a substantial part of the market is now driven by Federal appropriations (including stimulus spending) that are subject to such requirements. Mexican Respondents’ Prehearing Brief at 12 n.29. The assertion that a larger proportion of PC strand consumption will be driven by Federal appropriations is purely speculative, given that it is unclear how stimulus appropriations will be spent in the reasonably foreseeable future. Domestic Producers testified that a disproportionate amount of stimulus spending is on infrastructure projects that do not use PC strand, such as resurfacing and re-paving highways, and there is no evidence to the contrary. CR at II-23, PR at II-14.

We have also considered the market dynamics underlying sales for pre-tensioned and post-tensioned applications. Although the majority of the domestic industry's shipments have been for pre-tensioned applications, and the limited volume of subject imports have mostly been for post-tensioned applications, there is not a clear demarcation in the market. The same product is sold for both types of applications.²³³ Subject imports are sold for pre-tensioned applications²³⁴ and the domestic industry sells PC strand for post-tensioned applications and has expressed an interest in increasing those sales.²³⁵ The ability of imports to gain market share in post-tensioned applications may be due, in part, to the lower proportion of Buy America(n) sales in such uses and to the greater ability of importers to sell to larger customers in larger quantities.²³⁶ Neither of these factors supports the view that the domestic industry has abandoned, is not interested in, or is unable to serve post-tensioned applications. All evidence is to the contrary. Thus, we find that subject imports are likely to have a significant adverse impact upon the domestic industry in the event of revocation, notwithstanding the concentration of the domestic product and subject imports in sales for different applications.

Finally, we have considered the likely future effects of suppressed demand for PC strand on the domestic industry. The global economic crisis has adversely affected the domestic industry through lower industry sales volumes and prices. It is unclear when U.S. demand for PC strand will improve. Nevertheless, for the reasons described above, we find that subject imports would further reduce domestic sales volumes and prices significantly and thus would be likely to have a significant adverse impact on the domestic industry in the event of revocation regardless of demand levels. We also note that subject imports increased and gained market share while demand declined during the period covered by the investigations leading to the 2004 Original Determinations.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, we determine that revocation of the antidumping duty orders on PC strand from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand, the countervailing duty order on PC strand from India, and the antidumping duty finding on PC strand from Japan would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time.

²³³ Hearing Tr. at 116 (Wagner, Insteel).

²³⁴ CR/PR at Table V-6 Note.

²³⁵ CR at III-14, PR at III-8.

²³⁶ Hearing Tr. at 43 (Wagner, Insteel) (imports tend to target post-tensioned accounts due to the larger volume involved).

PART I: INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND

On December 1, 2008, the U.S. International Trade Commission (“Commission” or “USITC”) gave notice, pursuant to section 751(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (“the Act”),¹ that it had instituted reviews to determine whether revocation of the countervailing duty order on prestressed concrete steel wire strand (“PC strand”) from India and the antidumping duty finding/orders on PC strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand would likely lead to the continuation or recurrence of material injury to a domestic industry.^{2 3} Effective March 6, 2009, the Commission determined that it would conduct full reviews pursuant to section 751(c)(5) of the Act.⁴ Information relating to the background and schedule of the reviews is provided in the following tabulation.⁵

¹ 19 U.S.C. 1675 (c).

² All interested parties were requested to respond to this notice by submitting the information requested by the Commission. *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand*, 73 FR 72834, December 1, 2008.

³ In accordance with section 751(c) of the Act, the U.S. Department of Commerce (“Commerce”) published a notice of initiation of five-year reviews of the subject antidumping and countervailing duty finding/orders concurrently with the Commission’s notice of institution. *Initiation of Five-year (“Sunset”) Reviews*, 73 FR 72770, December 1, 2008.

⁴ The Commission found that the domestic interested party response to its notice of institution was adequate and that the respondent interested party group responses with respect to Korea and Mexico were adequate. The Commission determined that the respondent interested party group response with respect to Brazil, India, Japan, and Thailand were inadequate, but determined to conduct full reviews to promote administrative efficiency. *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand*, 74 FR 11967, March 20, 2009.

⁵ The Commission’s notice of institution, notice to conduct full reviews, scheduling notice, and statement on adequacy appear in app. A and may also be found at the Commission’s web site (internet address www.usitc.gov). Commissioners’ votes on whether to conduct expedited or full reviews may also be found at the web site.

Effective date	Action
December 8, 1978	Commerce's antidumping duty finding concerning Japan (43 FR 57599)
September 1, 1998	Commission's institution (63 FR 46477) and Commerce's initiation (63 FR 46410) of first review concerning Japan.
January 6, 1999	Commerce's final results of expedited first review concerning Japan (64 FR 857)
January 27, 1999	Commission's expedited first review determination concerning Japan (64 FR 4123)
February 3, 1999	Commerce's first continuation order concerning the antidumping finding on PC strand from Japan (64 FR 40554, July 27, 1999)
January 2, 2004	Commission's institution (69 FR 103) and Commerce's initiation (69 FR 50) of second review concerning Japan.
January 28, 2004	Commerce's antidumping duty orders concerning Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand (69 FR 4109-4113)
February 4, 2004	Commerce's countervailing duty order concerning India (69 FR 5319)
May 7, 2004	Commerce's final results of expedited second review concerning Japan (69 FR 25563)
June 7, 2004	Commission's expedited second review determination concerning Japan (69 FR 33071, June 14, 2004)
June 25, 2004	Commerce's second continuation order concerning the antidumping finding on PC strand from Japan (69 FR 35584)
December 1, 2008	Commission's institution (73 FR 72834) and Commerce's initiation (73 FR 72770) of first reviews concerning Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand and third review concerning Japan
March 6, 2009	Commission's decision to conduct full reviews (74 FR 11967, March 20, 2009)
March 27, 2009	Commission's scheduling of the reviews (74 FR 15000, April 2, 2009)
March 26, 2009	Commerce's final results of expedited reviews concerning the antidumping duty orders on Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand (74 FR 13189)
April 8, 2009	Commerce's final result of expedited review concerning the countervailing duty order on India (74 FR 15938)
September 30, 2009	Commission's hearing ¹
November 10, 2009	Commission's vote
November 25, 2009	Commission's determinations transmitted to Commerce
¹ The list of hearing witnesses is presented in app. B.	

THE ORIGINAL INVESTIGATIONS AND SUBSEQUENT FIVE-YEAR REVIEWS

Japan

The Commission instituted an antidumping duty investigation concerning PC strand from Japan (Inv. No. AA1921-188) on August 29, 1978, following notification from the Department of the Treasury (“Treasury”) on August 22, 1978, that steel wire strand from Japan was being, or was likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value (“LTFV”) within the meaning of the Antidumping Act, 1921, as amended.^{6 7} Treasury published its final determination of sales at LTFV on August 28, 1978, with the following weighted-average dumping margins: Shinko Wire Co., Ltd. (13.3 percent), Sumitomo Electric Ind. Ltd. (15.8 percent), Suzuki Metal Industry Co., Ltd. (6.0 percent), Kawatetsu Wire Products Co., Ltd. (0.62 percent), and Tokyo Rope Mfg. Co., Ltd. (4.5 percent).⁸ The Commission made its final affirmative injury determination on November 16, 1978,⁹ and Treasury issued an antidumping duty finding on imports of PC strand from Japan on December 8, 1978.¹⁰

In the original investigation, Treasury excluded one Japanese firm producing and exporting PC strand, Kawatetsu, from its antidumping duty finding.¹¹ In 1986, Commerce revoked the antidumping duty finding for a second Japanese producer of PC strand, Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd.¹²

⁶ 19 U.S.C. 160(a).

⁷ *Steel Wire Strand for Prestressed Concrete from Japan: Investigation and Hearing*, 43 FR 39454, September 5, 1978. The petition which led to Treasury’s determination of LTFV sales was filed on behalf of the following five domestic producers of PC strand: American Spring Wire Corp. (“American”), Armco Steel Corp. (“Armco”), Bethlehem Steel Corp. (“Bethlehem Steel”), CF&I Steel Corp. (“CF&I”), and Florida Wire & Cable Co. (“Florida Wire”). *Steel Wire Strand for Prestressed Concrete from Japan, Investigation No. AA1921-188*, USITC Publication 928, November 1978, p. A-3.

⁸ Kawatetsu was excluded from Treasury’s original determination because its weighted-average margin of 0.62 percent was considered minimal in relation to the total volume of its sales and because the firm gave formal assurances that it would make no future sales at LTFV. *Steel Wire Strand for Prestressed Concrete from Japan: Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value and Final Discontinuance of Antidumping Investigation*, 43 FR 38495, August 28, 1978; *Steel Wire Strand for Prestressed Concrete from Japan: Determination of Injury*, 43 FR 55826, November 29, 1978.

⁹ *Steel Wire Strand for Prestressed Concrete from Japan: Determination of Injury*, 43 FR 55826, November 29, 1978.

¹⁰ *Steel Wire Strand for Prestressed Concrete from Japan*, 43 FR 57599, December 8, 1978.

¹¹ *Steel Wire Strand for Prestressed Concrete from Japan, Investigation No. AA1921-188*, USITC Publication 928, November 1978, p. A-2. Commerce later extended Treasury’s “discontinuance” to Kawasaki Steel Techno-Wire Co., Ltd., Kawatetsu’s successor company. *Steel Wire Strand for Prestressed Concrete From Japan; Final Results of Changed Circumstances Antidumping Duty Administrative Review*, 55 FR 28796, July 13, 1990.

¹² *Steel Wire Strand for Prestressed Concrete From Japan; Final Results of Antidumping Duty, Administrative Review and Revocation In Part*, 51 FR 30894, August 29, 1986. Sumitomo had the highest weighted average LTFV margin calculated by Treasury and accounted for *** percent of Japan’s exports to the United States between June 1 and November 30, 1977. *Steel Wire Strand for Prestressed Concrete from Japan: Inv. No. AA1921-188*, OP2-B-178, November 3, 1978, p. A-9, table 1.

In January 1999, the Commission completed an expedited first five-year review of the antidumping duty finding on PC strand from Japan, and determined that revocation of the finding would be likely to lead to a continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time.¹³ Following five-year reviews by Commerce and the Commission, effective February 3, 1999, Commerce issued a continuation of the antidumping duty finding on imports of PC strand from Japan.¹⁴

In June 2004, the Commission completed an expedited second five-year review of the antidumping duty finding on PC strand from Japan, and unanimously determined that revocation of the finding would be likely to lead to a continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time.¹⁵ Following second five-year reviews by Commerce and the Commission, effective June 25, 2004, Commerce issued a continuation of the antidumping duty finding on imports of PC strand from Japan.¹⁶

Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand

On January 31, 2003, a petition was filed with Commerce and the Commission alleging that an industry in the United States was materially injured and threatened with material injury by reason of subsidized imports of PC strand from India and by reason of LTFV imports of PC strand from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand.¹⁷ On December 8, 2003, Commerce made a final affirmative countervailable subsidy determination with respect to PC strand from India and final affirmative dumping determinations with respect to PC strand from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand. Commerce calculated a final net subsidy rate of 62.92 percent *ad valorem* for all Indian producers/exporters of the subject merchandise and it calculated the following final weighted-average dumping margins: Brazil (118.75 percent), India (83.65-102.07 percent), Korea (35.64-54.19 percent), Mexico (67.78-77.20

¹³ *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Japan, Investigation No. AA1921-188 (Review)*, USITC Publication 3156, February 1999. Commissioner Askey determined that revocation of the antidumping duty finding in this case would not be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States.

¹⁴ *Continuation of Antidumping Finding: Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand From Japan*, 64 FR 40554, July 27, 1999.

¹⁵ *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Japan, Investigation No. AA1921-188 (Second Review)*, USITC Publication 3699, June 2004.

¹⁶ *Continuation of Antidumping Duty Findings: Prestressed Concrete Wire Strand from Japan and Pressure Sensitive Plastic Tape From Italy*, 69 FR 35584, June 25, 2004.

¹⁷ The petition was filed by American, Insteel Wire Products Co. (“Insteel”), and Sumiden Wire Products Corp. (“Sumiden”). *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand From Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand, Investigations Nos. 701 -TA-432 (Final) and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Final)*, USITC Publication 3663, January 2004, p. I-1.

percent), and Thailand (12.99 percent).¹⁸ The Commission made its final affirmative injury determinations on January 21, 2004¹⁹ and Commerce issued a countervailing duty order on imports of PC strand from India and antidumping duty orders on imports of PC strand from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand thereafter.²⁰

SUMMARY DATA

Table I-1 presents a summary of data from the original investigations and from these reviews.²¹

¹⁸ *Notice of Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value and Negative Final Determination of Critical Circumstances: Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Thailand, Notice of Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value and Negative Final Determination of Critical Circumstances: Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Mexico, Notice of Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from India, Notice of Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from the Republic of Korea, Notice of Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, Final Affirmative Countervailing Duty Determination: Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand From India*, 68 FR 68348-68357, December 8, 2003.

¹⁹ *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand From Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand, Investigations Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Final)*, 69 FR 4177, January 28, 2004.

²⁰ *Notice of Antidumping Duty Order: Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from the Republic of Korea, Notice of Antidumping Duty Order: Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from India, Notice of Amended Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value and Antidumping Duty Order: Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Thailand, Notice of Antidumping Duty Order: Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, Notice of Antidumping Duty Order: Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Mexico*, 69 FR 4109-4113, January 28, 2004; and *Notice of Countervailing Duty Order: Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand From India*, 69 FR 5319, February 4, 2004.

²¹ Note that the subject import data as calculated from official import statistics and presented in table I-1 and throughout this report are overstated by the entry of nonsubject merchandise (e.g., galvanized strand) under the applicable HTS statistical reporting numbers for the subject PC strand. Although in aggregate the degree of overstatement is relatively minor, for certain smaller suppliers, galvanized PC strand can account for a substantial share of U.S. imports. In addition, imports of PC strand from Japan during the period 1974-77 include product from Kawatetsu – a firm that was exempted from Treasury’s LTFV finding. *Steel Wire Strand for Prestressed Concrete from Japan: Inv. No. AA1921-188, OP2-B-178*, November 3, 1978, p. A-29.

Table I-1

PC strand: Summary data from the original investigations, first and second reviews (Japan), and current reviews, 1974-77, 1997, and 2000-08

(Quantity=1,000 pounds; value=1,000 dollars; unit values, unit labor costs, and unit financial data are per 1,000 pounds)

Item	1974	1975	1976	1977	1997
U.S. consumption quantity:					
Amount	433,119	254,989	229,205	290,500	588,153
Producers' share ¹	27.0	28.5	35.1	31.2	77.3
Importer's share: ¹					
Brazil	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
India	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Korea	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Mexico	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Thailand	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Subtotal, 5 subject countries	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Japan ³	68.2	65.4	60.7	60.7	0.1
Subtotal, 6 subject countries	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
All other countries ^{2 3}	4.8	6.1	4.2	8.0	22.6
Total imports	73.0	71.5	64.9	68.8	22.7
U.S. consumption value:					
Amount	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	187,984
Producers' share ¹	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	80.0
Importer's share: ¹					
Brazil	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	(²)
India	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	(²)
Korea	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	(²)
Mexico	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	(²)
Thailand	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	(²)
Subtotal, 5 subject countries	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	(²)
Japan ³	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.2
Subtotal, 6 subject countries	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	(²)
All other countries ^{2 3}	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	19.8
Total imports	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	20.0

Table continued on following page.

Table I-1--Continued

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
785,818	761,201	748,182	805,929	859,433	907,092	1,112,214	980,504	942,713
76.8	73.8	69.7	70.0	66.8	68.6	56.4	59.4	56.2
4.0	2.9	3.1	2.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1.2	1.8	1.9	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
4.9	5.6	8.5	4.6	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.4
4.1	4.9	7.1	4.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
1.0	1.8	1.4	0.8	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
15.1	17.0	22.0	13.2	0.9	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5
0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1
15.3	17.1	22.1	13.3	1.0	0.3	0.6	0.7	0.7
7.8	9.1	8.2	16.7	32.2	31.1	42.9	39.8	43.1
23.2	26.2	30.3	30.0	33.2	31.4	43.6	40.6	43.8
207,066	194,048	181,395	215,223	353,511	425,623	465,112	407,169	549,768
77.0	73.7	69.9	71.3	71.9	70.8	63.9	65.9	60.7
3.9	2.7	2.9	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1.1	1.6	1.7	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
4.6	5.2	7.8	3.7	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.4
4.4	5.3	8.0	5.4	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.2
0.9	1.8	1.4	0.7	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
14.9	16.6	21.8	12.3	0.7	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.6
0.4	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2
15.3	16.8	21.9	12.5	1.0	0.4	0.7	0.9	0.8
7.7	9.5	8.2	16.3	27.2	28.8	35.3	33.1	38.5
23.0	26.3	30.1	28.7	28.1	29.2	36.1	34.1	39.3

Table continued on following page.

Table I-1--Continued

PC strand: Summary data from the original investigations, first and second reviews (Japan), and current reviews, 1974-77, 1997, and 2000-08

(Quantity=1,000 pounds; value=1,000 dollars; unit values, unit labor costs, and unit financial data are per 1,000 pounds)

Item	1974	1975	1976	1977	1997
U.S. imports from-- ⁴					
Brazil:					
Quantity	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Value	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Unit value	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
India:					
Quantity	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Value	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Unit value	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Korea:					
Quantity	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Value	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Unit value	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Mexico:					
Quantity	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Value	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Unit value	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Thailand:					
Quantity	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Value	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Unit value	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Subtotal, 5 subject countries:					
Quantity	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Value	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Unit value	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Japan:					
Quantity	295,304	166,750	139,096	176,452	597
Value	67,589	52,973	28,662	34,372	362
Unit value	\$229	\$318	\$206	\$195	\$607
Subtotal, 6 subject countries:					
Quantity	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Value	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Unit value	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
All other countries: ³					
Quantity	20,740	15,659	9,657	23,311	133,096
Value	5,876	5,592	1,891	4,474	37,311
Unit value	\$283	\$357	\$196	\$192	\$280
All countries:					
Quantity	316,044	182,409	148,753	199,763	133,693
Value	73,465	58,565	30,553	38,846	37,673
Unit value	\$232	\$321	\$205	\$194	\$282

Table continued on following page.

Table I-1--Continued

2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
31,389	22,076	23,078	21,511	449	0	0	0	0
7,976	5,227	5,219	4,610	168	0	0	0	0
\$254	\$237	\$226	\$214	\$373	---	---	---	---
9,436	13,553	14,436	3,210	34	2	2	235	209
2,253	3,012	3,096	704	41	17	9	81	156
\$239	\$222	\$214	\$219	\$1,208	\$7,934	\$5,265	\$344	\$746
38,315	42,635	63,739	36,934	316	258	3,958	2,831	3,325
9,479	10,044	14,062	7,995	167	196	1,506	1,399	2,201
\$247	\$236	\$221	\$216	\$527	\$759	\$380	\$494	\$662
31,863	37,065	52,964	38,257	867	555	1,526	2,283	1,514
9,207	10,360	14,506	11,534	290	187	729	1,036	885
\$289	\$280	\$274	\$301	\$335	\$337	\$478	\$454	\$584
7,620	13,881	10,661	6,791	5,800	624	45	0	0
1,930	3,491	2,626	1,572	1,819	240	25	0	0
\$253	\$251	\$246	\$231	\$314	\$385	\$543	---	---
118,623	129,210	164,878	106,703	7,466	1,439	5,530	5,349	5,048
30,845	32,134	39,509	26,415	2,485	640	2,268	2,516	3,241
\$260	\$249	\$240	\$248	\$333	\$444	\$410	\$470	\$642
1,655	976	494	768	1,545	1,564	1,580	1,952	1,380
918	533	262	399	876	1,092	1,100	1,343	916
\$554	\$546	\$529	\$519	\$567	\$698	\$696	\$688	\$663
120,278	130,186	165,372	107,471	9,011	3,003	7,111	7,301	6,429
31,763	32,667	39,771	26,813	3,361	1,732	3,368	3,859	4,157
\$264	\$251	\$240	\$249	\$373	\$577	\$474	\$529	\$647
61,685	69,191	61,487	134,423	276,723	282,247	477,667	390,402	406,312
15,919	18,422	14,846	34,990	95,994	122,471	164,334	134,966	211,890
\$258	\$266	\$241	\$260	\$347	\$434	\$344	\$346	\$521
181,963	199,377	226,859	241,894	285,733	285,250	484,778	397,703	412,741
47,682	51,089	54,617	61,803	99,355	124,203	167,702	138,825	216,047
\$262	\$256	\$241	\$255	\$348	\$435	\$346	\$349	\$523

Table continued on following page.

Table I-1--Continued

PC strand: Summary data from the original investigations, first and second reviews (Japan), and current reviews, 1974-77, 1997, and 2000-08

(Quantity=1,000 pounds; value=1,000 dollars; unit values, unit labor costs, and unit financial data are per 1,000 pounds)

Item	1974	1975	1976	1977	1997
U.S. producers'--					
Capacity quantity	133,600	129,600	176,600	180,800	533,715
Production quantity	118,916	77,418	78,112	92,020	482,666
Capacity utilization ¹	89.0	59.7	44.2	50.9	90.4
U.S. shipments:					
Quantity	117,075	72,580	80,452	90,737	454,460
Value	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	150,311
Unit value	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$331
Ending inventory quantity	3,608	7,806	4,608	5,029	N/A
Inventories/total shipments ¹	3.0	10.5	5.7	5.5	N/A
Production workers	341	238	270	278	N/A
Hours worked (1,000 hours)	672	461	581	584	N/A
Wages paid (1,000 dollars)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hourly wages	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Productivity (1,000 pounds per hour)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Net sales:					
Quantity	120,419	74,103	81,253	91,599	N/A
Value	28,063	24,636	20,905	24,848	155,705
Unit value	\$233	\$332	\$257	\$271	N/A
Cost of goods sold	20,328	17,940	19,575	24,261	128,952
Gross profit or (loss)	7,735	6,696	1,330	587	26,753
SG&A	1,673	1,908	1,942	2,314	9,302
Operating income or (loss)	6,062	4,788	(612)	(1,727)	17,451
Unit cost of goods sold	\$169	\$242	\$241	\$265	N/A
Unit operating income or (loss)	\$50	\$65	(\$8)	(\$19)	N/A
Cost of goods sold/sales ¹	72.4	72.8	93.6	97.6	82.8
Operating income or (loss)/sales ¹	21.6	19.4	(2.9)	(7.0)	11.2

¹ In percent.

² Data for Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand for 1974-77 and 1997 are included in "all other countries."

³ 2000-02 "all other countries" data presented are calculated by subtracting data for six subject countries from data presented for "all countries."

⁴ U.S. shipments of imports for Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand for 2000-02.

Note.--Because of rounding, figures may not add to the totals shown. N/A=not available.

Source: *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Japan: Inv. No. AA1921-188 (Second Review)*, INV-BB-058, May 10, 2004, tables I-2, I-4, and I-5; *Steel Wire Strand for Prestressed Concrete from Japan: Inv. No. AA1921-188, OP2-B-178*, November 3, 1978, pp. A-19 and A-23; and *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Japan: Inv. No. AA1921-188 (Review)*, INV-V-108, December 31, 1998, table I-1 (for 1974-77 and 1997 data presented); *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand: Investigations Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Final)*, INV-AA-191, December 19, 2003, table C-1 (for 2000-02 data presented); and compiled from data submitted in response to Commission questionnaires and from official Commerce statistics (for 2003-08 data presented).

Table I-1--Continued

2000	2001	2002		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
714,675	732,475	763,577		742,295	754,653	791,653	810,653	902,782	903,795
633,505	576,210	539,601		578,004	608,562	621,919	673,195	601,732	558,885
88.6	78.7	70.7		77.9	80.6	78.6	83.0	66.7	61.8
603,855	561,824	521,323		564,035	573,700	621,842	627,436	582,801	529,972
159,384	142,959	126,778		153,420	254,156	301,420	297,410	268,344	333,721
\$264	\$254	\$243		\$272	\$443	\$489	\$474	\$460	\$630
51,918	53,043	47,117		38,343	59,605	44,596	68,014	61,262	67,082
***	***	***		***	***	***	***	***	***
409	353	308		315	335	364	385	357	331
926	788	671		762	744	784	856	771	694
13,481	12,109	10,171		11,658	12,764	14,302	16,963	14,145	13,264
\$14.56	\$15.36	\$15.15		\$15.30	\$17.17	\$18.24	\$19.82	\$18.34	\$19.11
684.3	730.9	803.9		758.3	818.5	793.2	786.7	780.1	805.0
624,730	573,985	545,527		564,937	610,678	605,636	661,470	613,704	589,793
164,347	145,849	132,712		150,480	249,170	299,892	312,046	283,088	354,082
\$263	\$254	\$243		\$266	\$408	\$495	\$472	\$461	\$600
139,500	133,909	125,756		135,503	193,659	235,830	248,909	230,394	302,334
24,847	11,940	6,956		14,977	55,511	64,062	63,137	52,694	51,748
12,339	9,874	12,805		9,887	13,251	13,233	14,648	13,317	13,795
12,508	2,066	(5,849)		5,090	42,260	50,829	48,489	39,377	37,953
\$233	\$233	\$231		\$240	\$317	\$389	\$376	\$375	\$513
\$20	\$4	(\$11)		\$9	\$69	\$84	\$73	\$64	\$64
84.9	91.8	94.8		90.0	77.7	78.6	79.8	81.4	85.4
7.6	1.4	(4.4)		3.4	17.0	16.9	15.5	13.9	10.7

RELATED INVESTIGATIONS

Title VII Investigations

The Commission has conducted several antidumping and countervailing duty investigations and five-year reviews concerning PC strand from 10 different countries. The earliest investigations concerning PC strand were conducted by the Commission in 1978. Although the Commission did not make a like product determination *per se* in its original 1978 determinations concerning India and Japan, the Commission's domestic like product and domestic industry determinations in all subsequent PC strand investigations and reviews are similar in that the Commission has consistently found one domestic like product consisting of PC strand and one domestic industry consisting of all domestic producers of PC strand. Table I-2 presents information on title VII investigations and five-year reviews concerning PC strand.²²

Safeguard Investigations

Following receipt of a request from the Office of the United States Trade Representative on June 22, 2001, the Commission instituted investigation No. TA-201-73, *Steel*, under section 202 of the Trade Act of 1974²³ to determine whether certain steel products, including PC strand,²⁴ were being imported into the United States in such increased quantities as to be a substantial cause of serious injury, or the threat thereof, to the domestic industries producing articles like or directly competitive with the imported article.²⁵ On July 26, 2001, the Commission received a resolution adopted by the Committee on Finance of the U.S. Senate ("Senate Finance Committee" or "Committee") requesting that the Commission

²² At this time, there are ongoing countervailing duty and antidumping duty investigations on PC strand from China. *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from China, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Preliminary)*, USITC Publication 4086, July 2009. Commerce is expected to issue its preliminary subsidy determination on or about October 24, 2009 and its preliminary dumping determination on December 3, 2009. Therefore, any final phase investigation by the Commission will be completed in 2010. *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand From the People's Republic of China: Initiation of Antidumping Duty Investigation*, 74 FR 29665, June 23, 2009; *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand From the People's Republic of China: Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigation*, 74 FR 29670, June 23, 2009; *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from the People's Republic of China: Correction to Notice of Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigation*, 74 FR 38584, August 4, 2009; *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand From the People's Republic of China: Notice of Postponement of Preliminary Determination in the Countervailing Duty Investigation*, 74 FR 40567, August 12, 2009; and *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from the People's Republic of China: Postponement of the Preliminary Determination of the Antidumping Duty Investigation*, 74 FR 54963, October 26, 2009.

²³ 19 U.S.C. § 2252.

²⁴ Carbon and alloy (including stainless) steel strand, rope, cable, and cordage, a product category that included PC strand, were found to be a single 'like or directly competitive' product by Chairman Stephen Koplan, Vice Chairman Deanna Tanner Okun, and Commissioners Marcia E. Miller and Jennifer A. Hillman. Commissioner Lynn M. Bragg included PC strand in a broader wire product grouping that also included carbon and alloy steel wire as well as many downstream products. Commissioner Dennis M. Devaney included PC strand in an even broader product grouping that included all carbon and alloy steel long products. *See, e.g., Steel, Investigation No. TA-201-73, Volume I: Determinations and Views of Commissioners*, USITC Publication 3479, December 2001, pp. 88-90, 273, and 312.

²⁵ *Institution and Scheduling of an Investigation under Section 202 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2252) (the Act)*, 66 FR 35267, July 3, 2001.

Table I-2

PC strand: Title VII investigations and five-year reviews

Investigations/Reviews		Dates		Domestic Like Product/Domestic Industry Determination	Outcome
Country	Number	Begin	End		
India	AA1921-182 (Final)	06/02/1978	08/25/1978	Under the then-applicable statutory provisions, the Commission made no domestic like product determination <i>per se</i> in its original determinations, but it essentially treated all PC strand as a single domestic like product. The Commission determined that it "considered the relevant domestic industry to consist of facilities in the United States devoted to the production of steel wire strand for prestressed concrete."	Commission negative final determination
Japan	AA1921-188 (Final)	08/29/1978	11/22/1978	Under the then-applicable statutory provisions, the Commission made no domestic like product determination <i>per se</i> in its original determinations, but it essentially treated all PC strand as a single domestic like product. The Commission determined that it "considered the relevant domestic industry to consist of facilities in the United States devoted to the production of steel wire strand for prestressed concrete."	Commission affirmative final determination
	AA1921-188 (First Review)	09/01/1998	02/02/1999	The Commission found that the appropriate definition of the domestic like product in the expedited initial five-year review was the same as Commerce's scope: all steel wire strand, other than alloy steel, not galvanized, which has been stress-relieved and is suitable for use in prestressed concrete. It further determined that the appropriate domestic industry was all U.S. producers of PC strand.	Commission expedited initial review determination to continue order
	AA1921-188 (Second Review)	01/02/2004	06/07/2004	The Commission's domestic like product and domestic industry determinations in the expedited second five-year review was the same as its determinations in the expedited initial five-year review on PC strand from Japan.	Commission expedited second review determination to continue order
Spain	701-TA-164 (Final)	04/26/1982	08/23/1982	The Commission defined the domestic like product as "all wire strand of steel for prestressing concrete" and it defined the domestic industry as the producers of that domestic like product.	Commission negative final determination
Brazil	701-TA-152 (Final)	03/04/1982	03/14/1983	The Commission's domestic like product and domestic industry determinations in the original final investigations concerning PC strand from Brazil, France, and the United Kingdom were the same as its determinations in the final investigation concerning PC strand from Spain.	Commission negative final determinations
France	701-TA-153 (Final)		12/06/1982		
United Kingdom	731-TA-89 (Final)		02/02/1983		
Brazil	731-TA-1024 (Final)	01/31/2003	01/21/2004	The Commission found the domestic like product to be all PC strand co-extensive with Commerce's scope: steel strand produced from wire of non-stainless, non-galvanized steel that is suitable for use in prestressed concrete (both pre-tensioned and post-tensioned) applications and that encompasses covered and uncovered strand and all types, grades, and diameters of prestressed concrete steel wire strand. The Commission found the domestic industry to be all producers of PC strand. The Commission also determined that plastic coating did not constitute sufficient production-related activity to qualify coaters as members of the domestic industry producing PC strand.	Commission affirmative final determinations
India	701-TA-432 731-TA-1025 (Final)				
Korea	731-TA-1026 (Final)				
Mexico	731-TA-1027 (Final)				
Thailand	731-TA-1028 (Final)				
China	701-TA-464 731-TA-1060 (Preliminary)				
China	701-TA-464 731-TA-1060 (Preliminary)	05/27/2009	07/13/2009	Consistent with its findings in previous investigations involving PC strand, the Commission defined a single domestic like product in a manner that was co-extensive with the scope of the investigations. Likewise, it similarly found the domestic industry to include all domestic producers of PC strand.	Commission affirmative preliminary determinations

Source: Various Commission publications and *Federal Register* notices.

investigate certain steel imports under section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974.²⁶ Consistent with the Senate Finance Committee’s resolution, the Commission consolidated the investigation requested by the Committee with the Commission’s previously instituted investigation No. TA-201-73.²⁷ On December 20, 2001, the Commission issued its determinations and remedy recommendations. The Commission made a negative determination with respect to the product grouping that included PC strand.²⁸

STATUTORY CRITERIA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE REPORT

Statutory Criteria

Section 751(c) of the Act requires Commerce and the Commission to conduct a review no later than five years after the issuance of an antidumping or countervailing duty order or the suspension of an investigation to determine whether revocation of the order or termination of the suspended investigation “would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of dumping or a countervailable subsidy (as the case may be) and of material injury.”

Section 752(a) of the Act provides that in making its determination of likelihood of continuation or recurrence of material injury--

(1) IN GENERAL.-- . . . the Commission shall determine whether revocation of an order, or termination of a suspended investigation, would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury within a reasonably foreseeable time. The Commission shall consider the likely volume, price effect, and impact of imports of the subject merchandise on the industry if the order is revoked or the suspended investigation is terminated. The Commission shall take into account--

(A) its prior injury determinations, including the volume, price effect, and impact of imports of the subject merchandise on the industry before the order was issued or the suspension agreement was accepted,

(B) whether any improvement in the state of the industry is related to the order or the suspension agreement,

(C) whether the industry is vulnerable to material injury if the order is revoked or the suspension agreement is terminated, and

(D) in an antidumping proceeding . . . , (Commerce’s findings) regarding duty absorption . . .

(2) VOLUME.--In evaluating the likely volume of imports of the subject merchandise if the order is revoked or the suspended investigation is terminated, the Commission shall consider whether the likely volume of imports of the subject merchandise would be significant if the order is revoked or the suspended investigation is

²⁶ 19 U.S.C. § 2251.

²⁷ *Consolidation of Senate Finance Committee Resolution Requesting a Section 201 Investigation with the Investigation Requested by the United States Trade Representative on June 22, 2001*, 66 FR 44158, August 22, 2001.

²⁸ *Steel; Import Investigations*, 66 FR 67304, December 28, 2001. Specifically, Chairman Stephen Koplan, Vice Chairman Deanna Tanner Okun, and Commissioners Marcia E. Miller and Jennifer A. Hillman made a negative determination with respect to carbon and alloy steel strand, rope, cable, and cordage, while Commissioners Lynn M. Bragg and Dennis M. Devaney dissented, having made affirmative determinations with respect to carbon and alloy steel wire products (Commissioner Bragg) and carbon and alloy steel long products (Commissioner Devaney).

terminated, either in absolute terms or relative to production or consumption in the United States. In so doing, the Commission shall consider all relevant economic factors, including--

(A) any likely increase in production capacity or existing unused production capacity in the exporting country,

(B) existing inventories of the subject merchandise, or likely increases in inventories,

(C) the existence of barriers to the importation of such merchandise into countries other than the United States, and

(D) the potential for product-shifting if production facilities in the foreign country, which can be used to produce the subject merchandise, are currently being used to produce other products.

(3) PRICE.--In evaluating the likely price effects of imports of the subject merchandise if the order is revoked or the suspended investigation is terminated, the Commission shall consider whether--

(A) there is likely to be significant price underselling by imports of the subject merchandise as compared to domestic like products, and

(B) imports of the subject merchandise are likely to enter the United States at prices that otherwise would have a significant depressing or suppressing effect on the price of domestic like products.

(4) IMPACT ON THE INDUSTRY.--In evaluating the likely impact of imports of the subject merchandise on the industry if the order is revoked or the suspended investigation is terminated, the Commission shall consider all relevant economic factors which are likely to have a bearing on the state of the industry in the United States, including, but not limited to--

(A) likely declines in output, sales, market share, profits, productivity, return on investments, and utilization of capacity,

(B) likely negative effects on cash flow, inventories, employment, wages, growth, ability to raise capital, and investment, and

(C) likely negative effects on the existing development and production efforts of the industry, including efforts to develop a derivative or more advanced version of the domestic like product.

The Commission shall evaluate all such relevant economic factors . . . within the context of the business cycle and the conditions of competition that are distinctive to the affected industry.

Section 752(a)(6) of the Act states further that in making its determination, “the Commission may consider the magnitude of the margin of dumping or the magnitude of the net countervailable subsidy. If a countervailable subsidy is involved, the Commission shall consider information regarding the nature of the countervailable subsidy and whether the subsidy is a subsidy described in Article 3 or 6.1 of the Subsidies Agreement.”

Organization of the Report

Information obtained during the course of the reviews that relate to the statutory factors listed above is presented throughout this report. A summary of data collected in the reviews is presented in appendix C, table C-1. U.S. industry data are based on questionnaire responses of five firms that accounted for all U.S. production of PC strand during 2008.²⁹ U.S. imports presented in the body of this report are based on Commerce's official import statistics. Responses by U.S. producers, importers, and purchasers of PC strand and producers of PC strand in Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand to a series of questions concerning the significance of the existing antidumping and countervailing duty orders and the likely effects of revocation are presented in appendix D. Appendix E presents aggregate price data for pre-tensioned and post-tensioned applications.

COMMERCE'S REVIEWS³⁰

Administrative Reviews

Commerce has conducted no administrative reviews of the antidumping duty orders concerning PC strand from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand and has conducted no administrative reviews of the countervailing duty order concerning PC strand from India. However, Commerce has conducted several administrative reviews of the antidumping duty finding on PC strand from Japan. The results of Commerce's administrative reviews concerning the antidumping duty finding on PC strand from Japan are shown in table I-3.³¹ On August 29, 1986, Commerce revoked the antidumping duty finding with respect to PC strand from Japan produced by Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd., and exported by Sumitomo Corp.

²⁹ There are currently five U.S. producers of PC strand: American, Insteel, RettCo Steel, LLC ("Rettco")/MMI StrandCo. ("MMI"), Strand-Tech Martin ("Strand-Tech"), and Sumiden. The data presented in this report do not include the data of two U.S. PC strand producers (PCS of America ("PCS") and EMC) that ceased production during 2006-07.

³⁰ No duty absorption findings were made for any of the subject countries.

³¹ For previously reviewed or investigated companies not included in an administrative review, the cash deposit rate continues to be the company-specific rate published for the most recent period.

Table I-3

PC strand: Commerce's administrative reviews of the antidumping duty finding concerning Japan

Date results published	Producer/exporter	Period of review	Margin
October 6, 1983 (48 FR 45586)	Kokoku Steel Wire, Ltd./All exporters	04/01/78 - 11/30/80	0.0
	Shinko Wire Co., Ltd./All exporters (except Mitsui & Co. Ltd.)	04/01/78 - 03/31/79	0.0
	Shinko Wire Co. Ltd./Mitsubishi Corp./Freysinet International; and Shinko Wire Co., Ltd./All other exporters (except Mitsui & Co. Ltd.)	04/01/79 - 11/30/80	0.0
	Sumitomo Electric Ind. Ltd./All exporters (except Mitsui & Co. Ltd.)	04/01/78 - 12/31/80	0.0
	Suzuki Metal Industry Co. Ltd./Mitsubishi Corp.	04/01/79 - 12/31/79	0.29
		01/01/80 - 11/30/80	0.0
	Suzuki Metal Industry Co., Ltd./Nissho-Iwai Co. Ltd.	04/01/79 - 12/31/79	0.03
		01/01/80 - 11/30/80	0.0
	Suzuki Metal Industry Co. Ltd./All other exporters (except Mitsui & Co. Ltd.)	04/01/79 - 11/30/80	0.0
	Teikoku Sangyo Co. Ltd./All exporters (except Mitsui & Co. Ltd.)	04/01/78 - 03/31/79	0.0
	Teikoku Sangyo Co. Ltd./Nissho-Iwai Co. Ltd.	04/01/79 - 11/30/80	0.1
	Teikoku Sangyo Co. Ltd./All other exporters (except Mitsui & Co. Ltd.)	04/01/79 - 11/30/80	0.0
	Tokyo Rope Mfg. Co., Ltd./All exporters (except Mitsui & Co. Ltd.)	04/01/78 - 11/30/80	0.0
August 29, 1986 (51 FR 30894)	Shinko Wire Co. Ltd./Mitsubishi Corp./Freysinet International; and Shinko Wire Co., Ltd./All other exporters (except Mitsui & Co. Ltd.) ¹	12/01/80 - 11/30/82	0.0
	Sumitomo Electric Ind., Ltd./Sumitomo Corp., Japan; and Sumitomo Electric Ind. Ltd./All other exporters (except Mitsui & Co. Ltd.) ²	01/01/81 - 05/20/82	0.0
	Suzuki Metal Industry Co., Ltd.; Suzuki Metal Industry Co., Ltd./Mitsubishi Corp./Nissho-Iwai Co., Ltd.; and Suzuki Metal Industry Co., Ltd./All other exporters (except Mitsui & Co., Ltd.)	12/01/80 - 11/30/82	0.0
	Tokyo Rope Mfg. Co., Ltd.; and Tokyo Rope Mfg. Co., Ltd./All other exporters (except Mitsui & Co., Ltd.)	12/01/80 - 11/30/82	4.5
February 11, 1987 (52 FR 4373) (as corrected on October 13, 1987 (52 FR 37997)	Mitsubishi Corp. ³	12/1/82 - 11/30/85	0.0
	Shinko Wire Co., Ltd./All other exporters (except Mitsui & Co., Ltd.) ³	12/1/82 - 11/30/85	0.0
	Suzuki Metal Industry Co., Ltd./All other Exporters (except Mitsui & Co., Ltd.) ³	12/1/82 - 11/30/85	0.0
	Tokyo Rope Mfg. Co., Ltd./All other exporters (except Mitsui & Co., Ltd.) ³	12/1/82 - 11/30/85	4.5

Table continued on following page.

Table I-3--Continued

PC strand: Commerce's administrative reviews of the antidumping duty finding concerning Japan

Date results published	Producer/exporter	Period of review	Margin
March 25, 1988 (53 FR 9787) (as corrected on April 5, 1988 (53 FR 11162))	Kokoku Steel Wire, Ltd.	12/01/85 - 11/30/86	0.0 ⁴
	Mitsubishi Corp.	12/01/85 - 11/30/86	0.0 ⁴
	Nissho Iwai Co., Ltd.	12/01/85 - 11/30/86	0.0 ⁴
	Shinko Wire Co., Ltd.	12/01/85 - 11/30/86	0.0 ⁴
	Suzuki Metal Industry Co., Ltd.	12/01/85 - 11/30/86	0.0 ⁴
	Teikoku Sangyo Co., Ltd.	12/01/85 - 11/30/86	0.0 ⁴
	Tokyo Rope Mfg. Co., Ltd.	12/01/85 - 11/30/86	4.5 ⁴
November 7, 1990 (55 FR 46853)	All manufacturers/Mitsui & Co., Ltd.	04/01/78 - 11/30/85	15.8
December 26, 1991 (56 FR 66840)	All manufacturers/Mitsui & Co., Ltd.	12/01/85 - 11/30/88	15.8 ⁵
November 12, 1997 (62 FR 60688) Amended final results	Shinko Wire Co., Ltd./Mitsui & Co., Ltd.	04/01/78 - 11/30/83	0.0
	Sumitomo Electric Ind., Ltd./Mitsui & Co., Ltd.	04/01/78 - 11/30/83	0.0
	Suzuki Metal Ind. Co., Ltd./Mitsui & Co., Ltd.	04/01/78 - 11/30/83	0.0
	Teikoku Sangyo Co., Ltd./Mitsui & Co., Ltd.	04/01/78 - 11/30/83	0.0
	Tokyo Rope Mfg. Co., Ltd./Mitsui & Co., Ltd.	04/01/78 - 11/30/80	0.0
		12/01/80 - 11/30/83	4.5 ⁵
<p>¹ Shinko Wire Co. Ltd./Mitsubishi Corp./Freyssinet International made no shipments of PC strand to the United States during 12/1/81 to 11/30/82.</p> <p>² Sumitomo Electric Ind., Ltd. made no shipments of PC strand to the United States during 1/1/82 to 5/20/82. The antidumping duty finding was revoked with respect to PC strand manufactured by Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd. and exported by Sumitomo Corp., Japan, entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after May 20, 1982.</p> <p>³ Mitsubishi Corp.; Shinko Wire Co. Ltd.; Suzuki Metal Industry Co., Ltd.; and Tokyo Rope Mfg. Co., Ltd. made no shipments of PC strand to the United States during 12/1/82 to 11/30/85.</p> <p>⁴ There were no known shipments of PC strand to the United States during 12/1/85 to 11/30/86. Margins were obtained from the last review where there were shipments.</p> <p>⁵ Mitsui & Co., Ltd. made no shipments of PC strand to the United States from 12/1/1982 to 11/30/1983 and from 12/1/85 to 11/30/88.</p>			
Source: Cited <i>Federal Register</i> notices.			

Changed-Circumstances Reviews

There have been no changed-circumstances reviews concerning the countervailing duty order on PC strand from India and no changed-circumstances reviews concerning the antidumping duty orders on PC strand from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand. However, since the publication of the antidumping duty finding on PC strand from Japan, Commerce published one notice of final results of changed-circumstances review with respect to that finding. In that review, Commerce determined that Kawasaki Steel Techno-Wire was the successor-in-interest to Kawatetsu Wire Products Co., Ltd. (“Kawatetsu”), and that the discontinuance previously issued to Kawatetsu applied to Kawasaki Steel Techno-Wire.³² However, the discontinuance that Commerce applied in 1990 to Kawasaki Steel Techno-Wire as Kawatetsu’s successor-in-interest does not apply to JFE Techno-Wire, the apparent successor firm to Kawasaki Steel Techno-Wire,³³ because a changed-circumstances review has not been conducted by Commerce concerning Kawasaki Steel Techno-Wire’s successor-in-interest. Therefore, any production of PC strand by JFE Techno-Wire in Japan would be subject to the antidumping duty order upon entry into the United States.³⁴

Scope Inquiry Reviews

There have been no scope inquiry reviews concerning the countervailing duty order on PC strand from India and the antidumping duty finding/orders on PC strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, and Thailand. However, Commerce conducted a scope inquiry with respect to the antidumping duty order on PC strand from Mexico, as requested by domestic PC strand producers American, Insteel, and Sumiden, and Mexican PC strand producer Cablesa, S.A. de C.V. (“Cablesa”) (predecessor company to Mexican PC strand producer Deacero). On June 16, 2004, Commerce issued a scope ruling in connection with that inquiry finding that 0.05 oz/sq. ft. zinc-coated PC strand was within the scope of the antidumping duty order.³⁵ The domestic interested parties in these reviews explained that Commerce’s scope inquiry review concerning PC strand from Mexico was requested after Cablesa began lightly coating the subject merchandise with zinc and claiming that the product was a galvanized product outside the scope of the order. The lightly zinc-coated product was found by Commerce (and ultimately the CIT) to be within the scope of the order.³⁶

At the Commission’s hearing in these reviews, Mexican producer Deacero testified that “in our many decades of international operation with more than 20 countries {we’ve} never been accused of

³² *Steel Wire Strand for Prestressed Concrete From Japan: Final Results of Changed Circumstances Antidumping Duty Administrative Review*, 55 FR 28796, July 13, 1990.

³³ *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Japan: Inv. No. AA1921-188 (Second Review)*, INV-BB-058, May 10, 2004, p. I-18, fn. 41. In May 2002, Kawasaki Steel Corp. and NKK Corp. concluded an agreement for consolidation of their entire operations, including their subsidiaries and affiliates. The newly consolidated entity was named JFE Group. JFE Holdings web site, <http://www.jfe-holdings.co.jp/en>, accessed October 1, 2009.

³⁴ Staff telephone notes, ***, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, October 2, 2009; and domestic producers’ prehearing brief, p. 26.

³⁵ The Court of International Trade (“CIT”) upheld Commerce’s scope determination in *Cablesa S.A. de C.V. v. United States*, 29 Int’l Trade Rep. 1438 (CIT 2007). *Issues and Decision Memorandum for the Expedited Sunset Reviews of the Antidumping Duty Finding/Orders on Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, and Thailand*, Memorandum to Ronald K. Lorentzen, Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration, March 19, 2009, p. 6; *Notice of Scope Rulings*, 70 FR 24533, May 10, 2005.

³⁶ Domestic Producers’ Prehearing Brief, pp. 18-19; hearing transcript, p. 39 (Cornelius).

unfair trading with respect to any of the product we sell.”³⁷ Deacero further indicated that, since its purchase of Cablesa in 2007 (three years after the scope inquiry review by Commerce), it has “never taken any action that could be interpreted as an attempt to circumvent the antidumping order or to play fast and loose with the rules, such as applying a thin coat of seal on the product and calling it galvanized PC strand.”³⁸ Both Camesa (purchased by Wireco WorldGroup in 2005) and Deacero stated that under their new ownership, they are “untainted by unfair trading.”³⁹ In addition, counsel for the Mexican interested parties argued that the Mexican producers believe that any attempt at circumvention of the antidumping duty is “an abomination” and that “it’s important to distinguish the actions of Cablesa from the current market posture of Deacero.”⁴⁰

Results of Five-Year Reviews

Table I-4 presents the margins calculated by Commerce in its original investigations and subsequent five-year reviews concerning the antidumping duty finding on PC strand from Japan. Also presented are the margins calculated by Commerce in its original investigations and expedited first five-year reviews concerning the countervailing duty order on PC strand from India (table I-5) and the antidumping duty orders on PC strand from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand (table I-6).

Table I-4

PC strand: Commerce’s original and subsequent five-year review antidumping duty margins for producers/exporters in Japan¹

Producer/exporter	Original margin (percent)	First five-year review margin (percent)	Second five-year review margin (percent)	Third five-year review margin (percent)
Kawatetsu Wire Products Co. Ltd.	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Shinko Wire Co., Ltd.	13.30	13.30	13.30	13.30
Sumitomo Electric Industries Ltd.	15.80	(³)	(³)	(³)
Suzuki Metal Industry Co., Ltd.	6.90	6.90	6.90	6.90
Tokyo Rope Mfg. Co., Ltd.	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50
All others	(⁴)	9.76	9.76	9.76

¹ Antidumping duty finding, 43 FR 57599, December 8, 1978; final results of first expedited sunset review, 64 FR 857, January 6, 1999; final results of second expedited five-year review, 69 FR 25563, May 7, 2004; and final results of third expedited five-year review, 74 FR 13189, March 26, 2009.

