

third country, including but not limited to annealing, tempering, painting, varnishing, trimming, cutting, punching, and/or slitting, or any other processing that would not otherwise remove the merchandise from the scope of the investigation if performed in the country of manufacture of the cold-rolled steel.

All products that meet the written physical description, and in which the chemistry quantities do not exceed any one of the noted element levels listed above, are within the scope of this investigation unless specifically excluded. The following products are outside of and/or specifically excluded from the scope of this investigation:

- Ball bearing steels;¹⁴
- Tool steels;¹⁵
- Silico-manganese steel;¹⁶
- Grain-oriented electrical steels (GOES) as defined in the final determination of the U.S. Department of Commerce in Grain-Oriented Electrical Steel From Germany, Japan, and Poland.¹⁷
- Non-Oriented Electrical Steels (NOES), as defined in the antidumping orders issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce in Non-Oriented Electrical Steel From the People's Republic of China, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, and Taiwan.¹⁸

¹⁴ Ball bearing steels are defined as steels which contain, in addition to iron, each of the following elements by weight in the amount specified: (i) Not less than 0.95 nor more than 1.13 percent of carbon; (ii) not less than 0.22 nor more than 0.48 percent of manganese; (iii) none, or not more than 0.03 percent of sulfur; (iv) none, or not more than 0.03 percent of phosphorus; (v) not less than 0.18 nor more than 0.37 percent of silicon; (vi) not less than 1.25 nor more than 1.65 percent of chromium; (vii) none, or not more than 0.28 percent of nickel; (viii) none, or not more than 0.38 percent of copper; and (ix) none, or not more than 0.09 percent of molybdenum.

¹⁵ Tool steels are defined as steels which contain the following combinations of elements in the quantity by weight respectively indicated: (i) More than 1.2 percent carbon and more than 10.5 percent chromium; or (ii) not less than 0.3 percent carbon and 1.25 percent or more but less than 10.5 percent chromium; or (iii) not less than 0.85 percent carbon and 1 percent to 1.8 percent, inclusive, manganese; or (iv) 0.9 percent to 1.2 percent, inclusive, chromium and 0.9 percent to 1.4 percent, inclusive, molybdenum; or (v) not less than 0.5 percent carbon and not less than 3.5 percent molybdenum; or (vi) not less than 0.5 percent carbon and not less than 5.5 percent tungsten.

¹⁶ Silico-manganese steel is defined as steels containing by weight: (i) Not more than 0.7 percent of carbon; (ii) 0.5 percent or more but not more than 1.9 percent of manganese, and (iii) 0.6 percent or more but not more than 2.3 percent of silicon.

¹⁷ See *Grain-Oriented Electrical Steel From Germany, Japan, and Poland: Final Determinations of Sales at Less Than Fair Value and Certain Final Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances*, 79 FR 42,501, 42,503 (Dep't of Commerce, July 22, 2014). This determination defines grain-oriented electrical steel as "a flat-rolled alloy steel product containing by weight at least 0.6 percent but not more than 6 percent of silicon, not more than 0.08 percent of carbon, not more than 1.0 percent of aluminum, and no other element in an amount that would give the steel the characteristics of another alloy steel, in coils or in straight lengths."

¹⁸ See *Non-Oriented Electrical Steel From the People's Republic of China, Germany, Japan, the*

The products subject to this investigation are currently classified in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) under item numbers: 7209.15.0000, 7209.16.0030, 7209.16.0060, 7209.16.0070, 7209.16.0091, 7209.17.0030, 7209.17.0060, 7209.17.0070, 7209.17.0091, 7209.18.1530, 7209.18.1560, 7209.18.2510, 7209.18.2520, 7209.18.2580, 7209.18.6020, 7209.18.6090, 7209.25.0000, 7209.26.0000, 7209.27.0000, 7209.28.0000, 7209.90.0000, 7210.70.3000, 7211.23.1500, 7211.23.2000, 7211.23.3000, 7211.23.4500, 7211.23.6030, 7211.23.6060, 7211.23.6090, 7211.29.2030, 7211.29.2090, 7211.29.4500, 7211.29.6030, 7211.29.6080, 7211.90.0000, 7212.40.1000, 7212.40.5000, 7225.50.6000, 7225.50.8080, 7225.99.0090, 7226.92.5000, 7226.92.7050, and 7226.92.8050. The products subject to the investigation may also enter under the following HTSUS numbers: 7210.90.9000, 7212.50.0000, 7215.10.0010, 7215.10.0080, 7215.50.0016, 7215.50.0018, 7215.50.0020, 7215.50.0061, 7215.50.0063, 7215.50.0065, 7215.50.0090, 7215.90.5000, 7217.10.1000, 7217.10.2000, 7217.10.3000, 7217.10.7000, 7217.90.1000, 7217.90.5030, 7217.90.5060, 7217.90.5090, 7225.19.0000, 7226.19.1000, 7226.19.9000, 7226.99.0180, 7228.50.5015, 7228.50.5040, 7228.50.5070, 7228.60.8000, and 7229.90.1000.

