

**UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C.**

In the Matter of

**CERTAIN AUTOMOTIVE FUEL CAPS
AND COMPONENTS THEREOF**

Inv. No. 337-TA-532

NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION

AGENCY: U.S. International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Institution of investigation pursuant to 19 U.S.C. §1337 and provisional acceptance of motion for temporary relief.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a complaint and motion for temporary relief were filed with the U.S. International Trade Commission on January 28, 2005, under section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, 19 U.S.C. §1337, on behalf of Stant Manufacturing, Inc., of Connersville, Indiana. The complaint alleges violations of section 337 in the importation into the United States, the sale for importation, and the sale within the United States after importation of automotive fuel caps and components thereof by reason of infringement of claims 1, 5, and 6 of U.S. Patent No. 5,449,086, claims 32, 38, 39, and 41 of U.S. Patent No. 5,794,806, claims 1, 2, 10, and 13-15 of U.S. Patent No. 5,480,055, and claims 11-13, 19-22, 24-29, 31, 32, and 34-42 of U.S. Patent No. 4,678,097. The complaint further alleges that an industry in the United States exists as required by subsection (a)(2) of section 337.

The complainant requests that the Commission institute an investigation and, after the investigation, issue a permanent exclusion order and permanent cease and desist orders.

The motion for temporary relief requests that the Commission issue a temporary limited exclusion order and temporary cease and desist orders prohibiting the importation into and the sale within the United States after importation of certain automotive fuel caps and components thereof that infringe claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 5,449,086, claims 38 and 39 of U.S. Patent No. 5,794,806, and claims 1 and 2 of U.S. Patent No. 5,480,055 during the course of the Commission's investigation.

ADDRESSES: The complaint and motion for temporary relief, except for any confidential information contained therein, are available for inspection during official business hours (8:45 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.) in the Office of the Secretary, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, S.W., Room 112, Washington, D.C. 20436, telephone 202-205-2000. Hearing impaired individuals are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal on 202-205-1810. Persons with mobility impairments who will need special assistance in gaining access to the Commission should contact the Office of the Secretary at 202-205-2000. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its internet server at <http://www.usitc.gov>. The public record for this investigation may be viewed on the Commission's electronic document information system (EDIS) at <http://edis.usitc.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jay H. Reiziss, Esq., Office of Unfair Import Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, telephone 202-205-2579.

AUTHORITY: The authority for institution of this investigation is contained in section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, and in section 210.10 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 19 C.F.R. §210.10 (2003). The authority for provisional acceptance of the motion for temporary relief is contained in section 210.58, 19 C.F.R. § 210.58.

SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION: Having considered the complaint and the motion for temporary relief, the U.S. International Trade Commission, on March 7, 2005, ORDERED THAT –

(1) Pursuant to subsection (b) of section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, an investigation be instituted to determine whether there is a violation of subsection (a)(1)(B) of section 337 in the importation into the United States, the sale for importation, or the sale within the United States after importation, of certain automotive fuel caps or components thereof by reason of infringement of one or more of claims 1, 5, and 6 of U.S. Patent No. 5,449,086, claims 32, 38, 39, and 41 of U.S. Patent No. 5,794,806, claims 1, 2, 10, and 13-15 of U.S. Patent No. 5,480,055, and claims 11-13, 19-22, 24-29, 31, 32, and 34-42 of U.S. Patent No. 4,678,097 and whether an industry in the United States exists as required by subsection (a)(2) of section 337.

(2) Pursuant to section 210.58 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 19 C.F.R. § 210.58, the motion for temporary relief under subsection (e) of section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, which was filed with the complaint, is provisionally accepted and referred to the presiding administrative law judge for investigation.

(3) For the purpose of the investigation so instituted, the following are hereby named as parties upon which this notice of investigation shall be served:

(a) The complainant is –

Stant Manufacturing, Inc.
1620 Columbia Avenue
Connersville, IN 47331

(b) The respondents are the following companies and individuals alleged to be in violation of section 337, and are the parties upon which the complaint is to be served:

Gerdes GmbH
Siemensstr. 6
50170 Kerpen-Sindorf
Germany

Gerdes GmbH
Olympiastrasse 1
26419 Schortens
Germany

Gerdes BVBA
Bakhuisstraat 2
B-3920 Lommel
Belgium

Theodor Gerdes
c/o Gerdes GmbH
Siemensstr. 6
50170 Kerpen-Sindorf
Germany

Ralf Gerdes
c/o Gerdes GmbH
Siemensstr. 6
50170 Kerpen-Sindorf
Germany

Monika Gerdes
c/o Gerdes GmbH
Siemensstr. 6
50170 Kerpen-Sindorf
Germany

(c) Jay H. Reiziss, Esq., Office of Unfair Import Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, S.W., Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20436, who shall be the Commission investigative attorney, party to this investigation; and

(4) For the investigation so instituted, the Honorable Sidney Harris is designated as the presiding administrative law judge.

Responses to the complaint, the motion for temporary relief, and the notice of investigation must be submitted by the named respondents in accordance with section 210.13 and 210.59 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 19 C.F.R. §§ 210.13 and 210.59. Pursuant to 19 C.F.R. §§201.16(d), 210.13(a), and 210.59, such responses will be considered by the Commission if received not later than 10 days after the date of service by the Commission of the complaint, the motion for temporary relief, and the notice of investigation. Extensions of time for submitting the responses to the complaint, motion for temporary relief, and the notice of investigation will not be granted unless good cause therefor is shown.

Failure of a respondent to file a timely response to each allegation in the complaint, in the motion for temporary relief, and in this notice may be deemed to constitute a waiver of the right to appear and contest the allegations of the complaint, the motion for temporary relief, and this notice, and to authorize the administrative law judge and the Commission, without further notice to the respondent, to find the facts to be as alleged in the complaint, the motion for temporary relief, and this notice and to enter both an initial determination and a final determination containing such findings, and may result in the issuance of a limited exclusion order or cease and desist order or both directed against such respondent.

By order of the Commission.

Marilyn R. Abbott
Secretary to the Commission

Issued: March 7, 2005