² On August 28, 1978, Treasury discontinued the antidumping duty investigation with respect to imports from Kawatetsu Wire Products Co., Ltd. (43 FR 38495, August 28, 1978). As indicated earlier in the section of this report entitled “Changed-Circumstances Reviews,” although the discontinuance applies to successor Kawasaki Steel Techno-Wire (55 FR 28796, July 13, 1990), it does not apply to successor JFE Techno-Wire (formed in 2002).

³ On August 29, 1986, Commerce revoked the finding with respect to imports produced by Sumitomo Electric Ind., Ltd. and exported by the Sumitomo Corp. 51 FR 30894, August 29, 1986.

⁴ Treasury did not publish an “all others” rate in its final determination. 43 FR 38495, August 28, 1978.

Source: Cited *Federal Register* notices.

³⁷ Hearing transcript, p. 156 (Fernandez).

³⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 157 (Fernandez).

³⁹ Mexican Producers’ Prehearing Brief, p. 3.

⁴⁰ Hearing transcript, pp. 241-242 and 244-245 (Levin),

Table I-5**PC strand: Commerce's original and first five-year review countervailing duty margin for producers/exporters in India¹**

Producer/exporter	Original cash deposit rate (percent)	First five-year review net countervailable subsidy (percent)
All producers/exporters	62.92	62.92

¹ Countervailing duty order, 69 FR 5319, February 4, 2004; final results of first expedited sunset review, 74 FR 15938, April 8, 2009.

Source: Cited *Federal Register* notices.

Table I-6**PC strand: Commerce's original and first five-year review antidumping duty margins for producers/exporters in Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand, by subject country**

Producer/exporter	Original margin (percent)	First five-year review margin (percent)
Brazil¹		
Belgo Bekaert Arames S.A.	118.75	118.75
All others	118.75	118.75
India²		
Tata Iron and Steel Co. Ltd.	102.07	102.07
All others	83.65	83.65
Korea³		
Dong-Il Steel Mfg. Co. Ltd.	54.19	54.19
Kiswire Ltd.	54.19	54.19
All others	35.64	35.64
Mexico⁴		
Aceros Camesa S.A. de C.V.	62.78	62.78
Cablesa S.A. de C.V.	77.20	77.20
All others	62.78	62.78
Thailand⁵		
Siam Industrial Wire Co. Ltd.	12.91	12.91
All others	12.91	12.91

¹ Antidumping duty order, 69 FR 4112, January 28, 2004; final results of first expedited five-year review, 74 FR 13189, March 26, 2009.

² Antidumping duty order, 69 FR 4110, January 28, 2004; final results of first expedited five-year review, 74 FR 13189, March 26, 2009.

³ Antidumping duty order, 69 FR 4109, January 28, 2004; final results of first expedited five-year review, 74 FR 13189, March 26, 2009.

⁴ Antidumping duty order, 69 FR 4112, January 28, 2004; final results of first expedited five-year review, 74 FR 13189, March 26, 2009.

⁵ Antidumping duty order (amended margins), 69 FR 4111, January 28, 2004; final results of first expedited five-year review, 74 FR 13189, March 26, 2009.

Source: Cited *Federal Register* notices.

DISTRIBUTION OF CONTINUED DUMPING AND SUBSIDY OFFSET ACT FUNDS

The Continued Dumping and Subsidy Offset Act of 2000 (“CDSOA”) (also known as the Byrd Amendment) provides that assessed duties received pursuant to antidumping or countervailing duty orders must be distributed to affected domestic producers for certain qualifying expenditures that these producers incur after the issuance of such orders.⁴¹ During the review period, qualified U.S. producers of PC strand were eligible to receive disbursements from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (“Customs”) under CDSOA relating to six antidumping duty orders/findings and one countervailing duty order on the subject product.⁴² Table I-7 presents CDSOA disbursements and claims for Federal fiscal years (October 1-September 30) 2005-07 by source and by firm, respectively. There were no CDSOA disbursement and claims for Federal fiscal year 2008 and years prior to 2005. Also, there were no disbursements in connection with the antidumping duty order/finding with respect to PC strand from Brazil and Japan.

THE SUBJECT MERCHANDISE

Commerce’s Scope

Commerce defined the scope of the imported product subject to the antidumping duty orders on PC strand from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand as follows:

. . . steel strand produced from wire of non-stainless, non-galvanized steel, which is suitable for use in prestressed concrete (both pre-tensioned and post-tensioned) applications. The product definition encompasses covered and uncovered strand and all types, grades, and diameters of PC strand.⁴³

Commerce defined the scope of the imported products subject to the antidumping duty finding on PC strand from Japan as follows:

. . . steel wire strand, other than alloy steel, not galvanized, which is stress-relieved and suitable for use in prestressed concrete.⁴⁴

⁴¹ Section 754 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. § 1675(c)).

⁴² 19 CFR 159.64 (g).

⁴³ *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, and Thailand: Final Results of the Expedited Sunset Reviews of the Antidumping Duty Finding/Orders*, 74 FR 13189, March 26, 2009; and *Final Results of Expedited Sunset Review of Countervailing Duty Order: Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from India*, 74 FR 15938, April 8, 2009.

⁴⁴ *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, and Thailand: Final Results of the Expedited Sunset Reviews of the Antidumping Duty Finding/Orders*, 74 FR 13189, March 26, 2009.

Table I-7
PC strand: CDSOA disbursements, by source and firm, and total claims, Federal fiscal years
2005-07¹

Item	Federal fiscal year		
	2005	2006	2007
Disbursements (dollars)			
India:			
American	0	445	0
Insteel	0	0	0
Sumiden	0	0	0
Total, India	0	445	0
Korea:			
American	1,307	14,762	2,768
Insteel	3,672	0	9,321
Sumiden	1,973	0	3,822
Total, Korea	6,953	14,762	15,911
Mexico:			
American	1,651	0	0
Insteel	4,639	0	0
Sumiden	2,493	0	0
Total, Mexico	8,783	0	0
Thailand:			
American	0	0	2,180
Insteel	0	0	7,340
Sumiden	0	0	3,010
Total, Thailand	0	0	12,530
Total:			
American	2,958	15,207	4,949
Insteel	8,312	0	16,661
Sumiden	4,466	0	6,832
Total, all countries	15,736	15,207	28,442
Claims (dollars)			
American	52,850,900	96,199,462	141,685,900
Insteel	148,511,752	0	476,996,392
Sumiden	79,798,989	0	195,589,153
Total	281,161,641	96,199,462	814,271,445

¹ There were no disbursements in connection with the antidumping duty order/finding concerning PC strand from Brazil and Japan. In addition, there were no CDSOA disbursements and claims for Federal fiscal year 2008 and years prior to 2005.

Note.--Because of rounding, figures may not add to the totals shown.

Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection's CDSOA *Annual Reports*. Retrieved from http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/trade/priority_trade/add_cvd/cont_dump/.

Tariff Treatment

PC strand is classifiable in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (“HTS”) under subheading 7312.10.30 and reported for statistical purposes under statistical reporting numbers 7312.10.3010 and 7312.10.3012. Table I-8 presents current tariff rates for PC strand.

Table I-8
PC strand: Tariff treatment, 2009

HTS provision	Article description	Column 1		Column 2 ²
		General ¹	Special	
		Rates (<i>ad valorem</i>)		
7312	Stranded wire, ropes, cables, plaited bands, slings and the like, of iron or steel, not electrically insulated:			
7312.10	Stranded wire, ropes and cables: Stranded wire:			
7312.10.30	Other (than of stainless steel or wire fitted with fittings or made up into articles)	Free	(³)	35%
	For prestressing concrete:			
10	Covered with textile or other nonmetallic material			
12	Other			

¹ Normal trade relations rate, formerly known as the most-favored-nation duty rate.
² Applies to imports from a small number of countries that do not enjoy normal trade relations duty status.
³ Special rates not applicable when General rate is free.

Source: Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (2009).

THE PRODUCT

Description and Applications

PC strand consists of multiple steel wires wound together to produce a strong, flexible product that is used to strengthen concrete structures. PC strand is commonly available in three grades, in covered and uncovered form, and in several nominal diameters. The most common PC strand configuration consists of six wires wound helically around a single wire core.⁴⁵ Nominal diameters of PC strand typically range from 0.25 to 0.70 inch⁴⁶ and generally have three grade designations: 250, 270, and 300.⁴⁷

PC strand is used in the construction of prestressed concrete structural components to introduce compression into the concrete.⁴⁸ This compression offsets or neutralizes forces within the concrete that occur when it is subjected to loads.⁴⁹ Typical applications of prestressed concrete include bridge decks, bridge girders, pilings, precast concrete panels and structural supports, roof trusses, floor supports, and certain concrete foundations.⁵⁰ One of the most widespread uses of prestressed concrete, however, is parking garages.⁵¹

PC strand may be pre-tensioned or post-tensioned.⁵² Pre-tensioned PC strand is tensioned (pulled tightly and slightly elongated) using a calibrated tensioning apparatus, and concrete is cured around the PC strand.⁵³ After the concrete has cured, the tension is released and the tensile force of the strand induces a compressive force in the concrete. Pre-tensioned prestressed concrete depends upon the bond between the concrete and the PC strand to hold the concrete in compression. Most pre-tensioned concrete

⁴⁵ Although the seven-wire PC strand is the most prevalent product in the industry, PC strand may also be produced with as few as three wires. Shemenski, Robert M. et al (eds.), *Ferrous Wire Handbook*, Guilford, CT: The Wire Association, 2008, pp. 922-923.

⁴⁶ *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-432 (Final) and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Final)*, USITC Publication 3663, January 2004, p. I-7; *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from China, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Preliminary)*, USITC Publication 4086, July 2009, p. I-10.

⁴⁷ PC strand grade designations (such as grades 250, 270, and 300) correspond to the minimum ultimate strength of the product in thousands of pounds per square inch ("psi") based on tensile strength and cross-sectional surface area of the PC strand. For example, grade 270 PC strand has a minimum ultimate strength of 270,000 psi. One-half inch diameter grade 270 is believed to be the predominant size and grade used in the U.S. market. *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-432 (Final) and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Final)*, USITC Publication 3663, January 2004, p. I-9; Hearing transcript, p. 42 (Wagner).

⁴⁸ *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-432 (Final) and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Final)*, USITC Publication 3663, January 2004, p. I-7.

⁴⁹ Prestressed concrete may also contain reinforcing wire or wire fabric. Lankford, William T. et al (eds.), *The Making, Shaping, and Treating of Steel, 10th Edition*, Pittsburgh, PA: Association of Iron and Steel Engineers, 1984, pp. 1014-1015.

⁵⁰ *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-432 (Final) and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Final)*, USITC Publication 3663, January 2004, p. I-7; Hearing transcript, p. 43 (Wagner).

⁵¹ Portland Cement Association web site, http://www.cement.org/basics/concreteproducts_prestressed.asp, accessed June 10, 2009.

⁵² PC strand may be sold to pre- and post-tensioners for the same purpose—to impart compressive forces into concrete so that it can withstand tensile forces without cracking. *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from China, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Preliminary)*, USITC Publication 4086, July 2009, p. I-10.

⁵³ *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-432 (Final) and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Final)*, USITC Publication 3663, January 2004, p. I-7.

elements are prefabricated in a factory and must be transported to the construction site.⁵⁴ Pre-tensioned concrete components may be used in balconies, lintels, floor slabs, beams, or foundation piles.

For post-tensioned PC strand, there is no bond between the PC strand and the cured concrete. Instead, the PC strand is tensioned using a calibrated tensioning apparatus after the concrete has cured.⁵⁵ In post-tensioned prestressed concrete, tension is maintained by installing permanent mechanical anchors that remain in place after the tensioning apparatus is removed. Unlike pre-tensioning, which is largely performed at precast manufacturing facilities, post-tensioning takes place on the job site in cast-in-place applications.⁵⁶ The concrete component is cast in a way that allows PC strand to be installed so that it is protected from bonding with the concrete. Post-tensioning gives designers the flexibility to further optimize material use by creating thinner concrete components.⁵⁷ The predominant end uses of post-tensioned PC strand are in slab-on-grade construction and in buildings for floors with moderate-to-long spans and moderate floor loads such as in parking garages and residential buildings.⁵⁸ Approximately *** percent of total U.S. shipments of post-tensioned PC strand in 2007 were used in slab-on-grade (***) percent) and building (***) percent) construction applications.⁵⁹

Depending on the application, PC strand will be either uncoated or coated (with plastic or epoxy). For pre-tensioning applications, where the bond between the cured concrete and the PC strand holds the concrete in compression, the PC strand is installed uncoated.⁶⁰ In contrast, post-tensioning applications may require uncoated or coated PC strand. Plastic-coated PC strand is lubricated with grease and encased in a plastic tube, whereas epoxy-coated PC strand is coated with epoxy.⁶¹

There are two methods of post-tensioning PC strand in concrete members: internal and external. For internal post-tensioning applications, the PC strand is either (1) greased and plastic-coated (which keeps the concrete from bonding to the PC strand during the curing process) and concrete is cured around the coated PC strand or (2) plastic or metal ducts are cast into the concrete and uncoated PC strand is passed through each duct. If the duct method is used, after tensioning and anchoring, the ducts containing the PC strand are filled with grout to protect it from corrosion.⁶² For external post-tensioning applications, coated PC strand or galvanized (zinc-coated) PC strand may be used to protect against

⁵⁴ *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from China, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Preliminary)*, USITC Publication 4086, July 2009, p. I-10.

⁵⁵ *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-432 (Final) and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Final)*, USITC Publication 3663, January 2004, p. I-7.

⁵⁶ *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from China, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Preliminary)*, USITC Publication 4086, July 2009, p. I-10.

⁵⁷ Portland Cement Association web site, http://www.cement.org/buildings/post_tensioned_splash.asp, accessed June 10, 2009.

⁵⁸ Craig D. Olson and Laura N. Smith, "Building with Concrete: Post-tensioned Concrete for Today's Market," *The Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce*, May 9, 1997, <http://www.djc.com/special/concrete97/10024302.htm>.

⁵⁹ Post-Tensioning Institute, "PTI Tonnage Report: Summary of Post-Tensioning Industry Shipments in North America 1972-2007," 2008, p. 1.

⁶⁰ Indented PC strand can increase the bond between the PC strand and concrete. Indenting increases the surface area of the strand and provides a different shape to the surface, which causes it to bond to concrete better than a smooth strand. This is most often used when end users have a shorter length end product where "the development of a bond between the strand and the concrete mechanically comes into question, then indenting the strand can give them some aided bond characteristics." An example of such an end use is in railroad ties, which require relatively short lengths of PC strand to secure a short section of concrete. Hearing transcript, p. 118 (Wagner).

⁶¹ Both the epoxy coated and the plastic coated product provide a corrosion barrier or protection against corrosion. Hearing transcript, p. 119 (Cornelius).

⁶² *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-432 (Final) and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Final)*, USITC Publication 3663, January 2004, p. I-8.

corrosion.⁶³ Whether it is used uncoated or coated, PC strand of various suppliers is interchangeable within each physical size, physical configuration, and grade.⁶⁴

Manufacturing Process

PC strand is produced from hot-rolled, high-carbon steel wire rod⁶⁵ through a production process consisting of four distinct steps: drawing, stranding, stabilizing, and packaging. The drawing step begins with cleaning and descaling to remove dirt and mill scale from the hot-rolled, high-carbon steel wire rod before feeding it through the wire drawing dies. Cleaning and descaling can be accomplished chemically, using a strong acid, or mechanically, using abrasive methods. The cleaned and descaled wire rod is then coated with zinc phosphate and pulled through a series of wire drawing dies to reduce its size. Depending on the finished size required, the rod may be drawn through up to nine dies. If indented wire is specified, the wire is indented, using carbide rollers, after the final size reduction.⁶⁶

After drawing, the wire undergoes stranding. During the stranding process, wires are wound into a strand, helically and uniformly, by a stranding machine. The PC strand is then stabilized by removing residual mechanical stresses through thermal and possibly mechanical treatments. The extent of the stress relief determines the type of PC strand. Low-relaxation PC strand is subjected to simultaneous thermal and mechanical treatment after stranding, while “normal”-relaxation PC strand (commonly referred to as

⁶³ Galvanized (zinc-coated) PC strand, which accounts for less than one percent of the overall market for PC strand, is rarely used in concrete. It is used mostly in perimeter railing, such as on garage parking decks or other open structures to form a protective barrier. Galvanized PC strand is employed in these uses because it is a “very tough product and a very high tensioned product.” The production cost of the galvanized product is estimated to be two times the cost of production of non-galvanized PC strand, although it is not currently being produced by the largest domestic producers of PC strand. Galvanized PC strand was not included in the original scope of the order because there was no import issue with respect to galvanized PC strand at that time. At least two countries subject to these orders under review (Korea and Mexico) are believed to have produced and exported zinc-coated PC strand to the United States since the imposition of the orders. Hearing transcript, pp. 120-122 (Wagner), pp. 121-122 (Cornelius), and p. 121 (Cannon); domestic producers’ prehearing brief, p. 18; and emails from *** to Mary Messer, October 21, 2009 and October 22, 2009.

⁶⁴ *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand From Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand, Investigations Nos. 701 -TA-432 (Final) and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Final)*, USITC Publication 3663, January 2004, p. I-8.

⁶⁵ The American Society for Testing and Materials (“ASTM”) specifies mechanical properties for finished PC strand, but does not specify the chemical composition of the wire used to make PC strand. ASTM Standard A416/A 416M-06, 2006, “Standard Specification for Steel Strand, Uncoated Seven-Wire for Prestressed Concrete,” ASTM International, West Conshohocken, PA, 2009, Section 1, vol. 01.04, pp. 246-250; ASTM Standard A421/A 412M-05, 2005, “Standard Specification for Uncoated Stress-Relieved Steel Wire for Prestressed Concrete,” West Conshohocken, PA: ASTM, 2009, Section 1, vol. 01.04, pp. 251-254; and ASTM Standard A910/A 910M-05, 2005, “Standard Specification for Uncoated, Weldless, 2- and 3-Wire Steel Strand for Prestressed Concrete,” West Conshohocken, PA: ASTM, 2009, Section 1, vol. 01.04, pp. 514-517.

⁶⁶ PC strand made from indented wire may be specified for certain pre-tensioning applications. The indentations in the wire enhance the bond between the cured concrete and the PC strand. Hearing transcript, p. 119 (Wagner).

stressed-relieved PC strand) requires only thermal treatment.⁶⁷ Finally, if coating is required, the PC strand is either lubricated with grease and encased in a plastic tube, or coated with epoxy.⁶⁸

The finished product is wound onto a drum, strapped into place with steel bands, and packaged as a coil. The coil may be covered with a protective material, such as plastic or burlap and is packaged such that the end user can place the coil directly onto a strand dispenser.⁶⁹

DOMESTIC LIKE PRODUCT ISSUES

Although the Commission did not make a domestic like product determination *per se* in its original determination concerning Japan in 1979, it found that the appropriate definition of the domestic like product in its expedited first and second five-year reviews of the antidumping duty finding concerning Japan in 1999 and 2004, respectively, to be the same as Commerce's scope, that is, all steel wire strand, other than alloy steel, not galvanized, which has been stress-relieved and is suitable for use in prestressed concrete. In its original determination and its expedited first and second reviews of the antidumping duty finding concerning Japan, the Commission defined the domestic industry as all producers of PC strand.⁷⁰

In its original 2003 determinations concerning Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand, the Commission found the domestic like product to be all PC strand co-extensive with Commerce's scope, that is, steel strand produced from wire of non-stainless, non-galvanized steel that is suitable for use in prestressed concrete (both pre-tensioned and post-tensioned) applications and that encompasses covered and uncovered strand and all types, grades, and diameters of PC strand. It also defined the domestic industry as all producers of PC strand and determined that plastic coating did not constitute sufficient production-related activity to qualify coaters as members of the domestic PC strand industry.⁷¹

⁶⁷ Low-relaxation strand is regarded as the standard type of PC strand and stress-relieved strand is not furnished unless specifically requested by a customer. See ASTM Standard A416/A 416M-06, 2006, "Standard Specification for Steel Strand, Uncoated Seven-Wire for Prestressed Concrete," ASTM International, West Conshohocken, PA, 2009, Section 1, vol. 01.04, pp. 246-250; and ASTM Standard A910/A 910M-05, 2005, "Standard Specification for Uncoated, Weldless, 2- and 3-Wire Steel Strand for Prestressed Concrete," West Conshohocken, PA: ASTM, 2009, Section 1, vol. 01.04, pp. 514-517.

⁶⁸ PC strand is coated or greased and covered to improve its resistance to corrosion. End users may purchase epoxy-coated PC strand to further enhance the corrosion resistance of the strand in applications where there is an abundance of moisture, such as in bridge and/or in other applications where the strand is exposed to the elements. Staff telephone interview, ***, June 29, 2009.

⁶⁹ *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from China, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Preliminary)*, USITC Publication 4086, July 2009, p. I-12.

⁷⁰ *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand From Japan, Investigation No. AA1921-188 (Second Review)*, USITC Publication 3699, June 2004, pp. 5-7.

⁷¹ In the original investigations concerning PC strand from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand, the petitioners and Mexican respondents disagreed as to the definition of the domestic like product. In those investigations, the petitioners argued that the domestic like product definition should mirror the scope of the investigations. They contended that an analysis of the six like product factors, as well as Commission precedent, supported a finding of one domestic like product comprised of all PC strand. The petitioners further argued that the domestic industry should exclude companies that simply coat the strand with grease and plastic coating, due to the minor or incidental nature of such companies' operations. The Mexican respondents, on the other hand, contended that the Commission should find that "covered" (plastic-coated) and bare PC strand constituted two separate domestic like products and that there were two separate domestic industries: one producing coated PC strand and the second producing bare PC strand. They contended that bare PC strand was used by the pre-tensioned market and that the plastic-coated PC strand was used by the post-tensioned market. They further contended that whether

(continued...)

The domestic and respondent interested parties (including the Mexican respondents) indicated in their responses to the Commission's notice of institution in these current reviews that they agree with the Commission's definitions of the domestic like product and domestic industry.⁷² In addition, domestic producers' counsel indicated at the conference in the recently-completed preliminary phase investigations concerning PC strand from China that they agreed with the Commission's definition of the domestic like product and testified that "no significant technological or marketing changes have occurred in the production of PC strand since those earlier findings to alter that result."⁷³ Finally, none of the parties to the current reviews requested in their comments in response to the Commission's draft questionnaires the collection of information regarding the domestic like product or domestic industry and no party raised domestic like product or domestic industry issues in their briefs or at the hearing. To the contrary, the domestic interested parties commented in their prehearing brief that they agree with the definition of the domestic like product used in the Commission's questionnaires and set forth in the Commission's prehearing report.⁷⁴

U.S. MARKET PARTICIPANTS

U.S. Producers

The domestic PC strand industry has experienced substantial changes since the Commission's original investigation concerning imports of PC strand from Japan conducted in 1978. Since that time, closures, openings, and acquisitions have changed the composition of the domestic industry. In 1978, six firms operating six facilities (none west of the Rocky Mountains) were producing PC strand in the United States: integrated producers Armco Steel Corp. ("Armco"), Kansas City, MO; Bethlehem Steel Corp. ("Bethlehem"), Sparrows Point, MD; and CF&I Steel Corp. ("CF&I"), Pueblo, CO; and nonintegrated producers American Spring Wire Corp. ("American"), Bedford Heights, OH; Florida Wire & Cable Co. ("FW&C"), Jacksonville, FL; and Washburn Wire Products Co. ("Washburn"), New York, NY.⁷⁵ Between 1978 and 1998, Insteel, Sumiden, and Shinko Wire America, Inc. ("Shinko") entered the U.S.

⁷¹ (...continued)

applying the six-factor "like product analysis" or the "semifinished product analysis," the Commission should find that coated and bare PC strand constitute two separate domestic like products and industries. *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand From Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand, Investigations Nos. 701-TA-432 (Final) and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Final)*, USITC Publication 3663, January 2004, pp. 7-12.

⁷² *Response to Commission's Notice of Institution of Domestic Interested Parties, Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand* (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)), January 16, 2009, p. 24; *Response to Commission's Notice of Institution of Dong-II Steel Mfg. Co., Ltd., Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand* (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)), January 20, 2009, item (11); and *Response to Commission's Notice of Institution of Camesa and Deacero, Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand* (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)), January 21, 2009, p. 10.

⁷³ Conference transcript of preliminary phase investigations concerning PC strand from China, pp. 12-13 (Cannon).

⁷⁴ Domestic producers' prehearing brief, pp. 4-5.

⁷⁵ Washburn began producing PC strand in the United States shortly before the filing of the 1978 complaint. U.S. industry data in the original investigation did not include Washburn, whose production was estimated at the time to be negligible. *Steel Wire Strand for Prestressed Concrete from Japan, Investigation No. AA1921-188*, USITC Publication 928, November 1978, pp. A-8 and A-12.

PC strand industry.⁷⁶ During the same time period, Armco, Bethlehem, CF&I, Shinko, and Washburn exited the PC strand industry. In January 2000, Insteel acquired the common stock of PC strand producer FW&C. In addition, Strand-Tech Martin, Inc. (“Strand-Tech”) began producing PC strand in Summerville, SC during 1999-2000. Sivaco Georgia LLC (“Sivaco”) also began production of PC strand in Newnan, GA, shortly thereafter; however, it shut down its operations in 2003. During ***, two PC strand producers in Mexico set up PC strand production operations in the United States. PCS, owned by WireCo World Group and related to Mexican PC strand producer Camesa, began production of PC strand at its Rosenberg, TX, site in ***; however, production and shipments at that facility ceased by ***. EMC’s Arizona facility, owned by Mexican PC strand producer Cablesa, began production of PC strand in ***; however, production at that facility ceased in *** 2007. RettCo Steel, LLC (“Rettco”)/MMI StrandCo. (“MMI”) commenced PC strand operations in 2005. A summary of changes in the U.S. industry since the Commission’s original investigation concerning PC strand imports from Japan is presented in figure I-1.

There are currently five U.S. producers of PC strand: American, Insteel, Rettco/MMI,⁷⁷ Strand-Tech, and Sumiden. Presented in table I-9 is a list of current domestic producers of PC strand and each company’s position on the finding/orders, production location(s), related and/or affiliated firm(s), and share of 2008 PC strand production.

As indicated in table I-9, *** currently operating domestic producers of PC strand support the continuation of the finding/orders subject to these reviews. Domestic production of PC strand is concentrated in the Southeast (Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee), Midwest (Ohio), Central Southwest (Texas), and Pacific Coast (California). ***, the largest domestic PC strand producer, operates *** PC strand production facilities located in the *** area of the United States.

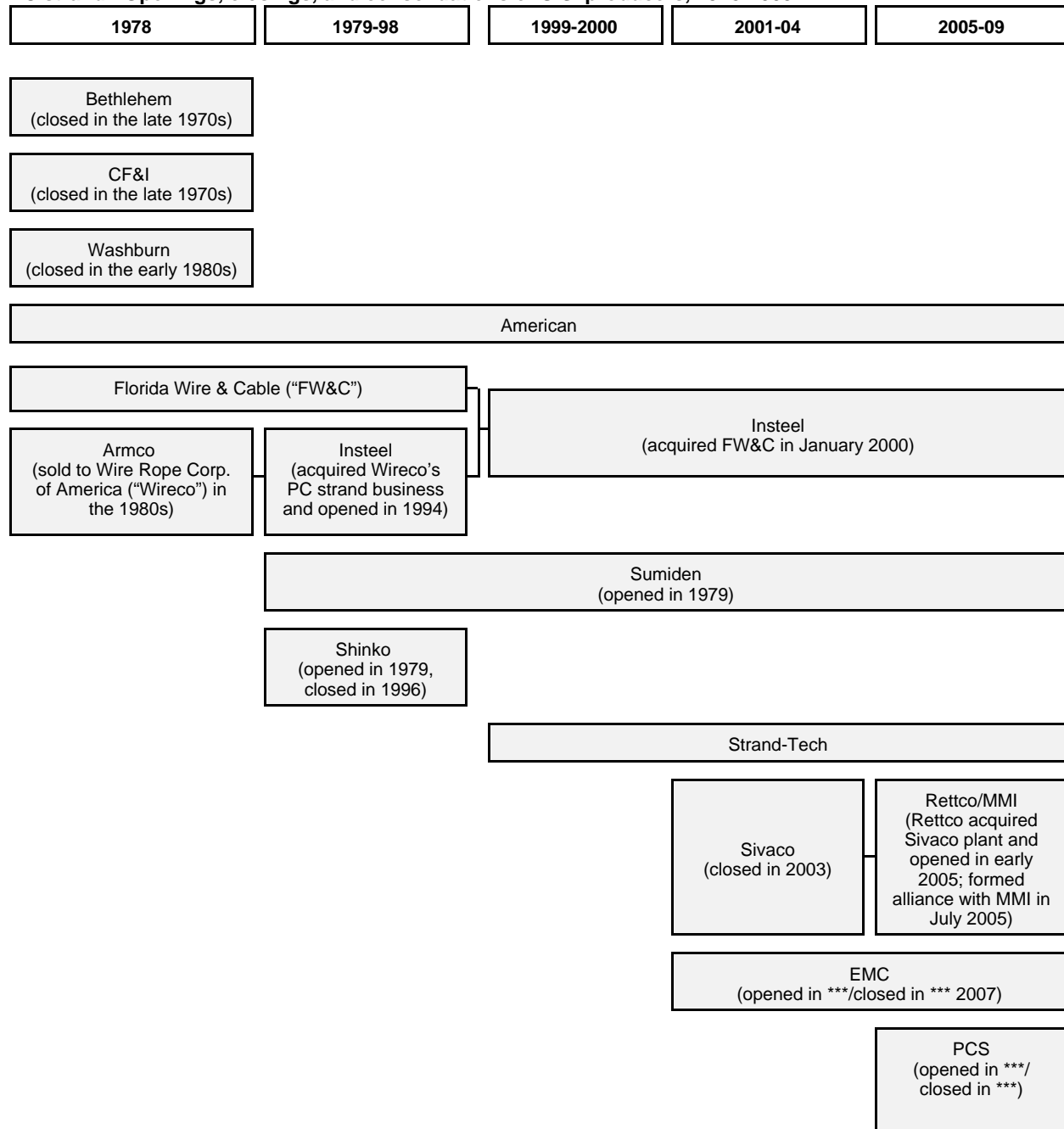
The current U.S. producers are not related to any subject foreign producers or U.S. importers of PC strand from the subject countries. However, two U.S. producers reported being related to foreign producers that are not subject to the finding/orders: *** Sumiden is related to Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd. (“Sumitomo”)⁷⁸ ***.

⁷⁶ Sumiden and Shinko are subsidiaries of Japanese PC strand producers Sumitomo and Shinko Wire, respectively.

⁷⁷ Rettco (the “toller” or “toll producer”) produces PC strand under an exclusive toll agreement with MMI (the “tollee”). MMI furnishes Rettco with the raw material (i.e., wire rod), pays Rettco a conversion fee for producing finished PC strand, and sells the finished PC strand. The production, capacity, capacity utilization, and employment data presented in this report were submitted by toller Rettco and the shipment, inventory, pricing, and primary financial data were provided by MMI.

⁷⁸ On August 29, 1986, Commerce revoked the finding with respect to imports produced by Sumitomo Electric Ind., Ltd. and exported by the Sumitomo Corp. 51 FR 30894, August 29, 1986.

Figure I-1
PC strand: Openings, closings, and consolidations of U.S. producers, 1978-2009



Source: *Steel Wire Strand for Prestressed Concrete from Japan, Investigation No. AA 1921-188 (Final)*, USITC Publication 928, November 1978; *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Japan, Investigation No. AA 1921-188 (Review)*, USITC Publication 3156, February 1999; *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand From Japan, Investigation No. AA1921-188 (Second Review)*, USITC Publication 3699, June 2004; *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand From China, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Preliminary)*, USITC Publication 4086, July 2009; email from *** to Mary Messer, June 26, 2009; email from *** to Mary Messer, November 3, 2009; responses to Commission questionnaires; and Rettco company web site, <http://www.rettco.com/index.html>, accessed September 14, 2009.

Table I-9

PC strand: U.S. producers, positions on the finding/orders, U.S. production locations, related and/or affiliated firms, and shares of 2008 U.S. production

Firm	Position on finding/orders	U.S. production location(s)	Related and/or affiliated firms	Share of production (percent)
American	Support	Bedford Heights, OH Houston, TX	***	***
Insteel	Support	Gallatin, TN Sanderson, FL	Wholly owned by Insteel Industries, Inc. (US)	***
MMI ¹	***	Houston, TX	***	(²)
Rettco ¹	***	Newnan, GA	***	***
Strand-Tech	***	Summerville, SC	***	***
Sumiden	Support	Dickson, TN Stockton, CA	***	***

¹ Tollee MMI has a contractual agreement with toll producer Rettco in which MMI supplies the raw materials, the conversion fee, and the sales force and Rettco converts the raw material to finished PC strand. *** of Rettco's production of PC strand is produced for MMI under this tolling arrangement.

² Not applicable.

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to Commission questionnaires; *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from China, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Preliminary)*, USITC Publication 4086, July 2009.

U.S. Importers

In the mid- to late-1970s (i.e., the period examined in the original investigation concerning PC strand from Japan), the subject merchandise was imported into the United States principally by eight large importing companies, although several smaller companies made occasional purchases from Japan. Companies engaged in importing PC strand into the United States included some of Japan's largest trading houses, such as Kawasho, Mitsubishi, and Mitsui. In the Commission's first review of the order concerning Japan instituted in 1998, the domestic interested parties identified three firms that they believed to be importers of PC stand from Japan: Mitsubishi, Nippon, and Mitrans. In addition to these three firms, the domestic interested parties identified two more U.S. importers of subject merchandise from Japan in their response to the Commission's notice of initiation in the second review of the Japanese order instituted in 2004: Mitsui and Nissho Iwai.

In response to Commission questionnaires sent to importers in the final phase of the original 2004 investigations concerning Brazil, Korea, India, Mexico, and Thailand, 12 firms supplied usable data, 8 of which imported PC strand from the countries subject to those investigations. The eight firms and the countries from which they imported subject merchandise are as follows: Crispin Co. ("Crispin") (Brazil and Korea), Trefilarbed Inc. (Brazil), Tata, Inc. ("Tata") (India), Kiswire Trading, Inc. (Korea), Camesa, Inc. (Mexico), Cablesa (Mexico), Universal Products Group, Inc. (Mexico), and Cementhai SCT (USA), Inc. ("Cementhai") (Thailand).

In these current reviews of the orders concerning PC strand, the domestic interested parties identified 54 U.S. firms that they believe imported the subject merchandise into the United States during

the review period.⁷⁹ The Mexican interested parties identified an additional 14 firms that they believe imported the subject merchandise from Mexico.⁸⁰

Importer questionnaires were sent to 68 possible importers of PC strand, as well as to all U.S. producers of PC strand.⁸¹ Usable questionnaire responses were received from 22 companies. Responding U.S. importers represented *** percent of total imports from Brazil, *** percent of total imports from India, *** percent of total imports from Japan, *** percent of total imports from Korea, *** percent of total imports from Thailand, and over 100 percent of total imports from all other countries combined during 2003-08 under HTS statistical reporting numbers 7312.10.3010 and 7312.10.3012. None of the responding firms reported imports of subject merchandise from Mexico during 2003-08. Table I-10 lists all responding U.S. importers of PC strand, their locations, and their shares of U.S. imports, by source, during 2003-08. As the table illustrates, there were only six responding importers of subject merchandise during the period of review: ***. *** were the largest importers of PC strand from nonsubject countries.

U.S. Purchasers

Twenty-one purchasers, accounting for 21.6 percent of U.S. apparent consumption of PC strand in 2008, provided purchaser questionnaire responses. Suncoast, *** the self-proclaimed largest purchaser, reported PC strand purchases of \$*** (*** percent of U.S. apparent consumption) in 2008. Suncoast, located in Houston, Texas, characterized itself *** as a converter⁸² and construction firm for post-tensioned applications. The next largest responding purchasers were ***. Each of the top three responding purchasers (***) characterized themselves as both converters and construction firms, and all three supply post-tension applications.

Overall, six of the twenty-one responding purchasers reported that they are construction firms, six manufacture prestressed/precast concrete products, three are both converters and construction firms, three are converters, one is a converter and fabricator of PC strand, one provides ground control for the mining industry, and one supplies manufactured post-tensioned cable to government contractors. Concerning applications, ten purchasers reported supplying post-tension applications, eight supplied pre-tension applications, and three supplied both post-tension and pre-tension applications. The responding purchasers are relatively geographically dispersed, although five of the responding purchasers are located in Texas and three are located in California.

APPARENT U.S. CONSUMPTION AND MARKET SHARES

Table I-11 presents apparent U.S. consumption for the review period and table I-12 presents U.S. market shares for the same period. Apparent U.S. consumption of PC strand, as shown at tables I-11 and I-12, is based on U.S. producers' U.S. shipments of PC strand and subject imports as compiled from official U.S. import statistics of Commerce.

⁷⁹ *Response to Commission's Notice of Institution of Domestic Interested Parties*, Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)), January 16, 2009, exh. 10.

⁸⁰ *Response to Commission's Notice of Institution of Camesa and Deacero*, Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)), January 21, 2009, p. 7.

⁸¹ The Commission sent questionnaires to firms that may have imported at least 50 metric tons under HTS statistical reporting numbers 7312.10.3010 and 7312.10.3012 in any one year since 2003, based on a review of data provided by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

⁸² The Commission questionnaires defined converters as firms that cover PC strand.

Table I-10

PC strand: U.S. importers, U.S. locations, source(s) of imports, and shares of official imports during 2003-08

Firm	Location(s)	Source of imports	Share of 2003-08 official import statistics (percent)						
			Brazil	India	Japan	Korea	Mexico	Thailand	Other
A.G. Royce Metal Marketing (dba Concrete Reinforcing Products)	Sunrise, FL	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
ArcelorMittal International Americas	Chicago, IL	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
BlueLinX Corp.	Atlanta, GA	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Cementhai SCT USA, Inc.	Torrance, CA	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Corus America, Inc.	Schaumburg, IL	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Crispin Co. (The)	Houston, TX	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Davis Wire Corp.	Irwindale, CA	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Freyssinet, Inc.	Aurora, IL Norcross, GA Sterling, VA	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Global Steel Sales Corp.	Atlanta, GA	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Insteel Wire Products Co.	Mount Airy, NC	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Metal One America, Inc.	Rosemont, IL	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Nedri Spanstaal	Venlo, Netherlands	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Nucor Steel Birmingham, Inc.	Birmingham, AL	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
OM Industrial Products Corp.	Houston, TX	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Pacific Coast Steel	San Diego, CA	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Precision Sure-Lock	Dallas, TX	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Stemcor USA, Inc.	New York, NY	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Sumiden Wire Products Corp.	Dickson, TN Stockton, CA	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Tata, Inc.	New York, NY	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Westco Systems Inc.	San Francisco, CA	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
WireCo WorldGroup	Kansas City, MO	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Wire Source LLC (The)	Alpharetta, GA	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Total, all			***	***	***	***	***	***	***

¹ Less than 0.05 percent.

Note.—Because of rounding, figures may not add to the totals shown.

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to Commission questionnaires and from official Commerce import statistics.

Table I-11
PC strand: U.S. shipments of domestic product, U.S. imports, and apparent U.S. consumption, 2003-08,
January-June 2008, and January-June 2009

Item	Calendar year						January-June	
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2008	2009
<i>Quantity (1,000 pounds)</i>								
U.S. producers' U.S. shipments	564,035	573,700	621,842	627,436	582,801	529,972	325,484	183,024
U.S. imports from--								
Brazil	21,511	449	0	0	0	0	0	0
India	3,210	34	2	2	235	209	0	0
Korea	36,934	316	258	3,958	2,831	3,325	1,661	86
Mexico	38,257	867	555	1,526	2,283	1,514	759	2,214
Thailand	6,791	5,800	624	45	0	0	0	0
Subtotal, 5 subject countries	106,703	7,466	1,439	5,530	5,349	5,048	2,421	2,300
Japan ¹	768	1,545	1,564	1,580	1,952	1,380	1,224	0
Subtotal, 6 subject countries	107,471	9,011	3,003	7,111	7,301	6,429	3,644	2,300
Nonsubject countries ²	134,423	276,723	282,247	477,667	390,402	406,312	228,681	43,806
Total U.S. imports	241,894	285,733	285,250	484,778	397,703	412,741	232,325	46,106
Apparent U.S. consumption	805,929	859,433	907,092	1,112,214	980,504	942,713	557,809	229,130

Table continued on following page.

Table I-11—Continued

PC strand: U.S. shipments of domestic product, U.S. imports, and apparent U.S. consumption, 2003-08, January-June 2008, and January-June 2009

Item	Calendar year						January-June	
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2008	2009
<i>Value (1,000 dollars)</i>								
U.S. producers' U.S. shipments	153,420	254,156	301,420	297,410	268,344	333,721	179,133	97,946
U.S. imports from—								
Brazil	4,610	168	0	0	0	0	0	0
India	704	41	17	9	81	156	0	0
Korea	7,995	167	196	1,506	1,399	2,201	1,081	54
Mexico	11,534	290	187	729	1,036	885	377	997
Thailand	1,572	1,819	240	25	0	0	0	0
Subtotal, 5 subject countries	26,415	2,485	640	2,268	2,516	3,241	1,458	1,051
Japan ¹	399	876	1,092	1,100	1,343	916	874	0
Subtotal, 6 subject countries	26,813	3,361	1,732	3,368	3,859	4,157	2,333	1,051
Nonsubject countries ²	34,990	95,994	122,471	164,334	134,966	211,890	102,835	19,839
Total U.S. imports	61,803	99,355	124,203	167,702	138,825	216,047	105,168	20,889
Apparent U.S. consumption	215,223	353,511	425,623	465,112	407,169	549,768	284,301	118,835
<p>¹ According to ***, *** accounted for *** of all U.S. imports of product under the applicable HTS statistical reporting numbers from Japan during the period examined in these reviews. However, *** did not import subject PC strand from Japan during the period. Rather, the merchandise it imports from Japan under the applicable HTS statistical reporting numbers is galvanized strand, which is not subject to these reviews. After extracting the import data for ***, U.S. imports from Japan are as follows: ***.</p> <p>² Major nonsubject countries exporting PC strand to the United States during 2003-08 include Argentina, Belgium, Canada, China, France, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Malaysia, Netherlands, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, and Taiwan. The largest nonsubject suppliers of imported PC strand to the United States during 2008 were China, Canada, Portugal, and Italy.</p>								
<p>Note.—Because of rounding, figures may not add to the totals shown.</p>								
<p>Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to Commission questionnaires and from official import statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce.</p>								

Table I-12

PC strand: U.S. consumption and market shares, 2003-08, January-June 2008, and January-June 2009

Item	Calendar year						January-June	
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2008	2009
Quantity (1,000 pounds)								
Apparent U.S. consumption	805,929	859,433	907,092	1,112,214	980,504	942,713	557,809	229,130
Value (1,000 dollars)								
Apparent U.S. consumption	215,223	353,511	425,623	465,112	407,169	549,768	284,301	118,835
Share of quantity (percent)								
U.S. producers' U.S. shipments	70.0	66.8	68.6	56.4	59.4	56.2	58.4	79.9
U.S. imports from--								
Brazil	2.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
India	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Korea	4.6	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.0
Mexico	4.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	1.0
Thailand	0.8	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Subtotal, 5 subject	13.2	0.9	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	1.0
Japan ¹	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0
Subtotal, 6 subject	13.3	1.0	0.3	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.0
Nonsubject ²	16.7	32.2	31.1	42.9	39.8	43.1	41.0	19.1
Total imports	30.0	33.2	31.4	43.6	40.6	43.8	41.6	20.1
Share of value (percent)								
U.S. producers' U.S. shipments	71.3	71.9	70.8	63.9	65.9	60.7	63.0	82.4
U.S. imports from--								
Brazil	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
India	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Korea	3.7	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.0
Mexico	5.4	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.8
Thailand	0.7	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Subtotal, 5 subject	12.3	0.7	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.9
Japan ¹	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.0
Subtotal, 6 subject	12.5	1.0	0.4	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9
Nonsubject ²	16.3	27.2	28.8	35.3	33.1	38.5	36.2	16.7
Total imports	28.7	28.1	29.2	36.1	34.1	39.3	37.0	17.6
¹ According to ***. Therefore, the shares presented for subject merchandise from Japan are overstated by the amount of nonsubject galvanized strand imports. ² Major nonsubject countries exporting PC strand to the United States during 2003-08 include Argentina, Belgium, Canada, China, France, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Malaysia, Netherlands, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, and Taiwan. The largest nonsubject suppliers of imported PC strand to the United States during 2008 were China, Canada, Portugal, and Italy.								
Note.--Because of rounding, figures may not add to the totals shown.								
Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to Commission questionnaires and from official Commerce statistics.								

The demand for PC strand is derived from demand for prestressed concrete which, in turn, is derived from demand in the construction industry, including infrastructure, housing, and commercial/institutional construction. According to data published by the U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. private residential construction spending, which peaked in August 2005, trended downward thereafter.⁸³ The apparent U.S. consumption of PC strand, in terms of quantity, followed the same general trend.⁸⁴ In terms of quantity, apparent U.S. consumption of PC strand increased from 2003 to 2006, but fell thereafter to a level that was still 17.0 percent higher in 2008 than was reported for 2003. Apparent U.S. consumption was 58.9 percent lower on the basis of quantity during the first half of 2009 than in the comparable period of 2008. Slab-on-grade fabrication connected to residential construction reportedly declined and the use and need for PC strand associated with it likewise declined since 2006, which was the peak year for U.S. residential construction. The demand for other end uses of PC strand reportedly remained relatively steady, but recently has been affected by the downturn in the global economy.⁸⁵

In terms of value, apparent U.S. consumption increased by 155.4 percent from 2003 to 2008, which reflects the increasing unit values of imported and domestically produced PC strand during the same time period. These increases are somewhat reflective of the increase in the cost of the primary raw material (wire rod), which accounts for the vast majority of the cost of producing the product. In fact, the cost of wire rod for the domestic producers of PC strand doubled from late 2007 to August 2008.⁸⁶

The share of apparent U.S. consumption (on the basis of quantity) accounted for by domestic PC strand producers fell overall from a high of 70.0 percent in 2003 to a low of 56.2 percent in 2008; however, the share of apparent U.S. consumption held by the domestic producers during the first six months of 2009 was noticeably higher than the share held in the comparable period of 2008. Likewise, the combined share of apparent U.S. consumption (on the basis of quantity) accounted for by the six countries subject to these reviews fell from a period high of 13.3 percent in 2003 to 1.0 percent in 2004. The aggregate share held by the six subject countries remained at 1.0 percent or below for the remainder of the period examined in these reviews.⁸⁷ On the other hand, nonsubject countries (dominated by China) gained U.S. market share during the period examined in these reviews. The share of apparent U.S. consumption (on the basis of quantity) held by nonsubject countries increased overall from a low of 16.7 percent in 2003 to a high of 43.1 percent in 2008; however, the share of apparent U.S. consumption held by nonsubject countries during the first six months of 2009 was noticeably lower than the share held in the comparable period of 2008.

⁸³ Domestic producers' prehearing brief, pp. 38-39; and figure II-1 of this report.

⁸⁴ The domestic interested parties pointed out that apparent U.S. consumption of PC strand declined at a faster pace than the rate of decline in overall construction spending in 2009, reflecting primarily the inventory overhang by imports from China, which they claim further reduced demand for PC strand in the United States during 2009. The domestic interested parties added that although most of the Chinese PC strand import overhang has now been "worked off," they are not currently seeing any significant increase in the demand for PC strand. Additionally, they testified that the U.S. stimulus package "has had no discernable impact on demand for PC strand, nor will Buy American provisions in the stimulus package, or otherwise, increase demand for our product or protect us from competition with unfairly traded imports." Hearing transcript, pp. 29-30 (Woltz).

⁸⁵ *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from China, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Preliminary)*, USITC Publication 4086, July 2009, p. IV-10.

⁸⁶ *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from China, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Preliminary)*, USITC Publication 4086, July 2009, p. IV-10.

⁸⁷ As previously mentioned, the subject import data as calculated from official import statistics are overstated by the entry of nonsubject merchandise (e.g., galvanized strand) under the applicable HTS statistical reporting numbers for the subject PC strand.

PART II: CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION IN THE U.S. MARKET

U.S. MARKET CHARACTERISTICS

PC strand is used in the construction of prestressed concrete structural members. PC strand serves to compress the concrete members to offset, or neutralize, forces which occur when the prestressed concrete members are subject to load. Typical applications for prestressed concrete include bridge decks, bridge girders, pilings, precast concrete panels and structural supports, roof trusses, floor supports, and certain concrete foundations.

PC strand is used to prestress concrete either by pre-tensioning or by post-tensioning. In pre-tensioning, the PC strand is tensioned before the concrete is cured, and in post-tensioning the PC strand is tensioned after the concrete is cured. Most pre-tensioned concrete elements are prefabricated in a factory and must be transported to the construction site. Pre-tensioned components may be used in balconies, lintels, floor slabs, beams, or foundation piles. Unlike pre-tensioning, post-tensioning takes place on the job site in cast-in-place applications.¹ The predominant end uses of post-tensioned PC strand are in slab-on-grade construction and in buildings for floors with moderate-to-long spans and moderate floor loads such as in parking garages and residential buildings.²

CHANNELS OF DISTRIBUTION

U.S. shipments of PC strand by U.S. producers and importers to post-tensioners/converters,³ other end users, and other distributors are shown in table II-1. U.S. producers' U.S. shipments of PC strand were evenly divided between sales to post-tensioners/converters and other end users during 2003-06. During 2007-09, however, domestic PC strand producers have sold an increasingly greater share to other end users. U.S. importers only reported U.S. shipments of subject country PC strand during 2003 and 2004, with the vast majority of these shipments going to post-tensioners/converters. U.S. importers of PC strand from all other countries (primarily China) likewise sold the vast majority of their PC strand to post-tensioners/converters during January 2003-June 2009. Additional discussion of cumulation considerations appears in Part IV of this report, beginning on page IV-7.

