



BILLING CODE: 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

C-533-892

Forged Steel Fittings from India: Postponement of Preliminary Determination in the Countervailing Duty Investigation

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

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lauren Caserta, AD/CVD Operations, Office VII, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-4737.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On November 12, 2019, the Department of Commerce (Commerce) initiated the countervailing duty (CVD) investigation of forged steel fittings from India.<sup>1</sup> Currently, the preliminary determination is due no later than January 16, 2020.

Postponement of the Preliminary Determination

Section 703(b)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), requires Commerce to issue the preliminary determination in a CVD investigation within 65 days after the date on which Commerce initiated the investigation. However, section 703(c)(1)(A) of the Act permits Commerce to postpone the preliminary determination until no later than 130 days after the date

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<sup>1</sup> See *Forged Steel Fittings from India: Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigation*, 84 FR 64270 (November 21, 2019).

on which Commerce initiated the investigation if a petitioner makes a timely request for a postponement. Under 19 CFR 351.205(e), a petitioner must submit a request for postponement 25 days or more before the scheduled date of the preliminary determination and must state the reason for the request. Commerce will grant the request unless it finds compelling reasons to deny the request.<sup>2</sup>

On November 27, 2019, Bonney Forge Corporation and the United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union (collectively, petitioners) submitted a timely request pursuant to section 703(c)(1)(A) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(e) to postpone fully the preliminary determination. The petitioners stated that the purpose of their request was to provide Commerce with sufficient time to select appropriate respondents and conduct a full investigation in light of the complex nature of the basket categories in which subject imports are classified.<sup>3</sup>

In accordance with 19 CFR 351.205(e), the reason for requesting a postponement of the preliminary determination and the record does not present any compelling reasons to deny the request. Therefore, in accordance with section 703(c)(1)(A) of the Act, Commerce is postponing the deadline for the preliminary determination to March 23, 2020.<sup>4</sup> Pursuant to section 705(a)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.210(b)(1), the deadline for the final determination will continue to be 75 days after the date of the preliminary determination, unless postponed at a later date.

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<sup>2</sup> See 19 CFR 351.205(e).

<sup>3</sup> See Petitioner's Letter, "Forged Steel Fittings from India: Request to Postpone Preliminary Determination," dated November 27, 2019.

<sup>4</sup> In this case, 130 days after initiation falls on Saturday, March 21, 2020. Commerce's practice dictates that where a deadline falls on a weekend or federal holiday, the appropriate deadline is the next business day. See *Notice of Clarification: Application of "Next Business Day" Rule for Administrative Determination Deadlines Pursuant to the Tariff Act of 1930, As Amended*, 70 FR 24533 (May 10, 2005).

This notice is issued and published pursuant to section 703(c)(2) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(f)(1).

Dated: January 6, 2020

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Jeffrey I. Kessler  
Assistant Secretary  
for Enforcement and Compliance

[FR Doc. 2020-00251 Filed: 1/9/2020 8:45 am; Publication Date: 1/10/2020]