The HTSUS subheadings above are provided for convenience and U.S. Customs purposes only. The written description of the scope of the investigation is dispositive.

Appendix II—List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum

- I. Summary
- II. Background
- III. Period of Investigation
- IV. Scope of the Investigation
- V. All-Others Rate
- VI. Successor-in-Interest
- VII. Discussion of Methodology
 - A. Determination of the Comparison Method
 - B. Results of the Differential Pricing Analysis
- VIII. Date of Sale
- IX. Product Comparisons
- X. Export Price and Constructed Export Price
- XI. Normal Value
 - A. Comparison Market Viability

Republic of Korea, Sweden, and Taiwan: Antidumping Duty Orders, 79 FR 71,741, 71,741–42 (Dep't of Commerce, Dec. 3, 2014). The orders define NOES as "cold-rolled, flat-rolled, alloy steel products, whether or not in coils, regardless of width, having an actual thickness of 0.20 mm or more, in which the core loss is substantially equal in any direction of magnetization in the plane of the material. The term 'substantially equal' means that the cross grain direction of core loss is no more than 1.5 times the straight grain direction (*i.e.*, the rolling direction) of core loss. NOES has a magnetic permeability that does not exceed 1.65 Tesla when tested at a field of 800 A/m (equivalent to 10 Oersteds) along (*i.e.*, parallel to) the rolling direction of the sheet (*i.e.*, B800 value). NOES contains by weight more than 1.00 percent of silicon but less than 3.5 percent of silicon, not more than 0.08 percent of carbon, and not more than 1.5 percent of aluminum. NOES has a surface oxide coating, to which an insulation coating may be applied."

- B. Affiliated Party Transactions and Arm's-Length Test
 - C. Level of Trade
 - D. Cost of Production Analysis
 1. Calculation of COP
 2. Test of Comparison Market Sales Prices
 3. Results of the COP Test
 - E. Calculation of NV Based on Comparison-Market Prices
- XII. Currency Conversion
XIII. Conclusion

[FR Doc. 2016–05007 Filed 3–4–16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A–588–873]

Certain Cold-Rolled Steel Flat Products From Japan: Affirmative Preliminary Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value and Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (the "Department") preliminarily determines that certain cold-rolled steel flat products ("cold-rolled steel") from Japan are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value ("LTFV"), as provided in section 733(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended ("the Act"). The period of investigation ("POI") is July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. JFE Steel Corporation ("JFE") and Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation ("NSSMC") are the mandatory respondents in this investigation. The estimated weighted average dumping margins of sales at LTFV are shown in the "Preliminary Determination" section of this notice. Interested parties are invited to comment on this preliminary determination.

DATES: Effective March 7, 2016.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Trisha Tran, AD/CVD Operations, Office IV, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482–4852.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Department published the notice of initiation of this investigation on August 24, 2015.¹ For a complete

¹ See *Certain Cold-Rolled Steel Flat Products From Brazil, the People's Republic of China, India,*
Continued

description of the events that followed the initiation of this investigation, see the Preliminary Decision Memorandum that is dated concurrently with this determination and is hereby adopted by this notice.² A list of topics included in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum is included as Appendix II to this notice. The Preliminary Decision Memorandum is a public document and is on file electronically via Enforcement and Compliance's Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Service System ("ACCESS"). ACCESS is available to registered users at <https://access.trade.gov>, and to all parties in the Central Records Unit, Room B8024 of the main Department of Commerce building. In addition, a complete version of the Preliminary Decision Memorandum can be found at <http://enforcement.trade.gov/frn/>. The signed Preliminary Decision Memorandum and the electronic version of the Preliminary Decision Memorandum are identical in content.

