

ITC Investigation on Competitive Conditions Affecting U.S. Foundry Products Market

Pursuant to a June 15th notice in the Federal Register (69 Fed. Reg. 33,402), the ITC has initiated a factfinding investigation regarding competitive conditions in the U.S. foundry products market entitled: Foundry Products: Competitive Conditions in the U.S. Market (Inv. No. 332-460).

Link to ITC's Federal Register notice at:
<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/06jun20041800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2004/pdf/04-13358.pdf>

This investigation was brought as a result of a May 2004 request by the House Ways and Means Committee. In the request letter, the Committee noted that due to the impact of globalization, producers of foundry products are concerned about competitive conditions affecting their industries. The House Committee requested that the ITC's study include "an overview of the industry together with a detailed analysis of selected key iron-, steel-, aluminum-, and copper-based cast products which are representative of the major segments of the foundry industry."

As requested, the ITC will provide information for the most recent five-year period, to the extent possible, regarding:

- a profile of the U.S. foundry industry;
- trends in U.S. production, shipments, capacity, consumption, and trade in foundry products, as well as financial conditions of domestic producers;
- a profile of major foreign industries including, but not necessarily limited

to, Brazil and China;

- a description of relevant U.S. and foreign government policies and regulations affecting U.S. and foreign producers as identified during the investigation by the producers and consumers of foundry products, including, as appropriate, investment, tax, and export policies; environmental regulations; and worker health and safety regulations;
- a comparison of various factors affecting competition between U.S. and foreign producers such as the availability and cost of raw materials, energy, and labor; level of technology and changes in the manufacturing process; pricing practices; transportation costs; technical advice and service; and an analysis of the how these factors affect the industry; and
- an analysis of the purchasing patterns and practices of downstream industries.

Pursuant to the June 8th News Release announcing the Foundry Investigation, the ITC's 332 Investigations encompass matters related to tariffs or trade and are conducted at the request of the U.S. Trade Representative, the Senate Committee on Finance, or the House Committee on Ways and Means. Resulting reports "convey the Commissions' objective findings and independent analyses on the subject investigated. The Commission makes no recommendations on policy or other matters in its general factfinding reports.

Upon completion of each investigation, the ITC submits its finding and analyses to the requestor. General factfinding investigations reports are subsequently released to the public, unless they are classified by the requestor for national security reasons.”

Pursuant to the June 15th Federal Register notice, the following are deadlines in the ITC’s Foundry Investigation:

1. Deadline for Request to Appear at 10/14/04 Hearing: Sept. 24, 2004
2. Deadline for Pre-Hearing Briefs: Sept. 30, 2004
3. Deadline for Public Hearing (930am): Oct. 14, 2004
4. Deadline for Post-Hearing Briefs or Statements: Oct. 22, 2004
5. Deadline for ITC to submit Report to Committee: May 4, 2005

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