U.S. producers' shipments of PC strand to post-tensioners/converters fell from a period high of *** pounds in 2005 to a period low of *** pounds in 2008, and were lower in January-June 2009 (at *** than in January-June 2008 (at *** pounds). At the same time, U.S. importers' U.S. shipments of nonsubject country PC strand to post-tensioners/converters increased *** from *** pounds in 2005 to *** pounds in 2006, before declining to *** pounds in 2008. Overall, total U.S. shipments of PC strand to post-tensioners/converters accounted for an increasing share of the U.S. PC strand market during 2003-06, increasing from *** pounds in 2003 to *** pounds in 2006, before falling to *** pounds in 2007 and to *** pounds in 2008 (figure II-1). Total U.S. shipments of PC strand to other end users showed less variation during the same period, ranging from *** pounds in 2003 to *** pounds in 2007.

¹ *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from China, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Preliminary)*, USITC Publication 4086, July 2009, p. II-1.

² Craig D. Olson and Laura N. Smith, "Building with Concrete: Post-tensioned Concrete for Today's Market," *The Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce*, May 9, 1997, <http://www.djc.com/special/concrete97/10024302.htm>. The Post-Tensioning Institute reported that slab-on-grade construction (**% percent) and buildings (**% percent) accounted for the largest shares of PTI member tonnages to post-tensioners in 2007. Post-Tensioning Institute, *PTI Tonnage Report: Summary of Post-tensioning Industry Shipments in North America (1972-2007)*, 2008, p. 1.

³ The post-tensioners/converters category includes end users and distributors that convert or post-tension PC strand.

Table II-1

PC strand: U.S. producers' and importers' U.S. shipments, by sources and channels of distribution, 2003-08 and January-June 2009¹

Item	Period						
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Jan.-June 2009
	Share of quantity (in percent)						
U.S. producers' U.S. shipments of PC strand to:							
Post-tensioners/converters	48.7	46.6	50.7	46.7	40.6	36.7	34.1
Other end users	51.3	53.4	49.3	53.3	59.4	63.3	65.9
Other distributors	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
U.S. importers' U.S. shipments of PC strand from Brazil to:							
Post-tensioners/converters	***	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Other end users	***	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Other distributors	***	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
U.S. importers' U.S. shipments of PC strand from India to:							
Post-tensioners/converters	***	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Other end users	***	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Other distributors	***	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
U.S. importers' U.S. shipments of PC strand from Korea to:							
Post-tensioners/converters	***	***	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Other end users	***	***	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Other distributors	***	***	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
U.S. importers' U.S. shipments of PC strand from Thailand to:							
Post-tensioners/converters	***	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Other end users	***	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Other distributors	***	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)

Table continued on following page.

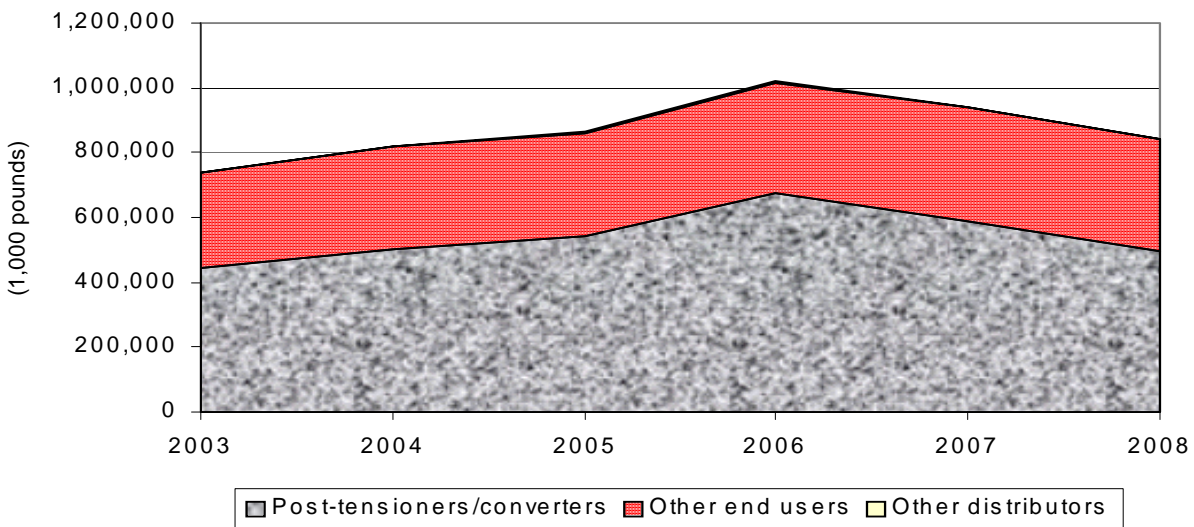
Table II-1--Continued

PC strand: U.S. producers' and importers' U.S. shipments, by sources and channels of distribution, 2003-08 and January-June 2009¹

Item	Period						
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Jan.-June 2009
Share of quantity (in percent)							
U.S. importers' U.S. shipments of PC strand from all other countries to:							
Post-tensioners/converters	95.4	95.9	93.4	96.9	98.0	97.8	88.4
Other end users	3.6	3.3	5.8	2.5	2.0	2.2	11.6
Other distributors	0.9	0.7	0.8	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
¹ U.S. importers did not report U.S. shipments of imports of PC strand from Japan or Mexico during January 2003-June 2009. ² Not applicable.							
Note.— In the original investigations, U.S. producers' U.S. shipments of PC strand (uncoated and coated) to post-tensioners/converters accounted for between *** and *** percent of U.S. producers' U.S. shipments, while U.S. producers' U.S. shipments to other end users accounted for between *** and *** percent of U.S. producers' U.S. shipments during 2000-02. U.S. importers' U.S. shipments ***.							
Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to Commission questionnaires and the original investigation staff report.							

Figure II-1

PC strand: Total U.S. shipments of PC strand, by channels of distribution, 2003-08



Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to Commission questionnaires.

SUPPLY AND DEMAND CONSIDERATIONS

Supply

U.S. Supply

Available information indicates that U.S. PC strand producers have the ability to respond to changes in demand with relatively large changes in the quantity of shipments of U.S.-produced PC strand to the U.S. market. The main contributing factors to the high degree of supply responsiveness are relatively low industry capacity utilization rates and relatively large inventory levels.

Industry capacity

U.S. producers operated at relatively low levels of capacity utilization, particularly by the end of the period. U.S. producers' capacity to produce PC strand increased from 742.3 million pounds in 2003 to 903.8 million pounds in 2008, and was steady at 454.7 million pounds in January-June 2008 and 456.3 million pounds in January-June 2009. However, U.S. producers' capacity utilization rates fluctuated between 77.9 percent and 83.0 percent during 2003-06, then fell to 61.8 percent in 2008, and were 37.8 percent in January-June 2009 (compared to 72.0 percent in January-June 2008).

Alternative markets

U.S. producers' export shipments accounted for a relatively small share of their total shipments during January 2003-June 2009. U.S. producers' export shipments, as a share of total shipments, fluctuated between *** percent and *** percent during 2003-08, and were *** percent in January-June 2009 compared to *** percent in January-June 2008. Principal U.S. export markets include ***.

Inventory levels

U.S. producers' inventory levels, relative to shipments, increased over the period. The ratio of U.S. producers' inventories to total shipments increased unevenly from *** percent in 2003 to *** percent in 2008. U.S. producers' annualized inventory ratios were *** higher in January-June 2009 (***) than in January-June 2008 (***) percent).

Production alternatives

Only one of the responding U.S. producers (***) reported that it was able to switch production between PC strand and other products in response to a relative change in the price of PC strand, using the same equipment and labor. ***.

Supply constraints

Two of the five responding U.S. producers reported that there have been instances when they have refused, declined, or been unable to supply PC strand since January 1, 2003. ***.⁴ ***.

⁴ As reported in the trade press, Insteel, "faced with a major maintenance outage by one of its rod suppliers last year after having been placed on controlled order entry by other domestic suppliers, looked overseas for relief," although the company reportedly paid "top-of-the-market" prices and saw the wire rod market "collapse" by the time the wire rod arrived. AMM, "Insteel gets caught in import squeeze," January 15, 2009.

Subject Imports from Brazil

The Commission received a questionnaire response from Belgo, the sole Brazilian PC strand producer in 2008. Based on available information, Belgo has the ability to respond to changes in demand with moderate changes in the quantity of shipments of PC strand to the U.S. market if the antidumping duty order on PC strand from Brazil were revoked. The main contributing factor to Belgo's moderate degree of responsiveness is the available levels of unused capacity. Factors that would inhibit Belgo's supply responsiveness include relatively high levels of capacity utilization, relatively low levels of exports to alternate markets, and relatively low inventory levels.

Industry capacity

Belgo's capacity utilization rates fluctuated between *** and *** percent during 2003-08, as capacity levels were *** and production levels varied. Although Belgo's capacity utilization rates were ***, its excess capacity of *** pounds in 2008 indicates that Belgo has some ability to increase production of PC strand from current capacity if the antidumping duty order on PC strand from Brazil were revoked.

Alternative markets

Belgo increasingly focused on shipping PC strand to its home market, with its home market shipments accounting for *** percent of its total shipments in 2008. Belgo's export shipments to markets other than the United States accounted for a declining share of its total shipments, falling to *** percent in 2008.⁵ Belgo's current focus on its home market suggests that it has relatively little ability to shift PC strand shipments to the United States from alternate export markets.

Inventory levels

Belgo's reported inventories, relative to total shipments, *** during 2003-08. Belgo's relatively low inventory levels indicate that it does not have the ability to use inventories as a means of increasing shipments of PC strand to the U.S. market.

Production alternatives

***.

Supply constraints

***.

Subject Imports from India

The Commission received a questionnaire response from one Indian PC strand producer, Usha Martin, accounting for an estimated *** percent of total Indian production of PC strand in 2008. Based on available information, Usha Martin has the ability to respond to changes in demand with moderate-to-high changes in the quantity of shipments of PC strand to the U.S. market if the antidumping duty order on PC strand from India were revoked. The main contributing factors to Usha Martin's moderate-to-high

⁵ Belgo's principal export markets in 2008 were ***.

degree of responsiveness are the available levels of unused capacity and inventory, tempered by the *** share of Indian PC strand shipments sold in the home market.

Industry capacity

Usha Martin's capacity utilization rates fell *** percent in 2004, then increased steadily to *** percent in 2008. Although Usha Martin's capacity utilization rates were ***, its excess capacity of *** pounds in 2008 indicates that it has some ability to increase production of PC strand from current capacity if the antidumping duty order on PC strand from India were revoked.

Alternative markets

Usha Martin's export shipments of PC strand to countries other than the United States accounted for *** of its total shipments of PC strand during 2004 and 2008, *** portion of its total shipments of PC strand during 2003 and 2005-07. Usha Martin's *** indicates that it has a moderate ability to shift PC strand shipments to the United States from alternate export markets.

Inventory levels

Usha Martin's inventories, as a ratio to total shipments, ranged widely, from a low of *** percent in 2008 to a high of *** percent in 2005. Usha Martin's current inventory levels indicate that it has some ability to use inventories as a means of increasing shipments of PC strand to the U.S. market.

Production alternatives

Usha Martin reported that, since 2003, it *** produce other products on the same equipment and machinery used to produce PC strand, and *** switch between production of PC strand and production of other products in response to relative changes in price.

Supply constraints

Usha Martin reported that ***.

Subject Imports from Japan

The Commission received usable questionnaire responses from two Japanese PC strand producers, Tesac and Tokyo Rope, accounting for an estimated *** percent of total Japanese PC strand production in 2008. Based on available information, these Japanese producers have the ability to respond to changes in demand with low-to-moderate changes in the quantity of shipments of PC strand to the U.S. market if the antidumping duty finding on PC strand from Japan were revoked. The main contributing factors to the low to moderate degree of supply responsiveness are these Japanese PC strand producers' relatively low capacity utilization rates, lack of alternate markets, relatively low inventory levels, and inability to shift production to and from other products. Responding Japanese producers' levels of available excess capacity indicate some ability to increase production in response to revocation of the antidumping duty finding on Japanese PC strand.

Industry capacity

Reported Japanese capacity utilization rates fell from a high of *** percent in 2003 to *** percent in 2006. Since 2006, capacity for these firms was reduced by over *** pounds, and capacity

utilization rose to *** percent in 2008. Although capacity utilization rates were ***, excess capacity of *** pounds in 2008 indicates that the responding Japanese producers have some ability to increase production of PC strand from current capacity if the antidumping duty finding on PC strand from Japan were revoked.

Alternative markets

Responding Japanese producers reported *** export shipments of PC strand between 2003 and 2008. *** exports indicates that these Japanese producers have *** ability to shift PC strand shipments to the United States from alternate export markets.

Inventory levels

Reported Japanese producers' inventories as a ratio to total shipments peaked in 2004 at *** percent, before decreasing to *** percent in 2008. Responding Japanese producers' current *** inventory levels indicate that they have *** ability to use inventories as a means of increasing shipments of PC strand to the U.S. market.

Production alternatives

Both responding Japanese producers reported that, since 2003, they *** other products on the same equipment and machinery used to produce PC strand. Responding Japanese producers also reported that they *** switch between production of PC strand and production of other products in response to relative changes in price.

Supply constraints

*** reported *** constraints on production of PC strand.

Subject Imports from Korea

The Commission received questionnaire responses from two Korean PC strand producers, Dong Il and Young Heung, accounting for an estimated *** percent of total Korean production in 2008. Based on available information, these Korean producers have the ability to respond to changes in demand with moderate-to-high changes in the quantity of shipments of PC strand to the U.S. market if the antidumping duty order on PC strand from Korea were revoked. The main contributing factors to the moderate-to-high degree of supply responsiveness are the available levels of unused capacity and the *** share of Korean PC strand shipments that could be diverted from other export markets to the United States.

Industry capacity

Reported Korean capacity utilization rates rose steadily from *** percent in 2003 to *** percent in 2007, then declined *** percent in 2008. Reported Korean excess capacity of *** pounds in 2008 indicates that these Korean producers have some ability to increase production of PC strand from current capacity if the antidumping duty order on PC strand from Korea were revoked.

Alternative markets

Reported Korean exports as a share of total shipments fell irregularly from *** percent of shipments in 2003 to *** percent in 2008. However, even with the declining focus on export markets,

reported Korean exports of ***. Furthermore, with the exception of 2003, reported Korean exports to countries other than the United States accounted for over *** percent of reported Korean total exports each year. Despite these Korean producers' reduced focus on export markets, *** of these firms' Korean exports to countries other than the United States indicates that these Korean producers have the ability to shift PC strand shipments to the United States from alternate markets.

Inventory levels

Reported Korean inventories as a ratio to total shipments ranged from a low of *** percent in 2005 to a high of *** percent in 2008. These Korean producers' *** indicate that they have limited ability to use inventories as a means of increasing shipments of PC strand to the U.S. market.

Production alternatives

*** reported that, since 2003, they *** other products on the same equipment and machinery used to produce PC strand. *** also reported that they are *** to switch between production of PC strand and production of other products in response to relative changes in price.

Supply constraints

*** reported *** constraints on production of PC strand.⁶

Subject Imports from Mexico

The Commission received usable questionnaire responses from two Mexican PC strand producers, Aceros Camesa and Deacero, accounting for an estimated 100 percent of total Mexican production of PC strand in 2008. Based on available information, Mexican producers have the ability to respond to changes in demand with moderate-to-high changes in the quantity of shipments of PC strand to the U.S. market if the antidumping duty order on PC strand from Mexico were revoked. The main contributing factors to the moderate-to-high degree of supply responsiveness are Mexican producers' *** and increasing levels of unused capacity.

Industry capacity

Reported Mexican capacity utilization rates increased irregularly from *** percent in 2003 to *** percent in 2006. In 2007 Mexican capacity ***, causing capacity utilization to decline to *** percent in 2008.⁷ Mexican producers' excess capacity of *** pounds in 2008 indicates that they are able to increase production of PC strand *** from current capacity if the antidumping duty order on PC strand from Mexico were revoked.

Alternative markets

Reported Mexican exports to countries other than the United States grew unevenly from *** percent of shipments in 2003 to *** percent of shipments in 2008. Mexican producers' growing export focus, particularly in 2008, indicates that Mexican producers have some ability to shift PC strand shipments to the United States from alternate markets.

⁶ ***.

⁷ Aceros Camesa reported that ***. Deacero reported that ***.

Inventory levels

Reported Mexican producers' inventories as a ratio to total shipments ranged from a low of *** percent in 2006 to a high of *** percent in 2004. These *** inventory levels indicate that Mexican producers do not have the ability to use inventories as a means of increasing shipments of PC strand to the U.S. market.

Production alternatives

*** reported that it produces *** on the same equipment and machinery used to produce PC strand, but also reported that it is *** in response to changes in relative price. *** reported that *** can be produced on the same machinery that is used to produce PC strand, but *** has ***.

Supply constraints

*** reported that constraints on production of PC strand include ***. *** reported that constraints that limit production capacity of PC strand include ***.

Subject Imports from Thailand

The Commission received a questionnaire response from one Thai PC strand producer, Thai Special Wire, accounting for an estimated *** percent of total Thai production of PC strand in 2008. Based on available information, Thai Special Wire has the ability to respond to changes in demand with moderate changes in the quantity of shipments of PC strand to the U.S. market if the antidumping duty order on PC strand from Thailand were revoked. The main contributing factors to Thai Special Wire's moderate degree of responsiveness are the available levels of excess capacity and inventory.

Industry capacity

Thai Special Wire's reported capacity utilization rates increased from a low of *** percent in 2003 to *** percent in 2005, fell again to *** percent in 2007, then increased to *** percent in 2008. Thai Special Wire's capacity utilization rates were *** and its excess capacity of *** pounds in 2008 indicates that this Thai producer has some ability to increase production of PC strand from current capacity if the antidumping duty order on PC strand from Thailand were revoked.

Alternative markets

Thai Special Wire reported *** 2008. In 2008, *** exports were to Asia, and these exports accounted for ***. *** level of exports indicates that it has *** ability to shift PC strand shipments to the United States from alternate export markets.

Inventory levels

Thai Special Wire's inventories, as a ratio to total shipments, ranged widely, from a low of *** percent in 2004 to a high of *** percent in 2006. Thai Special Wire's 2008 inventory level of *** percent indicates that it has some ability to use inventories as a means of increasing shipments of PC strand to the U.S. market.

Production alternatives

Thai Special Wire reported that, since 2003, *** produce other products on the same equipment and machinery used to produce PC strand, and *** to switch between production of PC strand and production of other products in response to relative changes in price.

Supply constraints

Thai Special Wire reported that there were *** constraints on its production of PC strand.

Factors Affecting Supply

U.S. producers, importers, and purchasers were asked if there have been any changes in factors affecting supply (such as changes in the availability or prices of energy or labor; transportation conditions; production capacity and/or methods of production; technology; export markets; or alternative production opportunities) that affected the availability of U.S.-produced PC strand in the U.S. market since 2003. Only one of five responding U.S. producers reported changes in factors affecting supply. ***.

Twelve of 17 responding importers reported changes in factors affecting supply. Cited changes include changes in U.S. steel prices, fluctuating export rebates from China, heavy demand for PC strand in the Middle East, increases in ocean freight rates, energy price volatility, large volumes of imported PC strand from China in the U.S. market since 2003, and price increases in the U.S. market due to the antidumping duties imposed on the subject countries.

Six of 19 responding purchasers reported changes in factors affecting supply. Cited changes include fluctuations in energy and scrap metal prices, and shortages in steel wire rod supplies that led to increases in steel wire rod prices.⁸

U.S. Demand

Based on available information, the overall demand for PC strand is likely to change moderately in response to changes in price. The relatively large cost share that PC strand accounts for in its end-use products, particularly in post-tensioned applications such as slabs-on-grade, suggests a higher demand elasticity.⁹ However, the somewhat limited number of substitute products reduces the elasticity of demand for PC strand.

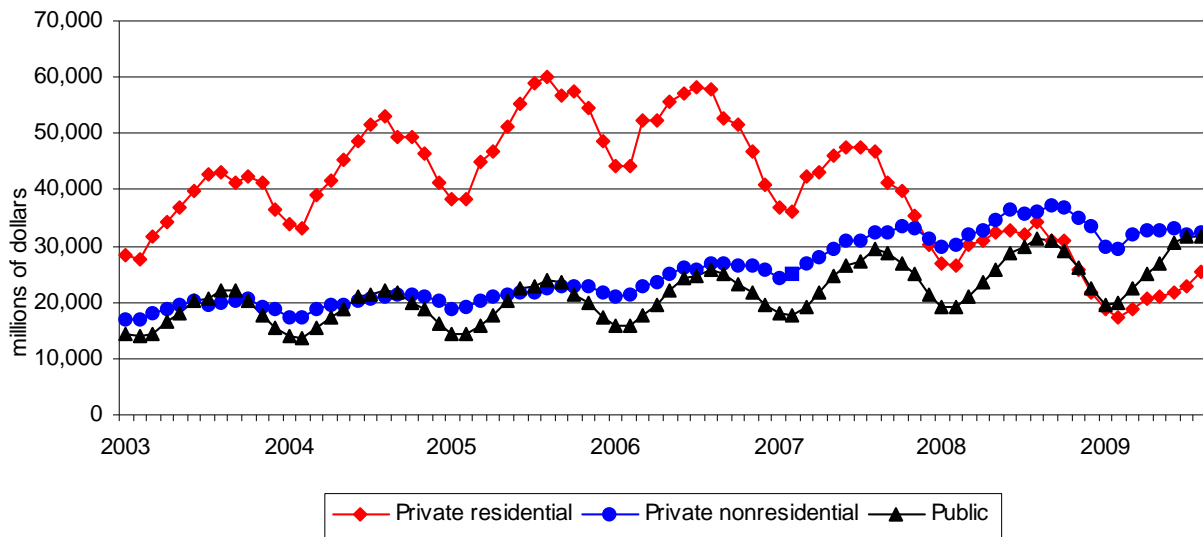
⁸ *** reported that, during 2007-08, energy and scrap metal prices rose, resulting in higher PC strand costs. *** reported that the U.S. steel rod supply has changed over the past two years. Some suppliers have exited the high carbon rod business and some steel companies have closed, thinning the supply chain and driving higher pricing. *** also noted fluctuations in scrap steel pricing and a weak global economy. *** reported that during 2003-04 there was a shortage of domestic steel wire rod; in 2008, there was a dramatic increase in steel wire rod costs because of the Chinese export tax on steel wire rod; and that these cost increases all but forced domestic producers out of the market. *** reported that, during 2005-08, there were dramatic changes in PC strand prices due to the apparent shortage of steel wire rod. *** reported that production of steel wire rod has been consolidated, which has affected the U.S. market.

⁹ Tim Johnson of Suncoast Post-tensioners reported that "I'm losing, on a single family house where we are delivering a cable package, I'm losing business for \$6 on a house. A house that you would buy for \$200,000, I'm losing business for \$6 on that cable package that's less than a half a cent a foot." *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from China, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Preliminary)*, USITC Publication 4086, July 2009, p. II-6.

Demand Characteristics

PC strand is used in the construction of prestressed concrete structural members. Prestressed concrete members are used in the construction of buildings, bridges, parking decks and garages, highways, and slabs for residences. Therefore, demand for PC strand is derived from the demand for construction, particularly infrastructure projects, commercial and institutional construction, large housing projects, and single-family housing. Monthly values of public, private nonresidential, and private residential construction are shown in figure II-2.

Figure II-2
Construction: Monthly values of construction put in place, by type, January 2003-August 2009



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, <http://www.census.gov/const/www/totpage.html>.

Monthly values of private residential construction trended upward, peaking at \$60.1 billion in August 2005, began trending downward in 2006, then trended sharply downward over the rest of the period. Monthly values for public construction and private nonresidential construction trended upward over the January 2003-August 2009 period, despite some leveling off in 2009.¹⁰ Private residential

¹⁰ In addition, the Architecture Billings Index (“ABI”), a leading indicator of U.S. construction activity, fell to 41.7 in August, down slightly from 43.1 in July. This score indicates a decline in demand for design services (any score below 50 indicates a decrease in billings). “While there have been occasional signs of optimism over the last few months, the overwhelming majority of architects are reporting that banks are extremely reluctant to provide financing for projects, and that new equity requirements and conservative appraisals are making it even more difficult for developers to get loans,” said American Institute of Architects’ Chief Economist Kermit Baker. “Until the anxiety within the financial community eases, these conditions are likely to continue.” Regional ABI averages were: Northeast (45.2), South (44.1), Midwest (42.0), and West (37.5). ABI sector index breakdowns were: commercial/index (45.6), multi-family residential (43.4), mixed practice (41.4), and institutional (37.5). “Architecture Billings Index Points to Continued Struggles for Construction Industry,” *Archinnovations*, September 24, 2009.

(continued...)

construction reportedly uses more slabs-on-grade, a post-tensioned application, than public construction and private nonresidential construction. This suggests that the demand for post-tensioning applications has decreased since 2005-06.

Business Cycles

Demand for PC strand is cyclical because it is a construction material, and demand for residential and non-residential construction is cyclical. Demand for PC strand is also seasonal because construction sites are more active during warmer weather months than during winter months, as can be seen in figure II-2. Therefore, U.S. demand for PC strand is generally higher during April-September than during October-March.¹¹

Ten of 19 responding purchasers reported that the PC strand market is subject to business cycles or conditions of competition that are distinctive to PC strand. In general, these purchasers noted that demand for PC strand depends on demand for construction, which tends to follow general economic trends. These purchasers also noted that demand for PC strand is influenced by the cost and availability of raw materials (wire rod). Only 4 of 19 responding purchasers reported that the emergence of new markets for PC strand since 2003 affected PC strand business cycles. One purchaser, ***, maintained that these business cycles tend to last 3-4 years.

Regional Demand for Post-Tensioned PC Strand

Data compiled by the Post-Tensioning Institute (PTI) indicate that U.S. shipments of PC strand for post-tensioning uses were ***.¹² Post-tensioning shipments of PC strand to ***. Post-tensioning shipments to ***.¹³

Consumption

Available data indicate that apparent U.S. consumption of PC strand increased by 38.0 percent from 805.9 million pounds in 2003 to a high of 1.1 billion pounds in 2006, then fell by 15.2 percent to 942.7 million pounds in 2008. Overall, apparent U.S. consumption of PC strand was 17.0 percent higher in 2008 than it was in 2003. Apparent U.S. consumption was 229.1 million pounds in January-June 2009 compared to 557.8 million pounds in January-June 2008.

¹⁰ (...continued)

<http://www.archinnovations.com/news/architecture-practice/architecture-billings-index-points-to-continued-struggles-for-construction-industry/>

¹¹ *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from China, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Preliminary)*, USITC Publication 4086, July 2009, p. II-7.

¹² The PTI-defined regions differ from the regions used in USITC questionnaires. The PTI Rocky Mountain states and Southwest zone includes CO, KS, MT, ND, NE, NM, OK, SD, TX, and WY. The PTI West Coast zone includes AK, AZ, CA, HI, ID, NV, OR, UT, and WA. The PTI Southeast zone includes AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN. The PTI Midwest zone includes IL, IN, IA, KY, MI, MN, MO, OH, and WI. The PTI Northeast zone includes CT, DE, MA, ME, MD, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT, VA, and WV. Post-Tensioning Institute, *PTI Tonnage Report: Summary of Post-tensioning Industry Shipments in North America (1972-2007)*, 2008, pp. 4-8.

¹³ *Ibid.*, p. 5.

Demand Trends

When asked how the U.S. demand for PC strand had changed since January 1, 2003, two U.S. producers reported that U.S. demand had decreased, one reported that U.S. demand had increased, and one reported that U.S. demand had fluctuated. Among the 17 responding importers, seven reported that U.S. demand had fluctuated, five reported that U.S. demand had decreased, and five reported that U.S. demand had increased. Firms that reported fluctuating U.S. demand for PC strand often cited increasing U.S. demand for commercial and residential construction during 2003 to mid-2008, then sharply declining demand for commercial and residential construction since then due to the economic conditions in the United States.

Most responding purchasers (11) reported that U.S. demand for PC strand had fluctuated since January 2003, four reported that U.S. demand had decreased, three reported that U.S. demand had increased, and two reported no change in demand. In general, purchasers reported that U.S. demand for PC strand was influenced by changes in the overall condition of the U.S. economy and by U.S. construction activity in particular.

Purchasers were asked if their purchasing patterns for PC strand from domestic, subject, and nonsubject sources had changed since 2003. Eight of 18 responding purchasers reported that their purchases of PC strand from domestic producers fluctuated, six reported that their domestic product purchases were constant, and five reported that their domestic product purchases increased. No responding purchaser reported that their purchases of PC strand from domestic producers decreased since 2003. Most purchasers that reported fluctuating purchases of domestic PC strand cited changes in U.S. construction market conditions.

In general, responding purchasers reported that their purchases of PC strand from subject country sources decreased since 2003. One purchaser, ***, reported that it discontinued purchases of Korean PC strand after the 2003 antidumping duty order was imposed. In contrast, six of 12 responding purchasers reported that their purchases of nonsubject Chinese PC strand increased since 2003, three reported that their Chinese product purchases fluctuated, and three reported that their Chinese product purchases were constant. As with domestic product purchases, no responding purchaser reported that its purchases of Chinese PC strand decreased since 2003. Purchasers that reported increased purchases of Chinese PC strand cited increased work on projects not subject to “Buy America(n)” provisions.

Anticipated Demand

U.S. producers, importers, and purchasers were asked how they anticipate U.S. demand for PC strand will change in the future. Most U.S. producers and importers reported that demand is expected to continue to decline in the near term (at least the next 12 months), and will only recover when U.S. demand for construction recovers.¹⁴ Several importers expect the eventual recovery to be sluggish. Most responding purchasers expect that demand will either increase or fluctuate in the future, as the U.S. economy recovers and infrastructure spending increases.

¹⁴ Insteel reported in its 10-Q for the period ending July 20, 2009 that “ Our visibility for business conditions through the remainder of 2009 is clouded by the continued uncertainty regarding future global economic conditions, the impact of the measures that have been undertaken to ease the tightening in the credit markets and the timing and magnitude of the impact of the additional federal infrastructure-related funding provided for under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Although we expect nonresidential construction, our primary demand driver, to decrease from the levels of recent years, particularly for commercial projects which have been the most severely impacted by the economic downturn, the additional infrastructure funding provided for under ARRA should serve to at least partially mitigate this decline. We anticipate that residential construction will remain weak, which would continue to adversely affect shipments to customers that have greater exposure to the housing sector.”

Federal spending on infrastructure is a factor that impacts U.S. demand for PC strand. On August 10, 2005, President George W. Bush signed into law the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). SAFETEA-LU guarantees funding for highways, highway safety, and public transportation totaling \$244.1 billion over 2005-09. Highway authorizations under SAFETEA-LU for fiscal year 2009 include \$6.6 billion for the Surface Transportation Program, \$6.3 billion for the National Highway System, \$5.2 billion for the Interstate Maintenance Program, and \$4.5 billion for the Bridge Program.¹⁵

On February 17, 2009, President Barack H. Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). ARRA is estimated by the Congressional Budget office to cost \$787 billion over the 2009-2019 period.¹⁶ For fiscal year 2009, ARRA provided \$17.4 billion worth of federal funds to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) through grants and cooperative agreements. The top five DOT programs receiving ARRA funding in fiscal 2009 were the Highway Planning and Construction program (\$12.6 billion), Federal Transit Formula Grants (\$3.1 billion), the Airport Improvement program (\$763 million), Federal Transit Capital Investment Grants (\$656 million), and Formula Grants for Other Than Urbanized Areas (\$313 million). The top five DOT recipients of ARRA funding in fiscal 2009 were the California Department of Transportation (\$1.6 billion), the Florida Department of Transportation (\$1.1 billion), the Texas State Department of Highways (\$726 million), the New York State Department of Transportation (\$650 million), and the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (\$604 million).¹⁷

However, at the Commission's hearing, petitioners maintained that the U.S. PC strand industry is not currently benefitting from the ARRA stimulus package.¹⁸ U.S. producers reported that a disproportionate share of the stimulus funding is going to "shovel ready" projects such as resurfacing and re-paving highways, that do not use PC strand.¹⁹ As a result, they contend that the stimulus funding is unlikely to have any effect on the U.S. PC strand industry in 2009, and only minimal effect in 2010.²⁰

¹⁵ U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration Web site. <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/safetealu/> (accessed September 10, 2009).

¹⁶ OpenCongress Web site. <http://www.opencongress.org/bill/111-h1/show> (Accessed October 7, 2009).

¹⁷ USAspending Web site. <http://www.usaspending.gov/index.php> (Accessed October 7, 2009).

¹⁸ Hearing transcript, p. 69 (Woltz).

¹⁹ Ibid., pp. 69-70 (Woltz). According to the GAO, the top ARRA highway category was pavement improvement or widening, which received \$8.7 billion, or 64 percent of total highway obligations. Petitioners' posthearing brief, exhibit 8.

²⁰ Ibid., p. 70 (Woltz). Other U.S. steel firms agree with this assessment. Patrick Mcfadden of Nucor stated "we don't think that steel is going to be seriously affected by the ARRA until the latter half of 2010 at the earliest." Robert Risser of the Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute dubbed ARRA "the Asphalt Resurfacing Recovery Act." Stan Hasselbusch of L.B. Foster estimated that only \$16 billion of the \$270 billion in infrastructure spending will be spent on steel. AMM, "Steel is not Feeling One Bit Stimulated by Government: Experts, Execs," October 7, 2009.

Substitute Products

No U.S. producers and only two of 19 responding importers reported substitutes for PC strand. The importers that reported substitute products cited rebar as a possible substitute. Both importers that named rebar as a possible substitute also reported that changes in rebar prices did not affect prices for PC strand.²¹

Only three of 21 responding purchasers reported substitutes for PC strand, with all three citing rebar as a possible substitute product. Two purchasers that named rebar as a possible substitute reported that changes in rebar prices did not affect prices for PC strand, whereas one purchaser reported that PC strand prices follow rebar prices.

Cost Share

U.S. producers reported that the cost of PC strand accounts for 75-80 percent of the cost of end use products such as post-tensioned slabs and elevated slabs, compared to 10-20 percent for prestressed bridge members and 12-25 percent for hollow core planks, piling, girders, and double tees. U.S. importers of Chinese PC strand reported that PC strand accounts for 65-100 percent of the cost of end-use products for post-tensioning applications such as residential slabs, versus 25 percent for prestressed applications.

Purchasers reported a wide range of PC strand end-use products, including piling, post-tensioning cables, prestressed concrete beams, wall panels, double tees, bridge girders, precast planks, and residential and commercial concrete reinforcing. Cost share estimates varied widely, from 3-4 percent for prestressed concrete products such as wall panels to 70-100 percent for end-use products such as bridge girders, barrier cable systems, and truss systems.

SUBSTITUTABILITY ISSUES

The degree of substitution between domestic and imported PC strand depends upon such factors as quality (e.g., meeting or exceeding ASTM specifications, defect rates, etc.), and conditions of sale (e.g., “Buy America(n)” provisions, lead times between order and delivery dates, reliability of supply, availability, payment terms, product services, etc.). Based on available information, staff believes that, for PC strand made to the same ASTM specifications, there is a high degree of substitution between domestic PC strand and subject imports sold for end uses not subject to “Buy America(n)” provisions.

²¹ Rebar is used to impart support, whereas PC strand imparts strength. In some cases, rebar and PC strand are used in conjunction in the production of construction members. Since rebar and PC strand typically are used for different purposes, they may not be direct substitutes.

However, the existence of substantial end-use markets subject to “Buy America(n)” provisions reduces that substitutability.²²

Factors Affecting Purchasing Decisions

Table II-2 summarizes the purchasers’ responses concerning the top three factors they consider in their purchasing decisions. As indicated in the table, price was cited most frequently as the primary factor in buying decisions, followed by quality. Quality was the most frequently cited second factor, followed closely by availability. Price and availability were the most frequently cited third factors.

Table II-2
PC strand: Ranking factors used in purchasing decisions by U.S. purchasers

Factor	Number of firms reporting		
	Number one factor	Number two factor	Number three factor
Price	11	3	5
Quality	7	7	1
Availability	0	6	5
Extension of credit	1	1	0
Delivery	0	3	4
Contracts/traditional supplier	1	0	1

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to Commission questionnaires.

²² “Buy America” requirements apply to iron and steel products and their coatings that are purchased for the Federal-aid highway construction program (highways, bridges, transit systems, and terminals). Under “Buy America,” Federal-aid funds may not be obligated for a project unless iron and steel products used in such projects are manufactured in the United States (with limited exceptions based on the product cost or its share of the original contract value). In addition, under an alternate-bid procedure, foreign-source materials may be used if the total project bid using foreign-source materials is 25 percent less than the lowest total bid using domestic materials. “Buy American” is a separate and distinct program from “Buy America,” and has completely different rules. The Buy American Act, which covers specified products, requires the Federal Government to purchase domestic goods and services unless the head of the agency involved in the procurement has determined that the prices of the domestic suppliers are “unreasonable” or that their purchase would be “inconsistent with the public interest.” U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration Web site, “Construction Program Guide: Buy America,” <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/construction/cqit/buyam.cfm> (accessed July 6, 2009) and U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration Memorandum, “Buy America Requirements (HHO-32),” dated July 6, 1989, last modified July 27, 2007, <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/programadmin/contracts/070689.cfm> (accessed July 6, 2009).

Purchasers were asked to rate the importance of 15 factors in their purchasing decision (table II-3). Twenty-one purchasers rated “quality meets industry standards” very important; 19 firms rated product consistency very important; and 19 firms rated price very important. In contrast, 10 firms reported that minimum quantity requirements were not an important factor and six firms reported that product range was not an important factor.

Table II-3

PC strand: Importance of purchase factors, as reported by U.S. purchasers

Factor	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
	<i>Number of firms responding</i>		
Availability	17	4	0
Delivery terms	14	6	1
Delivery time	17	4	0
Discounts offered	10	9	2
Extension of credit	6	12	3
Price	19	2	0
Minimum qty requirements	4	7	10
Packaging	9	10	2
Product consistency	19	2	0
Quality meets industry standards	21	0	0
Quality exceeds industry standards	7	13	1
Product range	1	13	6
Reliability of supply	18	3	0
Technical support/service	7	14	0
U.S. transportation costs	8	12	1

Note.--Not all purchasers responded for each factor.

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to Commission questionnaires.

Purchasers were asked for a country-by-country comparison on the same 15 factors (table II-4). In general, for U.S. PC strand compared to subject countries’ PC strand, most responding purchasers reported that U.S. PC strand was superior in terms of delivery time and technical support/service and inferior in terms of price (i.e., higher-priced). For nearly all other factor comparisons, most responding purchasers rated U.S. and subject country PC strand as comparable. For U.S. PC strand compared to Chinese PC strand, most responding purchasers reported that U.S. PC strand was superior in terms of delivery time and technical support and service and inferior in terms of price. For nearly all other factor comparisons, most responding purchasers rated U.S. and Chinese PC strand as comparable. For U.S. PC strand compared to other nonsubject countries’ PC strand, most responding purchasers reported that U.S. PC strand was superior in terms of delivery time, minimum quantity requirements, and U.S. transportation costs. For nearly all other factor comparisons, most responding purchasers rated U.S. and other nonsubject countries’ PC strand as comparable.

Table II-4
PC strand: Comparisons between U.S.-produced and subject and nonsubject countries as reported by U.S. purchasers

Factor	U.S. vs Brazil			U.S. vs India			U.S. vs Japan			U.S. vs Korea			U.S. vs Mexico			U.S. vs Thailand		
	S	C	I	S	C	I	S	C	I	S	C	I	S	C	I	S	C	I
Availability	1	2	0	1	2	0	1	3	0	1	4	0	1	3	0	1	2	0
Delivery terms	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	4	0	1	4	0	1	3	0	1	2	0
Delivery time	2	1	0	2	1	0	2	2	0	3	2	0	2	2	0	2	1	0
Discounts offered	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	3	1	0	5	0	1	3	0	0	3	0
Extension of credit	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	3	1	1	4	0	0	4	0	0	3	0
Minimum quantity requirements	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	3	1	0	5	0	0	4	0	0	3	0
Packaging	0	3	0	0	3	0	1	3	0	1	4	0	0	4	0	0	3	0
Price	0	1	2	0	1	2	0	3	1	0	2	3	0	1	3	0	1	2
Product consistency	0	3	0	0	3	0	1	3	0	0	5	0	1	3	0	0	3	0
Product range	1	2	0	1	2	0	0	4	0	1	4	0	2	2	0	1	2	0
Quality exceeds industry standards	0	3	0	0	3	0	1	4	0	0	5	0	2	2	0	0	3	0
Quality meets industry standards	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0	5	0	1	3	0	0	3	0
Reliability of supply	1	2	0	0	3	0	1	3	0	2	3	0	2	2	0	1	2	0
Technical support/service	2	1	0	2	1	0	1	3	0	3	2	0	3	1	0	2	1	0
U.S. transportation costs	1	2	0	1	2	0	1	2	1	1	4	0	0	4	0	1	2	0

Table continued on following page.

Table II-4--Continued

PC strand: Comparisons between U.S.-produced and subject and nonsubject countries as reported by U.S. purchasers

Factor	U.S. vs. China			U.S. vs. Other Nonsubject		
	S	C	I	S	C	I
Availability	4	6	0	2	2	0
Delivery terms	5	5	0	1	3	0
Delivery time	8	2	0	3	0	1
Discounts offered	1	6	3	1	2	1
Extension of credit	1	8	1	1	2	1
Minimum qty requirements	3	6	1	2	1	1
Packaging	4	6	0	0	3	1
Price	0	4	6	0	2	2
Product consistency	3	7	0	0	4	0
Product range	3	5	1	1	3	0
Quality exceeds industry standards	3	6	0	1	3	0
Quality meets industry standards	2	8	0	1	3	0
Reliability of supply	4	6	0	0	4	0
Technical support/service	8	2	0	1	3	0
U.S. transportation costs	3	4	2	2	1	1

Note.--S=first listed country's product is superior; C=both countries' products are comparable; I=first listed country's product is inferior. Data shown only for comparisons made by at least 3 purchasers. A rating of superior means that price/U.S. transportation cost is generally lower. For example, if a firm reported "U.S. superior," it meant that the price of U.S. product was generally lower than the price of the imported product.

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to Commission questionnaires.

When asked if certain grades/types/sizes of PC strand were available from only a single source, 17 of 21 responding purchasers answered "No." Purchasers were also asked if they or their customers ever specifically requested PC strand from one country over other possible sources. Seven of 21 responding purchasers reported that they sometimes specifically order U.S. PC strand, citing factors such as "Buy America(n)" provisions and a desire to support the domestic industry.

Asked whether or not they required their suppliers to become certified or qualified with respect to the quality, chemistry, strength, or other performance characteristics of the PC strand they purchase, 17 of 21 responding purchasers reported that they did. When qualifying a new supplier, most purchasers consider the quality of the product (e.g., meet or exceed specifications), price, and delivery time and reliability. Other factors considered include payment terms, product reliability, financial strength of the supplier, and mill certification.

When purchasers were asked what characteristics they consider when determining the quality of PC strand, most require PC strand be certified to industry specifications (e.g., ASTM A416). Other factors cited include the surface condition and appearance, manufacturing and process control, packaging and product consistency, and certification by the Post-Tensioning Institute.

Purchasers were asked if buying PC strand that is produced in the United States is an important factor in their firm's purchases of PC strand. Sixteen of 21 responding purchasers reported that buying

U.S. product is an important factor since purchases of domestic product are required by law or regulation (e.g., government purchases under “Buy America(n)” provisions). The reported shares of these firm’s PC strand purchases subject to “Buy America(n) requirements varied widely (from one to 100 percent), although five purchasers reported that at least 75 percent of their purchases were subject to “Buy America(n)” restrictions.

During January 2003-June 2009, more than two-thirds of U.S. producers’ total U.S. shipments of PC strand (quantity basis) were for pre-tensioned applications, slightly more than one-half of which were subject to “Buy America(n)” restrictions. Of the less than one-third of U.S. producers’ total shipments that were destined for post-tensioned applications during January 2003-June 2009, *** percent were subject to “Buy America(n) restrictions. In the aggregate, almost one-half of the quantity of U.S. producers’ total U.S. shipments were subject to “Buy America(n)” restrictions during January 2003-June 2009.²³

Comparison of Domestic Products and Subject Imports

In order to determine whether U.S.-produced PC strand can generally be used in the same applications as imports from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand, U.S. producers and importers were asked whether the products can “always,” “frequently,” “sometimes,” or “never” be used interchangeably (table II-5).

When comparing U.S. product with individual subject product, all five responding producers and nearly all responding importers reported that U.S.-produced PC strand can “always” or “frequently” be used interchangeably with subject product. The majority of responding purchasers reported that U.S.-produced PC strand can “always” or “frequently” be used interchangeably with subject product.

Producers and importers were also asked to compare U.S.-produced PC strand with imports from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand in terms of product differences other than price such as quality, availability, product range, and technical support. Again, firms were asked whether these product differences are always, frequently, sometimes, or never significant (table II-6). All five responding producers reported that differences other than price between PC strand produced in the United States and subject countries were “never” a significant factor in their firm’s sales of the products. Conversely, for nearly all comparisons (except for Japan) most importers reported that non-price differences were either “always” or “frequently” a significant factor in their firm’s sales of the product.

Comparison of Domestic Products and Nonsubject Imports

All five responding U.S. producers, all 15 responding importers, and 11 of 14 responding purchasers indicated that PC strand produced in the United States and nonsubject countries were “always” or “frequently” used interchangeably. All five responding U.S. producers reported that non-price differences were “never” significant. Conversely, 7 of 10 responding importers reported that non-price differences were either “always” or “frequently” significant.

²³ For a more detailed discussion of U.S. producers’ U.S. shipments see *Part III: Condition of the U.S. Industry*.

Table II-5

PC strand: Perceived interchangeability of products produced in the United States and in other countries by country pairs¹

Country pair	Number of U.S. producers reporting				Number of U.S. importers reporting				Number of U.S. purchasers reporting			
	A	F	S	N	A	F	S	N	A	F	S	N
U.S. vs. subject countries:												
U.S. vs. Brazil	5	0	0	0	6	5	0	0	5	1	0	2
U.S. vs. India	5	0	0	0	7	5	0	0	5	0	0	2
U.S. vs. Japan	5	0	0	0	7	5	0	0	5	1	0	2
U.S. vs. Korea	5	0	0	0	7	5	0	0	6	1	0	2
U.S. vs. Mexico	5	0	0	0	7	3	1	0	5	0	0	2
U.S. vs. Thailand	5	0	0	0	7	3	0	0	5	0	0	2
Subject country comparisons:												
Brazil vs. India	5	0	0	0	6	3	0	0	4	0	0	1
Brazil vs. Japan	5	0	0	0	6	3	0	0	4	0	0	1
Brazil vs. Korea	5	0	0	0	6	3	0	0	4	0	0	1
Brazil vs. Mexico	5	0	0	0	6	3	1	0	4	0	0	1
Brazil vs. Thailand	5	0	0	0	6	2	0	0	4	0	0	1
India vs. Japan	5	0	0	0	6	4	0	0	4	0	0	1
India vs. Korea	5	0	0	0	6	4	0	0	4	0	0	1
India vs. Mexico	5	0	0	0	6	2	1	0	4	0	0	1
India vs. Thailand	5	0	0	0	6	2	0	0	4	0	0	1
Japan vs. Korea	5	0	0	0	6	4	0	0	4	0	0	1
Japan vs. Mexico	5	0	0	0	7	3	0	0	4	0	0	1
Japan vs. Thailand	5	0	0	0	6	3	0	0	4	0	0	1
Korea vs. Mexico	5	0	0	0	6	4	0	0	4	0	0	1
Korea vs. Thailand	5	0	0	0	6	3	0	0	4	0	0	1
Mexico vs. Thailand	5	0	0	0	6	3	1	0	4	0	0	1
U.S./subject country vs. nonsubject												
U.S. vs. nonsubject	5	0	0	0	7	8	0	0	8	3	1	2
Brazil vs. nonsubject	5	0	0	0	6	3	0	0	4	0	0	1
India vs. nonsubject	5	0	0	0	6	3	0	0	4	0	0	1
Japan vs. nonsubject	5	0	0	0	6	3	0	0	4	0	0	1
Korea vs. nonsubject	5	0	0	0	6	3	0	0	4	1	0	1
Mexico vs. nonsubject	5	0	0	0	6	1	1	0	4	0	0	1
Thailand vs. nonsubject	5	0	0	0	6	2	0	0	4	0	0	1
¹ Producers, importers, and purchasers were asked if PC strand produced in the United States and in other countries is used interchangeably. Note.--A = Always, F = Frequently, S = Sometimes, N = Never. Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to Commission questionnaires.												

Table II-6

PC strand: Perceived significance of differences other than price between products produced in the United States and in other countries, by country pairs¹

Country comparison	Number of U.S. producers reporting				Number of U.S. importers reporting			
	A	F	S	N	A	F	S	N
U.S. vs. subject countries:								
U.S. vs. Brazil	0	0	0	5	3	1	1	1
U.S. vs. India	0	0	0	5	3	1	2	1
U.S. vs. Japan	0	0	0	5	3	1	1	3
U.S. vs. Korea	0	0	0	5	3	2	2	1
U.S. vs. Mexico	0	0	0	5	3	1	2	1
U.S. vs. Thailand	0	0	0	5	3	1	1	1
Subject country comparisons:								
Brazil vs. India	0	0	0	5	1	2	1	0
Brazil vs. Japan	0	0	0	5	1	2	1	0
Brazil vs. Korea	0	0	0	5	1	2	1	0
Brazil vs. Mexico	0	0	0	5	1	2	1	0
Brazil vs. Thailand	0	0	0	5	1	2	0	0
India vs. Japan	0	0	0	5	1	2	1	1
India vs. Korea	0	0	0	5	1	2	1	1
India vs. Mexico	0	0	0	5	1	2	1	0
India vs. Thailand	0	0	0	5	1	2	0	1
Japan vs. Korea	0	0	0	5	1	2	1	1
Japan vs. Mexico	0	0	0	5	1	2	1	0
Japan vs. Thailand	0	0	0	5	1	2	0	1
Korea vs. Mexico	0	0	0	5	1	2	1	0
Korea vs. Thailand	0	0	0	5	1	2	0	1
Mexico vs. Thailand	0	0	0	5	1	2	0	0
U.S./subject country vs. nonsubject								
U.S. vs. nonsubject	0	0	0	5	5	2	3	0
Brazil vs. nonsubject	0	0	0	5	1	2	1	0
India vs. nonsubject	0	0	0	5	1	2	1	0
Japan vs. nonsubject	0	0	0	5	1	2	1	0
Korea vs. nonsubject	0	0	0	5	1	2	1	0
Mexico vs. nonsubject	0	0	0	5	1	2	2	0
Thailand vs. nonsubject	0	0	0	5	1	2	0	0
<p>¹ Producers and importers were asked if differences other than price between PC strand produced in the United States and in other countries were a significant factor in their sales of the products.</p> <p>Note.--“A” = Always, “F” = Frequently, “S” = Sometimes, “N” = Never.</p> <p>Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to Commission questionnaires.</p>								

Comparison of Subject Imports and Nonsubject Imports

All five responding U.S. producers indicated that PC strand produced in subject and nonsubject countries were “always” used interchangeably. Most responding importers reported that PC strand produced in subject and nonsubject countries were “always” used interchangeably, and nearly all reported that subject and nonsubject PC strand are either “always” or “frequently” used interchangeably. Most responding purchasers reported that PC strand produced in subject and nonsubject countries were “always” used interchangeably. All five responding U.S. producers reported that non-price differences were “never” significant. Conversely, in general, about half of the responding importers reported that non-price differences were “frequently” significant.