On November 30, 2015, the Department published notice of the 50-day postponement for the preliminary determination in this investigation, in accordance with section 733(c)(1)(B) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(f)(1).³ In addition, the Department has exercised its discretion to toll all administrative deadlines due to the recent closure of the Federal Government because of Snowstorm "Jonas". Thus, all of the deadlines in this segment of the proceeding have been extended by four business days. The revised deadline for the preliminary determination is now February 29, 2016.⁴

Scope of the Investigation

The products covered by this investigation are certain cold-rolled (cold-reduced), flat-rolled steel

products, whether or not annealed, painted, varnished, or coated with plastics or other non-metallic substances. For a full description of the scope of this investigation, see the "Scope of the Investigation," in Appendix I.

Scope Comments

In accordance with the preamble to the Department's regulations,⁵ the *Initiation Notice* set aside a period of time for parties to raise issues regarding product coverage (*i.e.*, "scope").⁶ Certain interested parties commented on the scope of the investigation, as it appeared in the *Initiation Notice*, as well as on additional language proposed by the Department. For a summary of the product coverage comments and rebuttal responses submitted to the record, and an accompanying discussion and analysis of all comments timely received, see the Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum.⁷ In this investigation, the Department is preliminarily modifying the scope language as it appeared in the *Initiation Notice*.

Methodology

The Department is conducting this investigation in accordance with section 731 of the Act. Pursuant to section 776(a) of the Act, the Department preliminarily relied upon facts otherwise available to assign estimated weighted-average dumping margins to the mandatory respondents, JFE and NSSMC, because JFE and NSSMC each informed the Department that they would not respond to the Department's AD questionnaire and, therefore, would not participate in this investigation as mandatory respondents.⁸ Therefore, the Department is preliminarily applying

adverse facts available to JFE and NSSMC, in accordance with section 776(b) of Act. See Preliminary Decision Memorandum for a complete explanation of the methodology and analysis underlying our preliminary application of adverse facts available.

After JFE and NSSMC informed the Department that they would not participate in this investigation as mandatory respondents, we selected Hitachi Metals Limited ("Hitachi") as a voluntary respondent on December 10, 2015.⁹ On February 22, 2016, Petitioners¹⁰ provided a revised scope clarifying Petitioners' intent with regard to the scope of the investigation to exclude ultra-tempered automotive steel from the scope of the investigation and to limit application of this scope exclusion only to this cold-rolled steel from Japan investigation, which we have accepted for this preliminary determination.¹¹ Because all of Hitachi's reported home market sales, U.S. sales, and production costs were comprised entirely of ultra-tempered automotive steel strip that meets the specification of the ultra-tempered steel scope exclusion, Hitachi does not have any sales during the POI to investigate and calculate a margin.¹² See Preliminary Scope Decision Memoranda for a complete discussion.

Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances

On October 30, 2015, Petitioners filed timely critical circumstances allegations, pursuant to section 733(e)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.206(c)(1), alleging that critical circumstances exist with respect to imports of the merchandise under consideration from Japan.¹³ In accordance with 19 CFR 351.206(c)(2)(i), when a critical circumstances allegation is submitted

Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom: *Initiation of Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigations*, 80 FR 51198 (August 24, 2015) ("Initiation Notice").

² See Memorandum from Christian Marsh, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Operations, to Paul Piquado, Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance "Decision Memorandum for the Preliminary Determination of the Antidumping Duty Investigation of Certain Cold-Rolled Steel Flat Products from Japan" ("Preliminary Decision Memorandum"), dated concurrently with this notice.

³ See *Certain Cold-Rolled Steel Flat Products From Brazil, the People's Republic of China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom: Postponement of Preliminary Determinations of Antidumping Duty Investigations*, 80 FR 74764 (November 30, 2015).

⁴ See Memorandum to the Record from Ronald Lorentzen, Acting Assistant Secretary for Enforcement & Compliance, regarding "Tolling of Administrative Deadlines as a Result of the Government Closure during Snowstorm Jonas," dated January 27, 2016.

⁵ See *Antidumping Duties; Countervailing Duties*, 62 FR 27296, 27323 (May 19, 1997).

