

The Petitioners selected India as their surrogate country. The Petitioners argued that pursuant to section 773(c)(4) of the Act, India is an appropriate surrogate because it is a market-economy country that is at a comparable level of economic development to the NME and is a significant producer of comparable merchandise. Based on the information provided by the Petitioners, we believe that the Petitioners' use of India as a surrogate country is appropriate for purposes of initiating this investigation. *See Initiation Checklist.*

In accordance with section 773(c)(4) of the Act, the Petitioners valued factors of production, where possible, on reasonably available, public surrogate country data. To value certain raw materials, the Petitioners used official Indian government import statistics, excluding those values from countries previously determined by the Department to be NME countries and imports into India from Indonesia, Korea and Thailand, in light of the prevalence of export subsidies in those countries. *See Notice of Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value: Ferrovanadium from the People's Republic of China* 67 FR 71137, 71139 (November 20, 2002). For inputs valued in Indian Rupees and not contemporaneous with the POI (*i.e.*, April 2003-September 2003), the Petitioners used information from the wholesale price indices ("WPI") in India as published in the *International Financial Statistics* of the International Monetary Fund to determine the appropriate adjustments for inflation. In addition, the Petitioners made currency conversions, where necessary, based on the average rupee/U.S. dollar exchange rate for the POI. *See Petition* at Exhibit 11.

To value the raw materials, (lumber (*e.g.*, ash, birch, maple, oak, pine, poplar tupelo), other wood items (*e.g.*, cherry wood veneer, fiberboard, hardboard, okoume plywood, lauan plywood, particle board, poplar veneer, oak veneer, wood pulls and okoume veneer), fasteners (*e.g.*, brad & nails, staples, dowels, screws, washers, brass hinges, nuts, brass bolts and hex key), paints and stains (non-water based stains, sealers and lacquers), other miscellaneous items (*e.g.*, printed labels, printed tags, printed paper, glues, plastic furniture fittings, metal drawer pulls & parts, drawer guide brackets, felt and mirrors), packing materials (*e.g.*, polyethylene foam, styrofoam, corrugated cardboard, tape, poly bags, poly straps, plywood, and shrink wrap)), the Petitioners calculated surrogate values from the Indian import

statistics. *See Petition* at Exhibits 12 & 13.

To value electricity, the Petitioners calculated surrogate values using prices paid by industrial electrical users in India from *Key World Energy Statistics* published by the International Energy Agency in 2003. However, the price listed in *Key World Energy Statistics* is for electricity prices from 2000. Therefore, this price was adjusted for inflation using the WPI from the *International Financial Statistics*. *See Petition* at Exhibits 12 and 15.

Pursuant to 19 C.F.R. §351.408(c)(3) of the Department's regulations, the Department calculates and publishes the surrogate values for labor to be used in non-market economy cases. Therefore, the Petitioners used the labor rate of \$0.83 per hour listed on the Department's website. *See Petition* at Exhibit 14.

The Petitioners calculated surrogate financial ratios (factory overhead, selling, general and administrative expenses (SG&A) and profit) using the publicly available financial statements from India Furniture Products, Ltd., an Indian producer of wooden bedroom furniture for the period (March 1, 2002-March 31, 2003), the most recently available financial period.

Based on comparisons of EP to NV, calculated in accordance with section 773(c) of the Act, the estimated recalculated dumping margin for wooden bedroom furniture ranges from 158.74 percent to 440.96 percent.

Fair Value Comparisons

Based on the data provided by the Petitioners, there is reason to believe that imports of wooden bedroom furniture from China are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value.

Allegations and Evidence of Material Injury and Causation

The Petition alleges that the U.S. industry producing the domestic like product is being materially injured and is threatened with material injury, by reason of the imports of the subject merchandise sold at less than NV. The Petitioners contend that the industry's injured condition is evident in: (1) increasing imports' market share and apparent domestic consumption; (2) declining employment; (3) declining production and capacity utilization; (4) plant closures; and (5) lost sales and revenues. *See Initiation Checklist* at Attachment V (Injury).

The Department assessed the allegations and supporting evidence regarding material injury and causation and determined that these allegations

are supported by accurate and adequate evidence and meet the statutory requirements for initiation.

Initiation of Antidumping Investigation

Based upon our examination of the Petition on wooden bedroom furniture from China, we find that the Petition meets the requirements of section 732 of the Act. Therefore, we are initiating an antidumping duty investigation to determine whether imports of wooden bedroom furniture from China are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value. Unless postponed, we will make our preliminary determination no later than 140 days after the date of this initiation.

Distribution of Copies of the Petition

In accordance with section 732(b)(3)(A) of the Act, a copy of the public version of the Petition has been provided to the government representatives of China.

International Trade Commission Notification

We have notified the ITC of our initiation, as required by section 732(d) of the Act.

Preliminary Determination by the ITC

The ITC will preliminarily determine, no later than mid-January, whether there is a reasonable indication that imports of wooden bedroom furniture from China are causing material injury, or threatening to cause material injury, to a U.S. industry. A negative ITC determination will result in this investigation being terminated; otherwise, this investigation will proceed according to statutory and regulatory time limits.

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

Dated: December 10, 2003.

