

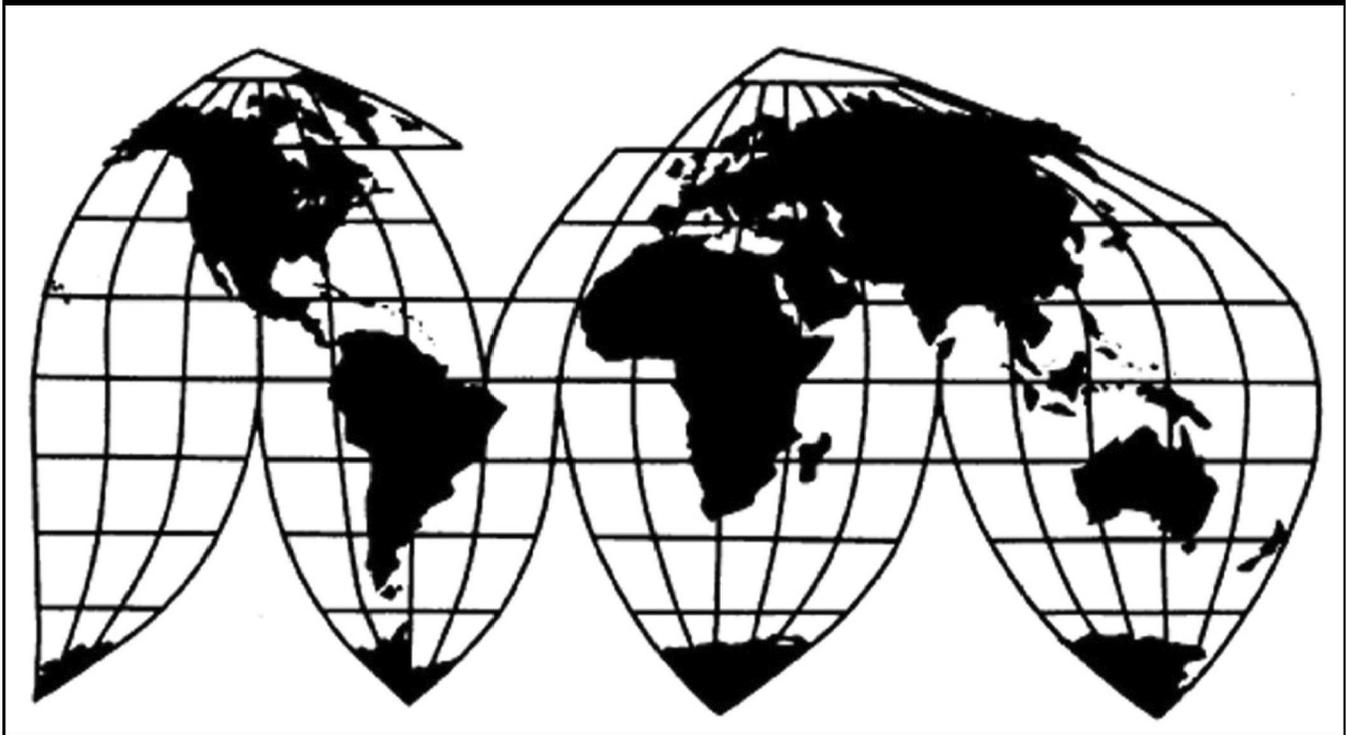
Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand

Investigation Nos. 731-TA-308-310 and 520-521 (Fifth Review)

Publication 5276

February 2022

U.S. International Trade Commission



Washington, DC 20436

U.S. International Trade Commission

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UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

Investigation Nos. 731-TA-308-310 and 520-521 (Fifth Review)

Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand

DETERMINATIONS

On the basis of the record¹ developed in the subject five-year reviews, the United States International Trade Commission (“Commission”) determines, pursuant to the Tariff Act of 1930 (“the Act”), that revocation of the antidumping duty orders on carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time.

BACKGROUND

The Commission instituted these reviews on July 1, 2021 (86 FR 35133) and determined on October 4, 2021 that it would conduct expedited reviews (86 FR 72620, December 22, 2021).

¹ The record is defined in § 207.2(f) of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR 207.2(f)).

Views of the Commission

Based on the record in these five-year reviews, we determine under section 751(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (“the Tariff Act”), that revocation of the antidumping duty orders on carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings (“carbon steel BWPF”) from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time.

I. Background

Original Investigations. In February 1986, the Commission instituted investigations on carbon BWPF from Brazil, Japan, and Taiwan.¹ In December 1986, the Commission determined that an industry in the United States was materially injured by reason of carbon steel BWPF from Brazil and Taiwan sold at less-than- fair value (“LTFV”).² In January 1987, the Commission determined that an industry in the United States was materially injured by reason of LTFV imports of carbon steel BWPF from Japan.³ Commerce issued antidumping duty orders with respect to imports from Brazil and Taiwan on December 17, 1986,⁴ and with respect to imports from Japan on February 10, 1987.⁵ On May 22, 1991, the Commission instituted investigations on imports of carbon steel BWPF from China and Thailand.⁶ In June 1992, the Commission determined that an industry in the United States was threatened with material injury by reason

¹ *Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From Brazil, Japan, and Taiwan*, 51 Fed. Reg. 30557 (Aug. 27, 1986).

² *Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From Brazil and Taiwan*, Inv. Nos. 731-TA-308, 310 (Final), USITC Pub. 1918 (Dec. 1986) (“Original Determinations on Brazil and Taiwan, USITC Pub. 1918”).

³ *Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings from Japan*, Inv. No. 731-TA-309 (Final), USITC Pub. 1943 (Jan. 1987) (“Original Determination on Japan, USITC Pub. 1943”). Commerce postponed the date for its final determination on subject imports from Japan at the respondent’s request. *Original Determinations on Brazil and Taiwan*, USITC Pub. 1918 at 1 n.3, 15.

⁴ *Antidumping Duty Order; Certain Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From Brazil*, 51 Fed. Reg. 45152 (Dec. 17, 1986); *Antidumping Duty Order; Certain Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From Taiwan*, 51 Fed. Reg. 45152 (Dec. 17, 1986).

⁵ *Antidumping Duty Order; Certain Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From Japan*, 52 Fed. Reg. 4167 (Feb. 10, 1987).

⁶ *Certain Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From China and Thailand; Investigation*, 57 Fed. Reg. 2783 (Jan. 23, 1992).

of LTFV imports of carbon steel BWPF from China and Thailand.⁷ Commerce issued antidumping duty orders with respect to imports from China and Thailand on July 6, 1992.⁸

First Reviews. The Commission instituted its first five-year reviews concerning the antidumping duty orders on carbon steel BWPF from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand in May 1999.⁹ The Commission conducted expedited reviews and determined that revocation of the orders on carbon steel BWPF from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time.¹⁰ Commerce subsequently published a continuation of the antidumping duty orders.¹¹

Second Reviews. The Commission instituted the second five-year reviews in December 2004.¹² Although the Commission found the domestic interested party response to the notice of institution to be adequate and the respondent interested party response to be inadequate, it determined that other circumstances warranted conducting full reviews.¹³ In October 2005, the Commission determined that revocation of the orders would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a

⁷ *Certain Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings from China and Thailand*, Inv. Nos. 731-TA-520 and 521 (Final), USITC Pub. 2528 (June 1992) (“Original Determinations on China and Thailand, USITC Pub. 2528”).

⁸ *Antidumping Duty Order; Certain Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From Thailand*, 57 Fed. Reg. 29702 (Jul. 6, 1992). One producer in Thailand, Awaji Materia Co., received a *de minimis* dumping margin and is currently excluded from the order. *Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand*, Inv. Nos. 731-TA-308-10, and 520-521 (Fourth Reviews), USITC Pub. 4628 (Aug. 2016) at I-34 (“Fourth Five-Year Reviews, USITC Pub. 4628”).

⁹ See *Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand*, 64 Fed. Reg. 23672 (May. 3, 1999).

¹⁰ *Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand*, Inv. Nos. 731-TA-308-310 and 520-521 (Review), USITC Pub. 3263 (Dec. 1999) (“First Five-Year Reviews, USITC Pub. 3263”).

¹¹ *Continuation of Antidumping duty Orders: Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand*, 65 Fed. Reg. 753 (Jan. 6, 2000).

¹² *Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand*, 70 Fed. Reg. 14713 (Mar. 23, 2005).

¹³ Explanation of Commission Determination on Adequacy in Carbon Steel Butt- Weld Pipe Fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand, Inv. Nos. 731-TA-308-310 and 520- 521 (Second Review).

reasonably foreseeable time.¹⁴ Commerce subsequently published a continuation of the antidumping duty orders.¹⁵

Third Reviews. The Commission conducted expedited third five-year reviews.¹⁶ In April 2011, the Commission determined that revocation of the orders would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time.¹⁷ Commerce subsequently published a continuation of the antidumping duty orders.¹⁸

Fourth Reviews. The Commission instituted the fourth five-year reviews in March 2016.¹⁹ The Commission conducted expedited reviews and determined that revocation of the antidumping duty orders on carbon steel BWPF from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand would likely lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time.²⁰ Commerce subsequently published a continuation of the antidumping duty orders.²¹

¹⁴ *Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand*, Inv. Nos. 731-TA-308-310, and 520-521 (Second Review), USITC Pub. 3809 (Oct. 2005) (“Second Five-Year Reviews, USITC Pub. 3809”).