⁶ See *Initiation Notice*, 80 FR at 51199.

⁷ See Memorandum to Christian Marsh, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Operations, "Certain Cold-Rolled Steel Products From Brazil, the People's Republic of China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom: Scope Comments Decision Memorandum for the Preliminary Determinations," dated concurrently with this preliminary determination; see also Memorandum to Christian Marsh, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Antidumping Duty Operations, "Certain Cold-Rolled Steel Products From Japan: Additional Scope Comments and Decision Memorandum for the Preliminary Determination," dated concurrently with this preliminary determination (collectively, Preliminary Scope Decision Memorandum).

⁸ See Letter from JFE, "Certain Cold-Rolled Steel Flat Products from Japan: Advisement of Non-Participation in Investigation," dated November 25, 2015; see also Letter from NSSMC, "Certain Cold-Rolled Steel Flat Products from Japan: NSSMC's Response to Issuance of the Antidumping Duty Questionnaire," dated December 1, 2015.

⁹ See Memorandum to Christian Marsh, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Operations, "Antidumping Duty Investigation of Certain Cold-Rolled Steel Flat Products from Japan: Whether to Selection Additional Mandatory and/or Voluntary Respondents," dated December 10, 2015.

¹⁰ United States Steel Corporation, AK Steel Corporation, ArcelorMittal USA LLC, Nucor Corporation, Steel Dynamics, Inc., and United States Steel Corporation.

¹¹ See Letter from Petitioners, "Certain Cold-Rolled Steel Flat Products from Japan: Response to Additional Information Request Regarding Scope," dated February 22, 2016.

¹² See Preliminary Scope Decision Memoranda. See also Letter from Hitachi Metals, "Certain Cold-Rolled Steel Flat Products from Japan: Hitachi Metals' Pre-Preliminary Determination Comments," dated February 12, 2016.

¹³ See Letter from Petitioners, "Certain Cold-Rolled Steel Flat Products From The People's Republic of China, Japan, And the Russian Federation—Petitioners' Critical Circumstances Allegation," dated October 30, 2015.

more than 20 days before the scheduled date of the preliminary determination, the Department will issue a preliminary finding whether there is a reasonable basis to believe or suspect that critical circumstances exist no later than the date of the preliminary determination. Based on our analyses, in accordance with section 733(e) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.206, we preliminarily find that critical circumstances exist for each of the mandatory respondents in the investigation. That is, with respect to these companies, we preliminarily determine that (1) importers of merchandise knew or should have known that the exporter was selling the merchandise under consideration at LTFV and that there was likely to be material injury in accordance with section 733(e)(1)(A) of the Act; and (2) imports of subject merchandise have been massive over a relatively short period in accordance with section 733(e)(1)(B) of the Act. With respect to all other producers and exporters subject to the investigation concerning cold-rolled steel from Japan, we preliminarily do not find that critical circumstances exist. For a full description of the methodology and results of our critical circumstances analysis, see the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

All-Others Rate

Section 735(c)(5)(A) of the Act provides that the estimated “all-others” rate shall be an amount equal to the weighted-average of the estimated weighted-average dumping margins established for exporters and producers individually investigated, excluding any rates that are zero, *de minimis*, or determined entirely under section 776 of the Act. We cannot apply the methodology described in section 735(c)(5)(A) of the Act to calculate the “all-others” rate, as all of the margins in this preliminary determination were calculated under section 776 of the Act. In cases where no weighted-average dumping margins besides zero, *de minimis*, or those determined entirely under section 776 of the Act have been established for individually estimated entities, in accordance with section 735(c)(5)(B) of the Act, the Department averages the margins calculated by the Petitioners in the Petition and applies the result to “all-other” entities not individually examined. In this case, however, Petitioners calculated only one margin in the Petition. Therefore, we assigned as the “all-others” rate the

only margin in the Petition, which is 71.35 percent.¹⁴

Preliminary Determination

The Department preliminarily determines that the following weighted-average dumping margins exist:

Exporter/producer	Weighted-average margin (percent)
JFE Steel Corporation	71.35
Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation	71.35
All-Others	71.35

In addition, the Department preliminarily determines that voluntary respondent Hitachi Metals Limited has no sales of subject merchandise during to POI to examine.