ELASTICITY ESTIMATES

U.S. Supply Elasticity

The domestic supply elasticity for PC strand measures the sensitivity of the quantity supplied by the U.S. producers to changes in the U.S. market price for PC strand. The elasticity of domestic supply depends on several factors, including the level of excess capacity, the existence of inventories, the availability of alternate markets for U.S.-produced PC strand, and the ability of U.S. producers to switch between production of PC strand and other products. Previous analysis of these factors indicates that the U.S. industry has the ability to substantially increase or decrease shipments to the U.S. market based on available excess capacity and inventory levels. An estimate in the range of 3 to 5 is suggested.

U.S. Demand Elasticity

The U.S. demand elasticity for PC strand measures the sensitivity of the overall quantity demanded to a change in the U.S. market price of PC strand. This estimate depends on factors discussed earlier, such as the existence, availability, and commercial viability of substitute products, as well as the component share of PC strand in the final cost of end-products in which it is used. The lack of available substitute products suggests an inelastic demand. However, the relatively large component share of PC strand in the final cost of its end products indicates a more elastic demand. On balance, it is likely that the aggregate demand for PC strand is moderately inelastic, with values ranging from -0.5 to -1.0.

Substitution Elasticity

The elasticity of substitution depends upon the extent of product differentiation between the domestic and imported PC strand. Product differentiation, in turn, depends upon such factors as quality and condition of sale (availability, delivery terms and time, product range, technical support/service, etc.). Based on available information indicating that price was the primary factor in purchasers’ buying decision, and that the domestic and imported products can frequently be used interchangeably and were comparable with respect to most purchasing decision factors, the elasticity of substitution between U.S.-produced and imported PC strand is likely to be in the range of 3 to 5.

PART III: CONDITION OF THE U.S. INDUSTRY

OVERVIEW

Since the Commission's original 1978 investigation concerning imports of PC strand from Japan, the U.S. industry has experienced substantial changes, marked by several closures, openings, and acquisitions. In 1978, there were six firms producing PC strand in the United States: Armco, Bethlehem, CF&I, American, FW&C, and Washburn. By 2009, the following firms reported domestic production of PC strand: American, Insteel, Rettco/MMI, Strand-Tech, and Sumiden. Changes in the composition of the domestic PC strand industry that occurred from 1978 to 2009 were illustrated in *Part I* of this report in figure I-1.

Background

Completed responses to the Commission's questionnaire in these current reviews were received from all domestic PC strand producers currently in operation. Two domestic firms – PCS (Rosenberg, TX) and EMC (Phoenix, AZ) – produced PC strand in the United States during a portion of the period for which information was collected in these reviews. Although producer questionnaire responses were not completed by these two firms and the aggregated data presented for the domestic industry in this report do not include these two domestic PC strand producers, certain information (including limited data) was provided to the Commission by related PC strand producers in Mexico and are presented separately in this section of the report, as appropriate.

Existing Operations

Domestic producers were asked to indicate whether their firm had experienced any plant openings, relocations, expansions, acquisitions, consolidations, closures, prolonged shutdowns, production curtailments, revised labor agreements, or any other change in the character of their operations or organization relating to the production of PC strand since January 1, 2003. All currently operating domestic producers indicated in their questionnaire responses that they had experienced such changes since 2003 and provided details concerning these changes. Their responses are presented in table III-1.

Table III-1
PC strand: Changes in the character of U.S. operations

* * * * *

The two *** domestic PC strand producers, Insteel and Sumiden, testified at the Commission's hearing in these reviews that they have experienced prolonged shutdowns and production curtailments in their facilities that produce PC strand. Sumiden testified that both its California and Tennessee PC strand production facilities plants experienced shutdowns or curtailed production in late 2003 and again in 2009. Insteel testified that it has been forced to idle equipment and lay off employees (many long-term) at both its Florida and Tennessee PC strand facilities.¹

In addition, although producer questionnaire responses were not completed by PCS (Rosenberg, TX) and EMC (Phoenix, AZ), the information that follows concerning the operating history and status of these two PC strand producers was provided to the Commission by related PC strand producers in Mexico.

¹ Hearing transcript, p. 33 (Woltz) and pp. 35-36 (Cornelius).

PCS, formerly owned by *** and related to Mexican PC strand producer Camesa, began production of PC strand at the Rosenberg, TX, site in ***. Production and shipments at that facility ceased by ***. In 2007, the PC strand production equipment from the PCS Texas site was shipped to the related PC strand producer in Mexico (Camesa).² In hearing testimony, Camesa explained that it shut down its Texas PC strand facility and shipped its PC strand lines to Mexico because it was faced with “growing capacity on the U.S. manufacturer side” and “the presence of China” in the United States.³ Camesa, owned by WireCo World Group, currently operates a wire rope production facility at that former Rosenberg PC strand site.⁴ Production and shipments were estimated for PCS by Camesa as totalling *** pounds in 2006.⁵ There were no reported production and shipments of PC strand by PCS subsequent to 2006.⁶

EMC’s Phoenix, AZ, facility, formerly owned by Mexican PC strand producer Cablesa,⁷ began production of PC strand in ***. Production and shipments in 2006 were estimated for EMC by Deacero as ranging from approximately *** pounds. Production and shipments for 2007 were estimated as ranging from *** pounds.⁸ Production at that facility ceased in *** 2007 when Cablesa’s U.S. subsidiary defaulted on rent payments and the landlord seized the production equipment and premises. In compliance with a judgment granted to the landlord, the production equipment at the Arizona facility was auctioned by the landlord in October 2007. Deacero pointed out that it “did not own Cablesa at the time that the Phoenix operation was established, was not in any way involved in the operation of that plant, and had nothing to do with Cablesa’s default on the lease agreement.”⁹

Anticipated Changes in Existing Operations

The Commission requested that domestic producers provide a copy of their company business plans or other internal documents that describe, discuss, or analyze expected future market conditions for PC strand. None of the domestic producers reported that they had any such plan or other internal documents concerning PC strand.

The Commission also asked domestic producers to report anticipated changes in the character of their operations relating to the production of PC strand. *** reported that they do not anticipate any operational changes, while *** provided responses detailing such anticipated changes. The responses provided by *** are presented in table III-2.

² *Emails* from *** to Mary Messer, June 26, 2009 and June 30, 2009.

³ Hearing transcript, pp. 196-197 (Gomez).

⁴ Camesa web site, <http://www.camesa.com.mx/indexi.htm>, accessed June 30, 2009; and WireCo World Group web site, <http://www.wirecoworldgroup.com/Company/History-of-Growth>, accessed June 30, 2009.

⁵ Production and shipments were estimated for PCS by Camesa as totalling *** pounds in 2005. *Emails* from *** to Mary Messer, June 26, 2009, June 30, 2009, and October 26, 2009.

⁶ *Emails* from *** to Mary Messer, June 26, 2009 and June 30, 2009.

⁷ Cablesa has since been acquired by Deacero. *Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Petition, Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from China*, exh. INJURY-4; and Mexican producers’ posthearing brief, p. 6, fn. 13.

⁸ Deacero estimated EMC’s production and shipments for 2005 and 2006 to be *** pounds and *** pounds, respectively. *Email* from *** to Mary Messer, October 26, 2009.

⁹ Mexican producers’ posthearing brief, p. 6, fn. 13; *Emails* from *** to Mary Messer, June 26, 2009 and June 30, 2009; and *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from China, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Preliminary)*, USITC Publication 4086, July 2009, p. III-1.

Table III-2
PC strand: Anticipated changes in the character of U.S. operations

* * * * *

Insteel indicated at the Commission’s hearing in these reviews that it anticipates further declines in its PC strand shipments for 2010 due to the anticipated “severe downward trend” in nonresidential construction (the company’s primary demand driver) and the continued weakness in residential construction.¹⁰ The domestic interested parties also indicated that they do not anticipate an increase in the demand for PC strand associated with the U.S. stimulus package, as many states are being forced to eliminate or postpone infrastructure projects as a result of the economic downturn.¹¹

U.S. PRODUCERS’ CAPACITY, PRODUCTION, AND CAPACITY UTILIZATION

U.S. producers’ capacity, production, and capacity utilization data for PC strand are presented in table III-3.¹² These data show an overall 21.8-percent increase in capacity during 2003-08. The U.S. producers’ capacity to produce PC strand of 903.8 million pounds in 2008 was equivalent to 95.9 percent of total apparent U.S. consumption of PC strand.¹³ Although domestic production of PC strand increased from 2003 to 2006, it fell thereafter. Likewise, capacity utilization fluctuated upward from 2003 to 2006, but fell in the remaining periods. Although U.S. producers’ aggregate capacity to produce PC strand was higher during the first half of 2009 than in the comparable period in 2008, their aggregate production and capacity utilization were substantially lower.

Four U.S. producers reported increases in capacity during the review period. Rettco began producing PC strand during 2005 and reported an increase in its capacity to produce PC strand *** as it was ramping up its production. Two domestic PC strand producers (***) reported an increase in capacity to produce PC strand in 2007 and one producer (***) reported increases in its capacity to produce during 2004, 2007, 2008, and January-June 2009. ***. Insteel’s capacity increase of 70 million pounds is explained by the company’s expansion of its Tennessee PC strand facility during 2006 and 2007. The company indicated that it added a production line and it incorporated new technology into its production process.¹⁴ ***.

¹⁰ Hearing transcript, p. 32 (Woltz).

¹¹ Domestic producers’ prehearing brief, p. 40. Details regarding the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act appear in *Part II* of this report.

¹² The aggregate data presented for capacity, production, and capacity utilization are for toll producer Rettco and producers American, Insteel, Strand-Tech, and Sumiden.

¹³ Insteel and Sumiden testified at the Commission’s hearing in these reviews that, “absent dumped imports,” additional capacity to produce PC strand could relatively easily and quickly (approximately 7-8 months) be commissioned to meet the entire domestic demand for PC strand. Hearing transcript, p. 95 (Wagner) and p. 96 (Cornelius).

¹⁴ *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from China, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Preliminary)*, USITC Publication 4086, July 2009, pp. III-2-III-3 (citing conference transcript, pp. 84-85 (Woltz)).

Table III-3

PC strand: U.S. capacity, production, and capacity utilization, 2003-08, January-June 2008, and January-June 2009¹

Item	Calendar year						January-June--	
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2008	2009
Capacity (1,000 pounds)	742,295	754,653	791,653	810,653	902,782	903,795	454,684	456,277
Production (1,000 pounds)	578,004	608,562	621,919	673,195	601,732	558,885	327,355	172,375
Capacity utilization (percent)	77.9	80.6	78.6	83.0	66.7	61.8	72.0	37.8

¹ Capacity (production capability) data are based on operating 168 hours per week and 48.6 to 52 weeks per year.

Note.--The aggregate data presented in the table are for toll producer Rettco and producers American, Insteel, Strand-Tech, and Sumiden. The data presented do not include the capacity and production data for EMC and PCS, the two domestic PC strand facilities that were shuttered during ***. Production and capacity data for *** for these two firms are as follows: *** pounds of capacity during ***, *** pounds of capacity in ***, *** pounds of production in ***, and *** pounds of production in ***. *** for these two firms were not provided.

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to Commission questionnaires; and *emails* from *** to Mary Messer, June 26, 2009, and June 30, 2009.

The *** capacity and production data presented in table III-3, however, do not include the data of the two domestic PC strand facilities that were closed in *** (i.e., PCS and EMC). Estimated combined capacity of these two firms to produce PC strand was approximately *** pounds during *** and *** pounds in *** and the combined annual production was approximately *** pounds in *** and *** pounds during ***.¹⁵

Covered/Coated PC Strand

Two domestic producers, Insteel and Sumiden, reported that they epoxy-coat bare PC strand at their U.S. PC strand facilities. These two U.S. producers are the only domestic firms that manufacture the epoxy-coated PC strand, using an epoxy-coating process technology for which Insteel holds the patent. The epoxy-coating line uses a proprietary technology that is technically sophisticated. These firms indicated that bare PC strand accounts for approximately *** percent of the total value of this highly specialized epoxy-coated strand product. Insteel and Sumiden indicated that the epoxy-coated strand accounts for a very small share of the companies' overall sales¹⁶ and that it accounts for less than one percent of the overall market for PC strand.¹⁷

Insteel also reported that it periodically will *** cover bare PC strand with grease and plastic for unbonded post-tensioned applications but that this strand product accounts for a very small share of the company's overall sales. Otherwise, none of the domestic PC strand producers grease and cover bare PC strand in-house and none perform post-tensioning services. Instead, these services are largely performed

¹⁵ *Emails* from *** to Mary Messer, June 26, 2009, and June 30, 2009. Combined annual production for these two domestic producers for 2004 and 2005 was *** pounds and *** pounds, respectively. *Email* from *** to Mary Messer, October 26, 2009. Capacity data for 2004 and 2005 were not provided for these two firms.

¹⁶ *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from China, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Preliminary)*, USITC Publication 4086, July 2009, pp. III-3 - III-4.

¹⁷ Hearing transcript, p. 119 (Cornelius).

by domestic purchasers of bare strand.¹⁸ Insteel indicated in its questionnaire response that bare PC strand accounts for approximately *** percent of the total value of the polyethylene-covered strand product. Suncoast, a domestic purchaser of PC strand that greases and covers bare PC strand with plastic, estimated that the incremental cost of the greased and plastic-covered strand to be 4 to 4.5 cents per foot, equivalent to approximately 20 percent of the total cost to produce the covered strand (based on the prevailing price of bare PC strand).¹⁹

Indented PC Strand

Insteel was the only domestic PC strand producer that reported the production of indented PC strand. The company indicated that it produces the indented PC strand by mechanically deforming the wire during the cold drawing process prior to stranding. Following the production of the indented wire, it is stranded, stabilized, and packaged using the same processes and equipment that are used to produce smooth PC strand. Insteel indicated that since the indented strand is not produced from “unprocessed” PC strand, the percentage of value represented by unprocessed PC strand is not relevant.

PC strand made from indented wire is typically specified for certain pre-tensioning applications, especially those incorporating short lengths of strand, in which an enhanced bond between the cured concrete and the PC strand is required. Indenting the PC strand increases its surface area and provides a different shape to the surface which causes it to bond to concrete better than a smooth strand. A typical use for indented PC strand includes securing railroad ties in relatively short sections of concrete. Insteel testified that “it is not a very attractive product” and that “the market is extremely small.”²⁰

Constraints on Capacity

The domestic PC strand producers were asked in Commission questionnaires to describe the constraints that set the limit on their production capacity for PC strand. Three of the five producers indicated that the stranding operations machinery was the production constraint at their facilities, whereas one producer indicated that it was specifically the cleaning/pickling operation that was the production constraint for its production facility. In response to the Commission’s request for a description of the constraints that set the limits on production capacity, *** responded “****.”

Alternative Products

*** of the U.S. producers of PC strand reported the production of other products on the same equipment and machinery and using the same production and related workers employed in the production of PC strand. Likewise, *** reported the ability to switch production between PC strand and other products in response to a relative change in the price of PC strand vis-a-vis the price of other products, using the same equipment and labor.

¹⁸ *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from China, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Preliminary)*, USITC Publication 4086, July 2009, pp. III-3 - III-4.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ Hearing transcript, pp. 118-119 (Wagner).

U.S. PRODUCERS' DOMESTIC SHIPMENTS, COMPANY TRANSFERS, AND EXPORT SHIPMENTS

Data on U.S. producers' shipments of PC strand are presented in table III-4.²¹ The domestic commercial market accounted for all of the U.S. producers' U.S. shipments of PC strand and for more than 95 percent of the U.S. producers' total shipments of PC strand throughout the period for which data were collected in these reviews. Export shipments, which accounted for *** percent of the U.S. producers' total shipments of PC strand throughout the entire period, were made by ***. The U.S. producers' export markets were ***. Domestic producers' U.S. shipments of PC strand increased, in terms of quantity, in each year from 2003 to 2006, but fell thereafter. Export shipments fluctuated upward during 2003-08 but were *** lower during the first half of 2009 as compared with the first half of 2008.

The unit value of U.S. producers' U.S. shipments fluctuated upward from a low of \$272 per 1,000 pounds in 2003 to a high of \$630 per 1,000 pounds in 2008. The average unit value of U.S. shipments was \$550 per 1,000 pounds during the first half of 2008, then increased to \$756 per 1,000 pounds during the second half of 2008, before falling to \$535 per 1,000 pounds during the first half of 2009. The unit value of exports also fluctuated upward from a low of \$*** to a high of \$***. The average unit value of exports was \$*** per 1,000 pounds during the first half of 2008, then increased to \$*** per 1,000 pounds during the second half of 2008, before falling to \$*** per 1,000 pounds during the first half of 2009.

Presented in table III-5 are data provided by domestic PC strand producers on their U.S. shipments, by type of application (i.e., bare/coated and pre-tensioned/post-tensioned) and restriction (i.e., "Buy America(n)"). These data reveal that, on a quantity basis during January 2003-June 2009, more than two-thirds of U.S. producers' total U.S. shipments of PC strand were for pre-tensioned applications, slightly more than one-half of which were subject to "Buy America(n)" restrictions. Of the less than one-third of U.S. producers' total U.S. shipments that were destined for post-tensioned applications during January 2003-June 2009, *** percent were subject to "Buy America(n)" restrictions. In the aggregate, almost one-half of the quantity of U.S. producers' total U.S. shipments were subject to "Buy America(n)" restrictions during January 2003-June 2009. At the Commission's hearing in these reviews, domestic producer Insteel testified that "Buy America(n)" projects requiring PC strand, most of which are for U.S. Department of Transportation ("DOT") projects, have accounted for a consistent portion of its sales over the past decade and that it does not anticipate "any real change in that percentage as a result of the new stimulus package except to the extent that private nonresidential demand for PC strand falls off at a more rapid rate than the DOT-related Buy America demand falls."²²

²¹ The aggregate data presented for U.S. producers' shipments are for tollee MMI and producers American, Insteel, Strand-Tech, and Sumiden.

²² Hearing transcript, p. 30 (Woltz).

Table III-4

PC strand: U.S. producers' shipments, by types, 2003-08, January-June 2008, and January-June 2009¹

Item	Calendar year						January-June--	
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2008	2009
Quantity (1,000 pounds)								
U.S. commercial shipments	564,035	573,700	621,842	627,436	582,801	529,972	325,484	183,024
Export shipments ²	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Total shipments	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Value (1,000 dollars)								
U.S. commercial shipments	153,420	254,156	301,420	297,410	268,344	333,721	179,133	97,946
Export shipments ²	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Total shipments	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Unit value (per 1,000 pounds)								
U.S. commercial shipments	\$272	\$443	\$489	\$474	\$460	\$630 ³	\$550 ³	\$535
Export shipments ²	***	***	***	***	***	*** ³	*** ³	***
Total shipments	***	***	***	***	***	*** ³	*** ³	***
Share of quantity (percent)								
U.S. commercial shipments	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Export shipments ²	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Total shipments	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
¹ U.S. producers reported no transfers to related firms and no internal consumption of the PC strand they produced. ² Principal export markets include ***. ³ As calculated using the January-December and January-June data provided for 2008, the average unit values of U.S. commercial shipments, export shipments, and total shipments for July-December 2008 were \$*** per 1,000 pounds, \$*** per 1,000 pounds, and \$*** per 1,000 pounds, respectively.								
Note.--The aggregate data presented are for tollee MMI and producers American, Insteel, Strand-Tech, and Sumiden.								
Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to Commission questionnaires.								

Table III-5

PC strand: U.S. producers' U.S. shipments, by type of application and restriction, 2003-08, January-June 2008, and January-June 2009

* * * * *

The U.S. producers' data provided also show a shift away from serving customers using PC strand in post-tensioned applications in favor of pre-tensioning customers. In 2003, *** percent of the domestic producers' U.S. shipments were for pre-tensioned applications. By 2008, this share had increased to *** percent of total U.S. shipments by domestic producers. This shift is highlighted by the corporate decision in the third quarter of 2007 by Insteel, ***, to "minimize {its} participation in slab-on-grade post-tension market due to pricing deterioration resulting from low-priced Chinese import

competition and ongoing weakness in housing-related demand.”²³ Insteel explained that, in the past, its post-tensioner customers had traditionally been some of the company’s largest customers but that it had “lost a tremendous amount of business with post-tensioners over the last three years, virtually all of it to Chinese strand.”²⁴ Domestic producer American also indicated that it has had difficulty making sales of PC strand to the large post-tensioned customers because of stiff price competition with the Chinese product.²⁵ Regardless, Insteel noted that it continues to monitor the environment for post-tensioned applications and wants to “do business with Suncoast and with the other customers in the post-tensioned business from which we had been forced out.”²⁶

U.S. PRODUCERS’ INVENTORIES

Due to the seasonality of PC strand sales in the U.S. market, a substantial portion of domestic PC strand is manufactured by U.S. producers to particular specifications for stocking in inventory during the winter months when demand is lower to support anticipated sales in excess of capacity during the summer months. Often, however, domestic PC strand producers manufacture PC strand in response to a particular customer’s order during the summer months when demand for the product is higher. The domestic producers reported that their PC strand inventory does not distinguish between products destined for post-tensioned or pre-tensioned applications.²⁷

Data collected in these reviews on domestic producers’ end-of-period inventories of PC strand are presented in table III-6.²⁸ U.S. producers’ inventories, which were equivalent to between *** and *** percent of U.S. producers’ total shipments during 2003-08, fluctuated upward in terms of quantity during the period examined in these reviews. U.S. producers’ inventories were 75.0 percent higher at the end of 2008 than they were at the end of 2003 and were 7.6 percent higher in June 2009 than in June 2008. End-of-period inventories as a ratio to total shipments were also higher at the end of the first half of 2009, equivalent to *** percent of U.S. producers’ total annualized shipments. *** accounted for *** of the inventories held at the end of the first half of 2009 and *** together accounted for *** of the inventories held at that time.

U.S. PRODUCERS’ IMPORTS AND PURCHASES

U.S. producers’ imports and purchases of PC strand are presented in table III-7. *** of the U.S. PC strand producers directly imported or domestically purchased imported PC strand from the six countries subject to these reviews during the period examined. As shown, one U.S. producer (Insteel) directly imported the subject merchandise from China,²⁹ another domestic producer (***) domestically purchased *** PC strand from U.S. importers, and a third domestic producer (***) reported direct imports of PC strand from ***.

²³ Insteel Industries Inc., “Investor Presentation,” June 2009, p. 8.

²⁴ *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from China, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Preliminary)*, USITC Publication 4086, July 2009, p. III-7.

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from China, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Preliminary)*, USITC Publication 4086, July 2009, p. III-7.

²⁸ The aggregate data presented for U.S. producers’ inventories are for tolee MMI and producers American, Insteel, Strand-Tech, and Sumiden.

²⁹ *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from China, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Preliminary)*, USITC Publication 4086, July 2009, p. III-8.

Table III-6

PC strand: U.S. producers' end-of-period inventories, 2003-08, January-June 2008, and January-June 2009

Item	Calendar year						January-June ¹⁻⁻	
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2008	2009
Inventories (1,000 pounds)	38,343	59,605	44,596	68,014	61,262	67,082	47,677	51,281
Ratio to production (percent)	6.6	9.8	7.2	10.1	10.2	12.0	7.3	14.9
Ratio to U.S. shipments (percent)	6.8	10.4	7.2	10.8	10.5	12.7	7.3	14.0
Ratio to total shipments (percent)	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***

¹ Partial-year ratios are based on annualized production and shipments.

Note.--The aggregate inventory data and aggregate shipment data used in the calculations of ratios to U.S. and total shipments are for tolee MMI and producers American, Insteel, Strand-Tech, and Sumiden. The aggregate production data used in the calculations of ratios to production are for toller Rettco and producers American, Insteel, Strand-Tech, and Sumiden.

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to Commission questionnaires.

Table III-7

PC strand: U.S. producers' imports and purchases, 2003-08, January-June 2008, and January-June 2009

* * * * *

Insteel indicated that it decided to import PC strand from China in 2006 when it found that it could not compete with the low-priced Chinese imports. The company developed a pilot program to determine whether it could import PC strand from China and profitably distribute the product to its longstanding customer base. However, Insteel terminated the pilot program after only a few import deliveries because Chinese PC strand prices continued to fall and the imported material in transit was worth less when it arrived in the United States than it was when it was initially purchased.³⁰

* * * * *

U.S. PRODUCERS' EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, AND PRODUCTIVITY

The U.S. producers' employment data for PC strand are presented in table III-8.³¹ In the aggregate, U.S. PC strand producers reported an increase in the number of production and related workers employed in the manufacture of PC strand during 2003-06, but declines in 2007 and 2008. The number of hours worked by these employees, as well as the total and hourly wages paid and unit labor costs, followed the same overall trend. Productivity increased from 2003 to 2004, fell from 2004 to 2007, and again increased in 2008. All employment indicators, with the exception of unit labor costs, during the first half of 2009 were lower than the comparable period in 2008. Unit labor costs were 9.9 percent higher during January-June 2009 than in January-June 2008.

³⁰ *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from China, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Preliminary)*, USITC Publication 4086, July 2009, p. III-8.

³¹ The aggregate data presented for U.S. producers' employment-related indicators are for toller Rettco and producers American, Insteel, Strand-Tech, and Sumiden.

Table III-8

PC strand: U.S. producers' employment-related data, 2003-08, January-June 2008, and January-June 2009

Item	Calendar year						January-June--	
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2008	2009
Production and related workers (PRWs)	315	335	364	385	357	331	337	253
Hours worked by PRWs (1,000 hours)	762	744	784	856	771	694	392	244
Wages paid to PRWs (1,000 dollars)	11,658	12,764	14,302	16,963	14,145	13,264	7,933	4,592
Hourly wages	\$15.30	\$17.17	\$18.24	\$19.82	\$18.34	\$19.11	\$20.25	\$18.79
Productivity (pounds produced per hour)	758.3	818.5	793.2	786.7	780.1	805.0	835.7	705.3
Unit labor costs (per 1,000 pounds)	\$20.17	\$20.97	\$23.00	\$25.20	\$23.51	\$23.73	\$24.23	\$26.64

Note.--The aggregate data presented are for toller Rettco and producers American, Insteel, Strand-Tech, and Sumiden.

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to Commission questionnaires.

The domestic producers testified at the conference in the recently completed preliminary investigations concerning PC strand from China that declining sales and shipments and the resulting reductions in production led to the permanent layoff of many U.S. workers manufacturing PC strand. They attributed these declines in sales and shipments to “imports from China that consistently undercut our prices.”³² In addition, press reports indicate and conference testimony confirms that certain job losses in the PC strand industry were explained by investments in technology improvements by the domestic producers and the general downturn in the economy. In particular, 15 jobs were eliminated at Insteel’s PC strand operations in Sanderson, FL, in November 2008, as that facility underwent a substantial investment program to upgrade its 1970s production technology. Such improvements in the process technology led to a less labor-intensive manufacturing process. Insteel reported that those jobs were originally scheduled for elimination in 2009 but the layoffs were accelerated because of the immediate downturn in the market conditions. Insteel also carried out the expansion and the total upgrade of its Gallatin, TN facility with internally developed proprietary technology. Insteel reported that capital investment projects at both facilities resulted in significant gains in productivity and labor utilization. The company further indicated that it had expected the increase in the number of jobs at its Tennessee facility to offset the job losses at its Florida facility, but by the time the new investments were operational, it was forced to reduce production and employment at both facilities. Insteel added that the two capital investment projects at its Florida and Tennessee facilities represented approximately \$20 million and increased its PC strand capacity by approximately 35,000 tons per year.^{33 34}

³² *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from China, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Preliminary)*, USITC Publication 4086, July 2009, p. III-10.

³³ AMM, “Insteel laying off 15 at PC strand plant,” November 13, 2008; and *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from China, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Preliminary)*, USITC Publication 4086, July 2009, p. III-10.

³⁴ Domestic producers American and Sumiden also reported capital investments for equipment upgrades but neither firm reported significant changes in their work force as a result of any of the capital improvements. *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from China, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Preliminary)*, USITC Publication 4086, July 2009, p. III-10.

FINANCIAL EXPERIENCE OF THE U.S. PRODUCERS

Background

Six U.S. firms provided financial data on their operations on PC strand.³⁵ These data are believed to account for the vast majority of U.S. operations on PC strand since 2003. No firms reported internal consumption or transfers to related firms. MMI and Rettco reported a tolling arrangement in which MMI is the tollee and Rettco is the toller for MMI's sales of PC strand.³⁶ All firms reported a fiscal year end of December 31 except American, which reported a fiscal year end of September 30, and Insteel, which reported a fiscal year end of the last Saturday closest to the end of September.

Operations on PC Strand

Income-and-loss data for U.S. firms on their operations on PC strand are presented in table III-9, while selected financial data, by firm, are presented in table III-10. The domestic industry experienced increasing operating income from 2003 to 2005, followed by decreasing operating income thereafter, including an operating loss in January-June 2009. Both total net sales quantity and value increased irregularly from 2003 to 2008, with net sales quantity declining from 2006 to 2008 while net sales value continued to increase irregularly. Both net sales quantity and value were lower in January-June 2009 than in January-June 2008, although the reduction in net sales value was greater than the reduction in net sales quantity. Thus, the per-unit net sales value generally increased from 2003 to 2008, but was lower in January-June 2009 than in January-June 2008 (although still higher than in full years 2003 to 2007). The per-unit cost of goods sold ("COGS") increased irregularly from 2003 to 2008 due primarily to increased raw material costs, but overall increased to a lesser degree than per-unit revenue during this time.

Although per-unit revenue, costs, and operating income were higher in 2008 as compared to 2003, from 2005 to 2007, per-unit operating income declined as per-unit revenue declined more than per-unit costs, while from 2007 to 2008 both per-unit revenue and costs increased by nearly the same amount and thus per-unit operating income remained essentially unchanged. In January-June 2009, reported per-unit raw material costs were lower compared to full year 2008 and January-June 2008. Other factory costs showed a marked increase in January-June 2009, and were the primary contributor to the reported operating loss in that period.

³⁵ The U.S. firms are American, Insteel, MMI, RettCo, Strand-Tech, and Sumiden.

³⁶ MMI's financial data are included in this section of the report to present industry profitability for the PC strand produced and sold through the Rettco/MMI tolling arrangement. MMI's net sales quantities and values align with the shipment data reported in table III-4 and in appendix C, and MMI's reported operating costs include all costs associated with the reported sales, including raw material costs and selling expenses, as well as Rettco's production costs which are captured in MMI's reported tolling fees. Consolidated operating income margins are presented as a companion calculation in the statistical note of table III-9.

Table III-9

PC strand: Results of operations of U.S. producers, 2003-08, January-June 2008, and January-June 2009

Item	Fiscal year						January-June	
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2008	2009
Quantity (1,000 pounds)								
Total net sales	564,937	610,678	605,636	661,470	613,704	589,793	341,238	188,242
Value (\$1,000)								
Total net sales	150,480	249,170	299,892	312,046	283,088	354,082	191,146	100,343
COGS	135,503	193,659	235,830	248,909	230,394	302,334	153,600	101,280
Gross profit/(loss)	14,977	55,511	64,062	63,137	52,694	51,748	37,546	(937)
SG&A expenses	9,887	13,251	13,233	14,648	13,317	13,795	7,128	6,603
Operating income/(loss)	5,090	42,260	50,829	48,489	39,377	37,953	30,418	(7,540)
Interest expense	2,917	3,657	3,051	2,037	3,193	1,820	1,087	980
CDSOA income	0	0	69	173	0	17	0	0
Other income/(expense)	390	(26)	1,207	1,321	819	1,392	804	172
Net income/(loss)	2,563	38,577	49,054	47,946	37,003	37,542	30,135	(8,348)
Depreciation	5,386	5,879	6,018	6,612	7,602	8,550	4,382	4,220
Cash flow	7,949	44,456	55,072	54,558	44,605	46,092	34,517	(4,128)
Ratio to net sales (percent)								
COGS:								
Raw materials	65.6	62.4	61.3	60.9	62.1	70.9	68.0	69.3
Direct labor	5.8	4.0	3.7	4.4	4.5	3.5	3.2	3.3
Other factory costs	18.6	11.3	13.7	14.5	14.7	10.9	9.2	28.3
Total COGS	90.0	77.7	78.6	79.8	81.4	85.4	80.4	100.9
Gross profit/(loss)	10.0	22.3	21.4	20.2	18.6	14.6	19.6	(0.9)
SG&A expenses	6.6	5.3	4.4	4.7	4.7	3.9	3.7	6.6
Operating income/(loss)	3.4	17.0	16.9	15.5	13.9	10.7	15.9	(7.5)
Net income/(loss)	1.7	15.5	16.4	15.4	13.1	10.6	15.8	(8.3)
Unit value (per 1,000 pounds)								
Total net sales	\$266	\$408	\$495	\$472	\$461	\$600	\$560	\$533
COGS:								
Raw materials	175	255	303	287	287	426	381	370
Direct labor	16	16	18	21	21	21	18	18
Other factory costs	49	46	68	69	68	65	51	151
Total COGS	240	317	389	376	375	513	450	538
Gross profit/(loss)	27	91	106	95	86	88	110	(5)
SG&A expenses	18	22	22	22	22	23	21	35
Operating income/(loss)	9	69	84	73	64	64	89	(40)
Net income/(loss)	5	63	81	72	60	64	88	(44)
Number of firms reporting								
Operating losses	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Data	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5

Table continued on next page.

Table III-9--Continued

PC strand: Results of operations of U.S. producers, 2003-08, January-June 2008, and January-June 2009

Note.-- MMI's financial data are included in this section of the report to present industry profitability for the PC strand produced and sold through the Rettco/MMI tolling arrangement. MMI's net sales quantities and values align with the shipment data reported in table III-4 and appendix C, and MMI's reported operating costs include all costs associated with the reported sales, including raw material costs and selling expenses, as well as Rettco's production costs which are captured in MMI's reported tolling fees. If COGS are adjusted by the amount of operating income reported for Rettco's toller operations, operating income margins for 2003-08 would be ***, ***, ***, ***, ***, and *** percent, respectively, and operating income margins for January-June 2008 and January-June 2009 would be *** and *** percent, respectively. This adjustment removes reported toller profitability from the overall operations on PC strand and presents industry profitability on a consolidated basis.

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to Commission questionnaires.

Table III-10

PC strand: Results of operations of U.S. producers, by firm, 2003-08, January-June 2008, and January-June 2009

* * * * *

While the overall industry's trends are reflected in the previous discussion, several firms *** on the aggregate results presented in table III-9. Insteel, which represented approximately *** percent of aggregate net sales quantities and values in 2008 and *** percent in January-June 2009, reported inventory adjustments in ***. These adjustments generally ***; however, the ***.³⁷

***, which represented approximately *** percent of aggregate net sales quantities and values in 2008 and *** percent in January-June 2009, stated that ***.³⁸

³⁷ Insteel reported inventory adjustments in ***. Insteel's operating margins ***. E-mail correspondence from ***, August 28, 2009. Such inventory adjustments correspond to information on Insteel's overall operations. In the firm's most recent 10-Q filing, Insteel reported a pre-tax charge for inventory write-downs "to reduce the carrying value of inventory to the lower of cost or market resulting from the decline in selling prices for certain products during the quarter relative to higher raw material costs under the first-in, first-out ("FIFO") method of accounting. Gross profit for the quarter was also unfavorably impacted by the reductions in shipments and selling prices, the consumption of higher cost inventory that was purchased prior to the recent collapse in steel prices and the escalation in unit conversion costs resulting from reduced operating schedules at our manufacturing facilities." See Insteel's Form 10-Q, July 20, 2009, p.18, and hearing transcript pp. 99-101.

³⁸ E-mail correspondence from ***, July 1, 2009, and August 31, 2009. ***. E-mail correspondence from ***, August 31, 2009.

Variance Analysis

A variance analysis for PC strand is presented in table III-11.³⁹ The information for the variance analysis is derived from table III-9. The analysis shows that the increase in operating income from 2003 to 2008 is primarily attributable to the favorable price variance that more than offset an unfavorable net cost/expense variance (that is, prices rose to a greater extent than costs/expenses). The decline in operating income in January-June 2009 relative to January-June 2008 is attributable to unfavorable price, net cost/expense, and volume variances (that is, prices declined, costs/expenses increased, and volume declined).

Table III-11
PC strand: Variance analysis on operations of U.S. producers, 2003-08, and January-June 2008-09

Item	Between fiscal years						Jan.- June
	2003-08	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Value (\$1,000)							
Total net sales:							
Price variance	196,981	86,506	52,779	(15,493)	(6,425)	82,024	(5,102)
Volume variance	6,621	12,184	(2,057)	27,647	(22,533)	(11,030)	(85,701)
Total net sales variance	203,602	98,690	50,722	12,154	(28,958)	70,994	(90,803)
Cost of sales:							
Cost variance	(160,869)	(47,185)	(43,770)	8,662	541	(80,917)	(16,547)
Volume variance	(5,962)	(10,971)	1,599	(21,741)	17,974	8,977	68,867
Total cost variance	(166,831)	(58,156)	(42,171)	(13,079)	18,515	(71,940)	52,320
Gross profit variance	36,771	40,534	8,551	(925)	(10,443)	(946)	(38,483)
SG&A expenses:							
Expense variance	(3,473)	(2,563)	(91)	(195)	273	(997)	(2,671)
Volume variance	(435)	(801)	109	(1,220)	1,058	519	3,196
Total SG&A variance	(3,908)	(3,364)	18	(1,415)	1,331	(478)	525
Operating income variance	32,863	37,170	8,569	(2,340)	(9,112)	(1,424)	(37,958)
Summarized as:							
Price variance	196,981	86,506	52,779	(15,493)	(6,425)	82,024	(5,102)
Net cost/expense variance	(164,342)	(49,748)	(43,861)	8,467	814	(81,913)	(19,218)
Net volume variance	224	412	(349)	4,686	(3,501)	(1,534)	(13,638)
Note.-- Unfavorable variances are shown in parentheses; all others are favorable.							
Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to Commission questionnaires.							

³⁹ A variance analysis is calculated in three parts, sales variance, cost of sales variance, and SG&A expense variance. Each part consists of a price variance (in the case of the sales variance) or a cost variance (in the case of the cost of sales and SG&A expense variance) and a volume variance. The sales or cost variance is calculated as the change in unit price times the new volume, while the volume variance is calculated as the change in volume times the old unit price. Summarized at the bottom of the table, the price variance is from sales; the cost/expense variance is the sum of those items from COGS and SG&A variances, respectively; and the volume variance is the sum of the volume variance lines under price and cost/expense variance.

Capital Expenditures and Research and Development Expenses

The responding firms' aggregate data on capital expenditures and research and development ("R&D") expenses are shown in table III-12. Four firms provided capital expenditure data, while only two firms provided data on R&D expenses. Capital expenditures for PC strand increased irregularly from 2003 to 2008, but were lower in January-June 2009 than in January-June 2008. Insteel accounted for over *** percent of total capital expenditures ***, and Sumiden accounted for over *** percent of total reported R&D expenses ***. According to Insteel, capital expenditures since 2006 primarily reflect ***.⁴⁰ According to Sumiden, R&D expenses since 2006 primarily reflect ***.⁴¹

Table III-12
PC strand: Capital expenditures and research and development expenses of U.S. producers, 2003-08, January-June 2008, and January-June 2009

* * * * *

Assets and Return on Investment

The Commission's questionnaire requested data on assets used in the production, warehousing, and sale of PC strand to compute return on investment ("ROI"). Data on the U.S. producers' total assets and their ROI are presented in table III-13. From 2003 to 2008, the total assets for PC strand increased irregularly from \$112.4 million in 2003 to \$202.7 million in 2008. ROI increased by 32.1 percentage points from 2003 to 2005, but then declined by 17.9 percentage points from 2005 to 2008. Much of the increase in current assets relates to increases in the selling prices and inventory values for PC strand.

⁴⁰ E-mail correspondence from ***, June 22 and 23, 2009, and October 13, 2009. See also conference transcript for Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Preliminary), *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from China*, June 17, 2009, p. 84 (Woltz). In the firm's 2008 annual report, Insteel reported the completion of a capital investment program in 2008 and stated the following. "During 2008, we completed extensive upgrades at our Florida PC strand facility, including the installation of new wire drawing and stranding equipment together with the reconfiguration of the operation. This project represents the last component of our three-year, \$45.4 million capital investment program under which we have added two new engineered structural mesh ("ESM") production lines, reconfigured and expanded our PC strand facilities, and upgraded and expanded our standard welded wire reinforcing capabilities. We anticipate that these projects will generate dual benefits in the form of reducing operating costs and additional capacity to satisfy future growth in demand. Although the weakening market environment has precluded us from ramping up our expanded PC strand capacity, we are beginning to realize a portion of the expected returns on these investments through their favorable impact on labor productivity and increased sales of ESM. With the completion of the program behind us, we expect a significant drop-off in capital expenditures, with maintenance-related outlays expected to total less than \$5.0 million in 2009." Insteel's 2008 annual report, p. 2.

⁴¹ E-mail correspondence from ***, June 22 and 23, 2009, and October 13, 2009.

Table III-13

PC strand: Asset values and return on investment of U.S. producers, 2003-08

Item	Fiscal year					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Value of assets:	Value (\$1,000)					
Current assets:						
Cash and equivalents	2,246	3,126	3,722	12,135	8,154	15,262
Accounts receivable, net	22,469	37,066	39,819	37,765	35,722	42,804
Inventories	20,280	34,301	34,541	56,734	41,047	73,013
Other	4,036	1,708	1,824	1,543	2,166	1,652
Total current assets	49,031	76,201	79,906	108,178	87,089	132,731
Property, plant and equipment:						
Original cost	103,970	105,109	108,599	125,101	133,761	142,408
Less: accumulated depreciation	44,737	48,717	53,942	60,126	64,151	74,759
Equals: book value	59,233	56,392	54,658	64,974	69,611	67,648
Other non-current assets	4,158	3,785	4,490	3,725	2,526	2,287
Total assets	112,422	136,378	139,053	176,877	159,226	202,666
Operating income or (loss)	5,090	42,260	50,829	48,489	39,377	37,953
Share (percent)						
Return on investment	4.5	31.0	36.6	27.4	24.7	18.7
Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to Commission questionnaires.						

PART IV: U.S. IMPORTS AND THE FOREIGN INDUSTRIES

U.S. IMPORTS

The Commission sent questionnaires to 68 firms that were believed to have imported PC strand since 2003, and received usable data from 22 companies. Based on official Commerce statistics for imports of PC strand under HTS statistical reporting numbers 7312.10.3010 and 7312.10.3012 for the period 2003-08, importers' questionnaire data accounted for the following shares of total imports:

- *** percent of total imports from Brazil;
- *** percent of total imports from India;
- *** percent of total imports from Japan;¹
- *** percent of total imports from Korea;
- 0.0 percent of total imports from Mexico;²
- *** percent of total imports from Thailand; and
- over 100 percent of total imports from all other countries combined.

Due to less-than-complete questionnaire coverage for U.S. PC strand imports as compared to official import statistics, the import data presented in the body of this report are derived from official Commerce statistics for PC strand under HTS statistical reporting numbers 7312.10.3010 and 7312.10.3012.

Two PC strand producers in Japan are excluded from the antidumping duty finding: Kawasaki Steel Techno-Wire (successor company to Kawatetsu) and Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd.³ However, based on a review of data provided by U.S. Customs and Border Protection ("Customs"), there have been *** imports of PC strand from these two excluded companies since 2003.⁴ However, according to proprietary Customs data, *** of all U.S. imports of merchandise entering the United States under the applicable HTS statistical reporting numbers from Japan during the period examined in these reviews are nonsubject galvanized strand imported by ***.

¹ As indicated earlier in *Part I* of this report, the bulk (*** percent) of all U.S. imports of product entering the United States under the applicable HTS statistical reporting numbers from Japan during the period examined in these reviews are nonsubject galvanized strand imported by ***. If these known nonsubject imports are extracted from the data, the coverage of questionnaire responses is *** percent.

² Camesa and Deacero, the only PC strand producers in Mexico, reported that they have not exported the subject merchandise to the United States since ***.

³ Although Commerce, in 1990, extended Treasury's "discontinuance" of the order with respect to Kawasaki Steel Techno-Wire Co., Ltd., the successor company to Kawatetsu, the discontinuance does not apply to JFE Techno-Wire, the apparent successor firm to Kawasaki Steel Techno-Wire, because a changed-circumstances review has not been conducted by Commerce concerning Kawasaki Steel Techno-Wire's successor-in-interest. Therefore, JFE Techno-Wire is covered by the antidumping duty order on PC strand from Japan. *Steel Wire Strand for Prestressed Concrete from Japan, Investigation No. AA1921-188*, USITC Publication 928, November 1978, p. A-2; *Steel Wire Strand for Prestressed Concrete From Japan: Final Results of Changed Circumstances Antidumping Duty Administrative Review*, 55 FR 28796, July 13, 1990; *Steel Wire Strand for Prestressed Concrete From Japan: Final Results of Antidumping Duty, Administrative Review and Revocation In Part*, 51 FR 30894, August 29, 1986; staff telephone interview, ***, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, October 2, 2009; and domestic producers' prehearing brief, p. 26.

⁴ Also, there have been *** imports of PC strand from Kawasaki Steel Techno-Wire's successor company JFE Techno-Wire.

Camesa and Deacero, the only PC strand producers in Mexico, reported that together they exported *** pounds of PC strand to the United States during *** but that they have not exported the subject merchandise to the United States since ***. However, official U.S. import statistics indicate the presence of imported merchandise from Mexico in every annual period from 2003 to the present. According to proprietary Customs data, *** accounted for *** of total U.S. imports of PC strand during *** and *** accounted for *** of the total. *** was responsible for *** imports of merchandise from Mexico entering the United States under HTS statistical reporting number 7312.10.3010 and 7312.10.3012. The Mexican producers explain that the product that was exported under the applicable HTS numbers for PC strand after *** was not subject PC strand but was nonsubject galvanized PC strand. Therefore, the U.S. import statistics for merchandise entering the United States under the applicable HTS statistical reporting numbers from Mexico after *** are believed to cover nonsubject merchandise.⁵ Regardless, no U.S. importer questionnaire responses were provided to the Commission indicating U.S. imports of subject merchandise corresponding to the foreign producers' exports of PC strand to the United States for ***.

Four U.S. importers reported entering or withdrawing PC strand from bonded warehouses⁶ and one U.S. importer reported entering or withdrawing PC strand from a foreign trade zone.⁷ No importers reported imports of PC strand under the temporary importation under bond program.

Imports of PC strand from each of the subject countries and from all nonsubject countries for the annual periods 2003-08, January-June 2008, and January-June 2009 appear in table IV-1. The combined quantity of imports from the subject countries fell from a high of 107.5 million pounds in 2003 to a low of 3.0 million pounds in 2005. Imports from the subject countries then increased to 7.3 million pounds in 2007 before falling throughout the remainder of the period examined in these reviews. *** of the U.S. importers responding to the Commission's questionnaire in these reviews reported arrangements for the importation of PC strand from any of the six subject countries for delivery after June 30, 2009.

Imported product from Korea and Mexico contributed substantially to the aggregate subject import increase in 2006-07, after the imports from those two countries fell markedly following the imposition of the orders in 2004. Official import statistics indicate that subject imports from Brazil totally ceased after the imposition of the order in 2004 and subject imports from India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand were noticeably lower after the imposition of the orders, dropping to virtually nil for India in 2004-06 and for Thailand during 2006-08. Imports from Japan, which accounted for 0.5 percent or less of total U.S. imports throughout the period examined, increased from 2003 to 2007, then fell in 2008 and were nil in January-June 2009. The ratio of U.S. imports of PC strand from the 6 subject countries to U.S. production of PC strand was 18.6 percent during 2003 (prior to the imposition of the subject orders, except for Japan). This ratio did not exceed 1.5 percent during the remainder of the period examined in these reviews.

⁵ Email from *** to Mary Messer on October 21, 2009.

⁶ The four U.S. importers and the countries from which they imported were ***.

⁷ The U.S. importer and the countries from which it imported was ***.

Table IV-1
PC strand: U.S. imports, by sources, 2003-08, January-June 2008, and January-June 2009

Source	Calendar year						January-June	
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2008	2009
Quantity (1,000 pounds)								
Brazil	21,511	449	0	0	0	0	0	0
India	3,210	34	2	2	235	209	0	0
Korea	36,934	316	258	3,958	2,831	3,325	1,661	86
Mexico	38,257	867	555	1,526	2,283	1,514	759	2,214
Thailand	6,791	5,800	624	45	0	0	0	0
Subtotal, 5 subject	106,703	7,466	1,439	5,530	5,349	5,048	2,421	2,300
Japan	768	1,545	1,564	1,580	1,952	1,380	1,224	0
Subtotal, 6 subject	107,471	9,011	3,003	7,111	7,301	6,429	3,644	2,300
China	38,472	138,692	167,653	391,367	353,937	381,652	215,453	31,609
Other nonsubject	95,951	138,031	114,594	86,301	36,465	24,660	13,228	12,198
Subtotal, nonsubject	134,423	276,723	282,247	477,667	390,402	406,312	228,681	43,806
Total imports	241,894	285,733	285,250	484,778	397,703	412,741	232,325	46,106
Value (1,000 dollars)¹								
Brazil	4,610	168	0	0	0	0	0	0
India	704	41	17	9	81	156	0	0
Korea	7,995	167	196	1,506	1,399	2,201	1,081	54
Mexico	11,534	290	187	729	1,036	885	377	997
Thailand	1,572	1,819	240	25	0	0	0	0
Subtotal, 5 subject	26,415	2,485	640	2,268	2,516	3,241	1,458	1,051
Japan	399	876	1,092	1,100	1,343	916	874	0
Subtotal, 6 subject	26,813	3,361	1,732	3,368	3,859	4,157	2,333	1,051
China	9,980	46,899	68,806	127,617	115,843	194,276	94,881	11,889
Other nonsubject	25,010	49,094	53,666	36,717	19,123	17,614	7,954	7,950
Subtotal, nonsubject	34,990	95,994	122,471	164,334	134,966	211,890	102,835	19,839
Total imports	61,803	99,355	124,203	167,702	138,825	216,047	105,168	20,889

Table continued on following page.