¹⁵ *Continuation of Antidumping duty Orders: Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand*, 70 Fed. Reg. 70059 (Nov. 21, 2005).

¹⁶ *Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand*, 76 Fed. Reg. 5205 (Jan. 28, 2011) (Scheduling of Five-Year Reviews); Explanation of Commission Determination on Adequacy in Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand, Inv. Nos. 731-TA-308-310 and 520-521 (Third Review).

¹⁷ *Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand*, Inv. Nos. 731-TA-308-10, and 520-521 (Third Review), USITC Pub. 4222 (Apr. 2011) (“Third Five-Year Reviews, USITC Pub. 4222”).

¹⁸ *Certain Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From Brazil, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, and the People’s Republic of China: Continuation of Antidumping Duty Orders*, 76 Fed. Reg. 21331 (Apr. 15, 2011).

¹⁹ *Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand; Institution of Five-Year Reviews*, 81 Fed. Reg. 10656 (Mar. 1, 2016).

²⁰ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628. Commissioner Broadbent determined that revocation of the antidumping duty order on carbon steel BWPF from Brazil would not be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time. *Id.* at 3.

²¹ *Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings from Brazil, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, and the People’s Republic of China: Continuation of Antidumping Duty Orders*, 81 Fed. Reg. 57562 (August 23, 2016).

Current reviews. The Commission instituted the current reviews on July 1, 2021.²² The Commission received a joint response to the notice of institution and written comments on behalf of Tube Forgings of America, Inc. (“TFA”), Mills Iron Works, Inc. (“MIW”), and Hackney Ladish, Inc. (a subsidiary of Precision Castparts Corp.) (“HL”);²³ and a separate response to the notice of institution and written comments from Weldbend Corporation (“Weldbend”) (collectively “domestic producers”).²⁴ No respondent party participated in these reviews. On October 4, 2021, the Commission determined that the domestic interested party group response to the notice of institution was adequate and that the respondent interested party group response for each review was inadequate. In the absence of any other circumstances warranting full reviews, the Commission determined to conduct expedited reviews of the orders.²⁵ The domestic producers submitted final comments pursuant to Commission rule 207.62(d)(1) on January 7, 2022.²⁶

U.S. industry data are based on information that the domestic producers, which are estimated to have accounted for *** percent of domestic production of carbon steel BWPF in 2020, furnished in responses to the notice of institution.²⁷ U.S. import data and related information are based on official Commerce import statistics.²⁸ Foreign industry data and related information are based on information furnished by domestic producers, questionnaire

²² *Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand; Institution of Five-Year Reviews*, 86 Fed. Reg. 35133 (July 1, 2021).

²³ See Confidential Report, INV-TT-106 (Sep. 22, 2021) (“CR”)/Public Report (“PR”) at I-2; Tube Forgings, Mills Iron, and Hackney Ladish’s Response to Commission’s Notice of Institution, EDIS Doc. 748320 (Jul. 30, 2021) (“Joint Response”) at 1; Tube Forgings, Mills Iron, and Hackney Ladish’s Final Comments, EDIS Doc. 760006 (Jan. 7, 2022) (“Joint Final Comments”).

²⁴ See CR/PR at I-2; Weldbend Response to Commission’s Notice of Institution, EDIS Doc. 748476 (Aug. 02, 2021) (“Weldbend Response”) at 1; Weldbend Final Comments, EDIS Doc. 759957 (Jan. 7, 2022) (“Weldbend Final Comments”).

²⁵ See *Scheduling of Expedited Five-Year Review; Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand*, 86 Fed. Reg. 72620 (Dec. 22, 2021). Commissioner Johanson determined that, in light of the time that had transpired since the Commission last conducted full reviews of these orders, conducting full reviews was warranted. Explanation of Commission Determination on Adequacy, EDIS Doc. 761561 (Jan. 27, 2022) at n.1.

²⁶ Joint Final Comments; Weldbend Final Comments.

²⁷ See CR/PR at Table I-1; Joint Response at 29; Weldbend Response at 7. TFA, MIW, and HL estimated that their combined shares of U.S. production of carbon steel BWPF was *** percent in 2020 and they estimated that Weldbend’s share of total U.S. production of carbon steel BWPF in 2020 was *** percent. Joint Response at 29-30. Weldbend reported that it did not know what proportion of total U.S. production of carbon steel BWPF was accounted for by its production in 2020. Weldbend Response at 7.

²⁸ See CR/PR at Tables I-4 and I-5.

responses from the previous investigations, and publicly available information gathered by the Commission staff.²⁹ Seven U.S. purchasers responded to the Commission’s adequacy phase questionnaire.³⁰

II. Domestic Like Product and Industry

A. Domestic Like Product

In making its determination under section 751(c) of the Tariff Act, the Commission defines the “domestic like product” and the “industry.”³¹ The Tariff Act defines “domestic like product” as “a product which is like, or in the absence of like, most similar in characteristics and uses with, the article subject to an investigation under this subtitle.”³² The Commission’s practice in five-year reviews is to examine the domestic like product definition from the original investigation and consider whether the record indicates any reason to revisit the prior findings.³³

Commerce has defined the imported merchandise within the scope of the orders under review as follows:

. . . {C}ertain carbon steel butt-weld type fittings, other than couplings, under 14 inches in diameter, whether finished or unfinished. These imports are currently classified under subheading 7307.93.30 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS).³⁴

²⁹ See CR/PR at I-28, I-30, I-32, I-34, and I-36 and Tables I-6, I-7, I-8, I-9 and I-10.

³⁰ CR/PR at D-3.

³¹ 19 U.S.C. § 1677(4)(A).

³² 19 U.S.C. § 1677(10); see, e.g., *Cleo Inc. v. United States*, 501 F.3d 1291, 1299 (Fed. Cir. 2007); *NEC Corp. v. Dep’t of Commerce*, 36 F. Supp. 2d 380, 383 (Ct. Int’l Trade 1998); *Nippon Steel Corp. v. United States*, 19 CIT 450, 455 (1995); *Timken Co. v. United States*, 913 F. Supp. 580, 584 (Ct. Int’l Trade 1996); *Torrington Co. v. United States*, 747 F. Supp. 744, 748-49 (Ct. Int’l Trade 1990), *aff’d*, 938 F.2d 1278 (Fed. Cir. 1991); see also S. Rep. No. 249, 96th Cong., 1st Sess. 90-91 (1979).

³³ See, e.g., *Internal Combustion Industrial Forklift Trucks from Japan*, Inv. No. 731-TA-377 (Second Review), USITC Pub. 3831 at 8-9 (Dec. 2005); *Crawfish Tail Meat from China*, Inv. No. 731-TA-752 (Review), USITC Pub. 3614 at 4 (July 2003); *Steel Concrete Reinforcing Bar from Turkey*, Inv. No. 731-TA-745 (Review), USITC Pub. 3577 at 4 (Feb. 2003).

³⁴ *Certain Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From Brazil, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, and the People’s Republic of China: Final Results of Expedited Sunset Review of the Antidumping Orders*, 86 Fed. Reg. 51869 (Sep. 17, 2021) (“Commerce AD Sunset Determination”). In Commerce’s Issues and Decision Memorandum accompanying the final results of the expedited reviews, the scope definitions for the orders on carbon steel BWPF from Brazil, Japan, and Taiwan, on the one hand, and the orders on carbon (Continued...)

The scope definition set out above is substantively unchanged since the original investigations.³⁵

Butt-weld pipe fittings are used to connect pipe sections where conditions require permanent, welded connections. The beveled edges of butt-weld pipe fittings distinguish them from other types of pipe fittings, such as threaded, grooved, or bolted fittings, which rely on different types of fastening methods. When placed against the end of a beveled pipe or another fitting, the beveled edges of a butt-weld pipe fitting form a shallow channel that accommodates the “bead” of the weld that fastens the two adjoining pieces. Butt-weld pipe fittings can be produced from various materials, including carbon steel, alloy steel, and stainless steel; however, only those butt-weld pipe fittings produced from carbon steel and which are under 14 inches (356 mm) in inside diameter are covered by these reviews.³⁶ Carbon steel BWPF are produced in several basic shapes, the most common of which are elbows, tees, reducers, and caps.³⁷

Carbon steel BWPF are utilized in residential, commercial, and industrial pipe systems in chemical synthesis, petroleum refining, electric-power generation, construction, and shipbuilding. Butt-weld pipe fittings join pipes in straight lines and change or divide the flow of fluids (oil, water, natural gas or other gasses, or steam). They are welded into permanent, fixed piping systems that convey gases or liquids in plumbing, heating, refrigeration, air-conditioning, automatic fire sprinklers, electric conduit, irrigation, and process-piping systems. Butt-weld pipe fittings are also found in structural applications for construction, where pipes and fittings are used as support members.³⁸

(...Continued)

steel BWPF from China and Thailand, on the other, each contain slight variations in wording. *Issues and Decision Memorandum for the Final Results of the Expedited Sunset Review of the Antidumping Duty Order on Certain Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From Brazil, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, and the People’s Republic of China* (Sep. 10, 2021) (“Commerce I&D Memorandum”) at 3-4. This was also the case in prior reviews. *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 6 n.26.

³⁵ In the second five-year reviews, the Commission observed that Commerce’s definition of the subject merchandise was essentially the same for all five countries. *Second Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3809 at 5 n.10.