Suspension of Liquidation

In accordance with section 733(d)(2) of the Act, we will direct U.S. Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”) to suspend liquidation of all entries of cold-rolled steel from Japan, as described in the scope of the investigation, that is entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**.

Section 733(e)(2) of the Act provides that, given an affirmative determination of critical circumstances, any suspension of liquidation shall apply to unliquidated entries of merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the later of (a) the date which is 90 days before the date on which the suspension of liquidation was first ordered, or (b) the date on which notice of initiation of the investigation was published. Because we have preliminarily found that critical circumstances exist with regard to imports exported by the mandatory respondents JFE and NSSMC, we will instruct CBP to suspend liquidation of all entries of cold-rolled steel from Japan, as described in the scope of the investigation, from the mandatory respondents that are entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the date that is

90 days prior to the date on which suspension of liquidation is first ordered (e.g., the date of publication of this notice). At such time, we will also instruct CBP, pursuant to section 733 (d)(1)(B) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(d), to require a cash deposit equal to the margins indicated in the chart above.¹⁵ The suspension of liquidation will remain in effect until further notice.

Disclosure and Public Comment

We will disclose the calculations that we performed in this investigation to interested parties in this proceeding within five days after the date of public announcement of the preliminary determination in accordance with 19 CFR 351.224(b). Interested parties are invited to comment on this preliminary determination. Interested parties may submit case briefs to the Department no later than 30 days after the publication of this preliminary determination. Rebuttal briefs, the content of which is limited to the issues raised in the case briefs, must be filed within five days of the deadline date for the submission of case briefs.¹⁶ Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2) and (d)(2), parties who submit case briefs or rebuttal briefs in this proceeding are encouraged to submit with each argument: (1) A statement of the issue; (2) a brief summary of the argument; and (3) a table of authorities. All documents must be filed electronically using ACCESS.

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.310(c), interested parties who wish to request a hearing must submit a written request for a hearing to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance, U.S. Department of Commerce. An electronically-filed request for a hearing must be received successfully in its entirety by ACCESS by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice.¹⁷ Hearing requests should contain the party's name, address, and telephone number, the number of participants, and a list of the issues to be discussed. If a request for a hearing is made, the Department intends to hold the hearing at the U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230, at a time and date to be determined. Parties should confirm by telephone the date,

¹⁴ See *Certain Oil Country Tubular Goods From Thailand: Preliminary Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value, and Postponement of Final Determination*, 79 FR 10487 (February 25, 2014), and accompanying Preliminary Decision Memorandum, unchanged in *Certain Oil Country Tubular Goods From India, the Republic of Korea, Taiwan, the Republic of Turkey, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam: Antidumping Duty Orders; and Certain Oil Country Tubular Goods From the Socialist Republic of Vietnam: Amended Final Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value*, 79 FR 53691 (September 10, 2014).

¹⁵ See *Modification of Regulations Regarding the Practice of Accepting Bonds During the Provisional Measures Period in Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Investigations*, 76 FR 61042 (October 3, 2011).

¹⁶ See 19 CFR 351.309.

¹⁷ See 19 CFR 351.310(c).

time, and location of the hearing two days before the scheduled date.

Verification

Because none of the mandatory respondents in this investigation provided information requested by the Department and the Department preliminarily determines each of the mandatory respondents to have been uncooperative, verification will not be conducted.

International Trade Commission (“ITC”) Notification

In accordance with section 733(f) of the Act, we are notifying the ITC of our affirmative preliminary determination of sales at LTFV. If our final determination is affirmative, the ITC will determine before the later of 120 days after the date of this preliminary determination or 45 days after our final determination whether these imports are materially injuring, or threaten material injury to, the U.S. industry.

This determination is issued and published in accordance with sections 733(f) and 777(i)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(c).

Dated: February 29, 2016.