James J. Jochum,

Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 03-31129 Filed 12-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Export Trade Certificate of Review

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of application to amend an Export Trade Certificate of Review.

SUMMARY: The Office of Export Trading Company Affairs ("OETCA"), International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, has

received an application to amend an Export Trade Certificate of Review ("Certificate"). This notice summarizes the proposed amendment and requests comments relevant to whether the Certificate should be issued.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jeffrey C. Anspacher, Director, Office of Export Trading Company Affairs, International Trade Administration, (202) 482-5131 (this is not a toll-free number) or by E-mail at oetca@ita.doc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Title III of the Export Trading Company Act of 1982 (15 U.S.C. 4001-21) authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to issue Export Trade Certificates of Review. An Export Trade Certificate of Review protects the holder and the members identified in the Certificate from state and federal government antitrust actions and from private treble damage antitrust actions for the export conduct specified in the Certificate and carried out in compliance with its terms and conditions. Section 302(b)(1) of the Export Trading Company Act of 1982 and 15 CFR 325.6(a) require the Secretary to publish a notice in the **Federal Register** identifying the applicant and summarizing its proposed export conduct.

Request for Public Comments

Interested parties may submit written comments relevant to the determination whether an amended Certificate should be issued. If the comments include any privileged or confidential business information, it must be clearly marked and a nonconfidential version of the comments (identified as such) should be included. Any comments not marked privileged or confidential business information will be deemed to be nonconfidential. An original and five (5) copies, plus two (2) copies of the nonconfidential version, should be submitted no later than 20 days after the date of this notice to: Office of Export Trading Company Affairs, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 1104H, Washington, DC 20230, or transmit by E-mail at oetca@ita.doc.gov. Information submitted by any person is exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552). However, nonconfidential versions of the comments will be made available to the applicant, if necessary, for determining whether or not to issue the Certificate. Comments should refer to this application as "Export Trade Certificate of Review, application number 97-7A003."

The Association for the Administration of Rice Quotas, Inc.'s ("AARQ") original Certificate was issued on January 21, 1998 (63 FR 4220, January 28, 1998) and last amended on November 19, 2002 (68 FR 8739, February 25, 2003). A summary of the application for an amendment follows.

Summary of the Application

Applicant: Association for the Administration of Rice Quotas, Inc. ("AARQ"), c/o David Van Oss of Riviana Foods Inc., 2777 Allen Parkway, Houston, Texas 77019.

Contact: M. Jean Anderson, Esq., Counsel to Applicant, Telephone: (202) 682-7217.

Application No.: 97-7A003.

Date Deemed Submitted: December 4, 2003.

Proposed Amendment: AARQ seeks to amend its Certificate to:

1. Add each of the following companies as a new "Member" of the Certificate within the meaning of § 325.2(l) of the Regulations (15 CFR 325.2(l) (2003)): Itochu International Inc., New York, New York (a subsidiary of Itochu Corporation, Tokyo, Japan); and Veetee Rice Inc., Springfield, Virginia (a subsidiary of Veetee Investments, Nassau, Bahamas).
2. Change the listing of the following Members: "California Commodity Traders, LLC, Robbins, California, and its affiliate American Commodity Company, LLC, Robbins, California" should be amended to read "American Commodity Company, LLC, Robbins, California"; "Cargill Americas, Inc., Wayzata, Minnesota" should be amended to read "Cargill Americas, Inc., Coral Gables, Florida"; "ConAgra Foods, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska, and its subsidiary, Alliance Grain, Inc., Voorhees, New Jersey" should be amended to read "ConAgra Foods, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska, and its subsidiary, Alliance Grain, Inc., Marlton, New Jersey"; "Gulf Pacific, Inc., and its subsidiaries, Gulf Pacific Rice Co., Inc., and Gulf Rice Milling, Inc., Houston, Texas" should be amended to read "Gulf Pacific Rice Co., Inc., Gulf Rice Milling, Inc., Houston, Texas, and Harvest Rice, Inc., McGehee, Arkansas (each a subsidiary of Gulf Pacific, Inc., Houston, Texas)"; "Rickmers Rice USA, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri" should be amended to read "Rickmers Rice USA, Inc., Knoxville, Tennessee"; "Sunshine Rice, Inc., Stockton, California (a subsidiary of Sunshine Business Enterprise, Inc.)" should be amended to read "KD International Trading, Inc., Stockton, California (a subsidiary of Sunshine Business Enterprises, Inc.)"; and "Uncle Ben's Inc., Greenville,

Mississippi" should be amended to read "Masterfoods USA a Mars, Incorporated Company, Greenville, Mississippi."

Dated: December 11, 2003.

Jeffrey C. Anspacher,

Director, Office of Export Trading Company Affairs.

[FR Doc. 03-31069 Filed 12-16-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121103A]

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Management and Oversight of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

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, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before February 17, 2004.

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 Doris Grimm at 301-713-3155, ext. 107, or to Doris.Grimm@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

The National Estuarine Research Reserve System consists of carefully-selected estuarine areas of the U.S. that are designated, preserved, and managed for research and educational purposes. The information to be collected is needed from states to review proposed designations. For sites selected, States must develop management plans and submit an annual report/work plan.