³⁶ CR/PR at I-10.

³⁷ CR/PR at I-10 and Figure I-1. Elbows are two-outlet fittings usually having a 45-degree or 90-degree bend, tees are T-shaped fittings having three outlets, and reducers are two-outlet fittings that connect pipes of two different diameters. Caps are used to seal the end of a pipe. There are further variations within each class of fitting based on differences in the size of one or more of the outlets (for example, there are reducing elbows and reducing tees). *Id.*

³⁸ CR/PR at I-12.

In the original investigations, the Commission found that the domestic like product included both finished and unfinished carbon steel BWPF with an inside diameter of less than 14 inches, coextensive with Commerce's scope definition.³⁹ In the 1986 original investigations on Brazil, Taiwan, and Japan, the Commission based its determination on the fact that all in-scope carbon steel BWPF met international standards, had similar physical characteristics, and were interchangeable. Moreover, the Commission examined whether unfinished butt-weld pipe fittings and finished butt-weld pipe fittings constituted a single like product and found that they did.⁴⁰ In the 1992 original investigations on China and Thailand, the Commission again examined whether finished and unfinished carbon steel BWPF constituted a single domestic like product and again found that they did.⁴¹ It consequently defined a domestic like product coextensive with the scope.⁴²

In the prior five-year reviews, the Commission found that none of the information obtained in the reviews warranted a departure from its original definition of the domestic like product. Consequently, in each of the reviews the Commission defined a single domestic like product encompassing all carbon steel BWPF corresponding to Commerce's scope.⁴³

In these reviews, TFA, MIW, and HL agree with the definition of the domestic like product adopted by the Commission in the prior proceedings.⁴⁴ Weldbend did not address the definition of the domestic like product. The record contains no new information suggesting that the characteristics and uses of domestically produced carbon steel BWPF have changed since the original investigations so as to warrant revisiting the Commission's domestic like product definition.⁴⁵ We therefore define a single domestic like product of carbon steel BWPF that is coextensive with the scope of these reviews.

³⁹ *Original Determinations on Brazil and Taiwan*, USITC Pub. 1918 at 6; *Original Determination on Japan*, USITC Pub. 1943 at 6; *Original Determinations on China and Thailand*, USITC Pub. 2528 at 4-5.

⁴⁰ *Original Determinations on Brazil and Taiwan*, USITC Pub. 1918 at 6; *Original Determination on Japan*, USITC Pub. 1943 at 6. The Commission's single like product determination focused on the lack of any independent market for unfinished pipe fittings and the identical production equipment used in producing finished and unfinished pipe fittings. *Original Determinations on Brazil and Taiwan*, USITC Pub. 1918 at 6.

⁴¹ *Original Determinations on China and Thailand*, USITC Pub. 2528 at 5.

⁴² *Original Determinations on China and Thailand*, USITC Pub. 2528 at 5.

⁴³ *First Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3263 at 5; *Second Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3809 at 5; *Third Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4222 at 5; *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 7.

⁴⁴ Joint Final Comments at 3.

⁴⁵ See generally CR/PR at I-12.

B. Domestic Industry

Section 771(4)(A) of the Tariff Act defines the relevant industry as the domestic “producers as a whole of a domestic like product, or those producers whose collective output of a domestic like product constitutes a major proportion of the total domestic production of the product.”⁴⁶ In defining the domestic industry, the Commission’s general practice has been to include in the industry producers of all domestic production of the like product, whether toll-produced, captively consumed, or sold in the domestic merchant market.

In the original investigations on Brazil, Japan, and Taiwan, the Commission defined a single domestic industry including integrated producers, combination producers, and converters.⁴⁷ In the original investigations on China and Thailand, the Commission defined the domestic industry to include all domestic producers of carbon steel BWPF except for Weldbend and Tube Line, which the Commission excluded as related parties.⁴⁸

In the first five-year reviews, the Commission defined the domestic industry to include all domestic producers of carbon steel BWPF having an inside diameter of less than 14 inches, whether finished or unfinished, including Weldbend, since it was no longer a related party, but again excluding Tube Line as a related party.⁴⁹ In the second five-year reviews, the Commission defined the domestic industry to include all domestic producers of carbon steel BWPF, and determined that circumstances were not appropriate to exclude Tube Line and *** from the domestic industry as related parties.⁵⁰ In the third and fourth five-year reviews, the Commission defined the domestic industry as all domestic producers of carbon steel BWPF.⁵¹

In the current reviews, Weldbend argues that, consistent with the Commission’s approach in prior reviews of the orders, the Commission should include Weldbend in the definition of the domestic industry.⁵² No other party addressed domestic industry and there

⁴⁶ 19 U.S.C. § 1677(4)(A). The definitions in 19 U.S.C. § 1677 are applicable to the entire subtitle containing the antidumping and countervailing duty laws, including 19 U.S.C. §§ 1675 and 1675a. *See* 19 U.S.C. § 1677.

⁴⁷ *Original Determinations on Brazil and Taiwan*, USITC Pub. 1918 at 7-9; *Original Determination on Japan*, USITC Pub. 1943 at 6.

⁴⁸ *Original Determinations on China and Thailand*, USITC Pub. 2528 at 16.

⁴⁹ *First Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3263 at 6-7, 6 n.22.

⁵⁰ *Second Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3809 at 6-7; *Confidential Second Five-Year Reviews*, EDIS Doc. 580472 at 9-10.

⁵¹ *Third Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4222 at 6; *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 8. No producers were excluded as related parties. *See Id.*

⁵² Weldbend Response at 11.

are no related party issues.⁵³ Therefore, we define the domestic industry to include all U.S. producers of carbon steel BWPF.

III. Cumulation

A. Legal Standard

With respect to five-year reviews, section 752(a) of the Tariff Act provides as follows: the Commission may cumulatively assess the volume and effect of imports of the subject merchandise from all countries with respect to which reviews under section 1675(b) or (c) of this title were initiated on the same day, if such imports would be likely to compete with each other and with domestic like products in the United States market. The Commission shall not cumulatively assess the volume and effects of imports of the subject merchandise in a case in which it determines that such imports are likely to have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry.⁵⁴

Cumulation therefore is discretionary in five-year reviews, unlike original investigations, which are governed by section 771(7)(G)(i) of the Tariff Act.⁵⁵ The Commission may exercise its discretion to cumulate, however, only if the reviews are initiated on the same day, the Commission determines that the subject imports are likely to compete with each other and the domestic like product in the U.S. market, and imports from each such subject country are not likely to have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry in the event of revocation. Our focus in five-year reviews is not only on present conditions of competition, but also on likely conditions of competition in the reasonably foreseeable future. The statutory

⁵³ See Joint Response at 30; Weldbend Response at 5.

⁵⁴ 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(7).

⁵⁵ 19 U.S.C. § 1677(7)(G)(i); see also, e.g., *Nucor Corp. v. United States*, 601 F.3d 1291, 1293 (Fed. Cir. 2010) (Commission may reasonably consider likely differing conditions of competition in deciding whether to cumulate subject imports in five-year reviews); *Allegheny Ludlum Corp. v. United States*, 475 F. Supp. 2d 1370, 1378 (Ct. Int'l Trade 2006) (recognizing the wide latitude the Commission has in selecting the types of factors it considers relevant in deciding whether to exercise discretion to cumulate subject imports in five-year reviews); *Nucor Corp. v. United States*, 569 F. Supp. 2d 1328, 1337-38 (Ct. Int'l Trade 2008).

threshold for cumulation is satisfied in these reviews because each review was initiated effective the same day: July 1, 2021.⁵⁶

B. The Original Investigations and Arguments of Domestic Producers

In the original investigations on Brazil, Japan, and Taiwan, the Commission cumulated subject imports of carbon steel BWPF from the three countries. It found that imports from each subject country were simultaneously present in the market and that they competed with each other and the domestic like product.⁵⁷ It found that all carbon steel BWPF must meet industry standards⁵⁸ and could be used interchangeably, and that there were common channels of distribution for finished carbon steel BWPF, with the vast majority of sales to jobbers or distributors.⁵⁹

In the original investigations on China and Thailand, the Commission cumulated imports from the two subject countries. The Commission found that there was a reasonable overlap of competition among imports from China and Thailand and the domestic like product.⁶⁰ The Commission found that the record clearly established that subject imports from China and Thailand and the domestic like product were simultaneously present in the market, with significant shipments of products from all three sources throughout the period of investigation; all the products used the same channels of distribution; and imports from China and Thailand and the domestic like product were sold in the same geographic market.⁶¹ While the parties disputed whether subject imports from China were fungible with the domestic product, the Commission found that the domestically produced product and subject imports from China and Thailand competed in the non-approved market, which constituted the majority of the total U.S. market.⁶²

⁵⁶ See *Initiation of Five-Year (Sunset) Reviews*, 86 Fed. Reg. 35070 (Jul. 1, 2021); *Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand; Institution of Five-Year Reviews*, 86 Fed. Reg. 35133 (Jul. 1, 2021).

⁵⁷ *Original Determinations on Brazil and Taiwan*, USITC Pub. 1918 at 15; *Original Determination on Japan*, USITC Pub. 1943 at 8.

⁵⁸ These standards were developed by the American National Standards Institute (“ANSI”) and the American Society for Testing and Materials (“ASTM”). *Original Determinations on Brazil and Taiwan*, USITC Pub. 1918 at 14.