Paul Piquado,

Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

Appendix I—Scope of the Investigation

The products covered by this investigation are certain cold-rolled (cold reduced), flat-rolled steel products, whether or not annealed, painted, varnished, or coated with plastics or other non-metallic substances. The products covered do not include those that are clad, plated, or coated with metal. The products covered include coils that have a width or other lateral measurement (“width”) of 12.7 mm or greater, regardless of form of coil (e.g., in successively superimposed layers, spirally oscillating, etc.). The products covered also include products not in coils (e.g., in straight lengths) of a thickness less than 4.75 mm and a width that is 12.7 mm or greater and that measures at least 10 times the thickness. The products covered also include products not in coils (e.g., in straight lengths) of a thickness of 4.75 mm or more and a width exceeding 150 mm and measuring at least twice the thickness. The products described above may be rectangular, square, circular, or other shape and include products of either rectangular or non-rectangular cross section where such cross-section is achieved subsequent to the rolling process, i.e., products which have been “worked after rolling” (e.g., products which have been beveled or rounded at the edges). For purposes of the width and thickness requirements referenced above:

(1) Where the nominal and actual measurements vary, a product is within the scope if application of either the nominal or actual measurement would place it within

the scope based on the definitions set forth above, and

(2) where the width and thickness vary for a specific product (e.g., the thickness of certain products with non-rectangular cross-section, the width of certain products with non-rectangular shape, etc.), the measurement at its greatest width or thickness applies.

Steel products included in the scope of these investigations are products in which: (1) Iron predominates, by weight, over each of the other contained elements; (2) the carbon content is 2 percent or less, by weight; and (3) none of the elements listed below exceeds the quantity, by weight, respectively indicated:

- 2.50 percent of manganese, or
- 3.30 percent of silicon, or
- 1.50 percent of copper, or
- 1.50 percent of aluminum, or
- 1.25 percent of chromium, or
- 0.30 percent of cobalt, or
- 0.40 percent of lead, or
- 2.00 percent of nickel, or
- 0.30 percent of tungsten (also called wolfram), or
- 0.80 percent of molybdenum, or
- 0.10 percent of niobium (also called columbium), or
- 0.30 percent of vanadium, or
- 0.30 percent of zirconium

Unless specifically excluded, products are included in this scope regardless of levels of boron and titanium.

For example, specifically included in this scope are vacuum degassed, fully stabilized (commonly referred to as interstitial-free (IF)) steels, high strength low alloy (HSLA) steels, motor lamination steels, Advanced High Strength Steels (AHSS), and Ultra High Strength Steels (UHSS). IF steels are recognized as low carbon steels with micro-alloying levels of elements such as titanium and/or niobium added to stabilize carbon and nitrogen elements. HSLA steels are recognized as steels with micro-alloying levels of elements such as chromium, copper, niobium, titanium, vanadium, and molybdenum. Motor lamination steels contain micro-alloying levels of elements such as silicon and aluminum. AHSS and UHSS are considered high tensile strength and high elongation steels, although AI-ISS and UHSS are covered whether or not they are high tensile strength or high elongation steels.

Subject merchandise includes cold-rolled steel that has been further processed in a third country, including but not limited to annealing, tempering, painting, varnishing, trimming, cutting, punching, and/or slitting, or any other processing that would not otherwise remove the merchandise from the scope of the investigation if performed in the country of manufacture of the cold-rolled steel.

All products that meet the written physical description, and in which the chemistry quantities do not exceed any one of the noted element levels listed above, are within the scope of this investigation unless specifically excluded. The following products are outside of and/or specifically excluded from the scope of this investigation:

- Ball bearing steels;¹⁸
- Tool steels;¹⁹
- Silico-manganese steel²⁰
- Grain-oriented electrical steels (“GOES”) as defined in the final determination of the U.S. Department of Commerce in *Grain-Oriented Electrical Steel From Germany, Japan, and Poland*.²¹
- Non-Oriented Electrical Steels (“NOES”), as defined in the antidumping orders issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce in *Non-Oriented Electrical Steel From the People's Republic of China, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, and Taiwan*.²²

¹⁸ Ball bearing steels are defined as steels which contain, in addition to iron, each of the following elements by weight in the amount specified: (i) Not less than 0.95 nor more than 1.13 percent of carbon; (ii) not less than 0.22 nor more than 0.48 percent of manganese; (iii) none, or not more than 0.03 percent of sulfur; (iv) none, or not more than 0.03 percent of phosphorus; (v) not less than 0.18 nor more than 0.37 percent of silicon; (vi) not less than 1.25 nor more than 1.65 percent of chromium; (vii) none, or not more than 0.28 percent of nickel; (viii) none, or not more than 0.38 percent of copper; and (ix) none, or not more than 0.09 percent of molybdenum.