Table IV-1--Continued

PC strand: U.S. imports, by sources, 2003-08, January-June 2008, and January-June 2009

Source	Calendar year						January-June	
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2008	2009
Unit value (per 1,000 pounds)								
Brazil	\$214	\$373	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
India	219	1,208	\$7,934	\$5,265	\$344	\$746	(²)	(²)
Korea	216	527	759	380	494	662	\$651	\$624
Mexico	301	335	337	478	454	584	496	450
Thailand	231	314	385	543	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Average, 5 subject	248	333	444	410	470	642	602	457
Japan	519	567	698	696	688	663	715	(²)
Average, 6 subject	249	373	577	474	529	647	640	457
China	259	338	410	326	327	509	440	376
Other nonsubject	261	356	468	425	524	714	601	652
Average, nonsubject	260	347	434	344	346	521	450	453
Average, total imports	255	348	435	346	349	523	453	453
Ratio of import quantity to U.S. production (percent)								
Brazil	3.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
India	0.6	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	0.0	0.0
Korea	6.4	0.1	(³)	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	(³)
Mexico	6.6	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	1.3
Thailand	1.2	1.0	0.1	(³)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Subtotal, 5 subject	18.5	1.2	0.2	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.7	1.3
Japan	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.0
Subtotal, 6 subject	18.6	1.5	0.5	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.3
China	6.7	22.8	27.0	58.1	58.8	68.3	65.8	18.3
Other nonsubject	16.6	22.7	18.4	12.8	6.1	4.4	4.0	7.1
Subtotal, nonsubject	23.3	45.5	45.4	71.0	64.9	72.7	69.9	25.4
Total imports	41.9	47.0	45.9	72.0	66.1	73.9	71.0	26.7

Table continued on following page.

Table IV-1--Continued

PC strand: U.S. imports, by sources, 2003–08, January-June 2008, and January-June 2009

Source	Calendar year						January-June	
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2008	2009
Share of quantity (percent)								
Brazil	8.9	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
India	1.3	⁽³⁾	⁽³⁾	⁽³⁾	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Korea	15.3	0.1	0.1	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.2
Mexico	15.8	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.4	0.3	4.8
Thailand	2.8	2.0	0.2	⁽³⁾	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Subtotal, 5 subject	44.1	2.6	0.5	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.0	5.0
Japan	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.0
Subtotal, 6 subject	44.4	3.2	1.1	1.5	1.8	1.6	1.6	5.0
China	15.9	48.5	58.8	80.7	89.0	92.5	92.7	68.6
Other nonsubject	39.7	48.3	40.2	17.8	9.2	6.0	5.7	26.5
Subtotal, nonsubject	55.6	96.8	98.9	98.5	98.2	98.4	98.4	95.0
Total imports	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Share of value (percent)								
Brazil	7.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
India	1.1	⁽³⁾	⁽³⁾	⁽³⁾	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Korea	12.9	0.2	0.2	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.3
Mexico	18.7	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.4	0.4	4.8
Thailand	2.5	1.8	0.2	⁽³⁾	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Subtotal, 5 subject	42.7	2.5	0.5	1.4	1.8	1.5	1.4	5.0
Japan	0.6	0.9	0.9	0.7	1.0	0.4	0.8	0.0
Subtotal, 6 subject	43.4	3.4	1.4	2.0	2.8	1.9	2.2	5.0
China	16.1	47.2	55.4	76.1	83.4	89.9	90.2	56.9
Other nonsubject	40.5	49.4	43.2	21.9	13.8	8.2	7.6	38.1
Subtotal, nonsubject	56.6	96.6	98.6	98.0	97.2	98.1	97.8	95.0
Total imports	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
¹ Landed, duty-paid. ² Not applicable. ³ Less than 0.05 percent.								
<p>Note.—*** of all U.S. imports from Japan are nonsubject galvanized strand imported by ***. In addition, since the only PC strand producers in Mexico reported that they have not exported the subject merchandise to the United States since ***, the U.S. imports from Mexico after *** are believed to cover nonsubject merchandise.</p>								
<p>Source: Import data presented are from official Commerce statistics under HTS statistical reporting numbers 7312.10.3010 and 7312.10.3012; U.S. production data used in the ratio calculation presented are compiled from data submitted in response to Commission questionnaires.</p>								

Between 2003 and 2008, the share of the quantity of total U.S. imports held by subject imports fell from a high of 44.4 percent in 2003 to a low of 1.1 percent in 2005, before rising to 1.8 percent in 2007 and 1.6 percent in 2008. The share held by subject imports during the first half of 2009 was 5.0 percent. Imports of PC strand from nonsubject sources (largely China) grew initially from 55.6 percent of total imports in 2003 to 98.9 percent in 2005, then remained relatively stable between 98 and 99 percent during 2006-08. The nonsubject sources held a 95.0-percent share of total U.S. imports during the first half of 2009. Major nonsubject countries exporting PC strand to the United States during 2003-08 include Argentina, Belgium, Canada, China, France, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Malaysia, Netherlands, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, and Taiwan. The largest nonsubject suppliers of imported PC strand to the United States during 2008 were China, followed distantly by Canada, Portugal, and Italy.

The unit values of imported PC strand from all sources increased from \$255 per 1,000 pounds in 2003 to \$435 per 1,000 pounds in 2005, before falling back to \$346-349 per 1,000 pounds in 2006-07. A noticeable increase in the unit values of imports to \$523 per 1,000 pounds was reported for 2008. The unit values of subject imports followed a similar trend but were higher than the average unit values for total imports in all periods except for 2003.

U.S. IMPORTERS' INVENTORIES

Table IV-2 presents data relating to U.S. importers' inventories of PC strand. U.S. importers responding to the Commission's questionnaire reported little or no imports and no inventories of PC strand produced in Brazil, India, and Mexico during the period examined in these reviews. Relatively minor amounts of inventories of subject imports were held by U.S. importers of PC strand from Korea and Thailand only at yearend *** and only *** pounds of PC strand imported from Japan were held in inventory during ***.

Table IV-2
PC strand: U.S. importers' end-of-period inventories of imports, by source, 2003-08, January-June 2008, and January-June 2009

* * * * *

Inventories of nonsubject imports (primarily from China) were substantially higher than subject import inventories. These inventories increased from 2003 to 2006, but were lower than the 2006 level at yearend 2007-08. Nonsubject U.S. imports held in inventory at mid-year 2009 were higher than the level reported at mid-year 2008. Relative to import quantity, inventories of nonsubject imports increased from a low of *** percent of imports in 2003-04 to *** percent of imports in 2008. The ratio of nonsubject inventories to import quantity was *** percent during the first half of 2009. The domestic interested parties testified at the Commission's hearing in these reviews that the "huge" inventory overhang of imports from China has been "worked off" somewhat since the May 2009 filing of the petition concerning PC strand imports from China and the domestic producers have once again begun to take sales inquiries from customers that had for a period of years been exclusively purchasing the imported product. They indicated that they optimistically anticipated that the inventory of imports from China held in the United States will be exhausted by yearend 2009.⁸

⁸ Hearing transcript, pp. 29-31 (Woltz), pp. 97-98 (Wagner), and p. 99 (Cornelius).

CUMULATION CONSIDERATIONS

In assessing whether subject imports are likely to compete with each other and with the domestic like product with respect to cumulation, the Commission generally has considered the following four factors: (1) the degree of fungibility, including specific customer requirements and other quality-related questions; (2) presence of sales or offers to sell in the same geographic markets; (3) common channels of distribution; and (4) simultaneous presence in the market. Channels of distribution and fungibility (interchangeability) are discussed in *Part II* of this report. Additional information concerning fungibility, geographical markets, and simultaneous presence in the market is presented below.

Fungibility

U.S. producers, importers, and foreign producers were asked to provide data concerning their U.S. shipments of PC strand, by application. As indicated in table III-5, more than two-thirds of U.S. producers' total U.S. shipments of PC strand were for pre-tensioned applications (on the basis of quantity) and less than one-third were destined for post-tensioned applications during January 2003-June 2009. The U.S. producers' data show a shift away from serving customers using the PC strand in post-tensioned applications in favor of pre-tensioning customers. In 2003, *** percent of the domestic producers' U.S. shipments were for pre-tensioned applications. By 2008, this share had increased to *** percent of total U.S. shipments by domestic producers.

U.S. importers of PC strand from Brazil, Korea, Thailand, and nonsubject countries (primarily China) provided data concerning their U.S. shipments of PC strand, by type of application (i.e., bare/coated and pre-tensioned/post-tensioned). These data are presented in table IV-3 (Brazil), table IV-4 (Korea), table IV-5 (Thailand), and table IV-6 (nonsubject countries). *** data for U.S. shipments of PC strand, by application, were provided by U.S. importers of PC strand from India, Japan, and Mexico for the period examined in these reviews.⁹

As the data in tables IV-3 through IV-6 show, *** U.S. shipments of U.S. imports from Brazil and Thailand and *** U.S. shipments of U.S. imports from Korea reported during the period examined in these reviews were for uncovered (bare) PC strand for post-tensioned applications.¹⁰ Specifically, U.S. shipments of U.S. imports from Korea for uncovered (bare) PC strand for post-tensioned applications ranged from *** to *** percent during ***. The remaining amount was destined for pre-tensioned applications.

Table IV-3
PC strand: U.S. shipments of U.S. imports from Brazil, by application, 2003-08, January-June 2008, and January-June 2009

* * * * *

⁹ Foreign producers of PC strand in India, Japan, and Mexico also reported *** for exports of PC strand to the United States, by application, for the period examined in these reviews.

¹⁰ Data provided by subject foreign producers in Korea indicate that a majority (*** percent) of exports to the United States during 2003 and *** subsequent exports to the United States were for post-tensioned applications. Data provided by the foreign producer in Brazil indicate that exports to the United States during the period examined in these reviews were ***. Foreign producers of PC strand in Thailand reported *** for exports of PC strand to the United States, by application, for the period examined in these reviews.

Table IV-4

PC strand: U.S. shipments of U.S. imports from Korea, by application, 2003-08, January-June 2008, and January-June 2009

* * * * *

Table IV-5

PC strand: U.S. shipments of U.S. imports from Thailand, by application, 2003-08, January-June 2008, and January-June 2009

* * * * *

Table IV-6

PC strand: U.S. shipments of U.S. imports from nonsubject countries (primarily China), by application, 2003-08, January-June 2008, and January-June 2009

* * * * *

*** of U.S. shipments of U.S. imports from nonsubject countries (primarily China) reported during the period examined in these reviews were for uncovered (bare) PC strand for post-tensioned applications. U.S. shipments of U.S. imports from nonsubject countries (primarily China) for uncovered (bare) PC strand for post-tensioned applications ranged from *** to *** percent during 2003-08, with almost all of the remaining amount destined for pre-tensioned applications. A very minor amount of U.S. import from nonsubject countries was reported for covered/coated post-tensioned applications during 2003. During the first six months of 2009, the U.S. importers from nonsubject countries showed a shift away from post-tensioned applications (*** percent) toward pre-tensioned applications (*** percent).

“Buy America(n)” provisions applied to approximately one-third of total apparent U.S. consumption of PC strand during the period examined in these reviews.¹¹ Whereas imported PC strand is not eligible for use in applications which are covered by “Buy America(n)” provisions, an increasing share of domestic producers’ total U.S. shipments of PC strand were made under these provisions during the period examined in these reviews. During 2008, *** percent of domestic producers’ total U.S. shipments of PC strand were subject to “Buy America(n)” restrictions (table III-5).¹² Most (approximately *** percent) of sales of PC strand that were subject to “Buy America(n)” restrictions were used in pre-tensioned applications.¹³ On the other hand, *** subject imports were sold for post-tensioned applications where both “Buy America(n)” sales and the domestic industry presence were less prevalent.

Geographic Markets

PC strand produced in the United States is shipped nationwide. Information summarizing the regional shipment of imported PC strand is presented in table IV-7. Additional information on geographic markets may be found in *Part V* of this report.

¹¹ During each period for which data were gathered in these reviews, “Buy America(n)” purchases accounted for the following shares of total apparent U.S. consumption: ***. Calculated from data presented in tables I-12 and III-5.

¹² During each period for which data were gathered in these reviews, “Buy America(n)” purchases accounted for the following shares of domestic producers’ total U.S. PC strand shipments: ***. Calculated from data presented in table III-5.

¹³ Pre-tensioned applications accounted for the following percentages of total PC strand subject to “Buy America(n)” restrictions during the period for which data were gathered in these reviews: ***. Calculated from data presented in table III-5.

Table IV-7
PC strand: U.S. imports from subject countries, by Customs district, January 2003-June 2009

Customs district	Brazil ¹	India ²	Japan ³	Korea ⁴	Mexico ⁵	Thailand ⁶	Total, subject countries	China	Other nonsubject countries	Total, nonsubject countries	Total, all countries
Quantity (1,000 pounds)											
Houston-Galveston, TX	13,540	485	0	6,690	0	0	20,715	678,218	163,102	841,320	862,035
Los Angeles, CA	2,409	2,883	8,565	39,251	0	11,832	64,940	539,455	91,901	631,356	696,296
Miami, FL	2,939	48	0	0	0	0	2,987	91,352	88,257	179,609	182,596
Seattle, WA	40	0	188	148	22	1,383	1,781	15,932	94,908	110,840	112,621
San Francisco, CA	0	235	0	552	0	0	787	54,919	777	55,696	56,483
Laredo, TX	0	0	0	0	46,547	0	46,547	0	0	0	46,547
New Orleans, LA	1,188	0	0	0	0	0	1,189	10,255	14,667	24,922	26,111
Tampa, FL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,168	11,761	22,929	22,929
Philadelphia, PA	0	0	0	125	0	0	125	22,379	217	22,596	22,721
Charleston, SC	0	0	37	0	0	0	37	13,015	10,860	23,875	23,912
All others	1,843	41	0	943	644	45	3,517	66,688	31,750	98,437	101,954
Total	21,960	3,692	8,790	47,708	47,214	13,260	142,625	1,503,382	508,199	2,011,581	2,154,206

¹ The "other" ports of entry for PC strand from Brazil were Baltimore, MD, New York, NY, and San Juan, PR.

² The "other" ports of entry for PC strand from India were New York, NY and St. Louis, MO.

³ There were no "other" ports of entry for PC strand from Japan.

⁴ The "other" ports of entry for PC strand from Korea were Baltimore, MD, Honolulu, HI, New York, NY, and St. Louis, MO.

⁵ The "other" port of entry for PC strand from Mexico was El Paso, TX.

⁶ The "other" port of entry for PC strand from Thailand was Columbia-Snake, OR.

Source: Compiled from official Commerce statistics.

As information presented in table IV-7 illustrates, the top Customs district for subject imports from India, Japan, Korea, and Thailand during the period examined in these reviews was Los Angeles and the top Customs districts for subject imports from Brazil and Mexico were located in Texas.¹⁴ Whereas PC strand imports from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, and Thailand entered the United States in Customs districts located in several states, almost all imports of PC strand from Mexico entered the United States through Customs districts located in Texas. Since 2003, more than 93 percent of the subject merchandise entered the United States through Customs districts located in California and Texas. Although imports of PC strand from nonsubject countries entered through Customs districts located throughout several states, the top Customs districts for these nonsubject imports were located in California and Texas.

Presence in the Market

Table IV-8 presents data on the monthly entries of U.S. imports of PC strand, by source, during 2003-08 and January-June 2009. PC strand produced in each of the subject countries was generally present in several months during 2003 and 2004. From 2005 to 2008, after the imposition of the orders concerning Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand, the presence of subject imports in the market appeared more sporadic, with no monthly entries for imports of PC strand for the following: Brazil (2005-08 and January-June 2009), India (January-June 2009), Japan (January-June 2009), and Thailand (2007-08 and January-June 2009).¹⁵ Nonsubject imports from China and all other nonsubject sources combined were present in almost every month throughout the entire period examined in these reviews.

¹⁴ U.S. imports of PC strand from Japan were already subject to an antidumping finding in 2003. However, in 1977, the leading port of entry for PC strand imports was Houston, TX, followed by New Orleans, LA, and Los Angeles, CA. Fully one-quarter of PC strand imports from Japan in 1977 entered the United States through the West Coast or Hawaii (Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, and Honolulu). *Steel Wire Strand for Prestressed Concrete from Japan: Inv. No. AA1921-188, OP2-B-178, November 3, 1978, p. A-22, table 4.*

¹⁵ Although official import statistics of Commerce indicate that PC strand entered the United States from Mexico throughout the entire period examined in these reviews, Camesa and Deacero, the only PC strand producers in Mexico, reported that they have not exported the subject merchandise to the United States since ***. Mexican producers' prehearing brief, p. 10; and *Supplemental Response to Commission's Notice of Institution by the Mexican Producers, Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)), February 2, 2009, p. 2.*

Table IV-8
PC strand: U.S. imports, monthly entries into the United States, by sources, 2003-08 and January-June 2009

Country	Calendar year						January-June
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Brazil	7	2	0	0	0	0	0
India	8	5	2	1	2	2	0
Japan	6	10	9	6	7	6	0
Korea	10	5	5	10	10	12	1
Mexico	11	10	7	4	9	6	5
Thailand	9	8	1	1	0	0	0
China	9	12	12	12	12	12	6
All others	12	12	12	12	12	12	6

Source: Compiled from official statistics of Commerce.

THE SUBJECT FOREIGN INDUSTRIES

Capacity

The aggregate capacity to produce PC strand in the six countries subject to these reviews is believed to have grown by approximately 20 percent since 2002, primarily due to capacity increases in India and Thailand, and to a lesser extent in Mexico and Korea. Table IV-9 presents comparative information available for 2002 from the original investigations concerning Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand and for 2003 from the second five-year review concerning Japan. Also presented are either 2008 capacity data compiled from Commission questionnaire responses in these current reviews or 2009 capacity estimates provided by the domestic interested parties participating in these reviews. As these data show, the 2008/09 aggregate estimated capacity to produce PC strand in these six subject countries (1.253 million pounds) is 38.6 percent greater than the 2008 U.S. capacity to produce PC strand (0.904 million pounds) and 32.9 percent greater than the 2008 apparent U.S. consumption of PC strand (0.943 million pounds). For comparison purposes, total 2008 production of PC strand in China (a country not subject to these reviews but subject to an ongoing antidumping duty investigation at the Commission) is believed to be approximately 5.1 billion pounds and overall capacity to produce PC strand in the European Union (also not subject to these reviews) was reported to be 2.7 billion pounds in 2007.

Table IV-9

PC strand: Comparison of capacity data of the subject countries, 2002/03 and 2008/09

Item	2002/03	2008/09
Quantity (1,000 pounds)		
Brazil:		
Belgo Bekaert	***	***
India:		
TISCO (predecessor of Tata)	***	***1
Indore Wire	(2)	(2)
Ramsarup Lohh Udyog	***	***1
Usha Martin	***3	***
Subtotal, India	***	***
Japan: ⁴		
JFE Techno-Wire (formerly Kawatetsu and then Kawasaki Techno-Wire)	(5)	***1
Tokyo Rope	***3	***
Sumitomo	(6)	(6)
Tesac	***3	***
Shinko	(6)	***1
Suzuki	(6)	***1
Subtotal, subject Japan	***6	***
Korea:		
Kiswire	***	***1 7
Manho	***	***1 /
Dong Il	***	***
Young Heung	***	***
Subtotal, Korea	***	***/
Mexico:		
Camesa	***	***
Deacero (formerly Cablesa)	***	***
Subtotal, Mexico	***	***
Thailand:		
Bangkok Steel Wire	***	(8)
Siam Industrial Wire	***	***1
Siam Wire	***	(8)
Thai Wire	***	***1
Rayong Wire	***	***1
Thai Special Wire	***3	***
Subtotal, Thailand	***	***
Total, six subject countries	1,037,544	1,252,993

¹ A response to the Commission's questionnaire was not provided by the firm in these reviews. The data presented were estimated by the domestic interested parties and are for annual capacity for 2009.

² Indore Wire began production of PC strand in India during the last quarter of 2002. Capacity data for Indore Wire are not known. Domestic interested parties indicated that the firm continues to produce PC strand.

³ The company did not provide a separate questionnaire response in the original investigation. Capacity data presented are for 2003 and were provided in the firms' questionnaire responses in these reviews.

⁴ 2002 data presented for Japan are for calendar year 2003.

⁵ Company not subject to the order under review.

⁶ Individual company data were not provided in the Commission's second review of the finding; Japan data presented were provided by domestic producer Sumiden in that review for the entire Japanese industry subject to the finding and do not sum to the individual company data presented.

⁷ Korean PC strand producer Dong Il provided much lower capacity estimates for Kiswire (*** pounds) and Manho (*** pounds). The domestic interested parties' estimates are presented in this table because they appear to be in agreement with public characterizations of the firms' capacity levels. If Dong Il's estimates are used in the aggregate calculation instead, the subtotal for Korea for 2009 would be *** pounds, *** percent lower than the 2002 capacity level.

⁸ Capacity data are not known. Domestic interested parties indicated that Bangkok Steel Wire and Siam Wire continue to produce PC strand but did not give any indication as to the firms' capacity level.

Source: *Staff Report*, December 19, 2003 (INV-AA-191); *Staff Report*, May 10, 2004 (INV-BB-058); questionnaire responses submitted in the original investigations and these reviews; and domestic producers' prehearing brief, exh. 6.

Actual and Anticipated Changes in Capacity

Foreign producers were asked to indicate whether their firm had experienced any plant openings, relocations, expansions, acquisitions, consolidations, closures, prolonged shutdowns, production curtailments, revised labor agreements, or any other change in the character of their operations or organization relating to the production of PC strand since January 1, 2003. Four responding PC strand producers from three subject countries indicated in their questionnaire responses that they had experienced such changes since 2003 and provided details concerning these changes. Their responses are presented in table IV-10. The foreign producers were also asked to indicate whether their firm anticipated any changes in the character of their operations or organization relating to the production of PC strand in the future. None of the responding foreign producers anticipated such changes.

Table IV-10
PC strand: Changes in the character of subject foreign operations

* * * * *

Exports

As shown in table IV-11, China is, by far, the world's largest exporter of product exported under HTS number 7312.10 (stranded wire, ropes and cables of iron or steel, not electrically insulated), followed by Korea. Not only was China the largest country exporter in 2008, it had the largest increase in exports during 2003-08 (595.1 percent). Of the six countries subject to the current reviews, Korea was the largest country exporter during 2003-08, followed by Japan, Thailand, and India. Four of the six subject countries showed increases in exports in 2008 over 2003 levels: India (53.6 percent), Korea (9.6 percent), Mexico (41.9 percent), and Thailand (68.5 percent).

Net Trade Balance

Available *Global Trade Atlas* data concerning the net trade balance reported for stranded wire, ropes, and cables of iron or steel (not electrically insulated) for each subject country is presented in table IV-12. These data show that, in the aggregate, the six subject countries were net exporters of stranded wire, ropes, and cables of iron or steel (not electrically insulated) during 2003-08.¹⁶ Four subject countries (India, Japan, Korea, and Thailand) were consistently net exporters since 2003 and one subject country (Brazil) was a net exporter until 2008, when its imports of the product surpassed its exports. Mexico was the only subject country that remained a net importer of the product in every year since 2003.

¹⁶ Note that the data presented in table IV-12 are for the six-digit HTS classification that includes all stranded wire, ropes, and cables of iron or steel (not electrically insulated). Therefore, the data presented include a substantial amount of product that is not PC strand.

Table IV-11
Stranded wire, ropes, and cables of iron or steel, not electrically insulated: Reported worldwide exports
from subject countries, top 10 nonsubject countries, and all other countries, 2003-08

Exporting country	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Quantity (1,000 pounds)						
Brazil	97,522	90,033	85,282	90,802	75,376	53,265
India	89,905	113,274	126,202	124,136	113,259	138,054
Japan	195,345	229,772	207,588	190,774	195,795	168,022
Korea	582,957	624,492	637,281	625,690	657,297	638,859
Mexico	34,254	27,230	34,302	33,118	36,288	48,621
Thailand	125,620	117,628	141,681	172,279	200,227	211,702
Subtotal, subject countries	1,125,603	1,202,428	1,232,337	1,236,798	1,278,241	1,258,523
China	334,261	596,553	807,243	1,363,994	1,823,793	2,323,358
United States	111,233	101,188	118,265	138,765	156,586	180,970
Turkey	88,592	102,254	104,563	101,743	93,277	113,884
South Africa	91,162	103,491	83,608	86,415	87,848	86,595
Canada	74,114	77,431	90,010	85,725	85,201	80,788
Russia	48,974	48,274	71,735	74,935	74,817	79,757
Indonesia	22,318	10,656	15,110	26,830	18,654	47,175
Argentina	33,463	32,823	30,940	37,174	37,615	39,942
Ukraine	39,281	35,301	33,061	34,940	40,142	29,834
Chile	0	0	0	12,864	12,535	14,816
Subtotal, top 10 nonsubject countries	843,397	1,107,972	1,354,536	1,963,384	2,430,467	2,997,120
All other countries	1,688,996	1,892,331	1,867,925	2,102,578	2,277,399	2,218,730
World	3,657,996	4,202,731	4,454,798	5,302,760	5,986,107	6,474,373

Source: Global Trade Atlas, HTS 7312.10, excluding data for Malaysia which appear questionable, retrieved July 27, 2009.

Table IV-12

Stranded wire, ropes, and cables of iron or steel, not electrically insulated: Subject country exports, imports, and trade balances, 2003-08

Country	2003			2004			2005		
	Exports	Imports	Trade balance	Exports	Imports	Trade balance	Exports	Imports	Trade balance
Quantity (1,000 pounds)									
Brazil	97,522	27,632	69,890	90,033	33,020	57,013	85,282	35,289	49,993
India	89,905	5,910	83,995	113,274	8,256	105,018	126,202	8,126	118,076
Japan	195,345	100,818	94,527	229,772	117,569	112,203	207,588	143,309	64,279
Korea	582,957	64,134	518,823	624,492	67,136	557,356	637,281	123,217	514,064
Mexico	34,254	55,034	(20,780)	27,230	95,313	(68,083)	34,302	236,654	(202,352)
Thailand	125,620	23,177	102,443	117,628	32,133	85,495	141,681	38,210	103,471
Total	1,125,603	276,705	848,898	1,202,428	353,427	849,001	1,232,337	584,805	647,532
Country	2006			2007			2008		
	Exports	Imports	Trade balance	Exports	Imports	Trade balance	Exports	Imports	Trade balance
Quantity (1,000 pounds)									
Brazil	90,802	46,668	44,134	75,376	66,565	8,811	53,265	80,707	(27,442)
India	124,136	14,708	109,428	113,259	20,592	92,667	138,054	45,944	92,110
Japan	190,774	153,119	37,655	195,795	160,082	35,713	168,022	166,403	1,619
Korea	625,690	149,474	476,216	657,297	258,202	399,095	638,859	285,735	353,124
Mexico	33,118	82,400	(49,282)	36,288	81,264	(44,976)	48,621	86,628	(38,007)
Thailand	172,279	35,593	136,686	200,227	36,451	163,776	211,702	53,347	158,355
Total	1,236,798	481,962	754,836	1,278,241	623,156	655,085	1,258,523	718,764	539,759
<p>Note.—Because of rounding, exports minus imports may not equal the trade balance. Positive numbers presented for “trade balance” show net exports and numbers in parentheses presented for “trade balance” show net imports.</p> <p>Source: Compiled from data obtained from the Global Trade Atlas for HTS codes: 7312.10.</p>									

Although net trade balance information specific to PC strand are not available for five of the six countries subject to these reviews, the Mexican interested parties provided the Commission with such data as compiled by the Unidad de Practicas Comerciales Internacionales (International Trade Practices Unit) of the Government of Mexico.¹⁷ These net trade balance data for Mexico, which are more specific to PC strand than are the *Global Trade Atlas* data, show that Mexico was a net importer of PC strand during the second half of 2007 (imports (2.918 million pounds) and exports (0.075 million pounds)), during calendar year 2008 (imports (5.996 million pounds) and exports (0.378 million pounds)), and during the first five months of 2009 (imports (3.006 million pounds) and exports (zero)).¹⁸ The Mexican interested parties explained that Mexico has been a net importer of PC strand because the home market demand for the product continues to increase due to (1) the dedication of financial resources by the Government of Mexico through the National Infrastructure Program for investment in the creation of infrastructure projects, such as highways, railroads, ports, and airports, and (2) the development of new end-use applications for PC strand in Mexico. It added that the United States is the largest supplier of PC strand to the Mexican market, accounting for 38.9 percent of total imports of PC strand into Mexico during the first five months of 2009.¹⁹

Tariff or Non-Tariff Barriers to Trade

The Commission asked producers of PC strand in the subject countries to identify tariff or non-tariff barriers to trade (for example, antidumping or countervailing duty findings or remedies, tariffs, quotas, or regulatory barriers) concerning their exports of PC strand to countries other than the United States. The Commission also asked the subject foreign producers to identify ongoing investigations in countries other than the United States that could result in tariff or non-tariff barriers to trade for their exports of PC strand. The foreign producers indicated in their responses that they are not aware of such tariff or non-tariff barriers to trade concerning their exports of PC strand to countries other than the United States nor are they aware of any ongoing investigations in countries other than the United States that could result in tariff or non-tariff barriers to trade for their exports of PC strand.

However, the domestic interested parties in these reviews indicated that barriers to trade for subject imports of PC strand apply to two subject countries, Korea and India. They reported that South Africa initiated its sunset reviews in 2006 and issued the results of its reviews of outstanding antidumping duty orders on stranded wire, ropes and cables (including PC strand) imported from China, Germany, Korea, and the United Kingdom and countervailing duty orders on stranded wire, ropes, and cables (including PC strand) imported from India in February 2009. The product covered by the orders is defined as “stranded wire, of iron or steel, not electrically insulated, of a diameter exceeding 8 mm

¹⁷ The trade data for Mexico, which was accessed by the Mexican interested parties in these reviews at <http://www.economia-snci.gob.mx:8080/siaiWeb/siaviMain.jsp>, are for subheading 7312.10.08 (non-galvanized 7-wire cables of a diameter equal or less than 19mm) of the Tariff Schedule of Mexico. The Mexican interested parties indicated that the only product that is properly classified under this subheading is nongalvanized PC strand. Mexican producers’ posthearing brief, p. 10, fn. 19; and emails from *** to Mary Messer, October 15, 2009 and October 21, 2009.

¹⁸ The Mexican interested parties noted that data showing exports to the United States under this subheading during January-May 2009 were misclassified and are actually “guy strand,” not PC strand. Mexican producers’ posthearing brief, p. 11. Guy strand is used in overhead electrical and telecommunications systems to provide stability to the poles that hold up the overhead utilities and to serve as a sheild for the electrical and telecommunications lines against lightning strikes. Guy strand is wire strand coated with zinc, aluminum, or copper, whereas PC strand is either uncoated, plastic coated, or epoxy coated. Guy strand and PC strand are manufactured in accordance with different ASTM specifications and they are not interchangeable in end use applications. Email from *** to Mary Messer, October 16, 2009; and email from *** to Mary Messer, October 21, 2009.

¹⁹ Mexican producers’ posthearing brief, pp. 11-12 and 16-22.

(excluding that of wire plated, coated or clad with tin).” Concerning South Africa’s sunset reviews on imports from Korea and India (the two countries subject to the Commission’s current PC strand reviews), South Africa found that absent the antidumping duty order against Korea and the countervailing duty order against India, wire strand imports would likely lead to continued or recurrent dumping/subsidy and injury. South Africa set the dumping rate applicable to Korean strand producers at 50.33 percent and the countervailing duty rate applicable to producers of wire strand in India at 2.87 percent. The domestic interested parties in these reviews argued that these South African duties on wire strand “provide a limitation on Korean and Indian exports to third country markets that could also cause diversion of exports to the U.S. market if revocation occurs.”²⁰

THE INDUSTRY IN BRAZIL

Overview

In the original investigation concerning Brazil, the Commission found that Belgo Bekaert was the only producer of PC strand in Brazil.²¹ Although it has undergone a change in ownership since the original investigations, Belgo Bekaert remains the sole producer of PC strand in Brazil today. The company is a joint venture between ArcelorMittal Brasil Long Wire (formerly known as Belgo-Mineira), a member company of leading steel producer ArcelorMittal Group, and Bekaert, a leader in wire and metallic coatings headquartered in Belgium.²² The domestic interested parties reported in their response to the Commission’s notice of institution in these current reviews that PC strand is currently produced at the same plants in Brazil as used by Belgo Bekaert at the time of the original investigations.²³

On May 15, 2009, an entry of appearance was filed with the Commission in these current reviews on behalf of Belgo Bekaert Arames Ltd. (“Belgo Bekaert”); however, on July 14, 2009, the entry of appearance was withdrawn. In an attempt to elicit a response from Belgo Bekaert, a foreign producers’ questionnaire was sent to the firm through not only its legal counsel, but also directly to the company’s facility in Brazil. Following the withdrawal of the entry of appearance on behalf of Belgo Bekaert, staff requests for the Brazilian producer’s response to the Commission’s foreign producer questionnaire were also made through joint-venture parent ArcelorMittal’s local legal counsel. Belgo Bekaert provided the Commission with an abbreviated response (i.e., data only) to its questionnaire. Table IV-13 presents select information available from the original investigations for 2002 and these first reviews for 2008.

Table IV-13
PC strand: Select Brazil industry data, 2002 and 2008

* * * * *

²⁰ Domestic producers’ prehearing brief, pp. 62-63 and exh. 19.

²¹ *Staff Report*, December 19, 2003 (INV-AA-191), p. VII-1.

²² Belgo Bekaert Arames company web site, <http://www.belgobekaert.com.br/>, accessed on September 2, 2009.

²³ *Response to Commission’s Notice of Institution of Domestic Interested Parties*, Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)), January 16, 2009, p. 6.

PC Strand Operations

The domestic interested parties participating in these reviews indicated that PC strand continues to be produced at the same Belgo Bekaert plants in Brazil as used by that firm in the original investigations, but they claim that Brazil is operating at greater capacity levels. Specifically, they asserted that Belgo Bekaert had a capacity of 1.5 billion pounds of stranded wires in 2005 and that it was expanding that capacity by 50 percent. They cited to ArcelorMittal's 2008 announcements of additional new investments totaling \$1.6 billion in its Brazilian long carbon steel operations (including wire production), \$1.2 billion to expand a wire rod plant, and \$5 billion in its overall steel activities in Brazil during 2008-12. They added that plans to develop export capacity were specifically mentioned in these announcements.²⁴ However, Belgo Bekaert's data submitted to the Commission in the original investigations and these current reviews show that the firm's capacity to produce PC strand has remained relatively stable since the imposition of the antidumping duty order, falling by *** percent (table IV-13).

Data from the abbreviated questionnaire response (i.e., data only) provided by Belgo Bekaert concerning its PC strand operations in Brazil during 2003-08, January-June 2008, and January-June 2009 are presented in table IV-14.

Table IV-14

PC strand: Brazilian capacity, production, shipments, and inventories, 2003-08, January-June 2008, and January-June 2009

* * * * *

Production Capacity in Brazil

Belgo Bekaert's reported capacity to produce PC strand in Brazil remained constant throughout the period examined in these reviews, whereas the firm's production and capacity utilization for PC strand fluctuated from period to period. The level of PC strand production reported for 2008 was *** percent lower than the level reported for 2003 and the level reported for the first half of 2009 was *** lower than the comparable period in 2008. The firm's reported capacity to produce PC strand in Brazil was based on operating *** hours per week, *** weeks per year.

Shipments of PC Strand Produced in Brazil

Total shipments of PC strand produced by Belgo Bekaert in Brazil fluctuated throughout the period examined in these reviews, ending *** percent lower in 2008 than reported in 2003. Total shipments were *** percent lower during the first half of 2009 than reported in the comparable period of 2008. During the period examined in these reviews, the Brazilian producer's home market shipments increasingly accounted for a *** share of the firm's total shipments of PC strand as the quantity of its export shipments fell. By 2008, Belgo Bekaert's home market shipments of PC strand accounted for *** percent of its total shipments, with the remaining *** percent accounted for by exports to various markets ***. Belgo Bekaert reported *** and decreasing amounts of PC strand exports to the United States

²⁴ Domestic producers' prehearing brief, pp. 8-9; and *Response to Commission's Notice of Institution of Domestic Interested Parties*, Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)), January 16, 2009, p. 6 and exh. 3.

during 2004-07.²⁵ *** PC strand exports to the United States were reported thereafter. Principal export markets reported by Belgo Bekaert for the period examined in these reviews include the following countries: ***.

According to official import statistics, imports into the United States from Brazil ceased not long after the order was imposed in 2004. While subject imports from Brazil were 23.1 million pounds in 2002 (the final annual period examined in the Commission’s original investigations), U.S. imports from Brazil fell to 0.4 million pounds in 2004 and dropped to zero thereafter.

THE INDUSTRY IN INDIA

Overview

Three major producers of PC strand in India were identified by the Commission in its original investigation: Tata Steel (formerly known as Tata Iron and Steel Co. (“TISCO”)), Usha Martin Industries (“Usha Martin”), and Indore Wire Co., Ltd. (“Indore Wire”). TISCO was, ***, the largest producer in India at that time, accounting for an estimated *** percent of the total production of PC strand in India during 2002 and *** percent of all imports of the subject merchandise into the United States from India during January 2000-June 2003. Usha Martin began production of PC strand in India during the last quarter of 2002 but neither Indore Wire nor Usha Martin exported PC strand produced in India to the United States at the time of the original investigations.²⁶

The domestic interested parties reported that the same three firms that produced PC strand in India during the original investigations continue to produce PC strand in India today. They added, however, that a fourth company in India, Ramsarup Lohh Udyog Ltd. (“RLUL”) opened a PC strand production line in May 2009.²⁷

Only one PC strand producer in India (Usha Martin) responded to the Commission’s questionnaire in these reviews. Usha Martin indicated in its questionnaire response that it accounted for *** percent of total PC strand production in India during 2008. Table IV-15 presents available information concerning the PC strand producers in India from the original investigations (2002) and these first reviews (2008).

Table IV-15
PC strand: Select data for producers in India, 2002 and 2008

* * * * *

²⁵ Belgo Bekaert’s data reported for exports to the United States for the period examined in these reviews *** the official U.S. import statistics, which report no imports of PC strand from Brazil after 2004.

²⁶ *Staff Report*, December 19, 2003 (INV-AA-191), pp. VII-3-5.

²⁷ Domestic producers’ prehearing brief, p. 14; and *Response to Commission’s Notice of Institution of Domestic Interested Parties*, Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)), January 16, 2009, p. 6 and exh. 3.

PC Strand Operations

The estimated capacity to produce PC strand in India has increased substantially since the orders were imposed; climbing by *** percent from approximately *** pounds in 2002 to approximately *** pounds in 2008 (table IV-9).²⁸ Data provided to the Commission by Usha Martin in these reviews concerning its PC strand operations in India during fiscal years (April 1-March 31) 2003-08 are presented in table IV-16. Usha Martin reported that *** business plan or any internal documents that describe, discuss, or analyze expected future market conditions for PC strand.

Table IV-16

PC strand: Indian producer Usha Martin's capacity, production, shipments, and inventories, 2003-08

* * * * *

Production Capacity in India

Usha Martin's reported capacity to produce PC strand in India, which is based on operating *** hours per week, *** weeks per year, remained stable from 2003 to 2007, but increased by *** percent in 2008. This *** increase in 2008 was the result of ***. Although Usha Martin reported in its questionnaire response that it has *** additional plans to add, expand, curtail, or shut down production capacity and/or production of PC strand in India in the foreseeable future, the domestic interested parties reported that publicly available information indicates otherwise. The domestic interested parties cited a press article reporting that Usha Martin has plans to increase its capacity into 2011.²⁹

Tata Steel (previously known as TISCO), *** PC strand producer/exporter in India during the original investigations, describes itself as "a significant wire player in Asia," including upstream wire production, and lists its annual capacity for its wire-making operations in India at 1.1 billion pounds.³⁰ The domestic interested parties in these reviews estimate that Tata's capacity to produce PC strand to be *** pounds. In addition, Tata announced in January 2009 that it was investing \$4 million in an expansion project to increase its wire production and capacity (including PC strand) by 79.4 million pounds at Indian Steel & Wire Products, a Tata Group member. The expansion is expected to be completed in mid-2010.³¹

Indore Wire Co., Ltd., another producer of PC strand in India identified in the original investigations, continues to list PC strand as a product it produces on its web site.³² A fourth PC strand producer in India, RLUL, announced in February 2008 that it expected commercial production of wire

²⁸ The increase in capacity is believed to be even greater because the capacity data presented for 2008 are believed to be understated by the amount of capacity at the PC strand production facilities of Indore Wire. Indore Wire began producing PC strand in the last quarter of 2002.

²⁹ Domestic producers' prehearing brief, pp. 12-13.

³⁰ Both Indian PC strand producer Tata Steel and Thai PC strand producer Siam Industrial Wire are part of the Tata Steel Group of companies.

³¹ Domestic producers' prehearing brief, pp. 12; and *Response to Commission's Notice of Institution of Domestic Interested Parties*, Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)), January 16, 2009, pp. 7-8 and exh. 4.

³² Indore Steel & Iron Mills, Ltd. web site at <http://www.indiamart.com/indoresteels/index.html>, accessed September 2, 2009.

products to begin at a new plant in August 2008. It was reported that this \$18.8 million investment would increase RLUL's annual wire capacity from 518 million pounds to 1.3 billion pounds by 2010.³³ The company officially opened its PC strand production line in May 2009, with an annual capacity of 66.1 million pounds.³⁴

Shipments of PC Strand Produced in India

Despite falling *** from 2003 to 2004, total shipments of PC strand by Usha Martin increased over the period of review. In fact, total shipments in 2008 were *** percent higher than those reported in 2003. The Indian producer's home market commercial shipments accounted for *** of the firms' total shipments of PC strand during the period of review, capturing greater than *** percent of the firm's total shipments during 2006 and 2007. However, by 2008, Usha Martin's combined home market shipments accounted for *** percent of total shipments.

Total Indian export shipments of PC strand increased from 2003 to 2004, as Usha Martin began to develop other markets for its product, primarily ***. Total export shipments fell from 2004 to 2007 but increased *** in 2008, as the Indian producer began to expand to other export markets for its PC strand in ***. The Indian producer's data show *** exports of PC strand to the United States during fiscal years 2003 to 2008. In fact, Usha Martin indicated in its questionnaire response that it has *** exported its PC strand to the United States.

Imports of PC strand from India amounted to 14.4 million pounds in 2002. After the imposition of the antidumping and countervailing duty orders, PC strand imports from India fell to 34,000 pounds in 2004, fell further to 2,000 pounds in 2005, and remained at relatively low volumes in subsequent years.

The domestic interested parties argued that the export tax imposed by the Indian government on certain long products (including wire rod) has provided a further incentive for all PC strand producers in India to increase exports of PC strand. However, this export tax, which was increased on wire rod from 10 percent to 15 percent in July 2008, was apparently eliminated in November 2008.³⁵ Regardless, the domestic interested parties cite a press article in which "Usha Martin reported that it was concentrating its efforts on production and exportation of value added products like wire strand that do not have an export tax."³⁶

Alternative Products

Usha Martin reported that PC strand represented *** percent of its total 2008 company sales. However, in response to a question concerning the production of other products, Usha Martin reported that it produces *** other products on the same equipment and using the same employees as used for PC strand.

³³ *Response to Commission's Notice of Institution of Domestic Interested Parties*, Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)), January 16, 2009, pp. 7-8 and exh. 4.

³⁴ Domestic producers' prehearing brief, p. 14.

³⁵ *Ibid.*; see also domestic producers' posthearing brief, exhibit 1, pp. 4-5.

³⁶ *Ibid.*

THE INDUSTRY IN JAPAN

Overview

In the original 1978 investigation concerning Japan, five Japanese companies were identified by Treasury as having produced PC strand for export to the United States: Kawatetsu Wire Products Co., Ltd. (“Kawatetsu”);³⁷ Sumitomo Electric Ind., Ltd. (“Sumitomo”);³⁸ Shinko Wire Co., Ltd. (“Shinko”); Suzuki Metal Co., Ltd. (“Suzuki”); and Tokyo Rope Mfg. Co., Ltd. (“Tokyo Rope”).³⁹ Shinko was *** exporter of PC strand to the United States during 1977, accounting for *** percent of total PC strand exports from Japan to the United States, *** Sumitomo, Kawatetsu, Suzuki, and Tokyo Rope, accounting for *** percent, respectively.⁴⁰ At the time of the Commission’s first five-year review, five Japanese companies were believed to be producing merchandise subject to the antidumping finding on PC strand: original producers Shinko, Suzuki, and Tokyo Rope, as well as Kokoku Steel Wire Co., Ltd. (“Kokoku”), and Tesac Corp. (“Tesac”). In its response to the Commission’s notice of institution in the second five-year review, the domestic industry listed the following subject Japanese PC strand producers: original producers Shinko, Suzuki, and Tokyo Rope, as well as Tesac and JFE Techno-Wire.⁴¹

The domestic interested parties reported in their response to the Commission’s notice of institution in these current reviews that each of the producers identified in the prior sunset review, with the exception of Tokyo Rope, continues to produce PC strand in Japan.⁴² They also reported that Shinko and Suzuki are believed to have the largest capacity and production volumes of PC strand in Japan, accounting for an estimated 57 and 24 percent of total Japanese capacity to produce PC strand, respectively.⁴³

The two Japanese firms believed to have the *** capacity and production volumes of subject PC strand in Japan during the period examined in these current reviews (i.e., Tesac and Tokyo Rope)

³⁷ Kawatetsu was excluded from the original antidumping duty finding.

³⁸ The antidumping duty finding was revoked with regard to Sumitomo in 1986. Domestic producer Sumiden, an affiliate of excluded Japanese producer Sumitomo, began producing PC strand in the United States in 1979. Sumiden reported that the primary export markets for Sumitomo’s PC strand currently are ***. Domestic producers’ prehearing brief, p. 5; and domestic producers’ posthearing brief, exh. 1, p. 7.

³⁹ Tokyo Rope ceased production of PC strand in ***.

⁴⁰ *Staff Report*, November 3, 1978 (OP2-B-178), pp. A-9 and A-13.

⁴¹ As indicated earlier in this report, JFE Techno-Wire, formed from the corporate consolidation of Kawasaki Steel Corp. and NKK Corp. in May 2002, is the successor firm to Japanese PC strand producer Kawasaki Steel Techno-Wire. Commerce determined that Kawasaki Steel Techno-Wire was the successor-in-interest to Kawatetsu, and that the discontinuance previously issued to Kawatetsu applied to Kawasaki Steel Techno-Wire. However, the discontinuance that Commerce applied in 1990 to Kawasaki Steel Techno-Wire as Kawatetsu’s successor-in-interest does not apply to successor firm JFE Techno-Wire and, therefore, JFE Techno-Wire is subject to the antidumping duty order. *Staff Report*, December 31, 1998 (INV-V-108), pp. I-11-I-12; *Staff Report*, May 10, 2004 (INV-BB-058), p. I-18; JFE Holdings web site, <http://www.jfe-holdings.co.jp/en>, accessed October 1, 2009; staff telephone interview with ***, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, October 2, 2009; and domestic producers’ prehearing brief, p. 26.

⁴² *Response to Commission’s Notice of Institution of Domestic Interested Parties*, Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)), January 16, 2009, pp. 14-15.

⁴³ *Ibid.*; see also domestic producers’ prehearing brief, pp. 25-26.

responded to the Commission’s questionnaire in these reviews.⁴⁴ In fact, Tokyo Rope reported that it ceased production of PC strand in ***. Tesac estimated that it accounted for *** percent of total PC strand production in Japan during 2008 and claimed to be the *** PC strand producer in Japan. Table IV-17 presents information available from the original investigation for 1977, from the first review for 1998, from the second review for 2003, and from questionnaire responses in this third review for 2008.

Table IV-17
PC strand: Select data for producers in Japan, 1977, 1998, 2003, and 2008

* * * * *

PC Strand Operations

The estimated capacity to produce PC strand in Japan has fallen since the Commission’s second (and most recent) five-year review of the antidumping duty finding; declining by *** percent from approximately *** pounds in 2003 to approximately *** pounds in 2008 (table IV-9). Data provided by Tesac and Tokyo Rope concerning their PC strand operations in Japan during calendar years 2003-08, January-June 2008, and January-June 2009 are presented in table IV-18. The two Japanese producers reported that *** business plan or any internal documents that describe, discuss, or analyze expected future market conditions for PC strand.

Table IV-18
PC strand: Japanese producers Tesac’s and Tokyo Rope’s capacity, production, shipments, and inventories, 2003-08, January-June 2008, and January-June 2009

* * * * *

Production Capacity in Japan

The combined capacity of Tesac and Tokyo Rope to produce PC strand in Japan remained stable at *** pounds from 2003 to 2006, fell in 2007, and remained at the 2007 level during the remainder of the period examined in these reviews. The aggregate decline in capacity was solely the result of ***. Prior to 2007, Tokyo Rope reported its capacity to produce based on operating *** hours per week, *** weeks per year. Tesac reported its capacity based on operating *** hours per week, *** weeks per year. Tesac and Tokyo Rope reported that they have *** additional plans to add, expand, curtail, or shut down production capacity and/or production of PC strand in Japan in the foreseeable future.

