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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[A-570-026; C-570-027]

Certain Corrosion-Resistant Steel Products from the People's Republic of China: Negative Preliminary Determination of Circumvention Involving South Africa

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

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (Commerce) preliminarily determines that imports of certain corrosion-resistant steel products (CORE), completed in South Africa are not circumventing the antidumping duty (AD) and countervailing duty (CVD) orders on CORE from the People's Republic of China (China) at this time.

DATES: Applicable [**INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER***].

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Laura Griffith, AD/CVD Operations, Office III, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-6430.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On August 12, 2019, Commerce self-initiated country-wide anti-circumvention inquiries of the *China CORE Orders*¹ covering Chinese-origin hot-rolled steel (HRS) and/or cold-rolled steel (CRS) exported to various countries, including South Africa, for completion into CORE and subsequently exported to the United States.² In the *Initiation Notice*, Commerce initiated the instant anti-circumvention inquiries based on available information and an analysis pursuant to section 781(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), and 19 CFR 351.225(h), to determine whether the importation of the Chinese-origin HRS or CRS substrate for completion into CORE in South Africa and subsequent exportation of that CORE to the United States constitutes circumvention of the *China CORE Orders*.

For a complete description of the record developed since the initiation of these inquiries, see the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.³ 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 Commerce building. In addition, a

¹ See *Certain Corrosion-Resistant Steel Flat Products from India, Italy, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, and Taiwan: Amended Final Affirmative Antidumping Duty Determination for India and Taiwan, and Antidumping Duty Orders*, 81 FR 48390 (July 25, 2016); see also *Certain Corrosion-Resistant Steel Products from India, Italy, Republic of Korea, and the People's Republic of China: Countervailing Duty Order*, 81 FR 48387 (July 25, 2016) (collectively, *China CORE Orders*).

² The notice of initiation subsequently published in the *Federal Register* on August 21, 2019. See *Corrosion-Resistant Steel Products from the People's Republic of China: Initiation of Anti-Circumvention Inquiries on the Antidumping Duty and Countervailing Duty Orders*, 84 FR 43585 (August 21, 2019) (*Initiation Notice*) and accompanying Memorandum, "Certain Corrosion-Resistant Steel Products from the People's Republic of China: Initiation of Anti-Circumvention Inquiries on the Antidumping Duty and Countervailing Duty Orders," dated August 12, 2019.

³ See Memorandum, "Preliminary Decision Memorandum for the Anti-Circumvention Inquiries Involving the Republic of South Africa of the Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Orders on Certain Corrosion-Resistant Steel Products from the People's Republic of China," dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice (Preliminary Decision Memorandum).

complete version of the Preliminary Decision Memorandum can be accessed directly at <http://enforcement.trade.gov/frn/>. The signed and the electronic versions of the Preliminary Decision Memorandum are identical in content.

Scope of the *China CORE Orders*

The products covered by these orders are certain flat-rolled steel products, either clad, plated, or coated with corrosion-resistant metals such as zinc, aluminum, or zinc-, aluminum-, nickel- or iron-based alloys, whether or not corrugated or painted, varnished, laminated, or coated with plastics or other non-metallic substances in addition to the metallic coating. For a complete description of the scope of the orders, *see* the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

Scope of the Anti-Circumvention Inquiries

These anti-circumvention inquiries cover CORE completed in South Africa from HRS or CRS substrate input manufactured in China and subsequently exported from South Africa to the United States.

Methodology

Commerce is conducting these anti-circumvention inquiries in accordance with section 781(b) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.225(h). For a full description of the methodology underlying Commerce's preliminary determination, *see* the Preliminary Decision Memorandum.

Preliminary Finding

As detailed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum, we preliminarily determine that CORE produced in South Africa and exported to the United States is not being completed from Chinese-origin HRS or CRS substrate at present, or at any point recent enough to support the concerns which served as the basis for the initiation of these inquiries, and thus, action is not appropriate to address circumvention of the *China CORE Orders* at this time. Accordingly,

Commerce is making a preliminary negative finding of circumvention of the *China CORE Orders*.

Verification

As provided in 19 CFR 351.307, Commerce intends to verify information relied upon in making its final determination.

Public Comment

Case briefs or other written comments may be submitted to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance no later than seven days after the date on which the final verification report is issued in these anti-circumvention inquiries, unless the Secretary alters the time limit. Rebuttal briefs, limited to issues raised in case briefs, may be submitted no later than five days after the deadline date for case briefs.⁴ Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2) and (d)(2), parties who submit case briefs or rebuttal briefs in these anti-circumvention inquiries 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.

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.310(c), interested parties who wish to request a hearing, limited to issues raised in the case and rebuttal briefs, must submit a written request to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance, U.S. Department of Commerce, within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice. Requests should contain the party's name, address, and telephone number, the number of participants, whether any participant is a foreign national, and a list of the issues to be discussed. If a request for a hearing is made, Commerce intends to hold the hearing at the U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington

⁴ See 19 CFR 351.309; see also 19 CFR 351.303 (for general filing requirements).

DC 20230, at a time and date to be determined. Parties should confirm by telephone the date, time, and location of the hearing two days before the scheduled date.

Notification to Interested Parties

This determination is issued and published in accordance with section 781(b) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.225(f).

Dated: February 7, 2020.

Jeffrey I. Kessler,

Assistant Secretary

for Enforcement and Compliance.

Appendix I

List of Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memorandum

- I. Summary
- II. Background
- III. Scope of the Orders
- IV. Scope of the Anti-Circumvention Inquiries
- V. Period of Inquiries
- VI. Statutory Framework
- VII. Anti-Circumvention Determination
- VIII. Verification
- IX. Recommendation

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