

comparison market or U.S. sales where commissions were granted on sales in one market but not in the other, the "commission offset." Specifically, where commissions are incurred in one market, but not in the other, we will limit the amount of such allowance to the amount of the other selling expenses incurred in the one market or the commissions allowed in the other market, whichever is less.

When comparing U.S. sales with comparison market sales of similar, but not identical, merchandise, we also made adjustments for physical differences in the merchandise in accordance with section 773(a)(6)(C)(ii) of the Act and section 351.411 of the Department's regulations. We based this adjustment on the difference in VCOM between the foreign like product and subject merchandise, using POR-average costs.

Sales of pasta purchased by the respondent from unaffiliated producers and resold in the comparison market were treated in the same manner described above in the "Export Price" section of this notice.

D. Level of Trade

In accordance with section 773(a)(1)(B) of the Act, we determined NV based on sales in the home market at the same level of trade ("LOT") as the EP sales.

Pursuant to section 351.412(c)(2) of the Department's regulations, to determine whether home market sales were at a different LOT, we examined stages in the marketing process and selling functions along the chain of distribution between the producer and the unaffiliated (or arm's-length) customers. If the home market sales are at a different LOT and the differences affect price comparability, as manifested in a pattern of consistent price differences between the sales on which NV is based and comparison-market sales at the LOT of the export transaction, we make a LOT adjustment under section 773(a)(7)(A) of the Act.

Based on our analysis of the facts of this new shipper review, we preliminarily determine that there is no appreciable difference in the selling functions between the sales on which NV is based and the export transactions. Therefore, we did not find different levels of trade in the two markets. For a detailed description of our LOT methodology and a summary of our LOT findings for these preliminary results, see Russo's calculation memorandum, on file in the CRU.

Currency Conversion

For purposes of these preliminary results, we made currency conversions in accordance with section 773A(a) of the Act, based on the official exchange rates published by the Federal Reserve.

Preliminary Results of New Shipper Review

As a result of our review, we preliminarily determine that the following percentage weighted-average margin exists for Russo for the period July 1, 2002, through December 31, 2002:

| Manufacturer/exporter | Margin (percent) |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Pastificio Carmine Russo S.p.A. | 9.75 |

The Department will disclose the calculations performed within five days of the date of publication of this notice to the parties of this proceeding in accordance with 19 CFR 351.224(b). An interested party may request a hearing within 30 days of publication of these preliminary results. See 19 CFR 351.310(c). Any hearing, if requested, ordinarily will be held 44 days after the date of publication of these preliminary results, or the first working day thereafter. Interested parties may submit case briefs no later than 30 days after the date of publication of these preliminary results. See 19 CFR 351.309(c)(ii). Rebuttal briefs limited to issues raised in such briefs, may be filed no later than 35 days after the date of publication. See 19 CFR 351.309(d).

Parties who submit arguments are requested to submit with the argument (1) a statement of the issue, and (2) a brief summary of the argument. Further, parties submitting briefs are requested to provide the Department with an additional copy of the public version of any such briefs on diskette. The Department will issue the final results of this review, which will include the results of its analysis of issues raised in any such comments, or at a hearing, if requested, within 120 days of publication of these preliminary results.

Assessment Rate

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.212(b), the Department will calculate an assessment rate for each importer of the subject merchandise produced by Russo. Upon issuance of the final results of this new shipper review, if any importer-specific assessment rates calculated in the final results are above *de minimis* (i.e., at or above 0.5 percent), the Department will issue appraisal instructions directly to the CBP to assess antidumping duties on appropriate entries by applying the

assessment rate to the entered value of the merchandise. For assessment purposes, we calculated importer-specific assessment rates for the subject merchandise produced by Russo by aggregating the dumping margins for all U.S. sales to each importer and dividing the amount by the total entered value of the sales to that importer.

Cash Deposit Requirements

To calculate the cash deposit rate for Russo in this new shipper review, we divided its total dumping margin by the total net value of Russo's sales during the review period.

The following deposit rate will be effective upon publication of the final results of this new shipper review for shipments of certain pasta produced by Russo entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after the publication date, as provided by section 751(a)(2)(C) of the Act: the cash deposit rate for Russo will be the rate established in the final results of this review; if the rate is less than 0.5 percent and, therefore, *de minimis*, the cash deposit will be zero. These cash deposit requirements, when imposed, shall remain in effect until publication of the final results of the next administrative review.