⁵⁹ *Original Determinations on Brazil and Taiwan*, USITC Pub. 1918 at 15; *Original Determination on Japan*, USITC Pub. 1943 at 8.

⁶⁰ *Original Determinations on China and Thailand*, USITC Pub. 2528 at 23.

⁶¹ *Original Determinations on China and Thailand*, USITC Pub. 2528 at 23.

⁶² *Original Determinations on China and Thailand*, USITC Pub. 2528 at 23.

In the first five-year reviews, the Commission exercised its discretion to cumulate subject imports from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand, based on a likely reasonable overlap of competition and no significant differences in other conditions of competition likely to prevail.⁶³ The Commission observed that all carbon steel BWPF, domestic or imported, must meet ASTM and ANSI specifications and could be used interchangeably, except in certain applications where certification was required.⁶⁴ The Commission recalled its findings in the original investigations, and observed with respect to China and Thailand that subject imports and the domestic like product were sold in the same geographic markets. It found that there was no evidence on the record of those reviews that suggested that subject imports would not compete with each other and the domestic like product if the orders were revoked.⁶⁵ The Commission expected competitive conditions to return to those prior to the existence of the orders, in light of the fact that the industries in the subject countries remained structured as they were during the original investigations, with the possible exception of China.⁶⁶

In the second five-year reviews, the Commission found that subject imports from each of the five subject countries would not be likely to have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry if the orders were revoked.⁶⁷ The Commission found a likely reasonable overlap of competition between the domestic like product and imports from all five subject countries.⁶⁸ It found that there was a moderately high level of substitutability between domestically produced carbon steel BWPF and subject imports.⁶⁹ It also found that subject imports and the domestic like product were generally dispersed throughout the United States during the period of review, that subject imports from each country were present in the U.S. market at least during some months of the review period, and that domestic producers and importers made 100 percent of their sales to distributors.⁷⁰

In the third five-year reviews, the Commission found that there was no new evidence on the record that warranted departure from the Commission's finding in the second five-year

⁶³ *First Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3263 at 10-11. In accordance with the statute for cumulation in five -year reviews (19. U.S.C. § 1675a(7)), the Commission can group reviews and cumulate reviews "initiated on the same day" even if the original petitions were filed in different years.

⁶⁴ *First Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3263 at 10.

⁶⁵ *First Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3263 at 10.

⁶⁶ *First Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3263 at 10.

⁶⁷ *Second Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3809 at 9.

⁶⁸ *Second Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3809 at 11.

⁶⁹ *Second Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3809 at 11.

⁷⁰ *Second Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3809 at 12.

reviews that revocation of any of the antidumping duty orders on Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand would likely have a discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry.⁷¹ According to the Commission, its findings regarding the likely reasonable overlap of competition from the second reviews remained valid as there was no new information on the record suggesting otherwise.⁷² It further found that there was no indication of other significant differences in the likely conditions of competition.⁷³

In the fourth five-year reviews, the Commission found that imports from any of the subject countries would not likely have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry in the event of revocation.⁷⁴ In addition, the record included no information suggesting that, upon revocation, imports from any subject country would have appreciably different characteristics, distribution patterns, or presence in the market than in the past. Accordingly, the Commission found a likely reasonable overlap of competition among subject imports from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand, and between subject imports from each country and the domestic like product, should the orders be revoked.⁷⁵ It further found that there was no indication of other significant differences in the likely conditions of competition. The Commission therefore determined to cumulate subject imports from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand.⁷⁶

In these reviews, only TFA, MIW, and HL addressed cumulation in their joint response and comments. TFA, MIW, and HL argue that revocation of the orders under review for each subject country would have a discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry.⁷⁷ Additionally, they claim that a reasonable overlap of competition among subject imports and the domestic like product is likely if the orders are revoked because the pertinent facts have not changed since the original investigations. They highlight that in the prior proceedings, the Commission found that subject imports from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand were fungible, as they had to meet the same ASTM and ANSI standards, shared the same channels of distribution, were sold in the same geographic markets, and were concentrated in the same geographic regions of the United States.⁷⁸ They assert that the record in these reviews

⁷¹ *Third Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4222 at 7.

⁷² *Third Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4222 at 9.

⁷³ *Third Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4222 at 7.

⁷⁴ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 12-14.

⁷⁵ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 17.

⁷⁶ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 17-18.

⁷⁷ Joint Response at 4-15.

⁷⁸ Joint Response at 15-18; Joint Final Comments at 4-7.

indicates an overlap in the time periods and geographic regions in which subject imports from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand entered the U.S. market.⁷⁹ Accordingly, they argue that the Commission should exercise its discretion to cumulate subject imports from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand.⁸⁰

C. Analysis

1. Likely Discernible Adverse Impact

The statute precludes cumulation if the Commission finds that subject imports from a country are likely to have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry.⁸¹ Neither the statute nor the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (“URAA”) Statement of Administrative Action (“SAA”) provides specific guidance on what factors the Commission is to consider in determining that imports “are likely to have no discernible adverse impact” on the domestic industry.⁸² With respect to this provision, the Commission generally considers the likely volume of subject imports and the likely impact of those imports on the domestic industry within a reasonably foreseeable time if the orders are revoked. Our analysis for each of the subject countries takes into account, among other things, the nature of the product and the behavior of subject imports in the original investigations.

Based on the record in these reviews, we find that imports from each subject country are not likely to have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry in the event of revocation of the corresponding order.

Brazil. In the original investigations the share of apparent U.S. consumption held by subject imports from Brazil increased from *** percent in 1983 to *** percent in 1985.⁸³ Subject imports from Brazil were *** pounds in 1985.⁸⁴ In the fourth five-year reviews, the Commission noted that since the imposition of the order, subject imports from Brazil were essentially absent from the U.S. market; there were no subject imports from Brazil from 2010 to 2015.⁸⁵ The record also indicated that producers in Brazil exported 1.2 million pounds of

⁷⁹ Joint Response at 16-18; Joint Final Comments at 5-7.

⁸⁰ Joint Response at 3; Joint Final Comments at 3.

⁸¹ 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(7).

⁸² SAA, H.R. Rep. No. 103-316, vol. I at 887 (1994).

⁸³ CR/PR at Appendix C, Table I-6.

⁸⁴ CR/PR at Table I-4 and Table I-5. These data were compiled from official U.S. import statistics using HTS statistical reporting numbers 7307.93.3010 and 7307.93.3040.

⁸⁵ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 12.

subject merchandise worldwide in 2014 and 218,000 pounds in 2015.⁸⁶ For these reasons, the Commission concluded that subject imports from Brazil were not likely to have no discernible adverse impact if the antidumping duty order on carbon steel BWPF from Brazil were revoked.⁸⁷

In the current reviews, subject imports from Brazil fluctuated during the current period of review with no imports in 2016, less than 500 pounds in 2017, no imports in 2018, 4,000 pounds in 2019, and no imports from Brazil in 2020.⁸⁸

Although there are limited data available concerning the industry in Brazil because no subject Brazilian producer or exporter responded to the Commission's notice of institution, domestic producers identified one producer that they believe may currently produce carbon steel BWPF in Brazil.⁸⁹ TFA, MIW, and HL highlight that the Brazilian producer, Uniforja – Cooperativa Central de Produção Industrial de Trabalhadores em Metalurgia, notes on its website that it is "the largest manufacturer of Forged Steel Fittings...in Latin America."⁹⁰ Global Trade Atlas ("GTA") data show that Brazil exported 468,000 pounds of butt-weld fittings of iron or steel (other than cast fittings or fittings of stainless steel), a category that includes carbon steel BWPF, worldwide in 2016, 229,000 pounds in 2017, 203,000 pounds in 2018, 234,000 pounds in 2019, and 118,000 pounds in 2020.⁹¹ In 2020, based on GTA data, the United States was the leading destination for butt-weld fittings of iron or steel (other than cast fittings or fittings of stainless steel) exported from Brazil.⁹²

Based on the foregoing, including the intermittent presence of subject imports from Brazil in the U.S. market during the period of review despite the disciplining effect of the antidumping duty order, and the export from the subject country, we find that subject imports from Brazil likely would not have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry if the antidumping duty order concerning these imports were revoked.

⁸⁶ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 12.

⁸⁷ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 12.

⁸⁸ CR/PR at Table I-4.

⁸⁹ CR/PR at I-28.

⁹⁰ Joint Response at 14-15 and Exhibit W.

⁹¹ CR/PR at Table I-6. The data in Table I-6 are based on data for HS subheading 7307.93. These data may overstate exports of carbon steel BWPF as HS subheading 7307.93 may contain products outside the scope of these reviews. *Id.*

⁹² CR/PR at I-28.