The domestic interested parties estimated that the largest Japanese producer, Shinko, has approximately *** pounds of capacity dedicated to PC strand and that *** Japanese PC strand producer, Suzuki, has approximately *** pounds of capacity. They further estimated that the two PC strand producers are currently operating at roughly *** percent of capacity. Japanese producer JFE Techno-Wire, a company that remains subject to the antidumping finding even though its predecessor companies (Kawatetsu and Kawasaki Techno-Wire) were excluded from the antidumping finding by Commerce, was estimated to currently have approximately *** pounds of capacity to produce PC strand in Japan and to be operating at only about *** percent of capacity.⁴⁵

⁴⁴ Suzuki also provided a response to the Commission’s questionnaire but did not provide any data in its response. The firm’s response indicated only that although it produces PC strand in Japan, it has “***.”

⁴⁵ Domestic producers’ prehearing brief, pp. 25-26.

Shipments of PC Strand Produced in Japan

Total shipments of PC strand by Tesac and Tokyo Rope, comprised *** of commercial home market shipments in Japan, fell from 2003 through 2007. While commercial home market shipments increased in 2008, they were lower in January-June 2009 than in January-June 2008.

According to official import statistics, U.S. imports of subject and nonsubject PC strand from Japan amounted to 176.5 million pounds in 1977 (the last full year of data examined in the original investigation). After the imposition of the antidumping and countervailing duty orders, PC strand imports from Japan fell. PC strand imports from Japan, which were 1.7 million pounds in 2000, fell to 494,000 pounds in 2002. These imports, which remained below 2.0 million pounds in subsequent years, increased from 2003 to 2007, but fell somewhat in 2008 (table I-1).

Alternative Products

Tesac reported that PC strand represented *** percent of its total 2008 company sales. However, in response to a question concerning the production of other products, Tesac and Tokyo Rope reported that they produce *** other products on the same equipment and using the same employees as used for PC strand.

THE INDUSTRY IN KOREA

Overview

The following four firms were identified as Korean producers of PC strand in the Commission's original investigations: Dong-II; Kiswire Ltd. ("Kiswire"); Manho Rope and Wire, Ltd. ("Manho"); and Young Heung Iron and Steel Co., Ltd. ("Young Heung"). The Commission reported that PC strand exported to the United States by these four Korean PC strand producers accounted for *** percent of all imports of the subject merchandise into the United States from Korea during January 2000-June 2003.⁴⁶ The interested parties participating in these current reviews indicated that the same four firms identified in the Commission's original investigations as producers of the subject merchandise are currently the only producers of PC strand in Korea.⁴⁷

Two PC strand producers in Korea (Dong II and Young Heung) responded to the Commission's questionnaire in these reviews. Based on the Korean's producers' questionnaire responses, it is estimated that these two producers accounted for *** percent of total PC strand production in Korea during 2008 and *** percent of total exports of PC strand to the United States from Korea. Table IV-19 presents available information concerning the PC strand industry in Korea from the original investigations (2002) and these first reviews (2008).

Table IV-19
PC strand: Select data for producers in Korea, 2002 and 2008

* * * * *

⁴⁶ *Staff Report*, December 19, 2003 (INV-AA-191), p. VII-6.

⁴⁷ Domestic producers' prehearing brief, p. 16; and *Response to Commission's Notice of Institution of Domestic Interested Parties*, Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)), January 16, 2009, p. 9 and exh. 5.

PC Strand Operations

The estimated capacity to produce PC strand in Korea has remained relatively stable since the orders were imposed; climbing by *** percent from *** pounds in 2002 to approximately *** pounds in 2008 (table IV-9).⁴⁸ Aggregate data compiled from the questionnaire responses provided by two of the four Korean PC strand producers (Dong-II and Young Heung) concerning their PC strand operations in Korea during 2003-08, January-June 2007, and January-June 2008 are presented in table IV-20. *** reported *** internal documents that describe, discuss, or analyze expected future market conditions for PC strand.

Table IV-20

PC strand: Korean producers Dong II's and Young Heung's capacity, production, shipments, and inventories, 2003-08, January-June 2008, and January-June 2009

* * * * *

Production Capacity in Korea

The aggregate reported capacity to produce PC strand by these two producers in Korea remained stable throughout the period examined in these reviews, with capacity utilization generally rising from *** percent in 2003 to *** percent in 2008. Dong II's and Young Heung's reported capacity to produce PC strand in Korea was based on operating *** hours per week, *** weeks per year. The two responding Korean producers reported that they had *** additional plans to add, expand, curtail, or shut down production capacity and/or production of PC strand in Korea in the foreseeable future. Korean producer Dong-II added ***.

In addition, the domestic interested parties indicated that Kiswire, *** PC strand producer in Korea during the Commission's original investigations, continues to produce and invest in the expansion of its Korean PC strand facilities. They estimated Kiswire's 2009 capacity to produce PC strand in Korea to be *** pounds, a decline of *** pounds from the firm's capacity level reported in 2002 (table IV-9).⁴⁹ This estimate differs from Korean PC strand producer Dong-II's estimate of the reduction in capacity. In particular, Dong II reported that the only "notable change" in the Korean PC strand industry since the order went into effect was a *** reduction in the capacity to produce PC strand at Kiswire's Korean facility. Dong-II explained that during the second half of 2007 and the first half of 2008, Kiswire replaced *** PC strand lines that had an annual capacity to produce *** pounds of PC strand with *** PC strand line that currently has an annual capacity to produce *** pounds. The *** PC lines were shipped to Kiswire's Chinese facility for re-installation.⁵⁰

⁴⁸ Capacity estimates were based on data provided by the domestic interested parties for non-participating Korean producers Kiswire and Manho. Korean PC strand producer Dong II provided much lower capacity estimates for Kiswire (*** pounds) and Manho (*** pounds). If Dong II's estimates are used in the aggregate calculation instead, the subtotal for Korea for 2009 would be *** pounds, a *** percent decline from the 2002 level of *** pounds.

⁴⁹ Domestic producers' prehearing brief, p. 16 and exh. 3; and *Response to Commission's Notice of Institution of Domestic Interested Parties*, Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)), January 16, 2009, pp. 9-10 and exh. 5.

⁵⁰ *Response to Commission's Notice of Institution by Dong II*, Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)), January 20, 2009, response to items 9(a) and 10.

Another producer, Manho, also continues to produce PC strand in Korea, as well as “rope and special steel wire.”⁵¹ The domestic interested parties estimated Manho’s 2009 capacity to produce PC strand at *** pounds.⁵² This estimate appears to be in agreement with Manho’s description of its production capabilities on its company web site. The firms reported that its “production capacity is being increased everyday” and that it exports to many countries, including the United States.⁵³ Korean PC strand producer Dong-II, however, estimated Manho’s current production capacity (*** pounds) to be *** (table IV-9).⁵⁴

Shipments of PC Strand Produced in Korea

Total shipments of PC strand produced by Dong-II and Young Heung in Korea increased overall from 2003 to 2008 by *** percent, but were lower during the first six months of 2009 than reported in the comparable period of 2008. The two Korean producers’ aggregate commercial home market shipments accounted for *** of the firms’ total shipments of PC strand during the period of review, reaching *** percent of the firms’ total shipments ***. *** of Young Heung’s shipments of PC strand were to the commercial home market, with ***. Dong-II reported that its principal export markets during the period examined in these reviews included ***. Although the quantity of PC strand shipped to export markets by Dong-II was ***, the firm reported in its questionnaire response that it “***.” In its response to the Commission’s notice of institution in these reviews, Dong-II explained the attractiveness of the Asian market for its PC strand:

* * * * *

U.S. imports of PC strand from Korea amounted to 63.7 million pounds in 2002. After the imposition of the antidumping duty order, PC strand imports from Korea fell to 316,000 pounds in 2004 and remained at relatively low volumes in subsequent years.

Alternative Products

Dong II and Young Heung reported that PC strand represented *** and *** percent, respectively, of their total 2008 company sales. However, in response to a question concerning the production of other products, these producers reported that they produce *** other products on the same equipment and using the same employees as used for PC strand.

⁵¹ Manho company website, http://www.manhorope.com/eng/01_about/about04.asp, accessed on September 2, 2009.

⁵² Domestic producers’ prehearing brief, p. 16.

⁵³ Manho company website, http://www.manhorope.com/eng/01_about/about04.asp, accessed on September 2, 2009.

⁵⁴ *Response to Commission’s Notice of Institution by Dong II*, Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)), January 20, 2009, response to 9(a).

⁵⁵ *Response to Commission’s Notice of Institution by Dong II*, Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)), January 20, 2009, response to item 4.

THE INDUSTRY IN MEXICO

Overview

At the time of the Commission's original investigations, the Commission reported that the following two firms were believed to have accounted for all production of PC strand in Mexico: Aceros Camesa S.A. de C.V. ("Camesa") and Cablesa, S.A. de C.V. ("Cablesa"). During 2002, Camesa *** and Cablesa ***.⁵⁶

The interested parties indicated in their responses to the Commission's notice of institution in these current reviews that although there have been ownership changes for the Mexican PC strand producers since the Commission's original investigations, the PC strand facilities in Mexico previously owned by Camesa and Cablesa continue to produce the subject merchandise. Ownership changes for the two PC strand producers in Mexico include the purchase of Camesa in 2005 by Wireco WorldGroup (formerly Wire Rope Corp. of America, Inc.), headquartered in Missouri and the purchase of Cablesa on August 1, 2007 by Deacero. The Mexican producers participating in these reviews indicated that there currently are no other producers of the subject merchandise in Mexico aside from Camesa and Deacero.⁵⁷

There are currently two PC strand producers in Mexico (i.e., Camesa and Deacero), both of which provided responses to the Commission's questionnaire in these reviews. Camesa was the larger of the two Mexican producers,⁵⁸ accounting for more than *** of PC strand production in Mexico during 2008. Table IV-21 presents available information concerning the PC strand industry in Mexico from the original investigations (2002) and these first reviews (2008).

Table IV-21
PC strand: Select industry data for Mexico, 2002 and 2008

* * * * *

PC Strand Operations

Aggregate data compiled from the questionnaire responses provided by Camesa and Deacero concerning their PC strand operations in Mexico during 2003-08, January-June 2007, and January-June 2008 are presented in table IV-22. Neither firm reported that they or any related firm had a business plan or any internal documents that describe, discuss, or analyze expected future market conditions for PC strand.

Table IV-22
PC strand: Mexican capacity, production, shipments, and inventories, 2003-08, January-June 2008, and January-June 2009

* * * * *

⁵⁶ *Staff Report*, December 19, 2003 (INV-AA-191), pp. VII-11-VII-12.

⁵⁷ *Response to Commission's Notice of Institution by the Mexican Producers, Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand* (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)), January 21, 2009, pp. 5 and 8.

⁵⁸ Hearing transcript, p. 164 (Fernandez).

Production Capacity in Mexico

The aggregate reported capacity to produce PC strand in Mexico remained stable from 2003 to 2006 and increased by *** percent from 2006 to 2008. Capacity utilization generally rose from *** percent in 2003 to *** percent in 2006 but fell thereafter. The two Mexican producers' reported capacity utilization during 2008 was *** percent. The reported capacity to produce PC strand in Mexico was based on operating *** hours per week, *** weeks per year. The two responding Mexican producers reported in their questionnaire responses in these reviews that they had *** additional plans to add, expand, curtail, or shut down production capacity and/or production of PC strand in Mexico in the foreseeable future. However, the domestic interested parties testified at the Commission's hearing that Mexican producer Deacero has an additional PC strand production line that is ready to be installed pending the outcome of the ongoing review of the antidumping duty order concerning PC strand from Mexico.⁵⁹ Deacero confirmed the accuracy of its questionnaire response with respect to its reported capacity and flatly denied the claim of the domestic interested parties that additional capacity was awaiting installation.⁶⁰

Deacero explained in its questionnaire response that ***. Although not reflected in the capacity data reported for the first half of 2009, Deacero also indicated in its questionnaire response that ***. In response to a question concerning the constraints that set the limits on PC strand production capacity, Deacero reported that ***

Camesa reported ***. The firm explained ***. This equipment became operational in ***. Camesa reported *** in its capacity to produce PC strand in the first half of 2009 over the comparable period in 2008. In response to a question concerning the constraints that set the limits on PC strand production capacity, Camesa reported ***.

Shipments of PC Strand Produced in Mexico

Aggregate total shipments of PC strand produced by Camesa and Deacero in Mexico increased overall from 2003 to 2008 by *** percent, but were somewhat lower during the first six months of 2009 than reported in the comparable period of 2008. The Mexican producers' aggregate commercial home market shipments accounted for *** of the firms' total shipments of PC strand during 2003, with *** of the remainder of total shipments in that year destined for the United States. However, the Mexican producers reported that, beginning in ***, there have been no exports of PC strand to the United States. Instead, *** of the Mexican producers' production of PC strand was shipped to the commercial home market, with shipments to export markets accounting for *** of the firms' total shipments. Principal export markets during the period examined in these reviews included ***. Concerning its production of PC strand, the Mexican producers reported that “***.”⁶¹ They projected that, over the next several years, production of PC strand in Mexico will remain in Mexico to satisfy the increasing demand of the product

⁵⁹ Hearing transcript, p. 47 (Wagner) and p. 53 (Beck). ***. Domestic producers' posthearing brief, p. 6, fn. 6, and exh. 7.

⁶⁰ Hearing transcript, pp. 197-198 (Fernandez); and Mexican producers' posthearing brief, pp. 5-6.

⁶¹ *Response to Commission's Notice of Institution by the Mexican Producers*, Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)), January 21, 2009, p. 9.

as a result of the Mexican government's increased investment on infrastructure, particularly "in the creation and broadening and remodeling of highways, railroads, ports and airports."⁶²

Camesa reported in its questionnaire response that ***. In fact, the Mexican producers claimed that there have been no reported exports of PC strand from Mexico to the United States since ***,⁶³ *** of Deacero's shipments of PC strand and *** of Camesa's shipments were to the commercial home market during the period examined in these reviews. In their response to the Commission's notice of institution in these reviews, the Mexican producers explained that ***.⁶⁴ The Mexican producers further explained in their response to the Commission's notice of institution in these reviews that ***.⁶⁵

U.S. imports of PC strand from Mexico amounted to 53.0 million pounds in 2002. After the imposition of the antidumping duty order, official statistics for PC strand imports from Mexico fell to 555,000 pounds in 2005 but increased to 2.3 million pounds in 2007 before falling in 2008. Official imports for the first half of 2009 are markedly higher than reported during the comparable period in 2008.⁶⁶

Alternative Products

Camesa and Deacero reported that PC strand represented *** and *** percent, respectively, of their total 2008 company sales. In response to a question concerning the production of other products, Camesa reported that from 2003 to the present it ***. The firm reported that it ***. However, Camesa indicated that ***. Camesa did not provide any data concerning ***. Mexican producer Deacero reported that, ***.

THE INDUSTRY IN THAILAND

Overview

The following five Thai producers of PC strand were identified in the Commission's original investigations: Bangkok Steel Wire Co., Ltd. ("Bangkok Steel Wire"); Siam Wire Industry Co., Ltd. ("Siam Wire"); Thai Wire Products Public Co., Ltd. ("Thai Wire Products"); The Siam Industrial Wire Co., Ltd. ("Siam Industrial"); and Thai Special Wire Co. Ltd. ("Thai Special Wire"). Each of these producers, with the exception of Thai Special Wire, provided a response to the Commission's questionnaire in the original investigations. Based on company estimates provided in response to the Commission's questionnaire in the final phase of the original investigations, the responding four Thai producers together accounted for *** of the total production of PC strand in Thailand during 2002. *** exported PC strand to the United States during 2002. Based on ***, Siam Industrial accounted for ***

⁶² Mexican producers' posthearing brief, p. 18. Detailed information concerning infrastructure projects in Mexico that are part of the National Infrastructure Program and have been included in the Mexican Government's Appropriations Law for fiscal year 2009 appears in the posthearing submission of the Government of Mexico.

⁶³ Hearing transcript, p. 183 (Levin); and questionnaire responses of Camesa and Deacero.

⁶⁴ *Response to Commission's Notice of Institution by the Mexican Producers, Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand* (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)), January 21, 2009, p. 9.

⁶⁵ *Response to Commission's Notice of Institution by the Mexican Producers, Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand* (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)), January 21, 2009, p. 3.

⁶⁶ As indicated earlier, Deacero and Camesa reported that they have not exported the subject merchandise to the United States since ***.

exports of the subject merchandise from Thailand to the United States during 2002.⁶⁷ The domestic interested parties participating in these current reviews reported that certain ownership changes have occurred since the time of the Commission’s original investigations and that, in addition to the same five firms that produced the subject merchandise in Thailand during the original investigations, an additional PC strand producer, Rayong Wire Industries (“Rayong”), owned by Eastern Wire, now exists in Thailand.⁶⁸

Only one PC strand producer in Thailand (i.e., Thai Special Wire) responded to the Commission’s questionnaire in these reviews. Thai Special Wire, which is estimated to have accounted for *** percent of all PC strand production in Thailand during 2008 and which *** exported PC strand to the United States, was the only PC strand producer in Thailand that did not respond to the Commission’s questionnaire in the original investigations.⁶⁹ Table IV-23 presents available information concerning the PC strand industry in Thailand from the original investigations (2002) and these first reviews (2008).

Table IV-23
PC strand: Select data for producers in Thailand, 2002 and 2008

* * * * *

PC Strand Operations

The estimated capacity to produce PC strand in Thailand has increased substantially since the orders were imposed; climbing by *** percent from approximately *** pounds in 2002 to approximately *** pounds in 2008 (table IV-9).⁷⁰ Data from the questionnaire response of Thai Special Wire concerning its PC strand operations in Thailand during 2003-08, January-June 2007, and January-June 2008 are presented in table IV-24. Thai Special Wire reported that *** a business plan or any internal documents that describe, discuss, or analyze expected future market conditions for PC strand.

Table IV-24
PC strand: Thai producer Thai Special Wire’s capacity, production, shipments, and inventories, 2003-08, January-June 2008, and January-June 2009

* * * * *

⁶⁷ *Staff Report*, December 19, 2003 (INV-AA-191), p. VII-17.

⁶⁸ Domestic producers’ prehearing brief, pp. 22-25; and *Response to Commission’s Notice of Institution of Domestic Interested Parties*, Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)), January 16, 2009, p. 12 and exh. 9.

⁶⁹ The domestic interested parties submitted that Thai Special Wire accounts for *** of total Thai production of PC strand. Domestic producers’ prehearing brief, p. 22.

⁷⁰ The increase in capacity is believed to be even greater because the capacity data presented for 2008 are believed to be understated by the amount of capacity at the PC strand production facilities of Bangkok Steel Wire and Siam Wire, for which data were unavailable.

Production Capacity in Thailand

Thai Special Wire's reported capacity to produce PC strand in Thailand remained unchanged at *** pounds throughout the period examined in these reviews,⁷¹ whereas production and capacity utilization rose from 2003 to 2005 but fell overall thereafter. The firm's reported capacity utilization during 2008 was *** percent. The reported capacity to produce PC strand in Thailand was based on operating *** hours per week, *** weeks per year. Thai Special Wire reported that it had *** plans to add, expand, curtail, or shut down production capacity and/or production of PC strand in Thailand in the foreseeable future.

The domestic interested parties indicated in their response to the Commission's notice of institution in these reviews that the remaining four producers of PC strand in Thailand that provided questionnaire responses in the Commission's original investigations but did not provide a response to the Commission's questionnaire in these reviews continue to have substantial excess capacity to produce PC strand, although at least one ownership change has occurred. Specifically, they noted that in 2005, NatSteel Asia acquired Siam Industrial Wire, a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Steel Group.⁷² Siam Industrial Wire, an export-oriented Thai producer of PC wire and PC strand, reported in 2004 that it was "one of the world's biggest PC Wire and PC Strand manufacturers," with an annual production capacity of over 330 million pounds. They estimated that Siam Industrial Wire's capacity to produce PC strand in 2009 was *** pounds and that the company was currently operating at about *** percent capacity. The domestic interested parties also cited Thai Wire's web site to point out that the firm is currently a producer of PC strand that conforms to ASTM specifications established by the United States. They estimated that Thai Wire's annual capacity to produce PC strand in Thailand to be *** pounds and that the company has unused capacity of about *** pounds. They further stated that Thai PC strand producer Siam Wire Industry currently produces PC strand "using the most modern pickling, drawing and stranding machines" and Bangkok Steel Wire's website indicates that the company continues to produce PC strand and emphasizes its expansion of export markets to the United States. The domestic interested parties were unable to provide estimates as to the capacity level at Bangkok Steel Wire and Siam Wire. A new entrant into the Thai PC strand industry, Rayong, is estimated by the domestic interested parties to have an annual capacity to produce 31.7 million pounds of PC strand. They argue further that Rayong's parent company, Eastern Wire, has reported planned investments in company operations and that further expansions at Rayong are likely.⁷³

Shipments of PC Strand Produced in Thailand

Total shipments of PC strand produced by Thai Special Wire in Thailand increased from 2003 to 2005, but fell overall during the remainder of the periods examined in these reviews. The Thai producer's home market accounted for *** percent of the firm's total shipments of PC strand during the entire period for which data were requested in these reviews, with the exception of ***.

⁷¹ The domestic interested parties submitted that publicly available information indicates that Thai Special Wire's PC strand capacity in Thailand ***. They estimated that the firm's annual capacity to produce PC strand is approximately *** pounds. Domestic producers' prehearing brief, p. 23.

⁷² Both Indian PC strand producer Tata Steel and Thai PC strand producer Siam Industrial Wire are part of the Tata Steel Group of companies.

⁷³ Domestic producers' prehearing brief, pp. 22-24; and *Response to Commission's Notice of Institution of Domestic Interested Parties*, Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)), January 16, 2009, pp. 12-13.

Imports of PC strand from Thailand amounted to 10.7 million pounds in 2002. After the imposition of the antidumping duty order, official statistics for PC strand imports from Thailand fell to 45,000 pounds in 2006, before falling further to zero in the following year. There were no reported imports of PC strand from Thailand after 2006.

Alternative Products

Thai Special Wire reported that PC strand represented *** percent of its total 2008 company sales. However, in response to a question concerning the production of other products, it reported that *** produce other products on the same equipment and using the same employees as used for PC strand.

GLOBAL MARKET

Production

While there are five producers of PC strand in the United States there are at least 22 PC strand producers in China.⁷⁴ Other (nonsubject) countries with sizeable production of PC strand include: Austria (Voestalpine Austria Draht GMBH); Canada (Bekaert and Stelwire Ltd.); Germany (DWK Drahtwerk Koln GmbH); Italy (CB Trafilati Accial, Far SPA, Italcables SPA, Redaelli Tecnasud, Siderurgica Latina Martin, and Trafilati SPA); Portugal (Fapricela Industria de Trefilaria SA and Tyrsa-Trenzas y Cables de Acero PSC SL); Russia (Severstal Metiz); Spain (Emesa Trefileria and Tyrsa); Turkey (Celik Halat ve Tel Sanayii AS); and the United Kingdom (Carrington Wire Ltd.).

There is no comprehensive source for capacity and/or production data for all countries producing PC strand throughout the world. Estimates, however, indicate that 5.1 billion pounds of PC strand was produced in China in 2008.⁷⁵ By comparison, there are at least 22 producers of PC strand in the countries that comprise the European Union (EU) and production of PC strand was approximately 2.1 billion pounds in 2007.⁷⁶

⁷⁴ *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from China, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Preliminary)*, USITC Publication 4086, July 2009, p. VII-3.

⁷⁵ *Ibid.*

⁷⁶ The European Union has a reported PC strand capacity of approximately 2.7 billion pounds, and was operating at approximately 79 percent capacity utilization in 2007. Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1129/2008 of 14 November 2008, *Official Journal of the European Union*, November 15, 2008, L 306/5.

World Trade

According to *Global Trade Atlas*, the United States was the world's largest importer of stranded wire, ropes, cables, and cordage, of iron or steel, during 2003-08, accounting for about one-fifth of total global imports in 2008 (table IV-25).⁷⁷ In contrast, China was the world's leading exporter during that same time period. China's exports increased by nearly 600 percent from 2003 to 2008, exceeding 2.3 billion pounds in 2008. China's exports accounted for more than one-third of the world's exports by 2008 and its net trade surplus surpassed 1 billion pounds in 2006, and then increased by over 70 percent to nearly 2.2 billion pounds in 2008.

Consumption

Beyond the U.S. market, other large markets for PC strand include the EU and China. There is no comprehensive source for consumption data for all countries consuming PC strand throughout the world. Estimated apparent consumption of PC strand, however, was 3.7 billion pounds in China in 2008 and 2.2 billion pounds in the European Union in 2006 (table IV-26). China and several EU countries were net exporters of PC strand throughout 2003-08.

U.S. producers and importers were asked how demand for PC strand outside the United States had changed since January 1, 2003. One U.S. producer (***) reported that demand had fluctuated. *** reported that global demand for PC strand increased with the emergence of developing countries such as China, but declined since the second half of 2008 due to the global economic crisis. Among importers that responded, five reported that demand had fluctuated, two reported that demand had increased, and two reported that demand had decreased. Responding firms that reported fluctuating or decreasing demand outside the United States generally attributed these changes to the global economic conditions and fluctuations in worldwide residential and non-residential construction; firms that reported increasing demand outside the United States cited construction of high-rise buildings in the Middle East and Asia.

Similarly, most purchasers reported that demand outside the United States for PC strand has fluctuated since 2003, citing factors such as increased demand for PC strand in emerging nations such as India and China earlier in the period, and the current global economic downturn.

Prices

There is no comprehensive source for price data for PC strand. Available information indicates that prices of PC strand peaked in 2008. PC strand prices have since returned to pre-2008 levels.⁷⁸ The peak and subsequent decline in PC strand prices follow the peak and decline in the prices of its principal raw material, wire rod.⁷⁹

⁷⁷ The global trade balance data presented are derived from *Global Trade Atlas*, HTS 7312.10. The products covered under this six-digit HTS classification include all stranded wire, ropes, cables, and cordage, of iron or steel, which have not been electrically insulated. The subject PC strand is included in the data presented, as are many other products. Other products included in the data are stranded wire, ropes, cables, and cordage (including tire cord), of stainless steel or which have been brass plated or galvanized. The *Global Trade Atlas* data presented exclude the data for Malaysia because these data are not consistent with other data reported.

⁷⁸ See *Part V* for more specific information. Trends are compiled from data submitted in response to Commission questionnaires.

⁷⁹ Price trends for wire rod are discussed in the following section of this report.

Table IV-25

PC strand and related products: World exports, imports, and trade balance of stranded wire, ropes, cables, and cordage, of iron or steel, by country, 2003-08

Country	Calendar year					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Quantity (1,000 pounds)						
Exports from:						
China	334,261	596,553	807,243	1,363,994	1,823,793	2,323,358
Korea	582,957	624,492	637,281	625,690	657,297	638,859
Spain	222,047	273,730	253,974	262,720	425,508	430,554
Italy	230,641	296,792	291,276	346,129	349,605	366,028
Germany	220,705	242,045	220,586	243,117	245,491	256,000
Thailand	125,620	117,628	141,681	172,279	200,227	211,702
United States	111,232	101,188	118,265	138,765	156,586	180,970
Japan	195,345	229,772	207,588	190,774	195,795	168,022
France	206,348	210,718	223,674	201,516	202,561	165,894
Hungary	76,352	72,963	124,701	160,510	141,696	138,299
All other countries	1,352,488	1,436,850	1,428,528	1,597,267	1,587,548	1,594,687
Total	3,657,996	4,202,731	4,454,798	5,302,760	5,986,107	6,474,373
Imports into:						
China	146,331	151,643	143,602	148,970	131,359	130,610
Korea	64,134	67,136	123,217	149,474	258,201	285,735
Spain	189,849	192,076	219,977	242,993	225,938	226,091
Italy	108,762	111,954	116,231	146,421	133,850	143,010
Germany	221,844	278,653	279,616	316,301	367,707	381,352
Thailand	23,177	32,133	38,210	35,593	36,451	53,347
United States	734,037	889,275	897,575	1,115,881	1,045,989	1,064,161
Japan	100,818	117,569	143,309	153,119	160,082	166,403
France	169,225	194,177	188,707	205,742	222,925	222,083
Hungary	14,411	13,115	55,651	38,338	19,083	17,985
All other countries	1,730,064	1,913,688	2,184,299	2,359,001	2,636,410	2,689,413
Total	3,502,652	3,961,418	4,390,394	4,911,832	5,237,997	5,380,189
Trade balance:						
China	187,930	444,910	663,641	1,215,023	1,692,433	2,192,747
Korea	518,823	557,356	514,064	476,216	399,095	353,124
Spain	32,198	81,654	33,997	19,727	199,569	204,463
Italy	121,879	184,838	175,045	199,708	215,755	223,017
Germany	(1,140)	(36,607)	(59,030)	(73,184)	(122,216)	(125,351)
Thailand	102,443	85,495	103,471	136,686	163,777	158,355
United States	(622,805)	(788,087)	(779,309)	(977,115)	(889,403)	(883,191)
Japan	94,527	112,203	64,279	37,655	35,713	1,620
France	37,123	16,541	34,967	(4,226)	(20,364)	(56,189)
Hungary	61,940	59,848	69,050	122,172	122,613	120,314
All other countries	(377,576)	(476,838)	(755,770)	(761,734)	(1,048,862)	(1,094,726)
<p>Note.--Positive numbers presented for "trade balance" show net exports and numbers in parentheses presented for "trade balance" show net imports. Countries presented separately are based on the top ten exporting countries to the world in 2008.</p>						
<p>Source: Global Trade Atlas, HTS 7312.10 (all stranded wire, ropes, cables, and cordage, of iron or steel, which have not been electrically insulated), excluding data for Malaysia, retrieved July 27, 2009.</p>						

Table IV-26

PC strand: Production, exports, imports, and apparent consumption of PC strand for the United States, European Union, and China, 2004-08

Country	Calendar year				
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Quantity (1,000 pounds)					
United States:					
U.S. shipments	573,700	621,842	627,436	582,801	529,972
Imports	285,733	285,250	484,778	397,703	412,741
Apparent consumption	859,433	907,092	1,112,214	980,504	942,713
European Union:					
Block shipments	1,857,452	1,634,942	1,862,937	1,866,348	(¹)
Imports	134,515	174,421	338,782	457,845	(¹)
Apparent consumption	1,991,967	1,809,362	2,201,719	2,324,193	(¹)
China:					
Production	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	5,100,000
Imports ²	96,293	91,187	94,596	83,413	82,937
Exports ²	378,811	512,599	866,136	1,158,109	1,475,332
Apparent consumption	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	3,707,605
<p>¹ Not available.</p> <p>² The exact volume of exports from, and imports into, China of PC strand are not known. However, one estimate suggests that, based on the product mix of U.S. imports from China entering under HTS subheading 7312.10 in 2008, PC strand accounted for 63.5 percent of the quantity of such imports, a figure subsequently applied to exports from China under the equivalent HS subheading. See Petition Regarding Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from the People's Republic of China, Public Version, dated May 27, 2009, p. 9 and n.29. Staff has extrapolated further and, for the limited purpose of estimating apparent Chinese consumption of PC strand, applied a factor of .635 to Chinese exports and imports reported under HS 7312.10.</p>					
<p>Source: Global Trade Atlas, HTS 7312.10 (retrieved July 27, 2009) (Chinese import and export data); Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1129/2008 of 14 November 2008, Official Journal of the European Union, November 15, 2008, L 306/5 (European Union shipment, import, and consumption data); and <i>Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from China, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Preliminary)</i>, USITC Publication 4086, July 2009, p. VII-3 (Chinese production data).</p>					

Raw Material Prices and Supply

Wire rod is the primary raw material input into the production of PC strand. Global prices of wire rod increased steadily throughout first and second quarter 2008, peaking in August 2008 before declining to pre-2008 levels (figure IV-1). U.S. shipments of wire rod followed a similar pattern. Monthly U.S. shipments (by volume) peaked in July 2008, but decreased by 74 percent by December 2008. While wire rod shipments have increased approximately 80 percent between January 2009 and August 2009, shipments remain nearly 45 percent below 2008 levels.⁸⁰ Moreover, citing worsening demand in the first quarter of 2009, U.S. wire rod producers reportedly are cutting production capacity and shuttering production facilities, ^{***}.⁸¹

Figure IV-1
Wire rod: Prices, by country, January 2008-September 2009

* * * * *

⁸⁰ American Iron and Steel Institute, “Shipments of Steel Mill Products, Carbon (AIS-10C),” Monthly report, January 2007-September 2007; American Iron and Steel Institute, “Net Shipments of Steel Mill Products, All Grades Including Carbon, Alloy, and Stainless (AIS-10),” Monthly report, October 2007-August 2009.

⁸¹ AMM, “ArcelorMittal halting S.C. rod mill, buyers warn of shortage,” May 13, 2009; AMM, “Output cuts widen as mills react to slowdown,” October 3, 2008; AMM, “Raw material costs, tight supply driving long products market,” April 28, 2008; AMM, “Sivaco slates \$150/ton hike, complains of allocations,” April 15, 2008; AMM, “Wire rod tightness hints at market ‘allocation’ shift.” AMM, “October Wire Rod Price Expected to Stick,” September 17, 2009; AMM, “Ameristeel Lifting Wire Rod \$25/T” September 15, 2009.

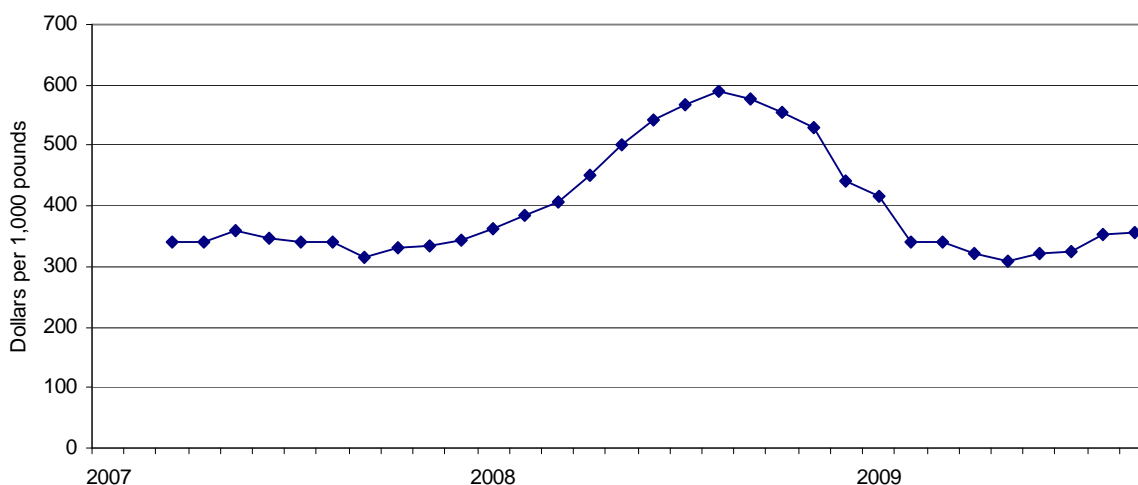
PART V: PRICING AND RELATED INFORMATION

FACTORS AFFECTING PRICES

Raw Material Costs

Raw materials accounted for between 72.9 and 83.1 percent of U.S. producers' costs of goods sold during 2003-08. The cost of steel wire rod, in turn, accounts for a substantial share of the raw material costs in the production of PC strand.¹ U.S. producers reported in their questionnaires that steel wire rod prices have been volatile, and have affected the price of PC strand in the U.S. market. As shown in figure V-1, high carbon steel wire rod prices nearly doubled from the latter part of 2007 through August 2008, then dropped to close to their 2007 levels in 2009. Since May 2009, however, prices for high carbon steel wire rod have increased by over 16 percent.²

Figure V-1
High carbon steel wire rod: Average wholesale spot price, by month, March 2007-September 2009



Source: American Metal Market, www.amm.com, retrieved October 19, 2009.

¹ *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from China, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Preliminary)*, USITC Publication 4086, July 2009, p. V-1.

² Insteel reported in its 10-Q for the period ending July 20, 2009 that “following an extended downward trend that began in September 2008, prices for our primary raw material, hot-rolled steel wire rod, appear to have bottomed out. In view of the recent upturn in scrap prices and announced closure of two U.S. rod mills that represented over 20% of total domestic capacity, wire rod prices appear likely to rise over the remainder of the year, although the magnitude of the increase and the impact on prices for our products are uncertain at this time. Considering the recent signs of stabilization in our markets and the progress made in realigning our inventory levels, we do not expect that our fourth-quarter results will be significantly impacted by the inventory write-downs and mismatching of higher raw material costs in inventory with lower selling prices that have persisted through the first nine months of the year. We expect that margins will improve during the fourth quarter as the lower replacement costs for wire rod are increasingly reflected in cost of sales.”

U.S. Inland Transportation Costs

U.S. producers reported that U.S. inland transportation costs ranged from 4.0 to 7.5 percent of the total delivered cost of PC strand, while importers reported transportation costs ranged from 0.8 to 10.0 percent. All U.S. producers and 14 of 18 responding importers reported selling on a delivered basis, and all U.S. producers and most responding importers also reported arranging transportation to their customers' locations. Four U.S. producers reported that 89 to 95 percent of their sales were within 101 to 1,000 miles of their storage or production facilities; the other producer reported selling 30 percent within 100 miles and 65 percent within 101 to 1,000 miles. The vast majority of imports are reportedly sold within 1,000 miles of the importers' storage facilities with 13 of 16 importers reporting that at least 50 percent of shipments were within 100 miles of their storage facilities. Firms' shipments to specified regions are summarized in table V-1.

Table V-1

PC strand: Geographic market areas in the United States served by domestic producers and importers of strand from subject and nonsubject sources

Region	Producers	Importers of PC strand from	
		Subject sources	Nonsubject sources
Northeast ¹	5	2	7
Midwest ²	5	2	7
Southeast ³	5	3	9
Central Southwest ⁴	5	4	13
Mountains ⁵	3	2	9
Pacific Coast ⁶	2	6	10
Other ⁷	2	0	6

¹ – CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, and VT.
² – IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, and WI.
³ – AL, DE, DC, FL, GA, KY, MD, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, and WV.
⁴ – AR, LA, OK, and TX.
⁵ – AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, and WY.
⁶ – CA, OR, and WA.
⁷ – All other markets in the United States not previously listed, including AK, HI, PR, VI, among others.

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to Commission questionnaires.

PRICING PRACTICES

Pricing Methods

All U.S. producers reported that prices are determined on a transaction-by-transaction basis, although some producers also base their prices on contracts. Three producers reported that most (***) percent) of their 2008 sales were on a short-term contract basis, while one (***) reported a *** of long-term contract, short-term contract, and spot sales, and one (***) reported that nearly all (***) percent) of its sales were on a spot basis. U.S. producers' short-term contracts range from one to three months; four of the five producers reported that prices and quantities are fixed while one reported that prices can be renegotiated during the contract. One of the five responding U.S. producers reported that its short-term contracts have a meet-or-release provision.

Most importers (15 of 19) reported that prices are determined on a transaction-by-transaction basis, while three reported basing prices on contracts, and one reported another method.³ Importers' contracts were generally reported to be for three months, although a few firms reported contracts up to six or even 12 months. Most firms reported that contracts fix both price and quantity and are not renegotiated.

Purchasers were asked how frequently there are changes in the price of PC strand they are purchasing. Most responding purchasers reported that PC strand prices change either monthly or quarterly, based on steel market conditions (e.g., changes in prices and availability of raw materials such as steel scrap, high carbon steel, and steel wire rod and changes in prices of other steel products).

Sales Terms and Discounts

Two U.S. producers reported quantity and annual volume discounts, one U.S. producer (***) reported quantity discounts, and the two other U.S. producers reported no discount policy.⁴ Sixteen of 19 importers reported no discount policy. However, Suncoast Post-tensioners reported that, as the largest purchaser in the United States, it expects prices commensurate with its purchase volumes.⁵ Most firms sell net 30 days although a few offer a small discount such as one-half percent for early payment.

PRICE DATA

The Commission requested U.S. producers and importers of PC strand to provide quarterly data for the total quantity and value of PC strand that was shipped to unrelated customers in the U.S. market during January 2003-June 2009. The products for which pricing data were collected are as follows:

Product 1.---½ inch, grade 270 (270,000 PSI), low relaxation, uncovered prestressed concrete strand sold for pre-tensioned applications.

Product 2.---½ inch, grade 270 (270,000 PSI), low relaxation, uncovered prestressed concrete strand sold for post-tensioned applications.⁶

³ ***.

⁴ ***.

⁵ *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from China, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-464 and 731-TA-1160 (Preliminary)*, USITC Publication 4086, July 2009, p. V-3 (citing witness testimony).

⁶ The Commission requested pricing data for product 3 (½ inch, grade 270 (270,000 PSI), low relaxation, covered prestressed concrete strand that is greased and covered in a polyethylene wrap sold for post-tensioned applications). However, price data for product 3 were only reported by one U.S. producer (***) and only in one quarter (second quarter of 2008). Because the Commission received only one price data point for product 3, these price data were not presented in a table or in figure V-2. No importers reported price data for product 3. However, in the original investigations, domestic converters and Mexican and Thai importers reported quarterly price data for sales of covered PC strand during January 2000-June 2003.

Five U.S. producers and four importers provided usable price data for sales of the requested products, although not all firms reported pricing for all products for all quarters. Price data reported by these firms accounted for 59.9 percent of U.S. producers' shipments of PC strand, 8.8 percent of U.S. shipments of subject imports from Brazil, 42.3 percent of U.S. shipments of subject imports from India, 53.3 percent of U.S. shipments of subject imports from Korea, and 50.1 percent of U.S. shipments of subject imports from Thailand during the period January 2003-June 2009. No price data were reported for sales of imported PC strand from Japan or Mexico.⁷

Price Trends

Price data for products 1 and 2 are shown in tables V-2 to V-3 and figure V-2. A summary of price trends is shown in table V-4.

Prices for U.S. products 1 and 2 increased substantially during 2004, were relatively stable during 2005-07, increased substantially during the beginning of 2008, then fell at the end of 2008 and during the first half of 2009. The limited available price data for imported Korean and Thai product 1 appeared to track U.S. product 1 prices through 2003 and the first two quarters of 2004, although Thai product 1 prices diverged downward during the second half of 2004. Available price data for imported Brazilian, Indian, and Korean product 2 were too limited to show any trends.

As discussed previously, steel wire rod accounts for a substantial share of raw material costs in the production of PC strand, and U.S. producers have reported that changes in steel wire rod prices have affected prices for PC strand. As shown below in figure V-3, the substantial price increases in 2008 and subsequent price declines at the end of 2008 and the first half of 2009 for U.S. products 1 and 2 occurred together with similar increases and declines in steel wire rod prices.⁸

Purchasers were asked if there have been changes in the price of domestic PC strand relative to prices of imported Brazilian, Indian, Japanese, Korean, Mexican, and Thai PC strand since 2003. Three of four responding purchasers reported that prices for domestic PC strand have changed by the same amount as prices for PC strand from each of the subject countries, and one firm reported that there have been no changes in price.

Eleven purchasers identified firms they considered to be price leaders in the PC strand market since 2003. Most responding purchasers identified U.S. producers as price leaders, Insteel in particular (identified by seven firms). One purchaser (***) maintained that it is doubtful that any one firm has a significant impact on PC strand market prices, but countries such as China and Brazil do.

Price Comparisons

Margins of underselling and overselling for the period are presented in table V-5. As can be seen from the table, the very limited available price data for subject country PC strand show more instances of underselling than overselling for imported PC strand from Brazil and Korea. Alternatively, the limited available price data for imported PC strand from Thailand indicates that subject product from this country tended to oversell U.S.-produced PC strand.

⁷ Since little or no price data were reported for sales of imported PC strand from Brazil or Mexico in these reviews, the price data were supplemented with price data for these countries reported in the original investigations.

⁸ The correlation coefficient for U.S. product 1 prices and U.S. wire rod prices was 0.97 and for U.S. product 2 prices and U.S. wire rod prices was 0.88 (correlation coefficients range from 0-1). However, correlation does not imply causation, as other factors (e.g., demand factors) may be influencing both variables.

Table V-2

PC strand: Weighted-average f.o.b. prices and quantities of domestic and imported product ¹ and margins of underselling/(overselling), by quarters, January 2003-June 2009

	United States		Korea		
	Price (per lineal foot)	Quantity (1,000 lineal feet)	Price (per lineal foot)	Quantity (1,000 lineal feet)	Margin (percent)
2003:					
Jan.-Mar.	\$132	102,726	\$***	***	***
Apr.-June	140	114,536	***	***	***
July-Sept.	147	111,480	***	***	***
Oct.-Dec.	154	111,625	-	0	-
2004:					
Jan.-Mar.	182	127,672	***	***	***
Apr.-June	243	125,744	***	***	***
July-Sept.	272	124,411	-	0	-
Oct.-Dec.	283	98,858	-	0	-
2005:					
Jan.-Mar.	284	105,419	-	0	-
Apr.-June	279	122,147	-	0	-
July-Sept.	273	127,135	-	0	-
Oct.-Dec.	267	115,871	-	0	-
2006:					
Jan.-Mar.	263	122,444	-	0	-
Apr.-June	259	127,141	-	0	-
July-Sept.	265	109,068	-	0	-
Oct.-Dec.	260	101,815	-	0	-
2007:					
Jan.-Mar.	254	101,556	-	0	-
Apr.-June	252	112,694	-	0	-
July-Sept.	246	104,863	-	0	-
Oct.-Dec.	241	110,640	-	0	-
2008:					
Jan.-Mar.	251	122,934	-	0	-
Apr.-June	346	136,478	-	0	-
July-Sept.	416	107,670	-	0	-
Oct.-Dec.	375	57,342	-	0	-
2009:					
Jan.-Mar.	288	63,218	-	0	-
Apr.-June	264	80,986	-	0	-
¹ Product 1: ½ inch, grade 270 (270,000 PSI), low relaxation, uncovered prestressed concrete strand sold for pre-tensioned applications.					
Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to Commission questionnaires.					

Table V-3

PC strand: Weighted-average f.o.b. prices and quantities of domestic and imported product 2¹ and margins of underselling/(overselling), by quarters, January 2003-June 2009

	United States		Brazil ²			India		
	Price (per lineal foot)	Quantity (1,000 lineal feet)	Price (per lineal foot)	Quantity (1,000 lineal feet)	Margin (percent)	Price (per lineal foot)	Quantity (1,000 lineal feet)	Margin (percent)
2003:								
Jan.-Mar.	\$112	64,803	\$***	***	***	-	0	-
Apr.-June	130	92,329	***	***	***	\$***	***	***
July-Sept.	141	65,416	***	***	***	***	***	***
Oct.-Dec.	140	74,054	-	0	-	-	0	-
2004:								
Jan.-Mar.	153	69,519	-	0	-	-	0	-
Apr.-June	205	66,784	-	0	-	-	0	-
July-Sept.	232	65,185	-	0	-	-	0	-
Oct.-Dec.	234	35,795	-	0	-	-	0	-
2005:								
Jan.-Mar.	224	45,517	-	0	-	-	0	-
Apr.-June	221	81,078	-	0	-	-	0	-
July-Sept.	214	90,721	-	0	-	-	0	-
Oct.-Dec.	200	83,959	-	0	-	-	0	-
2006:								
Jan.-Mar.	190	71,479	-	0	-	-	0	-
Apr.-June	***	***	-	0	-	-	0	-
July-Sept.	185	63,389	-	0	-	-	0	-
Oct.-Dec.	190	40,915	-	0	-	-	0	-
2007:								
Jan.-Mar.	181	47,632	-	0	-	-	0	-
Apr.-June	180	61,028	-	0	-	-	0	-
July-Sept.	182	51,890	-	0	-	-	0	-
Oct.-Dec.	187	39,243	-	0	-	-	0	-
2008:								
Jan.-Mar.	226	52,327	-	0	-	-	0	-
Apr.-June	302	25,304	-	0	-	-	0	-
July-Sept.	317	10,431	-	0	-	-	0	-
Oct.-Dec.	238	5,243	-	0	-	-	0	-
2009:								
Jan.-Mar.	***	***	-	0	-	-	0	-
Apr.-June	214	11,910	-	0	-	-	0	-

Table continued on following page.

Table V-3--Continued

PC strand: Weighted-average f.o.b. prices and quantities of domestic and imported product 2¹ and margins of underselling/(overselling), by quarters, January 2003-June 2009

	Korea			Mexico ²			Thailand		
	Price (per lineal foot)	Quantity (1,000 lineal feet)	Margin (percent)	Price (per lineal foot)	Quantity (1,000 lineal feet)	Margin (percent)	Price (per lineal foot)	Quantity (1,000 lineal feet)	Margin (percent)
2003:									
Jan.-Mar.	\$***	***	***	\$***	***	***	\$***	***	***
Apr.-June	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
July-Sept.	***	***	***	-	0	-	***	***	***
Oct.-Dec.	-	0	-	-	0	-	***	***	***
2004:									
Jan.-Mar.	-	0	-	-	0	-	***	***	***
Apr.-June	-	0	-	-	0	-	***	***	***
July-Sept.	-	0	-	-	0	-	***	***	***
Oct.-Dec.	-	0	-	-	0	-	***	***	***
2005:									
Jan.-Mar.	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-
Apr.-June	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-
July-Sept.	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-
Oct.-Dec.	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-
2006:									
Jan.-Mar.	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-
Apr.-June	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-
July-Sept.	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-
Oct.-Dec.	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-
2007:									
Jan.-Mar.	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-
Apr.-June	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-
July-Sept.	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-
Oct.-Dec.	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-
2008:									
Jan.-Mar.	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-
Apr.-June	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-
July-Sept.	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-
Oct.-Dec.	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-
2009:									
Jan.-Mar.	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-
Apr.-June	-	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-

¹ Product 2: ½ inch, grade 270 (270,000 PSI), low relaxation, uncovered prestressed concrete strand sold for post-tensioned applications.

² Price data for January-June 2003 as reported in the original investigations.

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to Commission questionnaires.

Figure V-2

PC strand: Weighted-average prices and quantities of domestic and imported product, by quarters, January 2003-June 2009

* * * * *

Table V-4

PC strand: Summary of weighted-average f.o.b. prices for products 1-2, by country

Item	Number of quarters	Low price (per lineal foot)	High price (per lineal foot)	Change in price ¹ (percent)
Product 1				
United States	26	\$132	\$416	100.4
Korea	***	***	***	-
Product 2				
United States	26	112	317	91.4
Brazil	***	***	***	-
India	***	***	***	-
Korea	***	***	***	-
Mexico	***	***	***	-
Thailand	***	***	***	-

¹ Percentage change from the first quarter 2003 to second quarter 2009. No data were reported for subject countries for after 2004.