Notification to Importers

This notice serves as a preliminary reminder to importers of their responsibility under 19 CFR 351.402(f) to file a certificate regarding the reimbursement of antidumping duties prior to liquidation of the relevant entries during this review period. Failure to comply with this requirement could result in the Secretary's presumption that reimbursement of antidumping and countervailing duties occurred and the subsequent assessment of double antidumping duties.

This new shipper review is issued and published in accordance with sections 751(a)(1) and 777(i)(1) of the Act.

Dated: December 24, 2003.

Holly A. Kuga,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.

[FR Doc. 04-77 Filed 1-2-04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Fire Test Measurement Needs

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) announces its intent to hold a meeting to discuss measurement needs for fire testing laboratories. The meeting will be held at the NIST Gaithersburg campus, on January 20 and 21, 2004, and is open to all interested parties.

DATES: The meeting will begin at 1 p.m. on January 20, 2004, and conclude at noon on January 21, 2004. Those wishing to attend must register by January 15, 2004.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in room B245 of the Polymers Building at the NIST Gaithersburg Campus, 100 Bureau Drive, Gaithersburg, MD.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Those wishing to attend should contact Dr. William Grosshandler at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Mail Stop 8660, 100 Bureau Drive, Gaithersburg, MD, 20899-8660, or by e-mail at william.grosshandler@nist.gov or by telephone at (301) 975-2310.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Commerce involving a multitude of materials, construction products, consumer products and fire protection systems is regulated to ensure the fire safety of the public. Standard test methods have been developed over the past 100 years, many based upon research conducted at NIST, that enable these materials and products to be rated as acceptable (or not) for various applications, depending upon regulations enforced by the authority having jurisdiction. By in large, these test methods are prescriptive in nature. The ratings or classifications obtained from these tests provide a relative measure of the one product versus another, but often there is little relation between a rating or classification and the performance of the product or material in an actual fire situation. The distinction between one rating or classification and the next may not be justified by the variability in the behavior of the material or product and the ability to conduct the test in a precise manner. Fire testing is hampered by the complexity of the physical, thermal and chemical processes involved, the variability of the environment under which the product is expected to perform, the fact that fire performance is often an afterthought in the design process, and the high stakes (*i.e.*, potential for loss of life and property) associated with being wrong in the rating. The concern for public safety is countered by a concern not to unreasonably hamper market forces or to put up trade barriers. The following

questions arising from the complexity of the fire testing arena, originally brought up at a NIST workshop on fire test measurements in June, 2001, are in need of further discussion:

- How can we promote best practices for fire testing?
 - What are the major sources of measurement uncertainty in standard fire tests?
 - How can new fire measurement technologies be transitioned into practice, operators be trained, and round-robin testing be better coordinated?
 - Is there a need for a clearing house for information on international harmonization and performance-based codes that impact fire testing?
 - Can the interests of North American fire testing laboratories be best preserved through scientific understanding and best practices?
 - How can two-way communications between fire testing laboratories and code officials, manufacturers of regulated materials and products, and consumer interest groups be improved?
- The meeting will be held at the NIST Gaithersburg campus, on January 20 and 21, 2004, and is open to all interested parties.

Dated: December 22, 2003.

Hratch G. Semerjian,

Acting Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. 04-36 Filed 1-2-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

The 89th Interim Meeting of the National Conference on Weights and Measures

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

ACTION: Announcement of public meeting of the National Conference on Weights and Measures.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the interim meeting of the National Conference on Weights and Measures will be held January 25 through January 28, 2004, at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda, Bethesda, Maryland. This meeting is open to the public. The National Conference on Weights and Measures is an organization of weights and measures enforcement officials of the States, counties, and cities of the United States, and private sector representatives. The interim meeting of the Conference brings together enforcement officials, other government officials, and

representatives of business, industry, trade associations, and consumer organizations to discuss subjects that related to the field of weights and measures technology and administration. Pursuant to (15 U.S.C. 272(b)(6)), the National Institute of Standards and Technology supports the National Conference on Weights and Measures in order to promote uniformity among the States in the complexity of laws, regulations, methods, and testing equipment that comprises regulatory control by the States of commercial weighing and measuring.

DATES: January 25-28, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Hyatt Regency Bethesda, Bethesda, Maryland.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Henry V. Oppermann, Chief, NIST, Weights and Measures Division, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 2600, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-2600. Telephone (301) 975-4004, or e-mail: owm@nist.gov.

Dated: December 23, 2003.

Hratch G. Semerjian,

Acting Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. 04-10 Filed 1-2-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 122903C]

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Standardized Application and Performance Report Formats for NMFS Noncompetitive Grants

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 March 5, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Diana Hynek, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6625, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW,