

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20436

In the Matter of

**CERTAIN BULK WELDING WIRE
CONTAINERS AND COMPONENTS
THEREOF AND WELDING WIRE**

Inv. No. 337-TA-686

NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION

AGENCY: U.S. International Trade Commission

ACTION: Institution of investigation pursuant to 19 U.S.C. § 1337

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a complaint was filed with the U.S. International Trade Commission on August 7, 2009, under section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, 19 U.S.C. § 1337, on behalf of The Lincoln Electric Company of Cleveland, Ohio and Lincoln Global, Inc. of City of Industry, California. A letter supplementing the complaint was filed on August 20, 2009. The complaint alleges violations of section 337 based upon the importation into the United States, the sale for importation, and the sale within the United States after importation of certain bulk welding wire containers and components thereof and welding wire by reason of infringement of certain claims of U.S. Patent Nos. 6,260,781; 6,648,141; 6,708,864; 6,913,145; 7,309,038; 7,398,881; and 7,410,111. The complaint further alleges that an industry in the United States exists as required by subsection (a)(2) of section 337.

The complainants request that the Commission institute an investigation and, after the investigation, issue an exclusion order and cease and desist orders.

ADDRESSES: The complaint and the supplement, 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 docket (EDIS) at <http://edis.usitc.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Benjamin Levi, Esq., Office of Unfair Import Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, telephone (202) 205-2781.

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 (2009).

SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION: Having considered the complaint, the U.S. International Trade Commission, on September 1, 2009, 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 bulk welding wire containers or components thereof or welding wire that infringe one or more of claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,260,781; claims 1, 4, 8, and 9 of U.S. Patent No. 6,648,141; claims 3, 4, 6, 12, and 13 of U.S. Patent No. 6,708,864; claim 4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,913,145; claims 1-7, 12, 13, 16, 19-24, 31, 33-36, 43, and 46 of U.S. Patent No. 7,309,038; claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 7,398,881; and claim 11 of U.S. Patent No. 7,410,111, and whether an industry in the United States exists as required by subsection (a)(2) of section 337;

(2) 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 complainants are –

The Lincoln Electric Company
22801 St. Clair Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44117-1199

Lincoln Global, Inc.
17721 Railroad Street
City of Industry, California 91748

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

Atlantic China Welding Consumables, Inc.
Zigong, Sichuan 643010
China

ESAB AB
Box 8004
Lindholmsallen 9
Göteborg, S-402 77, Sweden

Hyundai Welding Co., Ltd.
Ilsong Building 15F
157-37 Samsung 1-dong
Gangnam-gu Seoul, 135 880
Korea

Kiswel Co., Ltd.
Huengkook Building
43-1 Juja Dong, Seoul, Korea

Sidergas SpA
Viale Rimembranza 17
37010 S. Ambrogio (Verona) Italy

(c) The Commission investigative attorney, party to this investigation, is Benjamin Levi, Esq., Office of Unfair Import Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, S.W., Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20436; and

(3) For the investigation so instituted, the Honorable Paul J. Luckern, Chief Administrative Law Judge, U.S. International Trade Commission, shall designate the presiding administrative law judge.

Responses to the complaint and the notice of investigation must be submitted by the named respondents in accordance with section 210.13 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 19 C.F.R. § 210.13. Pursuant to 19 C.F.R. §§ 201.16(d) and 210.13(a), such responses will be considered by the Commission if received not later than 20 days after the date of service by the Commission of the complaint and the notice of investigation. Extensions of time for submitting responses to the complaint 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 and in this notice may be deemed to constitute a waiver of the right to appear and contest the allegations of the complaint 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 and this notice and to enter an initial determination and a final determination containing such findings, and may result in the issuance of an exclusion order or a cease and desist order or both directed against the respondent.

By order of the Commission.

/s/
Marilyn R. Abbott
Secretary to the Commission

Issued: September 2, 2009