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to Commission questionnaires.

Figure V-3

PC strand: Indexes of average U.S. wire rod prices and weighted-average prices of U.S. products 1 and 2, by quarters, January 2007-September 2009

* * * * *

Table V-5

PC strand: Instances of underselling/overselling and the range and average of margins, January 2003-June 2009

	Underselling			Overselling		
	Number of instances	Range (percent)	Average margin (percent)	Number of instances	Range (percent)	Average margin (percent)
Brazil	2	***	***	1	-	***
India	1	-	***	1	-	***
Korea	5	***	***	3	***	***
Mexico	1	-	***	1	-	***
Thailand	3	***	***	5	***	***
Total	12	0.2-27.3	8.9	11	0.1-32.6	8.9

Note.— In the original investigations, for sales of low relaxation, uncovered (uncoated) PC strand, grade 270, ½ inch diameter (product 1) used for both pre-tensioned and post-tensioned applications:

- imports from Brazil undersold the domestic product in 14 of 14 comparisons;
- imports from India undersold the domestic product in 14 of 14 comparisons;
- imports from Japan undersold the domestic product in 12 quarters, and oversold the domestic product in 4 quarters;
- imports from Korea undersold the domestic product in 14 of 14 comparisons;
- imports from Mexico undersold the domestic product in 13 of 14 comparisons;
- and imports from Thailand undersold the domestic product in 12 of 14 comparisons.

For sales of product 1 for pre-tensioned applications only:

- imports from Brazil undersold the domestic product in three quarters;
- imports from Korea undersold the domestic product in 12 quarters and oversold the domestic product in one quarter;
- and imports from Mexico oversold the domestic product in five quarters.

For sales of product 1 for post-tensioned applications only:

- imports from Brazil undersold the domestic product in seven quarters and oversold the domestic product in seven quarters;
- imports from India undersold the domestic product in 11 quarters and oversold the domestic product in three quarters;
- imports from Korea undersold the domestic product in three quarters and oversold the domestic product in 11 quarters;
- imports from Mexico undersold the domestic product in six quarters and oversold the domestic product in eight quarters;
- and imports from Thailand undersold the domestic product in one quarter and oversold the domestic product in 13 quarters.

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to Commission questionnaires. *Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand: Investigation Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Final)*, INV-AA-191, December 19, 2003, p. V-15 and V-21. *Steel Wire Strand for Prestressed Concrete from Japan: INV1921-188, OP2-B-178, November 3, 1978, table 11.*

APPENDIX A

***FEDERAL REGISTER* NOTICES AND THE
COMMISSION'S STATEMENT ON ADEQUACY**

Background

The Commission instituted this review on July 1, 2008 (73 FR 37489) and determined on October 6, 2008 that it would conduct an expedited review (73 FR 62318, October 20, 2008).

The Commission transmitted its determination in this review to the Secretary of Commerce on November 25, 2008. The views of the Commission are contained in USITC Publication 4047 (November 2008), entitled *Crawfish Tail Meat from China: Investigation No. 731-TA-752 (Second Review)*.

By order of the Commission.

Issued: November 25, 2008.

William R. Bishop,

Acting Secretary to the Commission.

[FR Doc. E8-28410 Filed 11-28-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7020-02-P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)]

Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand From Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Institution of five-year reviews concerning the countervailing duty order on prestressed concrete steel wire strand from India and antidumping duty orders on prestressed concrete steel wire strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand.

SUMMARY: The Commission hereby gives notice that it has instituted reviews pursuant to section 751(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1675(c)) (the Act) to determine whether revocation of the countervailing duty order on prestressed concrete steel wire strand from India and the antidumping duty orders on prestressed concrete steel wire strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury. Pursuant to section 751(c)(2) of the Act, interested parties are requested to respond to this notice by submitting the information specified below to the Commission;¹ to be assured of

¹ No response to this request for information is required if a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) number is not displayed; the OMB number is 3117-0016/USITC No. 09-5-192, expiration date June 30, 2011. Public reporting burden for the request is estimated to average 15 hours per response. Please send comments regarding the accuracy of this burden estimate to

consideration, the deadline for responses is January 20, 2009. Comments on the adequacy of responses may be filed with the Commission by February 13, 2009. For further information concerning the conduct of these reviews and rules of general application, consult the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, part 201, subparts A through E (19 CFR part 201), and part 207, subparts A, D, E, and F (19 CFR part 207).

DATES: *Effective Date:* December 1, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mary Messer (202-205-3193), Office of Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20436. Hearing-impaired persons can obtain information on this matter by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal on 202-205-1810. Persons with mobility impairments who will need special assistance in gaining access to the Commission should contact the Office of the Secretary at 202-205-2000. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its Internet server (<http://www.usitc.gov>). The public record for these reviews may be viewed on the Commission's electronic docket (EDIS) at <http://edis.usitc.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background.—On December 8, 1978, the Department of the Treasury issued an antidumping finding on imports of prestressed concrete steel wire strand from Japan (43 FR 57599). Following five-year reviews by Commerce and the Commission, effective February 3, 1999, Commerce issued a continuation of the antidumping duty order on imports of prestressed concrete steel wire strand from Japan (64 FR 40554, July 27, 1999). Following second five-year reviews by Commerce and the Commission, effective June 25, 2004, Commerce issued a continuation of the antidumping duty order on imports of prestressed concrete steel wire strand from Japan (69 FR 35584). On January 28, 2004, the Department of Commerce issued antidumping duty orders on imports of prestressed concrete steel wire strand from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand (69 FR 4109-4113). On February 4, 2004, the Department of Commerce issued a countervailing duty order on imports of prestressed concrete steel wire strand from India (69 FR 5319). The Commission is now conducting a third review of the antidumping duty order concerning Japan and a first review of

the Office of Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20436.

the orders concerning Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand to determine whether revocation of the orders would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to the domestic industry within a reasonably foreseeable time. It will assess the adequacy of interested party responses to this notice of institution to determine whether to conduct full reviews or expedited reviews. The Commission's determinations in any expedited reviews will be based on the facts available, which may include information provided in response to this notice.

Definitions.—The following definitions apply to these reviews:

(1) *Subject Merchandise* is the class or kind of merchandise that is within the scope of the five-year reviews, as defined by the Department of Commerce.

(2) The *Subject Countries* in these reviews are Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand.

(3) The *Domestic Like Product* is the domestically produced product or products which are like, or in the absence of like, most similar in characteristics and uses with, the Subject Merchandise. In its expedited first and second five-year reviews of the antidumping duty order concerning Japan, the Commission found that the appropriate definition of the Domestic Like Product was the same as Commerce's scope: all steel wire strand, other than alloy steel, not galvanized, which has been stress-relieved and is suitable for use in prestressed concrete. The Commission did not make a like product determination per se in its original determination concerning Japan. In its original determinations concerning Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand, the Commission found the Domestic Like Product to be all prestressed concrete steel wire strand co-extensive with Commerce's scope, that is, steel strand produced from wire of non-stainless, non-galvanized steel that is suitable for use in prestressed concrete (both pre-tensioned and post-tensioned) applications and that encompasses covered and uncovered strand and all types, grades, and diameters of prestressed concrete steel wire strand.

(4) The *Domestic Industry* is the U.S. producers as a whole of the Domestic Like Product, or those producers whose collective output of the Domestic Like Product constitutes a major proportion of the total domestic production of the product. In its original determination and its expedited first and second reviews of the antidumping duty order concerning Japan, the Commission

defined the Domestic Industry as all producers of prestressed concrete steel wire strand. Likewise, in its original determinations concerning Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand, the Commission found the Domestic Industry to be all producers of prestressed concrete steel wire strand. The Commission also determined that plastic coating did not constitute sufficient production-related activity to qualify coaters as members of the domestic industry producing prestressed concrete steel wire strand.

(5) The *Order Date* is the date that the antidumping and countervailing duty orders under review became effective. In the review concerning the antidumping duty order on prestressed concrete steel wire strand from Japan, the Order Date is December 8, 1978. In the reviews concerning the antidumping duty orders on prestressed concrete steel wire strand from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand, the Order Date is January 28, 2004. In the review concerning the countervailing duty order on prestressed concrete steel wire strand from India, the Order Date is February 4, 2004.

(6) An *Importer* is any person or firm engaged, either directly or through a parent company or subsidiary, in importing the Subject Merchandise into the United States from a foreign manufacturer or through its selling agent.

Participation in the reviews and public service list.—Persons, including industrial users of the Subject Merchandise and, if the merchandise is sold at the retail level, representative consumer organizations, wishing to participate in the reviews as parties must file an entry of appearance with the Secretary to the Commission, as provided in section 201.11(b)(4) of the Commission's rules, no later than 21 days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. The Secretary will maintain a public service list containing the names and addresses of all persons, or their representatives, who are parties to the reviews.

Former Commission employees who are seeking to appear in Commission five-year reviews are advised that they may appear in a review even if they participated personally and substantially in the corresponding underlying original investigation. The Commission's designated agency ethics official recently has advised that a five-year review is no longer considered the "same particular matter" as the corresponding underlying original investigation for purposes of 18 U.S.C. 207, the post employment statute for Federal employees, and Commission rule 201.15(b) (19 CFR 201.15(b)), 73 FR

24609 (May 5, 2008). This advice was developed in consultation with the Office of Government Ethics. Consequently, former employees are no longer required to seek Commission approval to appear in a review under Commission rule 19 CFR 201.15, even if the corresponding underlying original investigation was pending when they were Commission employees. For further ethics advice on this matter, contact Carol McCue Verratti, Deputy Agency Ethics Official, at 202–205–3088.

Limited disclosure of business proprietary information (BPI) under an administrative protective order (APO) and APO service list.—Pursuant to section 207.7(a) of the Commission's rules, the Secretary will make BPI submitted in these reviews available to authorized applicants under the APO issued in the reviews, provided that the application is made no later than 21 days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. Authorized applicants must represent interested parties, as defined in 19 U.S.C. 1677(9), who are parties to the reviews. A separate service list will be maintained by the Secretary for those parties authorized to receive BPI under the APO.

Certification.—Pursuant to section 207.3 of the Commission's rules, any person submitting information to the Commission in connection with these reviews must certify that the information is accurate and complete to the best of the submitter's knowledge. In making the certification, the submitter will be deemed to consent, unless otherwise specified, for the Commission, its employees, and contract personnel to use the information provided in any other reviews or investigations of the same or comparable products which the Commission conducts under Title VII of the Act, or in internal audits and investigations relating to the programs and operations of the Commission pursuant to 5 U.S.C. Appendix 3.

Written submissions.—Pursuant to section 207.61 of the Commission's rules, each interested party response to this notice must provide the information specified below. The deadline for filing such responses is January 20, 2009. Pursuant to section 207.62(b) of the Commission's rules, eligible parties (as specified in Commission rule 207.62(b)(1)) may also file comments concerning the adequacy of responses to the notice of institution and whether the Commission should conduct expedited or full reviews. The deadline for filing such comments is February 13, 2009. All written submissions must conform

with the provisions of sections 201.8 and 207.3 of the Commission's rules and any submissions that contain BPI must also conform with the requirements of sections 201.6 and 207.7 of the Commission's rules. The Commission's rules do not authorize filing of submissions with the Secretary by facsimile or electronic means, except to the extent permitted by section 201.8 of the Commission's rules, as amended, 67 FR 68036 (November 8, 2002). Also, in accordance with sections 201.16(c) and 207.3 of the Commission's rules, each document filed by a party to the reviews must be served on all other parties to the reviews (as identified by either the public or APO service list as appropriate), and a certificate of service must accompany the document (if you are not a party to the reviews you do not need to serve your response).

Inability to provide requested information.—Pursuant to section 207.61(c) of the Commission's rules, any interested party that cannot furnish the information requested by this notice in the requested form and manner shall notify the Commission at the earliest possible time, provide a full explanation of why it cannot provide the requested information, and indicate alternative forms in which it can provide equivalent information. If an interested party does not provide this notification (or the Commission finds the explanation provided in the notification inadequate) and fails to provide a complete response to this notice, the Commission may take an adverse inference against the party pursuant to section 776(b) of the Act in making its determinations in the reviews.

Information to be Provided in Response to This Notice of Institution: If you are a domestic producer, union/worker group, or trade/business association; import/export Subject Merchandise from more than one Subject Country; or produce Subject Merchandise in more than one Subject Country, you may file a single response. If you do so, please ensure that your response to each question includes the information requested for each pertinent Subject Country. As used below, the term "firm" includes any related firms.

(1) The name and address of your firm or entity (including World Wide Web address if available) and name, telephone number, fax number, and e-mail address of the certifying official.

(2) A statement indicating whether your firm/entity is a U.S. producer of the Domestic Like Product, a U.S. union or worker group, a U.S. importer of the Subject Merchandise, a foreign producer or exporter of the Subject Merchandise, a U.S. or foreign trade or business

association, or another interested party (including an explanation). If you are a union/worker group or trade/business association, identify the firms in which your workers are employed or which are members of your association.

(3) A statement indicating whether your firm/entity is willing to participate in these reviews by providing information requested by the Commission.

(4) A statement of the likely effects of the revocation of the antidumping and countervailing duty orders on the Domestic Industry in general and/or your firm/entity specifically. In your response, please discuss the various factors specified in section 752(a) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1675a(a)) including the likely volume of subject imports, likely price effects of subject imports, and likely impact of imports of Subject Merchandise on the Domestic Industry.

(5) A list of all known and currently operating U.S. producers of the Domestic Like Product. Identify any known related parties and the nature of the relationship as defined in section 771(4)(B) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 1677(4)(B)).

(6) A list of all known and currently operating U.S. importers of the Subject Merchandise and producers of the Subject Merchandise in each Subject Country that currently export or have exported Subject Merchandise to the United States or other countries after 2002.

(7) If you are a U.S. producer of the Domestic Like Product, provide the following information on your firm's operations on that product during calendar year 2007 (report quantity data in pounds and value data in U.S. dollars, f.o.b. plant). If you are a union/worker group or trade/business association, provide the information, on an aggregate basis, for the firms in which your workers are employed/which are members of your association.

(a) Production (quantity) and, if known, an estimate of the percentage of total U.S. production of the Domestic Like Product accounted for by your firm's(s') production;

(b) The quantity and value of U.S. commercial shipments of the Domestic Like Product produced in your U.S. plant(s); and

(c) The quantity and value of U.S. internal consumption/company transfers of the Domestic Like Product produced in your U.S. plant(s).

(8) If you are a U.S. importer or a trade/business association of U.S. importers of the Subject Merchandise from the Subject Country(ies), provide the following information on your firm's(s') operations on that product

during calendar year 2007 (report quantity data in pounds and value data in U.S. dollars). If you are a trade/business association, provide the information, on an aggregate basis, for the firms which are members of your association.

(a) The quantity and value (landed, duty-paid but not including antidumping or countervailing duties) of U.S. imports and, if known, an estimate of the percentage of total U.S. imports of Subject Merchandise from each Subject Country accounted for by your firm's(s') imports;

(b) The quantity and value (f.o.b. U.S. port, including antidumping and/or countervailing duties) of U.S. commercial shipments of Subject Merchandise imported from each Subject Country; and

(c) The quantity and value (f.o.b. U.S. port, including antidumping and/or countervailing duties) of U.S. internal consumption/company transfers of Subject Merchandise imported from each Subject Country.

(9) If you are a producer, an exporter, or a trade/business association of producers or exporters of the Subject Merchandise in the Subject Country(ies), provide the following information on your firm's(s') operations on that product during calendar year 2007 (report quantity data in pounds and value data in U.S. dollars, landed and duty-paid at the U.S. port but not including antidumping or countervailing duties). If you are a trade/business association, provide the information, on an aggregate basis, for the firms which are members of your association.

(a) Production (quantity) and, if known, an estimate of the percentage of total production of Subject Merchandise in each Subject Country accounted for by your firm's(s') production; and

(b) The quantity and value of your firm's(s') exports to the United States of Subject Merchandise and, if known, an estimate of the percentage of total exports to the United States of Subject Merchandise from each Subject Country accounted for by your firm's(s') exports.

(10) Identify significant changes, if any, in the supply and demand conditions or business cycle for the Domestic Like Product that have occurred in the United States or in the market for the Subject Merchandise in each Subject Country after 2002, and significant changes, if any, that are likely to occur within a reasonably foreseeable time. Supply conditions to consider include technology; production methods; development efforts; ability to increase production (including the shift of production

facilities used for other products and the use, cost, or availability of major inputs into production); and factors related to the ability to shift supply among different national markets (including barriers to importation in foreign markets or changes in market demand abroad). Demand conditions to consider include end uses and applications; the existence and availability of substitute products; and the level of competition among the Domestic Like Product produced in the United States, Subject Merchandise produced in each Subject Country, and such merchandise from other countries.

(11) (Optional) A statement of whether you agree with the above definitions of the Domestic Like Product and Domestic Industry; if you disagree with either or both of these definitions, please explain why and provide alternative definitions.

Authority: These reviews are being conducted under authority of title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930; this notice is published pursuant to section 207.61 of the Commission's rules.

By order of the Commission.

Issued: November 25, 2008.

William R. Bishop,

Acting Secretary to the Commission.

[FR Doc. E8-28409 Filed 11-28-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7020-02-P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation Nos. 731-TA-394-A & 399-A (Second Review) (Remand)]

Ball Bearings From Japan and the United Kingdom

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Notice of stay of remand proceedings.

SUMMARY: The U.S. International Trade Commission ("Commission") hereby gives notice of the stay of its remand proceedings in the Commission's five-year reviews of the antidumping duty orders on ball bearings from Japan and the United Kingdom.

DATES: *Effective Date:* November 24, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Russell Duncan, Office of Investigations, telephone 202-708-4727, or David Goldfine, Office of General Counsel, telephone 202-708-5452, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20436. Hearing-impaired persons can obtain information on this matter by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal on 202-

submitted not later than five days after the time limit for filing the case briefs. See 19 CFR 351.309(d)(1). If requested, any hearing will be held two days after the scheduled date for submission of rebuttal briefs. See 19 CFR 351.310(d). Parties who submit case briefs or rebuttal briefs in this proceeding are encouraged to submit with each argument a statement of the issue, a summary of the arguments not exceeding five pages, and a table of statutes, regulations, and cases cited. See 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2).

The Department will issue the final results of this administrative review, including the results of its analysis of issues raised in any such written briefs or at the hearing, if held, not later than 120 days after the date of publication of this notice. See section 751(a)(3)(A) of the Act.

Assessment Rates

The Department shall determine, and CBP shall assess, antidumping duties on all appropriate entries. The Department intends to issue assessment instructions to CBP 15 days after the date of publication of the final results of review.

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.212(b)(1), we will calculate importer-specific *ad valorem* duty assessment rates based on the ratio of the total amount of the dumping margins calculated for the examined sales to the total entered value of those same sales. We will instruct CBP to assess antidumping duties on all appropriate entries covered by this review if any importer-specific assessment rate calculated in the final results of this review is above *de minimis*. The final results of this review shall be the basis for the assessment of antidumping duties on entries of merchandise covered by the final results of this review and for future deposits of estimated duties, where applicable.

Cash-Deposit Requirements

The following cash deposit requirements will be effective upon publication of the notice of final results of the administrative review for all shipments of RBAO from the PRC entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the date of

publication, as provided by section 751(a)(2)(C) of the Act: (1) for subject merchandise exported by Qingdao Shunxingli, the cash-deposit rate will be that established in the final results of review; (2) for previously reviewed or investigated companies not listed above that have separate rates, the cash-deposit rate will continue to be the company-specific rate published for the most recent period; (3) for all other PRC exporters of subject merchandise, which have not been found to be entitled to a separate rate, the cash-deposit rate will be PRC-wide rate of 135.18 percent; and (4) for all non-PRC exporters of subject merchandise, the cash-deposit rate will be the rate applicable to the PRC exporter that supplied that exporter. These deposit requirements, when imposed, shall remain in effect until further notice.

Notification to Importers

This notice also serves as a preliminary reminder to importers of their responsibility under 19 CFR 351.402(f)(2) to file a certificate regarding the reimbursement of antidumping duties prior to liquidation of the relevant entries during this review period. Failure to comply with this requirement could result in the Secretary's presumption that reimbursement of antidumping duties occurred and the subsequent assessment of double antidumping duties.

This administrative review and this notice are in accordance with sections 751(a)(1) and 777(i) of the Act.

Dated: November 21, 2008.

David M. Spooner,

Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. E8-28458 Filed 11-28-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Initiation of Five-year ("Sunset") Reviews

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: In accordance with section 751(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended ("the Act"), the Department of Commerce ("the Department") is automatically initiating a five-year review ("Sunset Review") of the antidumping duty orders listed below. The International Trade Commission ("the Commission") is publishing concurrently with this notice its notice of *Institution of Five-year Review* which covers the same orders.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 1, 2008.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Department official identified in the Initiation of Review section below at AD/CVD Operations, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street & Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20230. For information from the Commission contact Mary Messer, Office of Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission at (202) 205-3193.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Department's procedures for the conduct of Sunset Reviews are set forth in its *Procedures for Conducting Five-year ("Sunset") Reviews of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Orders*, 63 FR 13516 (March 20, 1998) and 70 FR 62061 (October 28, 2005). Guidance on methodological or analytical issues relevant to the Department's conduct of Sunset Reviews is set forth in the Department's Policy Bulletin 98.3 *Policies Regarding the Conduct of Five-year ("Sunset") Reviews of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Orders: Policy Bulletin*, 63 FR 18871 (April 16, 1998).

Initiation of Review

In accordance with 19 CFR 351.218(c), we are initiating the Sunset Review of the following antidumping duty orders:

DOC Case No.	ITC Case No.	Country	Product	Department Contact
A-351-837	731-TA-1024	Brazil	Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand	Dana Mermelstein (202) 482-1391
A-533-828	731-TA-1025	India	Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand	Dana Mermelstein (202) 482-1391
A-580-852	731-TA-1026	South Korea	Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand	Dana Mermelstein (202) 482-1391
A-201-831	731-TA-1027	Mexico	Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand	Dana Mermelstein (202) 482-1391
A-549-820	731-TA-1028	Thailand	Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand	Dana Mermelstein (202) 482-1391
A-588-068	AA1921-188	Japan	Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand	Dana Mermelstein (202) 482-1391
C-533-829	701-TA-432	India	Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand	Brandon Farlander (202) 482-0182

Filing Information

As a courtesy, we are making information related to Sunset proceedings, including copies of the pertinent statute and Department's regulations, the Department schedule for Sunset Reviews, a listing of past revocations and continuations, and current service lists, available to the public on the Department's sunset Internet Web site at the following address: <http://ia.ita.doc.gov/sunset/>.¹ All submissions in these Sunset Reviews must be filed in accordance with the Department's regulations regarding format, translation, service, and certification of documents. These rules can be found at 19 CFR 351.303.

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.103(c), the Department will maintain and make available a service list for these proceedings. To facilitate the timely preparation of the service list(s), it is requested that those seeking recognition as interested parties to a proceeding contact the Department in writing within 10 days of the publication of the Notice of Initiation.

Because deadlines in Sunset Reviews can be very short, we urge interested parties to apply for access to proprietary information under administrative protective order ("APO") immediately following publication in the **Federal Register** of this notice of initiation by filing a notice of intent to participate. The Department's regulations on submission of proprietary information and eligibility to receive access to business proprietary information under APO can be found at 19 CFR 351.304-306.

Information Required from Interested Parties

Domestic interested parties defined in section 771(9)(C), (D), (E), (F), and (G) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.102(b) wishing to participate in a Sunset Review must respond not later than 15 days after the date of publication in the **Federal Register** of this notice of initiation by filing a notice of intent to participate. The required contents of the notice of intent to participate are set forth at 19 CFR 351.218(d)(1)(ii). In accordance with the Department's regulations, if we do not receive a notice of intent to participate from at least one domestic interested party by the 15-day deadline, the Department will automatically revoke the order without further review. See 19 CFR 351.218(d)(1)(iii).

If we receive an order-specific notice of intent to participate from a domestic interested party, the Department's regulations provide that *all parties* wishing to participate in the Sunset

Review must file complete substantive responses not later than 30 days after the date of publication in the **Federal Register** of this notice of initiation. The required contents of a substantive response, on an order-specific basis, are set forth at 19 CFR 351.218(d)(3). Note that certain information requirements differ for respondent and domestic parties. Also, note that the Department's information requirements are distinct from the Commission's information requirements. Please consult the Department's regulations for information regarding the Department's conduct of Sunset Reviews.¹ Please consult the Department's regulations at 19 CFR Part 351 for definitions of terms and for other general information concerning antidumping and countervailing duty proceedings at the Department.

This notice of initiation is being published in accordance with section 751(c) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.218 (c).

Dated: November 25, 2008.

Stephen J. Claeys,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for AD/CVD Duty Operations.

[FR Doc. E8-28475 Filed 11-28-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Notice of Scope Rulings

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 1, 2008.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce ("Department") hereby publishes a list of scope rulings completed between July 1, 2008, and September 30, 2008. In conjunction with this list, the Department is also publishing a list of requests for scope rulings and anticircumvention determinations pending as of September 30, 2008. We intend to publish future lists after the close of the next calendar quarter.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Juanita H. Chen or Hallie Zink, AD/CVD Operations, China/NME Group, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of

¹ In comments made on the interim final sunset regulations, a number of parties stated that the proposed five-day period for rebuttals to substantive responses to a notice of initiation was insufficient. This requirement was retained in the final sunset regulations at 19 CFR 351.218(d)(4). As provided in 19 CFR 351.302(b), however, the Department will consider individual requests to extend that five-day deadline based upon a showing of good cause.

Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20230; telephone: 202-482-1904 or 202-482-6907, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Department's regulations provide that the Secretary will publish in the **Federal Register** a list of scope rulings on a quarterly basis. See 19 C.F.R. 351.225(o). Our most recent notification of scope rulings was published on August 21, 2008. See *Notice of Scope Rulings*, 73 FR 49418 (August 21, 2008). This current notice covers all scope rulings and anticircumvention determinations completed by Import Administration between July 1, 2008, and September 30, 2008, inclusive, and it also lists any scope or anticircumvention inquiries pending as of September 30, 2008. As described below, subsequent lists will follow after the close of each calendar quarter.

Scope Rulings Completed Between July 1, 2008, and September 30, 2008:

Germany

A-428-801: Ball Bearings and Parts Thereof from Germany

Requestor: Petree & Stoudt Associates, Inc.; certain textile-machinery components (model numbers SW4122, SRH1572, SRH3693.1, FR0394, SW2082, SRH1809.1, SRH3694, FR0613, SW2577, SRH1809, SRH3694.1, FR0726, SW2578, SRH2129.1, SRH3695.1, FR1081, SW3642.X, SRH2129.2, SRH3717, FR1108, SW3937, SRH2255, SRH3898, FR1235, SW3938, SRH2265, SRH3906, FR1387, SW3939, SRH2266, SRH3913, FR1570, SW3966.X, SRH2820, SRH3953, FR1603, SW3982, SRH3055, SRH3956.1, FR1829, SW3995.1, SRH3064.1, SRH3977, FR1927, SW4021-XXX, SRH3100.1, SRH3983, FR1940, SW4040, SRH3366, SRH4009.1, FR1967, SW4053, SRH3419, SRH4009, FR1969, SW4057, SRH3463, SRH4033, FR2006, SW4058.1, SRH3482, SRH4037, FR2623, SW4067, SRH3489, SRH4038, FR2624, SW4100, SRH3500, SRH4042.1, FR2625, SW4107-X, SRH3510, SRH4042, FR2626, SW4110-X, SRH3522.1, SRH4050, FR2661-10, SW1683, SRH3522, SRH4051, FR3007, OW4106, SRH3530, SRH4052, FR3499, OW0426, SRH3531, SRH4174, FR3669, OW0647, SRH3531.1, SR2523, FR3686, OW2090, SRH3532, SR2583, FR3718, OW2234, SRH3535, SR3951, FR3916.1, OW2787, SRH3540.1, SR3952, FR3916, OW2818.2, SRH3540, SR3998, FR3935, OW2903, SRH3541, SR4091, FR3964, OW3934, SRH3542.1, SR4114, FR3968, OW3958, SRH3542, SR4124, FR3969, OW3958-10, SRH3543, ZL1678.1,

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**[LLAK910000 L13100000.DB0000
LXSINSSI0000]**Notice of Public Meeting, North Slope Science Initiative, Science Technical Advisory Panel, AK****AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (FACA), the U.S. Department of the Interior, North Slope Science Initiative (NSSI) Science Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) will meet as indicated below:**DATES:** The meeting will be held April 14 and 15, in Fairbanks, Alaska. On April 14, 2009, the meeting will begin at 9 a.m. at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, International Arctic Research Center, Room 401. Public comments will begin at 3 p.m. On April 15, 2009, the meeting will begin at 9 a.m. at the same location and will be a joint meeting with the North Slope Science Initiative Oversight Group.**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John F. Payne, Executive Director, North Slope Science Initiative, c/o Bureau of Land Management, AK-910, 222 W. Seventh Avenue, #13, Anchorage, AK 99513; phone 907-271-3431 or e-mail john_f_payne@blm.gov.**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The NSSI, STAP provides advice and recommendations to the NSSI Oversight Group regarding priority needs for management decisions across the North Slope of Alaska. These priority needs may include recommendations on inventory, monitoring, and research activities that lead to informed land management decisions. The topics to be discussed at the meeting include:

- Emerging issues summary from the STAP.
- Update on the project tracking system.
- Update on the project database.
- NSSI priority issues and projects.
- Other topics the Oversight Group or STAP may raise.

All meetings are open to the public. The public may present written comments to the Science Technical Advisory Panel through the Executive Director, North Slope Science Initiative. Each formal meeting will also have time allotted for hearing public comments. Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment and time available,

the time for individual oral comments may be limited. Individuals who plan to attend and need special assistance, such as sign language interpretation, transportation, or other reasonable accommodations, should contact the Executive Director, North Slope Science Initiative.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Dated: March 16, 2009.

Julia Dougan,*Acting State Director.*

[FR Doc. E9-6097 Filed 3-19-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 1310-JA-P**INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION****[Investigation Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)]****Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand From Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand****AGENCY:** United States International Trade Commission.**ACTION:** Notice of Commission determination to conduct full five-year reviews concerning the countervailing duty order on prestressed concrete steel wire strand ("PC strand") from India and the antidumping duty orders on PC strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand.

SUMMARY: The Commission hereby gives notice that it will proceed with full reviews pursuant to section 751(c)(5) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1675(c)(5)) to determine whether revocation of the countervailing duty order on PC strand from India and the antidumping duty orders on PC strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury within a reasonably foreseeable time. A schedule for the reviews will be established and announced at a later date. For further information concerning the conduct of these reviews and rules of general application, consult the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, part 201, subparts A through E (19 CFR part 201), and part 207,

subparts A, D, E, and F (19 CFR part 207).

DATES: *Effective Date:* March 6, 2009.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Messer (202-205-3193), Office of Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20436. Hearing-impaired persons can obtain information on this matter by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal on 202-205-1810. Persons with mobility impairments who will need special assistance in gaining access to the Commission should contact the Office of the Secretary at 202-205-2000. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its Internet server (<http://www.usitc.gov>). The public record for these reviews may be viewed on the Commission's electronic docket (EDIS) at <http://edis.usitc.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On March 6, 2009, the Commission determined that it should proceed to full reviews in the subject five-year reviews pursuant to section 751(c)(5) of the Act. The Commission found that the domestic interested party group response to its notice of institution (73 FR 72834, December 1, 2008) was adequate and that the respondent interested party group responses with respect to Korea and Mexico were adequate¹ and decided to conduct full reviews with respect to the antidumping duty orders concerning PC strand from Korea and Mexico. The Commission found that the respondent interested party group responses with respect to Brazil, India, Japan, and Thailand were inadequate. However, the Commission determined to conduct full reviews concerning the countervailing duty order on PC strand from India and the antidumping duty orders on PC strand from Brazil, India, Japan, and Thailand to promote administrative efficiency in light of its decision to conduct full reviews with respect to the antidumping duty orders concerning PC strand from Korea and Mexico. A record of the Commissioners' votes, the Commission's statement on adequacy, and any individual Commissioner's statements will be available from the Office of the Secretary and at the Commission's Web site.

Authority: These reviews are being conducted under authority of title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930; this notice is published pursuant to section 207.62 of the Commission's rules.

¹ Commissioners Charlotte R. Lane and Dean A. Pinkert found that the respondent interested party group response with respect to Korea was inadequate.

By order of the Commission.

Issued: March 16, 2009.

Marilyn R. Abbott,

Secretary to the Commission.

[FR Doc. E9-6129 Filed 3-19-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7020-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Drug Enforcement Administration

[OMB Number 1117-0037]

Agency Information Collection

**Activities: Proposed Collection;
Comments Requested**

ACTION: 30-day notice of information collection under review.

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Questionnaire

The Department of Justice (DOJ), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will be submitting the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The proposed information collection is published to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies. This proposed information collection was previously published in the **Federal Register** Volume 74, Number 8, page 1709, on, January 13, 2009, allowing for a 60 day comment period.

The purpose of this notice is to allow for an additional 30 days for public comment until April 20, 2009. This process is conducted in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.10. Written comments and/or suggestions regarding the items contained in this notice, especially the estimated public burden and associated response time, should be directed to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention Department of Justice Desk Officer, Washington, DC 20503. Additionally, comments may be submitted to OMB via facsimile to (202) 395-5806.

Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information are encouraged. Your comments should address one or more of the following four points:

- Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the agencies estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information,

including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Overview of Information Collection 1117-0037:

(1) *Type of Information Collection:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

(2) *Title of the Form/Collection:* Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Questionnaire.

(3) *Agency Form Number, if Any, and the Applicable Component of the Department of Justice Sponsoring the Collection:* Form Number: None. Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice.

(4) *Affected public who will be asked or required to respond, as well as a brief abstract:*

Primary: States.

Other: None.

Abstract: This questionnaire permits the Drug Enforcement Administration to compile and evaluate information regarding the design, implementation and operation of State prescription monitoring programs. Such information allows DEA to assist states in the development of new programs designed to enhance the ability of both DEA and State authorities to prevent, detect, and investigate the diversion and abuse of controlled substances.

(5) *An Estimate of the Total Number of Respondents and the Amount of Time Estimated for an Average Respondent to Respond:* It is estimated that 51 persons complete the Prescription Monitoring Program Questionnaire electronically, at 5 hours per form, for an annual burden of 255 hours.

(6) *An Estimate of the Total Public Burden (in Hours) Associated With the Collection:* It is estimated that there are 255 burden hours associated with this collection.

If additional information is required contact: Lynn Bryant, Department Clearance Officer, United States Department of Justice, Justice Management Division, Policy and Planning Staff, Patrick Henry Building, Suite 1600, 601 D Street NW., Washington, DC 20530.

Dated: March 11, 2009.

Lynn Bryant,

Department Clearance Officer, United States Department of Justice.

[FR Doc. E9-6054 Filed 3-19-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410-09-P

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

National Institute of Corrections

Solicitation for a Cooperative Agreement—Direct Supervision: Curriculum Development

AGENCY: National Institute of Corrections, Department of Justice.

ACTION: Solicitation for a cooperative agreement.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Corrections, Jails Division, is seeking applications for the development of two training-program curricula: one that focuses on the role of the housing-unit officer and shift supervisor in a direct supervision jail and another that focuses on the role of the administrator in a direct supervision jail. The project will be for an eighteen-month period, and will be carried out in conjunction with the NIC Jails Division. NIC Jails Division staff will direct the project and will participate in curriculum design, lesson plan development, and the creation of related training materials.

DATES: Applications must be received by 4 p.m. (EDT) on Friday, April 10, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Mailed applications must be sent to: Director, National Institute of Corrections, 320 First Street, NW., Room 5007, Washington, DC 20534. Applicants are encouraged to use Federal Express, UPS, or a similar service to ensure delivery by the due date, as mail at NIC is sometimes delayed due to security screening.

Applicants who wish to hand-deliver their applications should bring them to 500 First Street, NW., Washington, DC 20534 and dial (202) 307-3106, ext. 0 at the front desk for pickup.

Faxed or e-mailed applications will not be accepted.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A copy of this announcement and the required application forms can be downloaded from the NIC Web page at <http://www.nic.gov>.

All technical or programmatic questions concerning this announcement should be directed to Robbye Braxton-Mintz, Correctional Program Specialist, National Institute of Corrections. She can be reached by calling 1-800-995-6423 ext. 4-4562 or by e-mail at rbraxtonmintz@bop.gov.

	Period to be reviewed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zhoushan Huading Seafood Co., Ltd • Zhoushan Industrial Co., Ltd. • Zhoushan Industrial Co., Ltd. Cold Storage Factory • Zhoushan Jingzhou Aquatic Foods Co., Ltd. • Zhoushan Jinyuan Aquatic Foods Co., Ltd. • Zhoushan Lizhou Fishery Co., Ltd. • Zhoushan Penglai Aquatic Co., Ltd. • Zhoushan Putuo Dongyu Frozen Aquatic Products Co., Ltd • Zhoushan Putuo Huafa Sea Products Co., Ltd. • Zhoushan Putuo Zhuohai Marine Products Co., Ltd. • Zhoushan Qiangren Imp & Exp • Zhoushan Thousand-Islands Aquatic Products Co., Ltd. • Zhoushan Toka Foods Co., Ltd. • Zhoushan Xifeng Aquatic Co., Ltd. • Zhoushan Yueyang Food Co., Ltd. • Zhoushan Zaohai Aquatic Products Co., Ltd. • Zhoushan Zhenyang Developing Co., Ltd. • ZJ CNF Sea Products Engineering Ltd. Viet Nhan 	

Notification

This notice constitutes public notification to all firms requested for review and seeking separate-rate status in the administrative reviews of the antidumping duty orders on shrimp from Vietnam and the PRC that they must submit a separate rate status application or certification, as appropriate, within the time limits established in this notice of initiation of administrative reviews in order to receive consideration for separate-rate status. The Department will not give consideration to any Separate Rate Certification or Separate Rate Status Application made by parties who fail to timely submit the requisite Separate Rate Certification or Application. All information submitted by respondents in these administrative reviews is subject to verification. To complete these segments within the statutory time frame, the Department will be limited in its ability to extend deadlines on the above submissions. As noted above, the Separate Rate Certification and the Separate Rate Status Application will be available on the Department's Web site at <http://ia.ita.doc.gov/nme/nme-sep-rate.html> on the date of publication of this notice.

Interested parties must submit applications for disclosure under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305. Instructions for filing such applications

⁶ If one of the below named companies does not qualify for a separate rate, all other exporters of shrimp from Vietnam who have not qualified for a separate rate are deemed to be covered by this review as part of the single Vietnam-wide entity of which the named exporters are a part.

⁷ If one of the listed companies does not qualify for a separate rate, all other exporters of shrimp from the PRC that have not qualified for a separate rate are deemed to be covered by this review as part of the single PRC-wide entity of which the named exporter is a part.

may be found on the Department's Web site at <http://www.trade.gov/ia>.

This initiation and notice are in accordance with section 751(a) of the Act, and 19 CFR 351.221(c)(1)(i).

Dated: March 18, 2009.

John M. Andersen,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Operations.

[FR Doc. E9-6634 Filed 3-25-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

A-351-837, A-533-828, A-588-068, A-580-852, A-201-831, A-549-820

Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, and Thailand: Final Results of the Expedited Sunset Reviews of the Antidumping Duty Finding/Orders

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: On December 1, 2008, the Department of Commerce initiated sunset reviews of the antidumping duty finding/orders on prestressed concrete steel wire strand from Brazil, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, and Thailand pursuant to section 751(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended. The Department has conducted expedited (120-day) sunset reviews for these finding/orders in accordance with 19 CFR 351.218(e)(1)(ii)(C)(2). As a result of these sunset reviews, the Department finds that revocation of the antidumping duty finding/orders would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of dumping.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 26, 2009.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Yang Jin Chun or Minoo Hatten, AD/CVD Operations, Office 5, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-5760 or (202) 482-1690, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On December 1, 2008, the Department of Commerce (the Department) published the notice of initiation of the sunset reviews of the antidumping duty finding¹/orders on prestressed concrete steel wire strand (PC strand) from Brazil, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea (Korea), Mexico, and Thailand pursuant to section 751(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act). See *Initiation of Five-year ("Sunset") Reviews*, 73 FR 72770 (December 1, 2008) (*Notice of Initiation*).

The Department received notices of intent to participate in these sunset reviews from American Spring Wire Corp., Insteel Wire Products Company, and Sumiden Wire Products Corp. (collectively, the domestic interested parties) within the 15-day period specified in 19 CFR 351.218(d)(1)(i). The domestic interested parties claimed interested-party status under section 771(9)(C) of the Act as producers of a domestic like product in the United States.

The Department received complete substantive responses to the *Notice of Initiation* from the domestic interested

¹ On December 8, 1978, the Department of the Treasury published the antidumping duty finding, which is equivalent to an antidumping duty order published after 1980, on PC strand from Japan. See *Steel Wire Strand for Prestressed Concrete from Japan: Finding of Dumping*, 43 FR 57599 (December 8, 1978).

parties within the 30-day period specified in 19 CFR 351.218(d)(3)(i). The Department received no substantive responses from any respondent interested parties. As a result, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.218(e)(1)(ii)(C)(2), the Department is conducting expedited (120-day) sunset reviews of the antidumping duty finding/orders on PC strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand.

Scope of the Finding/Orders

The product covered in the sunset reviews of the antidumping duty orders on PC strand from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand is steel strand produced from wire of non-stainless, non-galvanized steel, which is suitable for use in prestressed concrete (both pre-tensioned and post-tensioned) applications. The product definition encompasses covered and uncovered strand and all types, grades, and diameters of PC strand.

The product covered in the sunset review of the antidumping duty finding on PC strand from Japan is steel wire

strand, other than alloy steel, not galvanized, which is stress-relieved and suitable for use in prestressed concrete.

The merchandise subject to the finding/orders is currently classifiable under subheadings 7312.10.3010 and 7312.10.3012 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS). Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the merchandise under the finding/orders is dispositive.

Analysis of Comments Received

All issues raised in these reviews are addressed in the "Issues and Decision Memorandum for the Expedited Sunset Reviews of the Antidumping Duty Finding/Orders on Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, and Thailand" from Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary John M. Andersen to Acting Assistant Secretary Ronald K. Lorentzen dated March 19, 2009 (Decision Memo), which is hereby adopted by this notice. The issues discussed in the Decision Memo include

the likelihood of continuation or recurrence of dumping and the magnitude of the margins likely to prevail if the finding/orders were revoked. Parties can find a complete discussion of all issues raised in these reviews and the corresponding recommendations in this public memorandum which is on file in the Central Records Unit, room 1117 of the main Department of Commerce building.

In addition, a complete version of the Decision Memo can be accessed directly on the Web at <http://ia.ita.doc.gov/frn>. The paper copy and electronic version of the Decision Memo are identical in content.

Final Results of Reviews

We determine that revocation of the antidumping duty finding/orders on PC strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Mexico, Korea, and Thailand would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of dumping at the following weighted-average percentage margins:

Country	Company	Weighted-Average Margin (Percent)
Brazil	Belgo Bekaert Arames S.A.	118.75
	All Others	118.75
India	Tata Iron and Steel Co., Ltd.	102.07
	All Others	83.65
Japan	Shinko Wire Co., Ltd.	13.30
	Suzuki Metal Industry Co., Ltd.	6.90
	Tokyo Rope Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	4.50
	All Others	9.76
Korea	Dong-Il Steel Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	54.19
	Kiswire Ltd.	54.19
	All Others	35.64
Mexico	Aceros Camesa S.A. de C.V.	62.78
	Cablesa S.A. de C.V.	77.20
	All Others	62.78
Thailand	Siam Industrial Wire Co., Ltd.	12.91
	All Others	12.91

Notification Regarding APO

This notice serves as a reminder to parties subject to administrative protective order (APO) of their responsibility concerning the disposition of proprietary information disclosed under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305(a)(3). Timely written notification of the return or destruction of APO materials or conversion to judicial protective order is hereby requested. Failure to comply with the regulations and terms of an APO is a sanctionable violation.

We are issuing and publishing the final results and notice in accordance with sections 751(c), 752(c), and 777(i)(1) of the Act.

Dated: March 19, 2009.

John M. Andersen,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Operations.

[FR Doc. E9-6797 Filed 3-25-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

A-427-801, A-428-801, A-475-801, A-588-804, A-412-801

Ball Bearings and Parts Thereof from France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom: Partial Rescission of Antidumping Duty Administrative Reviews

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: On July 1, 2008, in response to requests from interested parties, the Department of Commerce published a notice of initiation of the administrative reviews of the antidumping duty orders

States within a reasonably foreseeable time.²

Background

The Commission instituted these reviews on June 2, 2008 (73 FR 31507) and determined on September 5, 2008 that it would conduct full reviews (73 FR 53443, September 16, 2008). Notice of the scheduling of the Commission's reviews and of a public hearing 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** on September 22, 2008 (73 FR 54619). The hearing was held in Washington, DC, on January 27, 2009, and all persons who requested the opportunity were permitted to appear in person or by counsel.

The Commission transmitted its determination in these reviews to the Secretary of Commerce on March 27, 2009. The views of the Commission are contained in USITC Publication 4067 (March 2009), entitled *Polyvinyl Alcohol from China, Japan, and Korea: Investigation Nos. 731-TA-1014, 1016, and 1017 (Review)*.

By order of the Commission.

Issued: March 27, 2009.

Marilyn R. Abbott,

Secretary to the Commission.

William R. Bishop,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. E9-7401 Filed 4-1-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)]

Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Scheduling of full five-year reviews concerning the countervailing duty order on prestressed concrete steel wire strand from India and antidumping duty orders on prestressed concrete steel wire strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand.

SUMMARY: The Commission hereby gives notice of the scheduling of full reviews pursuant to section 751(c)(5) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1675(c)(5))

(the Act) to determine whether revocation of the countervailing duty order on prestressed concrete steel wire strand from India and the antidumping duty orders on prestressed concrete steel wire strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury within a reasonably foreseeable time. For further information concerning the conduct of these reviews and rules of general application, consult the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, part 201, subparts A through E (19 CFR part 201), and part 207, subparts A, D, E, and F (19 CFR part 207).

Effective Date: Date of Commission approval of Action Jacket.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mary Messer (202-205-3193), Office of Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20436. Hearing-impaired persons can obtain information on this matter by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal on 202-205-1810. Persons with mobility impairments who will need special assistance in gaining access to the Commission should contact the Office of the Secretary at 202-205-2000. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its Internet server (<http://www.usitc.gov>). The public record for these reviews may be viewed on the Commission's electronic docket (EDIS) at <http://edis.usitc.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On March 6, 2009, the Commission determined that responses to its notice of institution of the subject five-year reviews were such that full reviews pursuant to section 751(c)(5) of the Act should proceed (74 FR 11967, March 20, 2009). A record of the Commissioners' votes, the Commission's statement on adequacy, and any individual Commissioner's statements are available from the Office of the Secretary and at the Commission's Web site.

Participation in the Reviews and Public Service List

Persons, including industrial users of the subject merchandise and, if the merchandise is sold at the retail level, representative consumer organizations, wishing to participate in these reviews as parties must file an entry of appearance with the Secretary to the Commission, as provided in section 201.11 of the Commission's rules, by 45 days after publication of this notice. A

party that filed a notice of appearance following publication of the Commission's notice of institution of the reviews need not file an additional notice of appearance. The Secretary will maintain a public service list containing the names and addresses of all persons, or their representatives, who are parties to the reviews.

Limited Disclosure of Business Proprietary Information (BPI) Under an Administrative Protective Order (APO) and BPI Service List

Pursuant to section 207.7(a) of the Commission's rules, the Secretary will make BPI gathered in these reviews available to authorized applicants under the APO issued in the reviews, provided that the application is made by 45 days after publication of this notice.

Authorized applicants must represent interested parties, as defined by 19 U.S.C. 1677(9), who are parties to the reviews. A party granted access to BPI following publication of the Commission's notice of institution of the reviews need not reapply for such access. A separate service list will be maintained by the Secretary for those parties authorized to receive BPI under the APO.

Staff Report

The prehearing staff report in the reviews will be placed in the nonpublic record on September 10, 2009, and a public version will be issued thereafter, pursuant to section 207.64 of the Commission's rules.

Hearing

The Commission will hold a hearing in connection with the reviews beginning at 9:30 a.m. on September 30, 2009, at the U.S. International Trade Commission Building. Requests to appear at the hearing should be filed in writing with the Secretary to the Commission on or before September 24, 2009. A nonparty who has testimony that may aid the Commission's deliberations may request permission to present a short statement at the hearing. All parties and nonparties desiring to appear at the hearing and make oral presentations should attend a prehearing conference to be held at 9:30 a.m. on September 28, 2009, at the U.S. International Trade Commission Building. Oral testimony and written materials to be submitted at the public hearing are governed by sections 201.6(b)(2), 201.13(f), 207.24, and 207.66 of the Commission's rules. Parties must submit any request to present a portion of their hearing testimony *in camera* no later than 7

² Vice Chairman Daniel R. Pearson dissenting with respect to Korea.

business days prior to the date of the hearing.

Written Submissions

Each party to the reviews may submit a prehearing brief to the Commission. Prehearing briefs must conform with the provisions of section 207.65 of the Commission's rules; the deadline for filing is September 21, 2009. Parties may also file written testimony in connection with their presentation at the hearing, as provided in section 207.24 of the Commission's rules, and posthearing briefs, which must conform with the provisions of section 207.67 of the Commission's rules. The deadline for filing posthearing briefs is October 9, 2009; witness testimony must be filed no later than three days before the hearing. In addition, any person who has not entered an appearance as a party to the reviews may submit a written statement of information pertinent to the subject of the reviews on or before October 9, 2009. On October 30, 2009, the Commission will make available to parties all information on which they have not had an opportunity to comment. Parties may submit final comments on this information on or before November 3, 2009, but such final comments must not contain new factual information and must otherwise comply with section 207.68 of the Commission's rules. All written submissions must conform with the provisions of section 201.8 of the Commission's rules; any submissions that contain BPI must also conform with the requirements of sections 201.6, 207.3, and 207.7 of the Commission's rules. The Commission's rules do not authorize filing of submissions with the Secretary by facsimile or electronic means, except to the extent permitted by section 201.8 of the Commission's rules, as amended, 67 FR 68036 (November 8, 2002). Even where electronic filing of a document is permitted, certain documents must also be filed in paper form, as specified in II (C) of the Commission's Handbook on Electronic Filing Procedures, 67 FR 68168, 68173 (November 8, 2002).