China. During the original investigations, the share of apparent U.S. consumption held by subject imports from China increased from *** percent in 1989 to *** percent in 1991.⁹³ In the fourth five-year reviews, the Commission stated that since imposition of the order, subject imports from China have had a continuous but small presence in the U.S. market with subject imports from China ranging from a period low of 349,000 pounds in 2012, to a period high of almost 2.1 million pounds in 2013.⁹⁴ The Commission also stated that China was the world's largest export source for the HS category that included carbon steel BWPF, although that category also includes out-of-scope merchandise.⁹⁵ In light of the foregoing, the Commission found that subject imports from China were not likely to have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry if the relevant order were revoked.⁹⁶

During the current period of review, the volume of subject imports from China ranged from a period low of 247,000 pounds in 2017 to a period high of almost 2.7 million pounds in 2018.⁹⁷ Subject imports from China accounted for 0.4 percent of apparent U.S. consumption in 2020.⁹⁸

Although there are limited data available concerning the industry in China because no subject producer in China responded to the Commission's notice of institution, TFA, MIW, and HL provided a list of 19 producers of carbon steel BWPF in China, all of which still produce subject merchandise and are focused on exporting abroad.⁹⁹ During the period of review, the worldwide volume of exports of butt-weld tube or pipe fittings of iron or steel (other than cast fittings or fittings of stainless steel), a category that includes carbon steel BWPF and out-of-scope products from China, fluctuated from a high of 402.5 million pounds in 2019 to a low of 350.6 million pounds in 2020.¹⁰⁰ According to TFA, MIW, and HL, based on the claims of eight producers of carbon steel BWPF in China, they account for more than 363.5 million pounds in annual capacity of carbon steel BWPF.¹⁰¹ China is the world's largest export source for the HS category that includes carbon steel BWPF, although this category also includes out of scope

⁹³ CR/PR at Appendix C, Table I-6.

⁹⁴ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 12.

⁹⁵ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 12.

⁹⁶ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 12.

⁹⁷ CR/PR at Table I-4.

⁹⁸ CR/PR at Table I-5.

⁹⁹ CR/PR at I-30. *See also* Joint Response at Exhibits A-H.

¹⁰⁰ CR/PR at Tables I-7 and I-11. The data in Tables I-7 and I-11 are based on data for HS subheading 7307.93.

¹⁰¹ Joint Response at 8-9.

merchandise.¹⁰² In 2020, based on GTA data, the United States was the thirty-sixth leading export destination for butt-weld fittings of iron or steel (other than cast fittings or fittings of stainless steel) produced in China.¹⁰³ Carbon steel BWPF from China are subject to antidumping duty orders in Argentina, the European Union (“EU”), Japan, Mexico, and Turkey.¹⁰⁴

While subject import volumes from China have declined since the imposition of the antidumping duty order, the subject industry nonetheless retains significant production capacity and an export orientation. Given this and the continuous presence of subject imports from China in the U.S. market despite the discipline of the order, we find that subject imports from China likely would not have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry if the antidumping duty order concerning these imports were revoked.

Japan. During the original investigations, the share of apparent U.S. consumption held by subject imports from Japan declined from *** percent in 1983 to *** percent in 1985.¹⁰⁵ During the fourth five-year reviews, the Commission observed that since imposition of the order, subject imports from Japan have been present in the market intermittently in small quantities, with the only reported subject imports from Japan of 2,000 pounds in 2011 and 1,000 pounds in 2014.¹⁰⁶ The record, however, indicated that Japan exported substantial volumes of subject merchandise; in 2013 exports of carbon steel BWPF from Japan reached 13.4 million pounds.¹⁰⁷ In light of the foregoing, the Commission concluded that subject imports from Japan were not likely to have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry if the relevant order were revoked.¹⁰⁸

During the current period of review, imports of carbon steel BWPF from Japan fluctuated from a period low of less than 500 pounds in 2018 to a high of 36,000 pounds in

¹⁰² CR/PR at Table I-11. The data in Table I-11 are based on data for HS subheading 7307.93.

¹⁰³ CR/PR at I-30-31.

¹⁰⁴ CR/PR at I-38-39.

¹⁰⁵ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 13; *Confidential Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, EDIS Doc. 748714 at 18.

¹⁰⁶ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 18.

¹⁰⁷ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 18. The Commission observed that these data may include product not within the scope of the reviews. *Id.*

¹⁰⁸ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 18.

2017, with 5,000 pounds of subject imports in 2020.¹⁰⁹ In 2020, subject imports from Japan accounted for between 0.0 percent and 0.05 percent of apparent U.S. consumption.¹¹⁰

Although the current reviews contain limited new information concerning the industry in Japan because no subject producer or exporter in Japan responded to the Commission's notice of institution, domestic producers provided a list of two possible producers/exporters of carbon steel BWPF in Japan.¹¹¹ Based on GTA data, the United States was the tenth-leading export destination of butt-weld fittings of iron or steel (other than cast fittings or fittings of stainless steel), a category that includes carbon steel BWPF, from Japan in 2020.¹¹²

Based on the foregoing, including the continued presence of subject imports, albeit in lower volumes, from Japan in the U.S. market during the period of review, we find that subject imports from Japan likely would not have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry if the antidumping duty order concerning these imports were revoked.

Taiwan. During the original investigations, the share of apparent U.S. consumption held by subject imports from Taiwan increased from *** percent in 1983 to *** percent in 1985.¹¹³ In the fourth five-year reviews, the Commission observed that since imposition of the order, subject imports from Taiwan have maintained a presence in the U.S. market. During the 1999-2004 period, their market penetration ranged from 1.0 percent in 2002 to 4.8 percent in 1999; it was 1.5 percent in 2009.¹¹⁴ During the period of review for the fourth five-year reviews, subject imports from Taiwan ranged from 1.4 million pounds in 2011 to 2.8 million pounds in 2013.¹¹⁵ Their market penetration in 2015 was 1.2 percent.¹¹⁶ The Commission also found that the record indicated that there were three known producers of subject merchandise in Taiwan and that the carbon steel BWPF industry in Taiwan was reportedly export oriented.¹¹⁷ In light of the foregoing, the Commission concluded that subject imports from Taiwan were not likely

¹⁰⁹ CR/PR at Table I-4.

¹¹⁰ CR/PR at Table I-5.

¹¹¹ CR/PR at I-32; *see also* Joint Response at 10-11; Weldbend Response at 3.

¹¹² CR/PR at I-32 and Tables I-8. The data in Table I-8 are based on data for HS subheading 7307.93.

¹¹³ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 13; *Confidential Fourth Five-Year Reviews* at 19.

¹¹⁴ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 13.

¹¹⁵ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 13.

¹¹⁶ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 13.

¹¹⁷ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 13.

to have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry if the relevant order were revoked.¹¹⁸

During the current period of review, subject imports from Taiwan were 560,000 pounds in 2016, 1.7 million pounds in 2017, 2.5 million pounds in 2018, 3.4 million pounds in 2019, and 1.2 million pounds in 2020.¹¹⁹ Furthermore, subject imports from Taiwan accounted for 1.6 percent of apparent U.S. consumption in 2020.¹²⁰

Although the current reviews contain limited new information concerning the industry in Taiwan because no subject producer in Taiwan responded to the Commission's notice of institution, domestic producers provided a list of 12 possible producers/exporters of carbon steel BWPF in Taiwan.¹²¹ Based on GTA data, the United States was the leading export destination for butt-weld tube or pipe fittings of iron or steel (other than cast fittings or fittings of stainless steel), a category that includes carbon steel BWPF and out-of-scope products, from Taiwan in 2018, 2019, and 2020.¹²²

Given the foregoing, including the increased presence of subject imports from Taiwan in the U.S. market during the period of review, which rendered the United States the leading export destination in the HS category that includes subject imports from Taiwan, we find that subject imports from Taiwan likely would not have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry if the antidumping duty order concerning these imports were revoked.

Thailand. During the original investigations, the share of apparent U.S. consumption held by subject imports from Thailand declined from *** percent in 1989 to *** percent in 1991.¹²³ In the fourth five-year reviews, the Commission observed that since the imposition of the order, subject imports from Thailand had maintained a presence in the U.S. market. During the 1999-2004 period, their market penetration ranged from *** percent in 2004 to *** percent in 2001; it was *** percent in 2009.¹²⁴ During the period of review for the fourth five-year reviews, subject imports from Thailand ranged from *** pounds in 2014 to *** pounds in

¹¹⁸ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 13.

¹¹⁹ CR/PR at Table I-4.

¹²⁰ CR/PR at Table I-5.

¹²¹ CR/PR at I-34; *see also* Joint Response at 11; Weldbend Response at 3.

¹²² CR/PR at I-34 and Table I-9. The data in Table I-9 are based on data for HS subheading 7307.93.

¹²³ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 13-14; *Confidential Fourth Five-Year Reviews* at 20.

¹²⁴ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 14; *Confidential Fourth Five-Year Reviews* at 20.

2010.¹²⁵ Their market penetration in 2015 was *** percent.¹²⁶ The Commission also stated that the carbon steel BWPF industry in Thailand was reportedly highly export oriented with 58.0 million pounds in exports worldwide of subject merchandise from Thailand in 2014 and producers in Thailand advertising their production capacity and ability to supply the international market.¹²⁷ In light of the foregoing, the Commission found that subject imports from Thailand were not likely to have no discernible impact on the domestic industry if the relevant order were revoked.

During the current period of review, subject imports of carbon steel BWPF from Thailand fluctuated with a period high of *** pounds of subject imports in 2019 and a period low of *** pounds of subject imports in 2016.¹²⁸ There were *** pounds of subject imports from Thailand in 2020.¹²⁹ Subject imports from Thailand accounted for *** percent of apparent U.S. consumption in 2020.¹³⁰

While the current reviews contain limited new information concerning subject imports from Thailand, domestic producers provided a list of three possible producers/exporters of carbon steel BWPF in Thailand.¹³¹ Based on GTA data, Thailand is the fifth largest exporter and the United States was the second leading export destination for Thai butt-weld tube or pipe fittings of iron or steel (other than cast fittings or fittings of stainless steel), a category that includes carbon steel BWPF and out-of-scope products, from 2016 to 2020.¹³²

Based on the foregoing, including the increased presence of subject imports from Thailand despite the existence of the antidumping duty order and the export orientation of the

¹²⁵ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 14; *Confidential Fourth Five-Year Reviews* at 20.