¹⁹ Tool steels are defined as steels which contain the following combinations of elements in the quantity by weight respectively indicated: (i) More than 1.2 percent carbon and more than 10.5 percent chromium; or (ii) not less than 0.3 percent carbon and 1.25 percent or more but less than 10.5 percent chromium; or (iii) not less than 0.85 percent carbon and 1 percent to 1.8 percent, inclusive, manganese; or (iv) 0.9 percent to 1.2 percent, inclusive, chromium and 0.9 percent to 1.4 percent, inclusive, molybdenum; or (v) not less than 0.5 percent carbon and not less than 3.5 percent molybdenum; or (vi) not less than 0.5 percent carbon and not less than 5.5 percent tungsten.

²⁰ Silico-manganese steel is defined as steels containing by weight: (i) Not more than 0.7 percent of carbon; (ii) 0.5 percent or more but not more than 1.9 percent of manganese, and (iii) 0.6 percent or more but not more than 2.3 percent of silicon.

²¹ See *Grain-Oriented Electrical Steel From Germany, Japan, and Poland: Final Determinations of Sales at Less Than Fair Value and Certain Final Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances*, 79 FR 42,501, 42,503 (Dep't of Commerce, July 22, 2014) (“*Grain-Oriented Electrical Steel From Germany, Japan, and Poland*”). This determination defines grain-oriented electrical steel as “a flat-rolled alloy steel product containing by weight at least 0.6 percent but not more than 6 percent of silicon, not more than 0.08 percent of carbon, not more than 1.0 percent of aluminum, and no other element in an amount that would give the steel the characteristics of another alloy steel, in coils or in straight lengths.”

²² See *Non-Oriented Electrical Steel From the People's Republic of China, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, and Taiwan: Antidumping Duty Orders*, 79 FR 71,741, 71,741–42 (Dep't of Commerce, Dec. 3, 2014) (“*Non-Oriented Electrical Steel From the People's Republic of China, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, and Taiwan*”). The orders define NOES as “cold-rolled, flat-rolled, alloy steel products, whether or not in coils, regardless of width, having an actual thickness of 0.20 mm or more, in which the core loss is substantially equal in any direction of magnetization in the plane of the material. The term ‘substantially equal’ means that the cross grain direction of core loss is no more than 1.5 times the straight grain direction (i.e., the rolling direction) of core loss. NOES has a magnetic permeability that does not exceed 1.65 Tesla when tested at a field of 800 A/m (equivalent to 10

Also excluded from the scope of this investigation is ultra-tempered automotive steel, which is hardened, tempered, surface

polished, and meets the following specifications:

- Thickness: less than or equal to 1.0 mm;
- Width: less than or equal to 330 mm;
- Chemical composition:

Element	C	Si	Mn	P	S
Weight %	0.90–1.05	0.15–0.35	0.30–0.50	Less than or equal to 0.03 ...	Less than or equal to 0.006.

• Physical properties:

Width less than or equal to 150 mm	Flatness of less than 0.2% of nominal strip width
Width of 150 to 330 mm.	Flatness of less than 5 mm of nominal strip width.

- Microstructure: Completely free from decarburization. Carbides are spheroidal and fine within 1% to 4% (area percentage) and are undissolved in the uniform tempered martensite;
- Surface roughness: less than or equal to 0.80 $\mu\text{m Rz}$;
- Non-metallic inclusion:
- Sulfide inclusion less than or equal to 0.04% (area percentage)
- Oxide inclusion less than or equal to 0.05% (area percentage); and
- The mill test certificate must demonstrate that the steel is proprietary grade “PK” and specify the following:
- The exact tensile strength, which must be greater than or equal to 1600 N/mm²;
- The exact hardness, which must be greater than or equal to 465 Vickers hardness number;
- The exact elongation, which must be between 2.5% and 9.5%; and
- Certified as having residual compressive stress within a range of 100 to 400 N/mm².