Additional written submissions to the Commission, including requests pursuant to section 201.12 of the Commission's rules, shall not be accepted unless good cause is shown for accepting such submissions, or unless the submission is pursuant to a specific request by a Commissioner or Commission staff.

In accordance with sections 201.16(c) and 207.3 of the Commission's rules, each document filed by a party to the reviews must be served on all other parties to the reviews (as identified by either the public or BPI service list), and

a certificate of service must be timely filed. The Secretary will not accept a document for filing without a certificate of service.

Authority: These reviews are being conducted under authority of title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930; this notice is published pursuant to section 207.62 of the Commission's rules.

Issued: March 30, 2009.

By order of the Commission.

Marilyn R. Abbott,

Secretary to the Commission.

William R. Bishop,

Acting Secretary to the Commission.

[FR Doc. E9-7421 Filed 4-1-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

[OMB Number 1140-0052]

Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comments Requested

ACTION: 60-Day Notice of Information Collection Under Review: Strategic Planning Environmental Assessment Outreach.

The Department of Justice (DOJ), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), will be submitting the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. The proposed information collection is published to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies. Comments are encouraged and will be accepted for "sixty days" until June 1, 2009. This process is conducted in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.10.

If you have comments especially on the estimated public burden or associated response time, suggestions, or need a copy of the proposed information collection instrument with instructions or additional information, please contact Lilia M. Vannett, Deputy Chief, Office of Strategic Management, 99 New York Avenue, NE., Washington, DC 20226.

Written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information are encouraged. Your comments should address one or more of the following four points:

—Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the

functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;
 —Evaluate the accuracy of the agencies estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
 —Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
 —Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Overview of This Information Collection

(1) *Type of Information Collection:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

(2) *Title of the Form/Collection:* Strategic Planning Environmental Assessment Outreach.

(3) *Agency form number, if any, and the applicable component of the Department of Justice sponsoring the collection:* Form Number: None. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

(4) *Affected public who will be asked or required to respond, as well as a brief abstract:* Primary: Business or other for-profit. Other: Not-for-profit institutions, Federal Government, State, Local, or Tribal Government. Under the provisions of the Government Performance and Results Act, Federal agencies are directed to improve their effectiveness and public accountability by promoting a new focus on results, service quality, and customer satisfaction. This act requires that agencies update and revise their strategic plans every three years. The Strategic Planning Office at ATF will use the voluntary outreach information to determine the agency's internal strengths and weaknesses.

(5) *An estimate of the total number of respondents and the amount of time estimated for an average respondent to respond:* It is estimated that 1,500 respondents will complete a 18 minute questionnaire.

(6) *An estimate of the total public burden (in hours) associated with the collection:* There are an estimated 450 annual total burden hours associated with this collection.

If additional information is required contact: Lynn Bryant, Department Clearance Officer, Policy and Planning Staff, Justice Management Division,

section 751(a)(2)(C) of the Act: (1) for subject merchandise exported by Baoding Mantong, the cash deposit rate will be that established in the final results of review; (2) for previously reviewed or investigated companies not listed above that have separate rates, the cash deposit rate will continue to be the company specific rate published for the most recent period; (3) for all other PRC exporters of subject merchandise (including Nantong Dongchang), which have not been found to be entitled to a separate rate, the cash deposit rate will be the PRC wide rate of 155.89 percent; (4) for all non-PRC exporters of subject merchandise, the cash deposit rate will be the rate applicable to the PRC exporter that supplied that non-PRC exporter. These deposit requirements, when imposed, shall remain in effect until publication of the final results of the next administrative review.

Notification to Importers

This notice also serves as a preliminary reminder to importers of their responsibility under 19 CFR 351.402(f)(2) to file a certificate regarding the reimbursement of antidumping duties prior to liquidation of the relevant entries during this review period. Failure to comply with this requirement could result in the Secretary's presumption that reimbursement of antidumping duties occurred and the subsequent assessment of double antidumping duties.

This administrative review and this notice are in accordance with sections 751(a)(1) and 777(i) of the Act, 19 CFR 351.213, and 19 CFR 351.221(b)(4).

Dated: March 31, 2009.

Ronald K. Lorentzen,
Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. E9-7986 Filed 4-7-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE: 3510-DS-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

(C-533-829)

Final Results of Expedited Sunset Review of Countervailing Duty Order: Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from India

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: On December 1, 2008, the Department of Commerce ("the Department") initiated a sunset review of the countervailing duty ("CVD") order on prestressed concrete steel wire strand ("PC strand") from India

pursuant to section 751(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended ("the Act"). See *Initiation of Five-Year ("Sunset") Reviews*, 73 FR 72770 (December 1, 2008). On the basis of a notice of intent to participate and an adequate substantive response filed on behalf of domestic interested parties and an inadequate response (in this case, no response) from respondent interested parties, the Department decided to conduct an expedited sunset review of this CVD order pursuant to section 751(c)(3)(B) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.218(e)(1)(ii)(B). As a result of this review, the Department finds that revocation of the CVD order would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of a countervailable subsidy at the level indicated in the "Final Results of Review" section of this notice.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 8, 2009.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eric Greynolds or Brandon Farlander, AD/CVD Operations, Office 3, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street & Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-6071 or (101) 482-0182, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

Background

On December 1, 2008, the Department initiated a sunset review of the CVD order on *PC strand from India pursuant to section 751(c) of the Act*. See *Initiation of Five-Year ("Sunset") Reviews*, 73 FR 72770 (December 1, 2008). The Department received a notice of intent to participate on behalf of American Spring Wire Corp., Insteel Wire Products Company, and Sumiden Wire Products Corporation (collectively, "petitioners"), within the deadline specified in 19 CFR 351.218(d)(1)(i). The petitioners claimed interested party status under section 771(9)(C) of the Act, as domestic producers of PC strand.

The Department received a complete substantive response from the petitioners within the 30-day deadline specified in 19 CFR 351.218(d)(3)(i). However, the Department did not receive a substantive response from any respondent interested party to this proceeding. As a result, pursuant to section 751(c)(3)(B) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.218(e)(1)(ii)(C)(2), the Department conducted an expedited review of this order.

Scope of the Order

The merchandise subject to this order is prestressed concrete steel wire ("PC strand"), which is steel strand produced

from wire of non-stainless, non-galvanized steel, which is suitable for use in prestressed concrete (both pre-tensioned and post-tensioned) applications. The product definition encompasses covered and uncovered strand and all types, grades, and diameters of PC strand.

The merchandise under this order is currently classifiable under subheadings 7312.10.3010 and 7312.10.3012 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States ("HTSUS"). Although the HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the merchandise under investigation is dispositive.

Analysis of Comments Received

All issues raised in this review are addressed in the Issues and Decision Memorandum ("Decision Memorandum") from John M. Andersen, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Operations, to Ronald K. Lorentzen, Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration, dated March 31, 2009, which is hereby adopted by this notice. Parties can find a complete discussion of all issues raised in this review and the corresponding recommendation in this public memorandum which is on file in the Central Records Unit room B-1117 of the main Commerce building. In addition, a complete version of the Decision Memorandum can be accessed directly on the Web at <http://ia.ita.doc.gov/frn>. The paper copy and electronic version of the Decision Memorandum are identical in content.

Final Results of Review

The Department determines that revocation of the countervailing duty order would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of a countervailable subsidy at the rate listed below:

Producers/Exporters	Net Countervailable Subsidy (percent)
All Manufacturers/Producers/Exporters	62.92

Notification Regarding Administrative Protective Order

This notice serves as the only reminder to parties subject to administrative protective order ("APO") of their responsibility concerning the return or destruction of proprietary information disclosed under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305. Timely notification of return/destruction of APO materials or conversion to judicial protective order is

hereby requested. Failure to comply with the regulations and the terms of an APO is a sanctionable violation.

We are issuing and publishing the results and notice in accordance with sections 751(c), 752, and 777(i)(1) of the Act.

Dated: March 30, 2009.

Ronald K. Lorentzen,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. E9-7983 Filed 4-7-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Generic Clearance for Program Evaluation Data Collections

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before June 8, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Darla Yonder, Management Analyst, NIST, 100 Bureau Drive, MS 1710, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-1710, telephone 301-975-4064 or via e-mail to darla.yonder@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

In accordance with Executive Order 12862, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), a non-regulatory agency of the Department of Commerce, proposes to conduct a number of surveys, both quantitative and qualitative, designed to evaluate our current programs from a customer's perspective. NIST proposes to perform program evaluation data collections by means of, but not limited

to, focus groups, reply cards that accompany product distributions, and Web-based surveys and dialogue boxes that offer customers the opportunity to express their views on the programs they are asked to evaluate. NIST will limit its inquiries to data collections that solicit strictly voluntary opinions and will not collect information that is required or regulated. Steps will be taken to assure anonymity of respondents in each activity covered under this request.

II. Method of Collection

NIST will collect this information by mail, fax, electronically, telephone and person-to-person sessions.

III. Data

OMB Control Number: 0693-0033.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Regular submission.

Affected Public: Business or other for profit organizations, not-for-profit institutions, individuals or households, Federal Government, State, Local, or Tribal Government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 12,000.

Estimated Time per Response: Varied dependent upon the data collection. The response time may vary from two minutes for a response card or two hours for focus group participation. The average time per response is expected to be 30 minutes.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 3,022.

Estimated Total Annual Cost to Public: \$0.

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: April 3, 2009.

Gwellnar Banks,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. E9-7897 Filed 4-7-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Generic Clearance for Usability Data Collections

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before June 8, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 7845, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 (or via the Internet at dHynek@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to Darla Yonder, Management Analyst, NIST, 100 Bureau Drive, MS 1710, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-1710, telephone 301-975-4064, or via e-mail to darla.yonder@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

In accordance with Executive Order 12862, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), a non-regulatory agency of the Department of Commerce, proposes to conduct a number of data collection efforts—both quantitative and qualitative—to determine requirements and evaluate usability and utility of NIST research for measurement and standardization work. These data collection efforts may include, but may not be limited to electronic methodologies, empirical studies, video and audio data collections, interviews, and questionnaires. For example, data collection efforts will be conducted at search and rescue training exercises for rescue workers using robots. Other planned data collection efforts include

EXPLANATION OF COMMISSION DETERMINATIONS ON ADEQUACY

in

Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand
Inv. Nos. 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-188 (Third Review)

On March 6, 2009, the Commission determined that it should proceed to full reviews in the subject five-year reviews pursuant to section 751(c)(5) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. §1675(c)(5)).

The Commission received a consolidated response to its notice of institution from three domestic producers that account for a significant percentage of domestic production of prestressed concrete steel wire strand (“PC strand”).¹ The Commission found the individual response of each of these domestic PC strand producers, which contained company-specific data, to be adequate. With respect to the orders concerning PC strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand, the Commission determined that the domestic interested party group response was adequate.

The Commission also received adequate individual responses concerning the order on PC strand from Mexico, filed jointly by Aceros Camesa S.A. de C.V. and Deacero S.A. de C.V., producers and exporters of subject merchandise in Mexico. With respect to the order on PC strand from Korea, the Commission received an adequate individual response from Dong-Il Steel Mfg., Ltd., a producer of subject merchandise in Korea.

The Commission found that the respondent interested party group responses were adequate with respect to the orders on PC strand from Mexico and Korea because respondents from each of these countries accounted for a significant share of the production of subject merchandise in their respective countries.²

Because the group and individual responses from both domestic interested parties and respondent interested parties were adequate in the reviews of the orders concerning PC strand from Mexico and Korea, the Commission determined to conduct full reviews in these proceedings.

The Commission did not receive a response from any respondent interested parties in the reviews concerning subject imports from Brazil, India, Japan, or Thailand, and therefore determined that the respondent interested party group response from each of these countries was not adequate. The Commission nevertheless voted to conduct full reviews concerning subject imports from Brazil, India, Japan, and Thailand to promote administrative efficiency in light of the Commission’s determination to conduct full reviews of the other orders in these grouped reviews.

A record of the Commissioners’ votes is available from the Office of the Secretary and on the Commission’s website (<http://www.usitc.gov>).

¹ These producers are American Spring Wire Corp., Insteel Wire Products Co., and Sumiden Wire Products Corp.

² Commissioners Charlotte R. Lane and Dean A. Pinkert found that the respondent interested party group response with respect to Korea was inadequate.

APPENDIX B
COMMISSION'S HEARING WITNESS LIST

CALENDAR OF PUBLIC HEARING

Those listed below appeared as witnesses at the United States International Trade Commission's hearing:

Subject: Prestressed Concrete Steel Wire Strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and Thailand

Inv. Nos.: 701-TA-432 and 731-TA-1024-1028 (Review) and AA1921-199 (Third Review)

Date and Time: September 30, 2009 - 9:30 a.m.

Sessions were held in connection with these reviews in the Main Hearing Room (room 101), 500 E Street, S.W., Washington, D.C.

EMBASSY APPEARANCE:

Embassy of Mexico
Washington, D.C.

The Honorable Jose Luis Paz, Minister of Trade and NAFTA Office

Salvador Behar, Legal Counsel for International Trade

OPENING REMARKS:

Support of Continuation (**Kathleen W. Cannon**, Kelley Drye & Warren LLP)
Opposition to Continuation (**Jeffrey S. Levin**, Mondial Trade Compliance Services & Solutions, Inc.)

In Support of the Imposition of **Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Orders:**

Kelley Drye & Warren LLP
Washington, D.C.
on behalf of

The Domestic Industry

Howard Woltz, III, President and CEO,
Insteel Wire Products Co.

Richard Wagner, Vice President and General Manager,
Insteel Wire Products Co.

**In Support of the Imposition of
Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Orders (continued):**

Jon Cornelius, General Manager, PC Strand
Division, Sumiden Wire Products Corp.

Gina Beck, Economic Consultant, Georgetown
Economic Services

Paul C. Rosenthal)
) – OF COUNSEL
Kathleen W. Cannon)

**In Opposition to the Imposition of
Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Orders:**

Mondial Trade Compliance Services & Solutions, Inc.
Bethesda, MD
on behalf of

Aceros Camesa S.A. de C.V. (“Camesa”)
Deacero S.A. de C.V. (“Deacero”)

Enrique R. Fernandez, Vice President of
International Relations and Trade Affairs,
Deacero

Miguel A. Gomez, Senior Vice President of Sales,
WireCo WorldGroup (Camesa)

Thomas A. Danjczek, President, Steel Manufacturers
Association

Jeffrey S. Levin) – OF COUNSEL

REBUTTAL/CLOSING REMARKS:

Support of Continuation (**Paul C. Rosenthal**, Kelley Drye & Warren LLP)
Opposition to Continuation (**Jeffrey S. Levin**, Mondial Trade Compliance
Services & Solutions, Inc.)

APPENDIX C
SUMMARY DATA

Table C-1
PC strand: Summary data concerning the U.S. market, 2003-08, January-June 2008, and January-June 2009

(Quantity=1,000 pounds, value=1,000 dollars, unit values, unit labor costs, and unit expenses are per thousand pounds; period changes=percent, except where noted)															
Item	Reported data								Period changes						
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	January-June 2008	January-June 2009	2003-08	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Jan.-June 2008-09
U.S. consumption quantity:															
Amount	805,929	859,433	907,092	1,112,214	980,504	942,713	557,809	229,130	17.0	6.6	5.5	22.6	-11.8	-3.9	-58.9
Producers' share (1)	70.0	66.8	68.6	56.4	59.4	56.2	58.4	79.9	-13.8	-3.2	1.8	-12.1	3.0	-3.2	21.5
Importers' share (1):															
Brazil	2.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-2.7	-2.6	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
India	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.4	-0.4	-0.0	-0.0	0.0	-0.0	0.0
Korea	4.6	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.0	-4.2	-4.5	-0.0	0.3	-0.1	0.1	-0.3
Mexico	4.7	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	1.0	-4.6	-4.6	-0.0	0.1	0.1	-0.1	0.8
Thailand	0.8	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.8	-0.2	-0.6	-0.1	-0.0	0.0	0.0
Subtotal, 5 subject	13.2	0.9	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	1.0	-12.7	-12.4	-0.7	0.3	0.0	-0.0	0.6
Subject Japan	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	-0.0	-0.0	0.1	-0.1	-0.2
Subtotal, 6 subject	13.3	1.0	0.3	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.0	-12.7	-12.3	-0.7	0.3	0.1	-0.1	0.4
All other sources	16.7	32.2	31.1	42.9	39.8	43.1	41.0	19.1	26.4	15.5	-1.1	11.8	-3.1	3.3	-21.9
Total	30.0	33.2	31.4	43.6	40.6	43.8	41.6	20.1	13.8	3.2	-1.8	12.1	-3.0	3.2	-21.5
U.S. consumption value:															
Amount	215,223	353,511	425,623	465,112	407,169	549,768	284,301	118,835	155.4	64.3	20.4	9.3	-12.5	35.0	-58.2
Producers' share (1)	71.3	71.9	70.8	63.9	65.9	60.7	63.0	82.4	-10.6	0.6	-1.1	-6.9	2.0	-5.2	19.4
Importers' share (1):															
Brazil	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-2.1	-2.1	-0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
India	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.3	-0.3	-0.0	-0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Korea	3.7	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.0	-3.3	-3.7	-0.0	0.3	0.0	0.1	-0.3
Mexico	5.4	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.8	-5.2	-5.3	-0.0	0.1	0.1	-0.1	0.7
Thailand	0.7	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-0.7	-0.2	-0.5	-0.1	-0.0	0.0	0.0
Subtotal, 5 subject	12.3	0.7	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.9	-11.7	-11.6	-0.6	0.3	0.1	-0.0	0.4
Subject Japan	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.0	-0.0	0.1	0.0	-0.0	0.1	-0.2	-0.3
Subtotal, 6 subject	12.5	1.0	0.4	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9	-11.7	-11.5	-0.5	0.3	0.2	-0.2	0.1
All other sources	16.3	27.2	28.8	35.3	33.1	38.5	36.2	16.7	22.3	10.9	1.6	6.6	-2.2	5.4	-19.5
Total	28.7	28.1	29.2	36.1	34.1	39.3	37.0	17.6	10.6	-0.6	1.1	6.9	-2.0	5.2	-19.4
U.S. imports from:															
Brazil:															
Quantity	21,511	449	0	0	0	0	0	0	-100.0	-97.9	-100.0	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Value	4,610	168	0	0	0	0	0	0	-100.0	-96.4	-100.0	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Unit value	\$214	\$373	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	74.1	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Ending inventory quantity	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
India:															
Quantity	3,210	34	2	2	235	209	0	0	-93.5	-98.9	-93.9	-22.7	14,326.6	-11.2	(2)
Value	704	41	17	9	81	156	0	0	-77.9	-94.1	-59.7	-48.7	843.4	92.3	(2)
Unit value	\$219	\$1,208	\$7,934	\$5,265	\$344	\$746	(2)	(2)	239.9	450.5	556.7	-33.6	-93.5	116.7	(2)
Ending inventory quantity	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Korea:															
Quantity	36,934	316	258	3,958	2,831	3,325	1,661	86	-91.0	-99.1	-18.2	1,432.8	-28.5	17.5	-94.8
Value	7,995	167	196	1,506	1,399	2,201	1,081	54	-72.5	-97.9	17.6	668.8	-7.1	57.3	-95.0
Unit value	\$216	\$527	\$759	\$380	\$494	\$662	\$651	\$624	205.7	143.6	43.8	-49.8	29.9	33.9	-4.2
Ending inventory quantity	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Mexico:															
Quantity	38,257	867	555	1,526	2,283	1,514	759	2,214	-96.0	-97.7	-36.0	175.1	49.6	-33.7	191.5
Value	11,534	290	187	729	1,036	885	377	997	-92.3	-97.5	-35.7	290.5	42.1	-14.5	164.5
Unit value	\$301	\$335	\$337	\$478	\$454	\$584	\$496	\$450	93.9	11.1	0.5	41.9	-5.1	28.8	-9.3
Ending inventory quantity	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Thailand:															
Quantity	6,791	5,800	624	45	0	0	0	0	-100.0	-14.6	-89.2	-92.7	-100.0	(2)	(2)
Value	1,572	1,819	240	25	0	0	0	0	-100.0	15.7	-86.8	-89.8	-100.0	(2)	(2)
Unit value	\$231	\$314	\$385	\$543	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	35.5	22.7	41.0	(2)	(2)	(2)
Ending inventory quantity	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Subtotal, 5 subject:															
Quantity	106,703	7,466	1,439	5,530	5,349	5,048	2,421	2,300	-95.3	-93.0	-80.7	284.3	-3.3	-5.6	-5.0
Value	26,415	2,485	640	2,268	2,516	3,241	1,458	1,051	-87.7	-90.6	-74.3	254.6	10.9	28.8	-27.9
Unit value	\$248	\$333	\$444	\$410	\$470	\$642	\$602	\$457	159.4	34.5	33.5	-7.7	14.7	36.5	-24.2
Ending inventory quantity	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Japan:															
Quantity	768	1,545	1,564	1,580	1,952	1,380	1,224	0	79.7	101.1	1.3	1.0	23.5	-29.3	-100.0
Value	399	876	1,092	1,100	1,343	916	874	0	129.8	119.7	24.7	0.7	22.1	-31.8	-100.0
Unit value	\$519	\$567	\$698	\$696	\$688	\$663	\$715	(2)	27.8	9.2	23.1	-0.3	-1.1	-3.6	(2)
Ending inventory quantity	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Subtotal, 6 subject:															
Quantity	107,471	9,011	3,003	7,111	7,301	6,429	3,644	2,300	-94.0	-91.6	-66.7	136.8	2.7	-11.9	-36.9
Value	26,813	3,361	1,732	3,368	3,859	4,157	2,333	1,051	-84.5	-87.5	-48.5	94.5	14.6	7.7	-55.0
Unit value	\$249	\$373	\$577	\$474	\$529	\$647	\$640	\$457	159.2	49.5	54.6	-17.9	11.6	22.3	-28.6
Ending inventory quantity	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
All other sources:															
Quantity	134,423	276,723	282,247	477,667	390,402	406,312	228,681	43,806	202.3	105.9	2.0	69.2	-18.3	4.1	-80.8
Value	34,990	95,994	122,471	164,334	134,966	211,890	102,835	19,839	505.6	174.3	27.6	34.2	-17.9	57.0	-80.7
Unit value	\$260	\$347	\$434	\$344	\$346	\$521	\$450	\$453	100.3	33.3	25.1	-20.7	0.5	50.8	0.7
Ending inventory quantity	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
All sources:															
Quantity	241,894	285,733	285,250	484,778	397,703	412,741	232,325	46,106	70.6	18.1	-0.2	69.9	-18.0	3.8	-80.2
Value	61,803	99,355	124,203	167,702	138,825	216,047	105,168	20,889	249.6	60.8	25.0	35.0	-17.2	55.6	-80.1
Unit value	\$255	\$348	\$435	\$346	\$349	\$523	\$453	\$453	104.9	36.1	25.2	-20.6	0.9	50.0	0.1
Ending inventory quantity	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***

Table continued on next page.

Table C-1--Continued
PC strand: Summary data concerning the U.S. market, 2003-08, January-June 2008, and January-June 2009

(Quantity=1,000 pounds, value=1,000 dollars, unit values, unit labor costs, and unit expenses are per pound; period changes=percent, except where noted)															
Item	Reported data							Period changes							
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	January-June 2008	January-June 2009	2003-08	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Jan.-June 2008-09
U.S. producers:															
Average capacity quantity	742,295	754,653	791,653	810,653	902,782	903,795	454,684	456,277	21.8	1.7	4.9	2.4	11.4	0.1	0.4
Production quantity	578,004	608,562	621,919	673,195	601,732	558,885	327,355	172,375	-3.3	5.3	2.2	8.2	-10.6	-7.1	-47.3
Capacity utilization (1)	77.9	80.6	78.6	83.0	66.7	61.8	72.0	37.8	-16.0	2.8	-2.1	4.5	-16.4	-4.8	-34.2
U.S. shipments:															
Quantity	564,035	573,700	621,842	627,436	582,801	529,972	325,484	183,024	-6.0	1.7	8.4	0.9	-7.1	-9.1	-43.8
Value	153,420	254,156	301,420	297,410	268,344	333,721	179,133	97,946	117.5	65.7	18.6	-1.3	-9.8	24.4	-45.3
Unit value	\$272	\$443	\$489	\$474	\$460	\$630	\$550	\$535	131.5	62.9	10.4	-3.0	-2.9	36.8	-2.8
Export shipments:															
Quantity	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Value	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Unit value	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Ending inventory quantity	38,343	59,605	44,596	68,014	61,262	67,082	47,677	51,281	75.0	55.5	-25.2	52.5	-9.9	9.5	7.6
Inventories/total shipments (1)	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Production workers	315	335	364	385	357	331	337	253	5.1	6.3	8.7	5.8	-7.3	-7.3	-24.9
Hours worked (1,000s)	762	744	784	856	771	694	392	244	-8.9	-2.5	5.5	9.1	-9.9	-10.0	-37.6
Wages paid (\$1,000)	11,658	12,764	14,302	16,963	14,145	13,264	7,933	4,592	13.8	9.5	12.0	18.6	-16.6	-6.2	-42.1
Hourly wages	\$15.30	\$17.17	\$18.24	\$19.82	\$18.34	\$19.11	\$20.25	\$18.79	24.9	12.2	6.2	8.7	-7.5	4.2	-7.2
Productivity (pounds per hour)	758.3	818.5	793.2	786.7	780.1	805.0	835.7	705.3	6.2	7.9	-3.1	-0.8	-0.8	3.2	-15.6
Unit labor costs	\$20.17	\$20.97	\$23.00	\$25.20	\$23.51	\$23.73	\$24.23	\$26.64	17.7	4.0	9.6	9.6	-6.7	1.0	9.9
Net sales:															
Quantity	564,937	610,678	605,636	661,470	613,704	589,793	341,238	188,242	4.4	8.1	-0.8	9.2	-7.2	-3.9	-44.8
Value	150,480	249,170	299,892	312,046	283,088	354,082	191,146	100,343	135.3	65.6	20.4	4.1	-9.3	25.1	-47.5
Unit value	\$266	\$408	\$495	\$472	\$461	\$600	\$560	\$533	125.4	53.2	21.4	-4.7	-2.2	30.1	-4.8
Cost of goods sold (COGS)	135,503	193,659	235,830	248,909	230,394	302,334	153,600	101,280	123.1	42.9	21.8	5.5	-7.4	31.2	-34.1
Gross profit or (loss)	14,977	55,511	64,062	63,137	52,694	51,748	37,546	(937)	245.5	270.6	15.4	-1.4	-16.5	-1.8	(3)
SG&A expenses	9,887	13,251	13,233	14,648	13,317	13,795	7,128	6,603	39.5	34.0	-0.1	10.7	-9.1	3.6	-7.4
Operating income or (loss)	5,090	42,260	50,829	48,489	39,377	37,953	30,418	(7,540)	645.6	730.3	20.3	-4.6	-18.8	-3.6	(3)
Capital expenditures	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Unit COGS	\$240	\$317	\$389	\$376	\$375	\$513	\$450	\$538	113.7	32.2	22.8	-3.4	-0.2	36.5	19.5
Unit SG&A expenses	\$18	\$22	\$22	\$22	\$22	\$23	\$21	\$35	33.6	24.0	0.7	1.3	-2.0	7.8	67.9
Unit operating income or (loss)	\$9	\$69	\$84	\$73	\$64	\$64	\$89	(\$40)	614.2	668.1	21.3	-12.7	-12.5	0.3	(3)
COGS/sales (1)	90.0	77.7	78.6	79.8	81.4	85.4	80.4	100.9	-4.7	-12.3	0.9	1.1	1.6	4.0	20.6
Operating income or (loss)/ sales (1)	3.4	17.0	16.9	15.5	13.9	10.7	15.9	(7.5)	7.3	13.6	-0.0	-1.4	-1.6	-3.2	-23.4

(1) "Reported data" are in percent and "period changes" are in percentage points.
(2) Not applicable.
(3) Undefined.

Note.--Financial data are reported on a fiscal year basis and may not necessarily be comparable to data reported on a calendar year basis. Because of rounding, figures may not add to the totals shown. Unit values and shares are calculated from the unrounded figures.

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to Commission questionnaires and from official Commerce statistics.

APPENDIX D

**RESPONSES OF U.S. PRODUCERS, U.S. IMPORTERS, U.S. PURCHASERS,
AND FOREIGN PRODUCERS CONCERNING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE
ANTIDUMPING AND COUNTERVAILING DUTY FINDING/ORDERS AND
THE LIKELY EFFECTS OF REVOCATION**

**U.S. PRODUCERS' COMMENTS REGARDING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE
ANTIDUMPING AND COUNTERVAILING DUTY FINDING/ORDERS
AND THE LIKELY EFFECTS OF REVOCATION**

The Commission requested that U.S. producers describe any anticipated changes in the character of their operations or organization relating to the production of PC strand in the future if the countervailing and/or antidumping duty finding/orders on PC strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and/or Thailand were to be revoked (Question II-4). The following are quotations from the responses of U.S. producers.

“Yes. The need for domestically produced PC strand would be reduced if the order is revoked, resulting in plant closures and layoffs.”

“Yes. If the countervailing duties and ‘Order’ were revoked, it is highly probable that imports would increase from these countries which would lead to an excess of PC strand in the market and ultimately translate into lower revenue, production and employment at ***.”

“Yes. Our firm would be negatively impacted on employment, cost, cash flow and profit. We presently compete with companies now under order for PC strand in other wire product lines. Their behavior in these product lines continues to be aggressive and injurious to our firm.”

“Yes. If revoked I expect market pricing to be negatively impacted and our mill to run at less than full capacity in the future.”

“Yes. *** would reduce or stop future investment in its U.S. PC strand operations. *** cannot justify investments if fair trade cannot be reasonably assured.”

“Yes. If orders were revoked with respect to any of the subject countries, *** would expect to experience additional pricing and volume pressure as import quantities rise in the U.S. market. Given the low level of capacity utilization presently affecting the company it is likely that additional cost reduction measures would be pursued, including ***. The low level of capacity utilization that has persisted for several quarters results in high unit fixed costs that are not sustainable for the long term.”

The Commission requested U.S. producers to describe the significance of the existing countervailing and/or antidumping duty finding/orders covering imports of PC strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and/or Thailand in terms of its effect on your production capacity, production, U.S. shipments, inventories, purchases, employment, revenues, costs, profits, cash flow, capital expenditures, research and development expenditures, and asset values. (Question II-20). The following are quotations from the responses of U.S. producers.

“After orders were imposed we saw our revenue, shipments and profits increase until China entered the marketplace.”

“The orders against subject countries have benefitted ***. Following the effective dates of the orders, subject countries withdrew from the market and, for a time, market pricing recovered to levels that supported profitable operations and made investment feasible. *** took this opportunity to invest approximately \$*** to upgrade its manufacturing technology, lower operating costs, and improve the quality of its products. Unfortunately this recovery was cut short by the dramatic growth of imports from China that captured 40% of the market using underselling tactics.”

“Before orders were imposed market pricing was less than cost. After orders were imposed market pricing increased and profits returned. During 2005 production and capacity increased. In 2006 to 2009 imports from China has again eroded market pricing and profits are not achievable.”

“The imposition of the AD/CVD orders against the named countries allowed *** to re-gain lost market share and improve profitability until China began dumping PC strand into the U.S. market.”

“We have been involved in the PC strand industry for ***. Had it not been for the orders being in place ***.”

“With the current imposition of the government’s orders, we have been able to hire employees and allow *** to develop and grow as a PC strand manufacturer. The only time we deviated from this was when imports from China started entering the market at well below market selling prices and our sales, production and employment began to fall.”

The Commission requested U.S. producers to describe any anticipated changes in production capacity, production, U.S. shipments, inventories, purchases, employment, revenues, costs, profits, cash flow, capital expenditures; research and development expenditures, or asset values relating to the production of PC strand in the future if the countervailing and/or antidumping duty finding/orders on PC strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and/or Thailand were to be revoked (Question II-21). The following are quotations from the responses of U.S. producers.

“If orders were revoked with respect to any of the subject countries, *** would expect to experience additional pricing and volume pressure as import quantities would likely rise in the U.S. market. Given the low level of capacity utilization presently affecting the Company, it is likely that additional cost reduction measures would be pursued. The low level of capacity utilization that has persisted for several quarters results in high unit fixed costs that are not sustainable for the long term.”

“Our firm would be negatively impacted on employment cost, cash flow and profit. We presently compete with companies now under order for PC strand in other wire product lines. Their behavior in these product lines continues to be aggressive and injurious to our firm.”

“In the event the orders are revoked it will lead to a slowdown in the sale of domestically produced PC strand, thereby causing plant closures and layoffs.”

“If revoked I expect market pricing to be negatively impacted and our mill to run at less than full capacity in the future.”

“We would anticipate that our production and shipments would decrease. Ultimately this would lead to layoffs and possible halt to any future capital expenditures or similar type spending.”

“If these orders are revoked, the named countries would likely resume importing large quantities of low priced imports of PC strand causing further injury to ***.”

**U.S. IMPORTERS' COMMENTS REGARDING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE
ANTIDUMPING AND COUNTERVAILING DUTY FINDING/ORDERS
AND THE LIKELY EFFECTS OF REVOCATION**

The Commission requested U.S. importers to describe any anticipated any changes in the character of their operations or organization (as noted above) relating to the importation of PC strand in the future if the countervailing and/or antidumping duty finding/orders on PC strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and for Thailand were to be revoked (Question II-4). The following are quotations from the responses of importers.

“No.”

“No.”

“No. *** would import from ***.”

“Yes. Purchasing will shift and be allocated to the most competitive price offered.”

“No.”

“Yes. We are not aware that there were any duty orders on products from these countries. As a general rule, we buy from whichever vendor is the lowest cost supplier of a landed product (taking into account all aspects of our cost, including purchase price, freight, duties, etc.). Accordingly, if there are duties now that were removed and, as a result, the vendors in those countries were the lowest cost supplier (taking into account all expenses) we would buy from those vendors if we could compete with manufacturers selling directly to our customer base.

“No.”

“No.”

“No.”

“Yes. *** would examine importing product from ***, should the order be revoked.”

“No.”

“No.”

“No.”

“Yes. We would meet with as many of these mills as we could to source the highest quality pc strand at the best price.”

“*** would have the chance to re-export also standard PC products to the USA.”

“No.”

“No.”

“Yes. We currently purchase high carbon wire from ***. The suppliers we partner with also sell PC strand to their own country. We could easily start selling their PC strand if these duties were removed.”

“No.”

“No.”

“Yes. If these orders are revoked, the named countries would likely resume importing large quantities of low priced imports of PC strand causing further injury to ***.

“No.”

The Commission requested U.S. importers to describe the significance of the existing countervailing and/or antidumping duty finding/orders covering imports of PC strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and/or Thailand in terms of its effect on their imports, U.S. shipments of imports, and inventories (Question II-9). The following are quotations from the responses of importers.

“No effect”

“The existing ones do not influence us due to the market dominance of the PC strand coming from the PRC.”

“Don’t know at this time. With the economy in such a slump we are not aggressively pursuing the PC strand market. However, removal of the orders could cause further injury to domestic producers.”

“The market is driven by demand. Worldwide there is enough supply to cover said demand in the U.S. The suppliers may change, but the market’s behavior doesn’t.”

“We were not aware that there were any duty orders on products from these countries. We have only been the importer of record for PC Strand since 2006, so we do not have a pre-duty experience to compare. As a general rule, we buy from whichever vendor is the lowest cost supplier of a landed product (taking into account all aspects of our cost, including purchase price, freight, duties, etc.). Accordingly, if there are duties now that were removed and, as a result, the vendors in those countries were the lowest cost supplier (taking into account all expenses) we would buy from those vendors if we could compete with manufacturers selling directly to our customer base.”

“We were unable to import from *** after the antidumping duty was imposed and started ordering from *** instead.”

“We have stopped importing from *** after the imposition of the orders.”

“Replacement of PC strand suppliers from countries included in this petition by Chinese suppliers. No issues with China quality and especially capacity.”

“N/A”

No response

“We have not imported PC strand from Brazil, India, Korea, Mexico and Thailand. Therefore, we have no knowledge to answer this question.”

“The current orders do not make it economically viable for ***.

“N/A”

“We began our business after the issuance of the anti-dumping orders against the six countries. We have imported PC strand ***. There are currently a significant number of PC strand manufacturers around the world that manufacturer and sell PC strand at prices similar or better than prices in these six countries and China.”

“*** has no intention at this time to import PC strand.”

No response

“No effect-we are not currently purchasing additional strand from any sources due to our high inventory levels of PC strand.”

“None.”

“The existing orders limit the potential sources for PC strand, however, during the time period the questionnaire covers, there was a steady and competitive supply of PC strand coming in from China. It is doubtful these countries would have been able to compete with Chinese PC strand during this time.”

“The imposition of these orders would normally allow *** to occasionally import PC strand from *** into the U.S., but due to Chinese PC strand importers underselling behavior, *** has not been able to compete using imported *** PC strand.”

“We have not imported any PC strand after imposition of the orders.”

No response.

The Commission requested U.S. importers to describe any anticipated changes in imports, U.S. shipments of imports, or inventories of PC strand in the future if the countervailing and/or antidumping duty finding/orders on PC strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and/or Thailand were to be revoked. The following are quotations from the responses of importers.

“Yes. Additional PC strand sources if current AD petition against China is voted.”

“No.”

“No.”

“No.”

“No. I don’t believe these countries contain PC strand manufacturers that are the most competitive PC strand manufacturers in the world. For example, I believe Spain and Portugal contain PC strand manufacturers that are currently the most competitive in the word.”

“Yes. If the orders were revoked prices in the U.S. market would probably decline substantially *** uncompetitive. Revocation of the orders could cause ***. If no other choices existed, *** some of its market share.”

“No.”

“Yes. If together with the PRC also *** etc. would be revoked then we could again be a smaller importer into the USA (maximum *** metric tons).”

“No.”

“No.”

“No.”

“Yes. *** would examine importing product from ***, should the order be revoked.

“No.”

“No.”

“Yes. We don't have enough information about cost of products from these countries to answer. As a general rule we buy from whichever vendor is the lowest cost supplier of landed product (taking into account all aspects of our cost, including purchase price, freight, duties, etc.). Accordingly, if there are duties now that were removed and, as a result, the vendors in those countries were the lowest cost supplier (taking into account all expenses) we would buy from those vendors if we could compete with manufacturers selling directly to our customer base.”

“No. May reconsider the sources from *** again.”

“Yes. If the duties are revoked, we would be able to import some limited quantities. The demand is already all time low, and very small quantity of imports would be required for some time.”

“No.”

“Yes. As a steel trading company we are always looking for competitive offshore material. If the order was revoked (considering the current investigation against China) it would increase our supply options.”

“Yes. If these orders are revoked, the named countries would likely resume importing large quantities of low priced imports of PC strand causing further injury to ***.

“*** has closed their business from ***.

“Yes. If these countries were allowed to ship PC strand to the U.S., we would definitely use their product. They are competitive on higher carbon wire that we currently sell and would also be competitive on PC Strand. India is practically dumping stainless steel wire into the U.S. now.”

**U.S. PURCHASERS' COMMENTS REGARDING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE
ANTIDUMPING AND COUNTERVAILING DUTY FINDING/ORDERS
AND THE LIKELY EFFECTS OF REVOCATION**

The Commission's questionnaires in these reviews requested comments from U.S. purchasers regarding the effects of revocation of the antidumping and countervailing duty finding/orders on (1) the future activities of their firms and (2) the U.S. market as a whole. The following comments were received:

(1) The future activities of their firms:

“Domestic price increased and limited availability.”

(2) The U.S. market as a whole:

No response was given.

(1) The future activities of their firms:

“None.”

(2) The U.S. market as a whole:

“Revocation of order may help stabilize costs. Healthy competition in the world market may help the US market.”

(1) The future activities of their firms:

“We bid work competitive with steel companies, any price increases hurt our business.”

(2) The U.S. market as a whole:

“Present companies will lose business with price increases.”

(1) The future activities of their firms:

“Less price stability in the market.”

(2) The U.S. market as a whole:

“More damage to domestic industry; less price stability.”

(1) The future activities of their firms:

“Prices will drop dramatically.”

(2) The U.S. market as a whole:

“Domestic strand suppliers will be forced to lower their prices to compete with foreign suppliers.”

(1) The future activities of their firms:

“American PC strand producers appear regionalized and have strong grip on pricing. Expect higher pricing if no competition exist. Freight cost also a factor.”

(2) The U.S. market as a whole:

No response was given.

(1) The future activities of their firms:

“None.”

(2) The U.S. market as a whole:

“Increase the prevailing price of strand.”

(1) The future activities of their firms:

No response was given.

(2) The U.S. market as a whole:

“Should make domestic producers demand decrease. This will reduce price to end users.”

(1) The future activities of their firms:

No response was given.

(2) The U.S. market as a whole:

No response was given.

(1) The future activities of their firms:

“Would buy from them if price was good.”

(2) The U.S. market as a whole:

“Those countries would sell more to the US.”

(1) The future activities of their firms:

“Continue to purchase from traders that procure from other countries; traders could offer product from other countries (countries in question). Purchase price is key.”

(2) The U.S. market as a whole:

“Unknown impact. More competition could have an adverse effect on the US market.”

(1) The future activities of their firms:

“No change.”

(2) The U.S. market as a whole:

No response was given.

1) The future activities of their firms:

No response was given.

(2) The U.S. market as a whole:

No response was given.

(1) The future activities of their firms:

No response was given.

(2) The U.S. market as a whole:

No response was given.

(1) The future activities of their firms:

“Keep markets unimpeded by tariffs or duty orders.”

(2) The U.S. market as a whole:

No response was given.

(1) The future activities of their firms:

“We have not evaluated or analyzed the likely effects of such a revocation on the future activities of our firm. We do not anticipate that such a revocation would have any material effect on our firm's future activities.”

(2) The U.S. market as a whole:

“We have not evaluated or analyzed the likely effects of such a revocation on the US market as a whole. We would not expect such a revocation to have any material effect on the US market as a whole.”

(1) The future activities of their firms:

“PC strand would probably be cheaper if we were allowed to buy foreign strand. It would create more competition.”

(2) The U.S. market as a whole:

“PC strand would probably be cheaper if we were allowed to buy foreign strand. It would create more competition.”

(1) The future activities of their firms:

No response was given.

(2) The U.S. market as a whole:

No response was given.

(1) The future activities of their firms:

“The additional supply will likely result in lower prices.”

(2) The U.S. market as a whole:

“The additional supply will likely result in lower prices.”

(1) The future activities of their firms:

“No effect.”

(2) The U.S. market as a whole:

“No effect.”

(1) The future activities of their firms:

“If strand from more sources is available we will be able to obtain good supply (of PC strand) at a competitive price with equal opportunity for a small company in comparison to large companies. More construction work will be created due to competitive pricing. This will create more jobs in our company”

(2) The U.S. market as a whole:

“We believe that similar market effect will take place. Other small post-tensioning companies will have access to strand purchases at fair value.”

**FOREIGN PRODUCERS’ COMMENTS REGARDING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE
ANTIDUMPING AND COUNTERVAILING DUTY FINDING/ORDERS
AND THE LIKELY EFFECTS OF REVOCATION**

The Commission requested foreign producers to describe any anticipated changes in the character of their operations or organization relating to the production of PC strand in the future if the countervailing and/or antidumping duty finding/orders on PC strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and/or Thailand were to be revoked (Question II-4). The following are quotations from the responses of foreign producers.

“Yes. If the order {is} revoked *** will have the opportunity to be competitive in the U.S. market due to its parent company *** and their distribution channels.”

“No. *** currently owns two facilities in the U.S. where PC strand is not produced. *** does not have any current plans for PC strand production in the U.S.”

“No.”

“No.”

“No.”

“No.”

No response.

“No. Our company had never exported any LRPC strand to the United States of America {to} date.”

The Commission requested foreign producers to describe the significance of the existing countervailing and/or antidumping duty finding/orders covering imports of PC strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and/or Thailand in terms of its effect on their production capacity, production, home market shipments, exports to the United States and other markets, and inventories (Question II-13). Firms were asked to compare their operations before and after the imposition of the finding/orders. The following are quotations from the responses of foreign producers.

No response.

“No influence.”

“It does not affect our operations. Because we have never exported to the USA in the past.”

“None.”

“Duties has prohibited exports of PC Strand to the U.S.”

“The existing duty does not have any effect on *** regarding production capacity, production, and inventories of PC Strand, since it only caters its home market (***)”

“No material change in production capacity, production, home market shipments. Since FY2003 *** has been developing new export market (***) . And *** has not sold uncoated and uncovered PC strand to U.S. market.”

“Not applicable.”

The Commission requested foreign producers to describe any anticipated changes in production capacity, production, home market shipments, exports to the United States and other markets, or inventories relating to the production of PC strand in the future if the countervailing and/or antidumping duty finding/orders on PC strand from Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, Mexico, and/or Thailand (Question II-14). The following are quotations from the responses of foreign producers.

“Yes. The parent company (***) would consider the importation of PC Strand made by *** into the U.S.”

No response.

“No.”

“No.”

No response.

“*** does not anticipate any changes in its operations if the antidumping duty is revoked since it only caters its home market, where the duty has no relevance. Even though the duty is revoked, trying to enter the U.S. market seems almost impossible due to the dominant position held by Chinese imports. Considering figures from 2008, more than 90% of U.S. total imports of PC strand are from China at an average price of \$0.4664 USD per pound, which makes it practically impossible to compete with. Additionally, the Buy American restrictions makes it difficult to enter the U.S. market considering that most of the infrastructure projects will be held by the states and not by the federal government, which will require only American-made steel.”

“No.”

“No.”

APPENDIX E
COMBINED PRICING DATA

Table E-1

PC strand: Weighted-average f.o.b. prices and quantities of domestic and imported products 1 and 2 combined, and margins of underselling/(overselling), by quarters, January 2003-June 2009

	United States		Brazil			Korea		
	Price (per lineal foot)	Quantity (1,000 lineal feet)	Price (per lineal foot)	Quantity (1,000 lineal feet)	Margin (percent)	Price (per lineal foot)	Quantity (1,000 lineal feet)	Margin (percent)
2003:								
Jan.-Mar.	\$124	167,529	\$***	***	***	\$***	***	***
Apr.-June	135	206,865	***	***	***	***	***	***
July-Sept.	145	176,896	***	***	***	***	***	***
Oct.-Dec.	148	185,679	-	0	-	-	0	-
2004:								
Jan.-Mar.	172	197,191	-	0	-	***	***	***
Apr.-June	230	192,528	-	0	-	***	***	***
July-Sept.	259	189,596	-	0	-	-	0	-
Oct.-Dec.	270	134,653	-	0	-	-	0	-
2005:								
Jan.-Mar.	266	150,936	-	0	-	-	0	-
Apr.-June	256	203,225	-	0	-	-	0	-
July-Sept.	248	217,856	-	0	-	-	0	-
Oct.-Dec.	239	199,830	-	0	-	-	0	-
2006:								
Jan.-Mar.	236	193,923	-	0	-	-	0	-
Apr.-June	***	***	-	0	-	-	0	-
July-Sept.	236	172,457	-	0	-	-	0	-
Oct.-Dec.	240	142,730	-	0	-	-	0	-
2007:								
Jan.-Mar.	231	149,188	-	0	-	-	0	-
Apr.-June	227	173,722	-	0	-	-	0	-
July-Sept.	225	156,753	-	0	-	-	0	-
Oct.-Dec.	227	149,883	-	0	-	-	0	-
2008:								
Jan.-Mar.	244	175,261	-	0	-	-	0	-
Apr.-June	339	161,782	-	0	-	-	0	-
July-Sept.	407	118,101	-	0	-	-	0	-
Oct.-Dec.	363	62,585	-	0	-	-	0	-
2009:								
Jan.-Mar.	***	***	-	0	-	-	0	-
Apr.-June	258	92,896	-	0	-	0	-	-

Table continued.

Table E-1

PC strand: Weighted-average f.o.b. prices and quantities of domestic and imported products 1 and 2 combined, and margins of underselling/(overselling), by quarters, January 2003-June 2009

	United States		Mexico			Thailand		
	Price (per lineal foot)	Quantity (1,000 lineal feet)	Price (per lineal foot)	Quantity (1,000 lineal feet)	Margin (percent)	Price (per lineal foot)	Quantity (1,000 lineal feet)	Margin (percent)
2003:								
Jan.-Mar.	\$124	167,529	\$***	***	***	\$***	***	***
Apr.-June	135	206,865	***	***	***	***	***	***
July-Sept.	145	176,896	-	0	-	***	***	***
Oct.-Dec.	148	185,679	-	0	-	***	***	***
2004:								
Jan.-Mar.	172	197,191	-	0	-	***	***	***
Apr.-June	230	192,528	-	0	-	***	***	***
July-Sept.	259	189,596	-	0	-	***	***	***
Oct.-Dec.	270	134,653	-	0	-	***	***	***
2005:								
Jan.-Mar.	266	150,936	-	0	-	-	0	-
Apr.-June	256	203,225	-	0	-	-	0	-
July-Sept.	248	217,856	-	0	-	-	0	-
Oct.-Dec.	239	199,830	-	0	-	-	0	-
2006:								
Jan.-Mar.	236	193,923	-	0	-	-	0	-
Apr.-June	***	***	-	0	-	-	0	-
July-Sept.	236	172,457	-	0	-	-	0	-
Oct.-Dec.	240	142,730	-	0	-	-	0	-
2007:								
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July-Sept.	407	118,101	-	0	-	-	0	-
Oct.-Dec.	363	62,585	-	0	-	-	0	-
2009:								
Jan.-Mar.	***	***	-	0	-	-	0	-
Apr.-June	258	92,896	-	0	-	-	0	-

Note: For India, two quarters of data were reported; in second quarter 2003 the price was \$***, the quantity was *** and margin of overselling was *** percent and in third quarter 2003 the price was \$***, the quantity was *** and the margin of overselling was *** percent. Price data for Brazil and Mexico for January-June 2003 as reported in original investigations.

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to Commission questionnaires.