

Allegations of Subsidies

Section 702(b) of the Act requires the Department to initiate a countervailing duty proceeding whenever an interested party files a petition, on behalf of an industry, that (1) alleges the elements necessary for an imposition of a duty under section 701(a), and (2) is accompanied by information reasonably available to the petitioners supporting the allegations.

Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigation

The Department has examined the countervailing duty petition on pure magnesium from Israel and found that it complies with the requirements of section 702(b) of the Act. Therefore, in accordance with section 702(b) of the Act, we are initiating a countervailing duty investigation to determine whether manufacturers, producers, or exporters of pure magnesium from Israel receive countervailable subsidies. See Initiation Checklist.

Privatization

According to the information in the petition and presented at consultations, one of the parent companies of the Israeli manufacturer of magnesium, Dead Sea Magnesium ("DSM"), was almost entirely privatized as of 1998. Since some of the alleged subsidies were provided prior to that date, the Department intends to examine whether those subsidies continue to benefit the privatized company, in light of the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit's ruling in *Delverde, SRL v. United States*, 202 F.3d 1360 (Fed. Cir. 2000).

Creditworthiness

The petitioners allege DSM was uncreditworthy from its inception through the end of the POI. This allegation was supported by financial ratios for DSM and its parent company. We will investigate DSM's creditworthiness in years in which we find that government equity infusions, loans or loan guarantees were provided.

Programs

We are including in our investigation the following programs alleged in the petition to have provided countervailable subsidies to producers and exporters of the subject merchandise in Israel:

1. Encouragement of Capital Investments Law ("ECIL") Grants.
2. Reduced Tax Rates under ECIL.
3. ECIL Preferential Accelerated Depreciation.
4. Encouragement of Research and Development Law ("EIRD") Grants.

5. The Infrastructure Grant Program. We are not including in our investigation the following programs alleged to be benefitting producers and exporters of the subject merchandise in Israel: Subsidies under the Magnesium Research Institute and the Consortium Research Programs.

The petitioners allege that the Magnesium Research Institute ("MRI") and the Consortium Research programs should be investigated by the Department to determine whether the Israeli government is conferring countervailable subsidies as a result of the involvement of public universities in these programs. The petitioners support their allegation with documentation from DSM's web page concerning research. The petitioners explain that one of the Israeli Ministry of Industry and Trade's major goals is to transition from capital investment grants to alternative forms of aid, including research and development grants. Petitioners request that the Department initiate an investigation to determine whether the Israeli government is conferring countervailable subsidies by means of the academic involvement in these programs.

The petitioners have not provided sufficient evidence regarding the nature of the financial contribution or the benefits conferred on DSM/DSM. Accordingly, we are not including this program in our investigation.

Distribution of Copies of the Petition

In accordance with section 702(b)(4)(A)(i) of the Act, copies of the public version of the petition have been provided to the GOI. We will attempt to provide copies of the public version of the petition to all the exporters named in the petition, as provided for under section 351.203(c)(2) of the Department's regulations.

ITC Notification

Pursuant to section 702(d) of the Act, we will notify the ITC of this initiation.

Preliminary Determination by the ITC

The ITC will determine by December 1, 2000, whether there is a reasonable indication that an industry in the United States is materially injured, or is threatened with material injury, by reason of imports of pure magnesium from Israel. A negative ITC determination will result in the investigation being terminated; otherwise, the investigation will proceed according to statutory and regulatory time limits.

This notice is published pursuant to section 777(i) of the Act.

Dated: November 6, 2000.

Joseph A. Spetrini,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

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THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

2001 National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs Program

Notice is hereby given that Public Law 99-190, as amended, authorizing the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs Program, has been funded for 2001 in the amount of \$7,000,000.00. All requests for information and applications for grants should be received by December 31, 2000 and addressed to: Charles H. Atherton, Secretary, Commission of Fine Arts, National Building Museum, Suite 312, 441 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20001. Phone: 202-504-2200.

Deadline for receipt of grant applications is March 1, 2001.

This program provides grants for general operating support of organizations whose primary purpose is performing exhibiting, and/or presenting the arts. To be eligible for a grant, organizations must be located in the District of Columbia, must be non-profit, non-academic institutions of demonstrated national repute, and must have annual incomes, exclusive of federal funds, in excess of one million dollars for each of the past three years.

Charles H. Atherton,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Availability of Patents for Exclusive, Partially Exclusive or Nonexclusive Licenses

AGENCY: U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, U.S. Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Army announces the general availability of exclusive, partially exclusive, or nonexclusive licenses under the following patents that are listed in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** paragraph. Any licenses granted shall comply with 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR part 404.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Robert Rosenkrans at U.S. Army Soldier