¹²⁶ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 14; *Confidential Fourth Five-Year Reviews* at 20.

¹²⁷ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 14.

¹²⁸ CR/PR Table I-4. Thai producer Awaji is excluded from the subject antidumping duty order on U.S. imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Thailand. During prior proceedings, the Commission found that these nonsubject imports accounted for *** of total U.S. imports from Thailand. *Confidential Second Five-Year Reviews* at I-22; *Third Five-Year Reviews* at I-13; *Fourth Five-Year Reviews* at I-20. Based on information from previous five-year reviews and information submitted in response to the Commission's notice of institution in the current five-year reviews, staff estimated that approximately *** percent of the merchandise imported from Thailand under the relevant statistical reporting numbers were imported from nonsubject Thai producer Awaji. CR/PR at Table I-4 Note; see Joint Response at 34. As such, import data from Thailand in CR/PR Table I-4 were adjusted to reclassify the estimated share of nonsubject imports. CR/PR at Table I-4 Note.

¹²⁹ CR/PR at Table I-4.

¹³⁰ CR/PR at Table I-5.

¹³¹ CR/PR at I-36; see also Joint Response at 15-16. Weldbend Response at 5.

¹³² CR/PR at I-37 and Tables I-10 and I-11. The data in Tables I-10 and I-11 are based on data for HS subheading 7307.93.

producers in Thailand, we find that subject imports from Thailand likely would not have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry if the antidumping duty order concerning these imports were revoked.

2. Likelihood of a Reasonable Overlap of Competition

The Commission generally has considered four factors intended to provide a framework for determining whether subject imports compete with each other and with the domestic like product.¹³³ Only a “reasonable overlap” of competition is required.¹³⁴ In five-year reviews, the relevant inquiry is whether there likely would be competition even if none currently exists because the subject imports are absent from the U.S. market.¹³⁵

Fungibility. In the first five-year reviews, the Commission found that carbon steel BWPF meeting the ASTM and ANSI standards were interchangeable for most applications, and in the subsequent five-year reviews found that there was a moderately high level of substitutability between domestically produced carbon steel BWPF and subject imports.¹³⁶

¹³³ The four factors generally considered by the Commission in assessing whether imports compete with each other and with the domestic like product are as follows: (1) the degree of fungibility between subject imports from different countries and between subject imports and the domestic like product, including consideration of specific customer requirements and other quality-related questions; (2) the presence of sales or offers to sell in the same geographical markets of imports from different countries and the domestic like product; (3) the existence of common or similar channels of distribution for subject imports from different countries and the domestic like product; and (4) whether subject imports are simultaneously present in the market with one another and the domestic like product. See, e.g., *Wieland Werke, AG v. United States*, 718 F. Supp. 50 (Ct. Int’l Trade 1989).

¹³⁴ See *Mukand Ltd. v. United States*, 937 F. Supp. 910, 916 (Ct. Int’l Trade 1996); *Wieland Werke*, 718 F. Supp. at 52 (“Completely overlapping markets are not required.”); *United States Steel Group v. United States*, 873 F. Supp. 673, 685 (Ct. Int’l Trade 1994), *aff’d*, 96 F.3d 1352 (Fed. Cir. 1996). We note, however, that there have been investigations where the Commission has found an insufficient overlap in competition and has declined to cumulate subject imports. See, e.g., *Live Cattle from Canada and Mexico*, Inv. Nos. 701-TA-386 and 731-TA-812-13 (Preliminary), USITC Pub. 3155 at 15 (Feb. 1999), *aff’d sub nom.*, *Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Foundation v. United States*, 74 F. Supp. 2d 1353 (Ct. Int’l Trade 1999); *Static Random Access Memory Semiconductors from the Republic of Korea and Taiwan*, Inv. Nos. 731-TA-761-62 (Final), USITC Pub. 3098 at 13-15 (Apr. 1998).

¹³⁵ See generally, *Cheflene Corp. v. United States*, 219 F. Supp. 2d 1313, 1314 (Ct. Int’l Trade 2002).

¹³⁶ *First Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3263 at 10; *Second Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3809 at 11; *Third Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4222 at 13; *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 15.

In these reviews, there is no new information in the record to indicate that the considerations the Commission found in the original investigations supporting a finding of fungibility have changed.¹³⁷

Channels of Distribution. In each of the original investigations and in the first five-year reviews, the Commission found that domestic and subject carbon steel BWPF were sold through the same channels of distribution.¹³⁸ In the second five-year reviews, the Commission found that both domestic producers and importers made 100 percent of their sales to distributors, while in the third five-year reviews it found that almost all domestically produced or subject import carbon steel BWPF were sold to jobbers or distributors for eventual sale to end users.¹³⁹ In the fourth five-year reviews, the Commission found that there was no information that indicated that the channels of distribution had changed.¹⁴⁰ There is no new information in the record of these reviews to indicate that the channels of distribution have changed or are likely to do so upon revocation of the orders.

Geographic Overlap. In the original investigations on imports from China and Thailand, the Commission found that subject imports and the domestic like product were sold in the same geographic markets.¹⁴¹ In the first five-year reviews, the Commission found that “there would be a likely overlap of competition between subject imports and the domestic like product as well as the subject imports from the five countries.”¹⁴² In the second five-year reviews, the Commission found that subject imports and the domestic like product were generally distributed throughout the United States during the period of review.¹⁴³ In the third five-year reviews, the Commission observed that subject imports from the five countries entered the United States through ports spread across the country so as to serve the same geographic markets as the domestic industry.¹⁴⁴ In the fourth five-year reviews, the Commission found that the domestic like product was sold nationwide, imports from four

¹³⁷ Domestic producers indicate that the factors serving as the basis for the Commission’s finding of fungibility in the original investigations have not changed. See Joint Response at 16; Joint Final Comments at 5; Weldbend Final Comments at 5.

¹³⁸ *Original Determinations on Brazil and Taiwan*, USITC Pub. 1918 at 15; *Original Determination on Japan*, USITC Pub. 1943 at 8; *Original Determinations on China and Thailand*, USITC Pub. 2528 at 22.

¹³⁹ *Second Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3809 at 12; *Third Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4222 at 9.

¹⁴⁰ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 16.

¹⁴¹ *Original Determinations on China and Thailand*, USITC Pub. 2528 at 23.

¹⁴² *First Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3263 at 10.

¹⁴³ *Second Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3809 at 12.

¹⁴⁴ *Third Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4222 at 9.

subject countries entered the United States from one common port, and imports from multiple subject countries entered at three additional ports; therefore, it found that, upon revocation, the domestic like product and imports from each subject country would likely be sold in overlapping geographic markets.¹⁴⁵

In the current reviews, carbon steel BWPF from China, Taiwan, and Thailand entered through the northern, southern, eastern, and western border of entry in all years from 2016 through 2020, with the exception of 2016 when U.S. imports from Taiwan did not enter through the eastern border of the United States.¹⁴⁶ Subject imports from Brazil entered through the southern border of entry in 2017 and the northern border of entry in 2019. U.S. imports of carbon steel BWPF from Japan entered through the southern border of entry during 2016-2017, the eastern border of entry in 2018, the western border of entry in 2019, and the northern and western borders of entry in 2020.¹⁴⁷

Simultaneous Presence in Market. In each of the original investigations, the Commission determined that domestically produced carbon steel BWPF and subject imports were simultaneously present in the U.S. market.¹⁴⁸ In the first five-year reviews, the Commission found that there was no evidence that this pattern had changed.¹⁴⁹ In the second five-year reviews, the Commission determined that subject imports from each country were present in the U.S. market at least during some months of the period of review.¹⁵⁰ In the third five-year reviews, imports from four subject countries were present in the U.S. market in varying degrees, except for Brazil, which reported no subject imports during 2005 to 2010.¹⁵¹ In the fourth five-year reviews, the Commission found that in light of its no discernible adverse impact finding that imports from each subject countries were likely to be present in the U.S. market and past import patterns, upon revocation imports from each subject country and the domestic like product were likely to be simultaneously present in the U.S. market.¹⁵²

¹⁴⁵ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 16.

¹⁴⁶ CR/PR at I-24.

¹⁴⁷ CR/PR at I-24.

¹⁴⁸ *Original Determinations on Brazil and Taiwan*, USITC Pub. 1918 at 15; *Original Determination on Japan*, USITC Pub. 1943 at 8; *Original Determinations on China and Thailand*, USITC Pub. 2528 at 22.

¹⁴⁹ *First Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3263 at 10.

¹⁵⁰ *Second Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3809 at 12.

¹⁵¹ *Third Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4222 at 9. The Commission found that subject imports from Thailand were imported into the United States each month during the 2005-10 period, subject imports from Taiwan were imported during the vast majority of those months, and subject imports from China and Japan entered sporadically over the same period. *Id.*

¹⁵² *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 17.

In these reviews, subject imports from China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand were present during each year of the current period of review.¹⁵³ Imports from Brazil were present only in 2017 and 2019.