The products subject to this investigation are currently classified in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) under item numbers: 7209.15.0000, 7209.16.0030, 7209.16.0060, 7209.16.0070, 7209.16.0091, 7209.17.0030, 7209.17.0060, 7209.17.0070, 7209.17.0091, 7209.18.1530, 7209.18.1560, 7209.18.2510, 7209.18.2520, 7209.18.2580, 7209.18.6020, 7209.18.6090, 7209.25.0000, 7209.26.0000, 7209.27.0000, 7209.28.0000, 7209.90.0000, 7210.70.3000, 7211.23.1500, 7211.23.2000, 7211.23.3000, 7211.23.4500, 7211.23.6030, 7211.23.6060, 7211.23.6090, 7211.29.2030, 7211.29.2090, 7211.29.4500, 7211.29.6030, 7211.29.6080, 7211.90.0000, 7212.40.1000, 7212.40.5000, 7225.50.6000, 7225.50.8080, 7225.99.0090, 7226.92.5000, 7226.92.7050, and 7226.92.8050. The products subject to the investigation may also enter under the following HTSUS numbers: 7210.90.9000, 7212.50.0000, 7215.10.0010, 7215.10.0080, 7215.50.0016, 7215.50.0018, 7215.50.0020, 7215.50.0061, 7215.50.0063, 7215.50.0065,

7215.50.0090, 7215.90.5000, 7217.10.1000, 7217.10.2000, 7217.10.3000, 7217.10.7000, 7217.90.1000, 7217.90.5030, 7217.90.5060, 7217.90.5090, 7225.19.0000, 7226.19.1000, 7226.19.9000, 7226.99.0180, 7228.50.5015, 7228.50.5040, 7228.50.5070, 7228.60.8000, and 7229.90.1000.

The HTSUS subheadings above are provided for convenience and U.S. Customs purposes only. The written description of the scope of the investigation is dispositive.

Appendix II—List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum

- Summary
- Background
- Period of Investigation
- Scope of the Investigation
- Respondent Selection
- Application of Facts Available and All-Others Rate
- Preliminary Determination of Critical Circumstances
- Verification
- Conclusion

[FR Doc. 2016–05005 Filed 3–4–16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A–570–029]

Antidumping Duty Investigation of Certain Cold-Rolled Steel Flat Products From the People’s Republic of China: Affirmative Preliminary Determination of Sales at Less Than Fair Value, and Preliminary Affirmative Determination of Critical Circumstances

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (the Department) preliminarily determines that certain cold-rolled steel flat products (cold-rolled steel) from the People’s Republic of China (the PRC) are being, or are likely to be, sold in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV), as provided in section 733(b) of

the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act). The period of investigation is January 1, 2015, through June 30, 2015. The estimated weighted-average dumping margin is shown in the “Preliminary Determination” section of this notice. We invite interested parties to comment on this preliminary determination.

DATES: Effective March 7, 2016.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scott Hoefke or Robert James, AD/CVD Operations, Office VI, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230; telephone (202) 482–4947 or (202) 482–0679, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Department published the notice of initiation of this investigation on August 24, 2015.¹ For a complete description of the events that followed the initiation of this investigation, see the Preliminary Decision Memorandum that is dated concurrently with this determination and is hereby adopted by this notice.² A list of topics included in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum is included as Appendix I to this notice. The Preliminary Decision Memorandum is a public document and is on file electronically via Enforcement and Compliance’s Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Service System (ACCESS). ACCESS is available to registered users at <https://access.trade.gov>, and to all parties in the Central Records Unit, Room B8024 of the main Department of Commerce building. In addition, a complete version of the Preliminary Decision Memorandum can be found at <http://enforcement.trade.gov/frn/>. The signed Preliminary Decision Memorandum and electronic version of Preliminary Decision Memorandum are identical in content.

Oersteds) along (*i.e.*, parallel to) the rolling direction of the sheet (*i.e.*, B800 value). NOES contains by weight more than 1.00 percent of silicon but less than 3.5 percent of silicon, not more than 0.08 percent of carbon, and not more than 1.5 percent of aluminum. NOES has a surface oxide coating, to which an insulation coating may be applied.”

¹ See *Certain Cold-Rolled Steel Flat Products from Brazil, the People’s Republic of China, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom: Initiation of Less-Than-Fair-Value Investigations*, 80 FR 51198 (August 24, 2015) (*Initiation Notice*).

² See Memorandum from Gary Taverman, Associate Deputy Assistant Secretary for

Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Operations, to Paul Piquado, Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance “Decision Memorandum for the Preliminary Determination in the Antidumping Duty Investigation of Certain Cold-Rolled Steel Flat Products from the People’s Republic of China,” dated concurrently with and hereby adopted by this notice.