Conclusion. The record in these expedited reviews contains limited information concerning subject imports in the U.S. market during the period of review. The record contains no information suggesting a change in the considerations that led the Commission in the original investigations to conclude that there was a reasonable overlap of competition among subject imports from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand and between imports from each subject source and the domestic like product. In light of this, and the absence of any contrary argument, we find a likely reasonable overlap of competition between subject imports from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand and between the domestic like product and subject imports from each source.

3. Likely Conditions of Competition

In determining whether to exercise our discretion to cumulate the subject imports, we assess whether the subject imports from each group of subject countries for which we have found there is a likely reasonable overlap of competition are likely to compete under similar conditions in the U.S. market in the event of revocation. The record in these reviews does not indicate that there likely would be any significant difference in the conditions of competition between subject imports from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand if the orders were revoked, and no party has argued to the contrary. Given that the industry in each of the subject countries supplied the U.S. market with carbon steel BWPF meeting ASTM and ANSI industry standards in the prior proceedings, and that each country's subject industry is export oriented, we find that carbon steel BWPF from each subject country would likely compete directly with one another and the domestic like product in the event of revocation.

4. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, we find that subject imports from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand likely would not have no discernible adverse impact on the domestic industry upon revocation. We also find a likely reasonable overlap of competition among subject imports from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand and between the subject imports from

¹⁵³ CR/PR at Table I-4.

each subject country and the domestic like product. Finally, we find that imports from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand are likely to compete in the U.S. market under similar conditions of competition should the orders be revoked. We therefore exercise our discretion to cumulate subject imports from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand.

IV. Revocation of the Antidumping Duty Orders Would Likely Lead to Continuation or Recurrence of Material Injury Within a Reasonably Foreseeable Time

A. Legal Standards

In a five-year review conducted under section 751(c) of the Tariff Act, Commerce will revoke an antidumping or countervailing duty order unless: (1) it makes a determination that dumping or subsidization is likely to continue or recur and (2) the Commission makes a determination that revocation of the antidumping or countervailing duty order “would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury within a reasonably foreseeable time.”¹⁵⁴ The SAA states that “under the likelihood standard, the Commission will engage in a counterfactual analysis; it must decide the likely impact in the reasonably foreseeable future of an important change in the status quo – the revocation or termination of a proceeding and the elimination of its restraining effects on volumes and prices of imports.”¹⁵⁵ Thus, the likelihood standard is prospective in nature.¹⁵⁶ The U.S. Court of International Trade has found that “likely,” as used in the five-year review provisions of the Act, means “probable,” and the Commission applies that standard in five-year reviews.¹⁵⁷

¹⁵⁴ 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a).

¹⁵⁵ SAA at 883-84. The SAA states that “{t}he likelihood of injury standard applies regardless of the nature of the Commission’s original determination (material injury, threat of material injury, or material retardation of an industry). Likewise, the standard applies to suspended investigations that were never completed.” *Id.* at 883.

¹⁵⁶ While the SAA states that “a separate determination regarding current material injury is not necessary,” it indicates that “the Commission may consider relevant factors such as current and likely continued depressed shipment levels and current and likely continued {sic} prices for the domestic like product in the U.S. market in making its determination of the likelihood of continuation or recurrence of material injury if the order is revoked.” SAA at 884.

¹⁵⁷ See *NMB Singapore Ltd. v. United States*, 288 F. Supp. 2d 1306, 1352 (Ct. Int’l Trade 2003) (“‘likely’ means probable within the context of 19 U.S.C. § 1675(c) and 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)”), *aff’d mem.*, 140 Fed. Appx. 268 (Fed. Cir. 2005); *Nippon Steel Corp. v. United States*, 26 CIT 1416, 1419 (2002) (same); *Usinor Industeel, S.A. v. United States*, 26 CIT 1402, 1404 nn.3, 6 (2002) (“more likely than not” (Continued...))

The statute states that “the Commission shall consider that the effects of revocation or termination may not be imminent, but may manifest themselves only over a longer period of time.”¹⁵⁸ According to the SAA, a “‘reasonably foreseeable time’ will vary from case-to-case, but normally will exceed the ‘imminent’ timeframe applicable in a threat of injury analysis in original investigations.”¹⁵⁹

Although the standard in a five-year review is not the same as the standard applied in an original investigation, it contains some of the same fundamental elements. The statute provides that the Commission is to “consider the likely volume, price effect, and impact of imports of the subject merchandise on the industry if the orders are revoked or the suspended investigation is terminated.”¹⁶⁰ It directs the Commission to take into account its prior injury determination, whether any improvement in the state of the industry is related to the order or the suspension agreement under review, whether the industry is vulnerable to material injury if an order is revoked or a suspension agreement is terminated, and any findings by Commerce regarding duty absorption pursuant to 19 U.S.C. § 1675(a)(4).¹⁶¹ The statute further provides that the presence or absence of any factor that the Commission is required to consider shall not necessarily give decisive guidance with respect to the Commission’s determination.¹⁶²

In evaluating the likely volume of imports of subject merchandise if an order under review is revoked and/or a suspended investigation is terminated, the Commission is directed to consider whether the likely volume of imports would be significant either in absolute terms

(...Continued)

standard is “consistent with the court’s opinion;” “the court has not interpreted ‘likely’ to imply any particular degree of ‘certainty’”; *Indorama Chemicals (Thailand) Ltd. v. United States*, 26 CIT 1059, 1070 (2002) (“standard is based on a likelihood of continuation or recurrence of injury, not a certainty”); *Usinor v. United States*, 26 CIT 767, 794 (2002) (“‘likely’ is tantamount to ‘probable,’ not merely ‘possible’”).

¹⁵⁸ 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(5).

¹⁵⁹ SAA at 887. Among the factors that the Commission should consider in this regard are “the fungibility or differentiation within the product in question, the level of substitutability between the imported and domestic products, the channels of distribution used, the methods of contracting (such as spot sales or long-term contracts), and lead times for delivery of goods, as well as other factors that may only manifest themselves in the longer term, such as planned investment and the shifting of production facilities.” *Id.*

¹⁶⁰ 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(1).

¹⁶¹ 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(1). Commerce has not made any duty absorption findings with respect to the orders under review. *Commerce I&D Memorandum* at 7-8

¹⁶² 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(5). Although the Commission must consider all factors, no one factor is necessarily dispositive. SAA at 886.

or relative to production or consumption in the United States.¹⁶³ In doing so, the Commission must consider “all relevant economic factors,” including four enumerated factors: (1) any likely increase in production capacity or existing unused production capacity in the exporting country; (2) existing inventories of the subject merchandise, or likely increases in inventories; (3) the existence of barriers to the importation of the subject merchandise into countries other than the United States; and (4) the potential for product shifting if production facilities in the foreign country, which can be used to produce the subject merchandise, are currently being used to produce other products.¹⁶⁴

In evaluating the likely price effects of subject imports if an order under review is revoked and/or a suspended investigation is terminated, the Commission is directed to consider whether there is likely to be significant underselling by the subject imports as compared to the domestic like product and whether the subject imports are likely to enter the United States at prices that otherwise would have a significant depressing or suppressing effect on the price of the domestic like product.¹⁶⁵

In evaluating the likely impact of imports of subject merchandise if an order under review is revoked and/or a suspended investigation is terminated, the Commission is directed to consider all relevant economic factors that are likely to have a bearing on the state of the industry in the United States, including but not limited to the following: (1) likely declines in output, sales, market share, profits, productivity, return on investments, and utilization of capacity; (2) likely negative effects on cash flow, inventories, employment, wages, growth, ability to raise capital, and investment; and (3) likely negative effects on the existing development and production efforts of the industry, including efforts to develop a derivative or more advanced version of the domestic like product.¹⁶⁶ All relevant economic factors are to be considered within the context of the business cycle and the conditions of competition that are distinctive to the industry. As instructed by the statute, we have considered the extent to

¹⁶³ 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(2).

¹⁶⁴ 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(2)(A-D).

¹⁶⁵ See 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(3). The SAA states that “{c}onsistent with its practice in investigations, in considering the likely price effects of imports in the event of revocation and termination, the Commission may rely on circumstantial, as well as direct, evidence of the adverse effects of unfairly traded imports on domestic prices.” SAA at 886.

¹⁶⁶ 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(4).

which any improvement in the state of the domestic industry is related to the orders under review and whether the industry is vulnerable to material injury upon revocation.¹⁶⁷

No respondent interested party participated in these expedited reviews. The record, therefore, contains limited new information with respect to the carbon steel BWPF industries in Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand. There also is limited information about the market for carbon steel BWPF in the United States during the period of review. Accordingly, for our determinations, we rely as appropriate on the facts available from the original investigations and the limited new information in the record of these reviews.

B. Conditions of Competition and the Business Cycle¹⁶⁸

In evaluating the likely impact of the subject imports on the domestic industry if an order is revoked, the statute directs the Commission to consider all relevant economic factors “within the context of the business cycle and conditions of competition that are distinctive to the affected industry.”¹⁶⁹ The following conditions of competition inform our determinations.

1. Demand Conditions

First Five-Year Reviews. In the first five-year reviews, the Commission found that demand was derived from end use markets and that apparent U.S. consumption had increased from 79.0 million pounds in 1985 to *** pounds in 1998.¹⁷⁰

Second Five-Year Reviews. In the second five-year reviews, the Commission found that the carbon steel BWPF market was a mature one, and that demand had been stable over the period examined in the reviews and was not expected to increase significantly in the near future.¹⁷¹

Third Five-Year Reviews. In the third five-year reviews, the Commission observed that the U.S. market for carbon steel BWPF was mature, and that demand was derived from end use

¹⁶⁷ The SAA states that in assessing whether the domestic industry is vulnerable to injury if the order is revoked, the Commission “considers, in addition to imports, other factors that may be contributing to overall injury. While these factors, in some cases, may account for the injury to the domestic industry, they may also demonstrate that an industry is facing difficulties from a variety of sources and is vulnerable to dumped or subsidized imports.” SAA at 885.

¹⁶⁸ At the time of the original investigations, the Commission’s practice did not include discussing conditions of competition in its opinions.

¹⁶⁹ 19 U.S.C. § 1675a(a)(4).

¹⁷⁰ *Confidential First Five-Year Reviews*, EDIS Doc. 749802 at 14.

¹⁷¹ *Second Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3809 at 15-18.

markets.¹⁷² Demand for carbon steel BWPF declined by 34 percent between 2004 and 2009, which the Commission attributed to the severe economic downturn.¹⁷³

Fourth Five-Year Reviews. In the fourth five-year reviews, the Commission found that apparent U.S. consumption of carbon steel BWPF was 130.8 million pounds in 2015, which was greater than during the prior reviews and original investigations.¹⁷⁴ The Commission also observed that demand for carbon steel BWPF continued to be derived from activity in the industries that use carbon steel BWPF.¹⁷⁵

Current Reviews. In these reviews, the information available indicates that the factors influencing demand remain unchanged from the prior proceedings. Demand for carbon steel BWPF continues to be driven by demand in the end-user industries, such as the oil and gas industry.¹⁷⁶ TFA, MIW, and HL argue that the domestic carbon steel BWPF industry was negatively impacted by declining prices in the oil and gas industry in late 2019 and 2020.¹⁷⁷ Weldbend contends that demand was impacted by the economic downturn.¹⁷⁸ In 2020, apparent U.S. consumption of carbon steel BWPF was 70.0 million pounds, which is less than the apparent U.S. consumption in the prior periods of review and the original investigations.¹⁷⁹

2. Supply Conditions

First Five-Year Reviews. In the first five-year reviews, the Commission found the domestic industry had undergone significant consolidation in the late 1980s, and in the 1990s moved toward integrated production of pipe fittings instead of converting imported, unfinished fittings.¹⁸⁰ The Commission further observed that, the U.S. market was divided into an “approved” segment, consisting of end users in the petroleum, nuclear energy, and power generation industries that purchase pipe fittings for sensitive applications from approved

¹⁷² *Third Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4222 at 13. End uses included oil refining, petrochemicals, energy generation, and gas production and transmission, among others. *Id.*

¹⁷³ *Third Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4222 at 13. Apparent U.S. consumption for carbon steel BWPF declined from 118.8 million pounds to 77.8 million pounds from 2004 to 2009. *Id.*

¹⁷⁴ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 23.

¹⁷⁵ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 23.

¹⁷⁶ Joint Response at 26; Joint Final Comments at 7; Weldbend Final Comments at 4.

¹⁷⁷ Joint Response at 26-27; Joint Final Comments at 8.

¹⁷⁸ Weldbend Response at 9.

¹⁷⁹ CR/PR at Table I-5.

¹⁸⁰ *First Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3263 at 13-14.

suppliers, and a “non-approved” segment, consisting of end users purchasing pipe fittings for less sensitive applications.¹⁸¹

Second Five-Year Reviews. In the second five-year reviews, the Commission found that the domestic industry had consolidated from 12 producers in 1986 to seven producers in 1992 to five producers during the period examined in the reviews.¹⁸² The Commission also observed that the cost of raw materials, primarily seamless pipe, had surged during the period examined and that subject imports had been subject to a safeguards remedy from March 20, 2002, through December 4, 2003.¹⁸³

Third Five-Year Reviews. In the third five-year reviews, the Commission found that domestic producers, subject imports, and nonsubject imports all supplied the market, with nonsubject imports maintaining a significant presence in the market.¹⁸⁴

Fourth Five-Year Reviews. In the fourth five-year reviews, the Commission found that, domestic producers were the second largest source of supply to the U.S. market after nonsubject imports in 2015.¹⁸⁵ Domestic producers’ market share in 2015 was 23.9 percent and cumulated subject imports had a market share of *** percent in 2015.¹⁸⁶ The Commission also found that nonsubject imports supplied the remainder of apparent U.S. consumption, and their market share has increased significantly since the original investigations.¹⁸⁷

Current Reviews. The domestic industry accounted for 24.1 percent of apparent U.S. consumption in 2020, or 16.9 million pounds of carbon steel BWPF.¹⁸⁸ While this was not the lowest share of apparent U.S. consumption accounted for by the domestic industry as compared to the prior reviews and original investigations, this was the lowest quantity of carbon steel BWPF supplied by the domestic industry during all periods of review and investigation.¹⁸⁹

Cumulated subject imports were the smallest source of supply to the U.S. market in 2020; they totaled *** pounds and accounted for *** percent of apparent U.S. consumption by

¹⁸¹ *First Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3263 at 13-14.

¹⁸² *Second Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3809 at 15-18.

¹⁸³ *Second Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3809 at 15-18.

¹⁸⁴ *Third Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4222 at 13.

¹⁸⁵ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 23.

¹⁸⁶ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 23; *Confidential Fourth Five-Year Reviews* at 33.

¹⁸⁷ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 23.

¹⁸⁸ CR/PR at Table I-5

¹⁸⁹ CR/PR at Table I-5.

quantity.¹⁹⁰ Nonsubject imports were the largest source of supply in 2020 and have been a larger source of supply than subject imports since 1998.¹⁹¹

3. Substitutability and Other Conditions

Prior proceedings. In the second, third, and fourth five-year reviews, the Commission found that there was a moderately high degree of substitutability between domestically produced carbon steel BWPF and subject imports, and that price was an important consideration in purchasing decisions.¹⁹²

Current Reviews. The record in these reviews contains no new information to indicate that the degree of substitutability between the domestic like product and subject imports or the importance of price in purchasing decisions has changed since the original investigations.¹⁹³ Accordingly, we again find a moderately high degree of substitutability between carbon steel BWPF from different sources and that price continues to be an important factor in purchasing decisions.

We note that effective September 24, 2018, subject merchandise from China became subject to an additional 10 percent *ad valorem* duty under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974¹⁹⁴ (“section 301 tariffs”).¹⁹⁵ Effective May 10, 2019, this additional duty increased from 10 percent to 25 percent *ad valorem*.¹⁹⁶

¹⁹⁰ CR/PR at Table I-5.

¹⁹¹ CR/PR at Table I-5. Nonsubject imports totaled *** pounds in 2020 and accounted for *** percent of apparent U.S. consumption by quantity. Germany and Mexico were the largest nonsubject sources from 2017 to 2019. *Id.*

¹⁹² *Second Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3809 at 15-18; *Third Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4222 at 13; *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 23.

¹⁹³ This is consistent with domestic producers’ assertions. See Joint Response at 26-27, and 38; Joint Final Comments at 8; Weldbend Response at 2; Weldbend Final Comments at 4.

¹⁹⁴ 19 U.S.C. § 2411.

¹⁹⁵ CR/PR at I-9; *Notice of Action Pursuant to Section 301: China’s Acts, Policies, and Practices Related to Technology Transfer, Intellectual Property, and Innovation*, 83 Fed. Reg. 47974 (Sep. 21, 2018).

¹⁹⁶ CR/PR at I-9-10; *Notice of Modification of Section 301 Action: China’s Acts, Policies, and Practices Related to Technology Transfer, Intellectual Property, and Innovation*, 84 Fed. Reg. 20459 (May 9, 2019).

C. Likely Volume of Subject Imports

1. The Prior Proceedings

Original Investigations. In the original determinations on Brazil, Japan, and Taiwan, the Commission found that the absolute volume of cumulated subject imports, at 32 million pounds in 1983 and 51 million pounds in 1985, was significant throughout the period of investigation and that subject imports' market share had increased from 47 percent in 1983 to 65 percent in 1985.¹⁹⁷ In the original determinations on China and Thailand, based on threat of material injury, the Commission found a ten-fold increase in Chinese producers' capacity and production during the period of investigation, a 10 percent increase in Thai producers' capacity, and a 30 percent increase in their production, as well as significant excess capacity in both countries. The Commission further observed that the cumulated imports' market share had increased slightly, was at all times in excess of one third of the U.S. market, and that the United States was a primary export market for both countries.¹⁹⁸

First Five-Year Reviews. In the first five-year reviews, the Commission found a likely significant increase in subject import volume in the reasonably foreseeable future if the orders were revoked. It reasoned that, although there was limited information on the record concerning the foreign industries, they appeared to be structured as they were during the original investigations. The Commission found that the orders had had a significant restraining effect on subject imports, and that, in the absence of contrary information or argument, subject imports would likely increase to a significant level and regain U.S. market share without the orders.¹⁹⁹

Second Five-Year Reviews. In the second five-year reviews, the Commission found that the volume of cumulated subject imports likely would be significant if the orders were revoked.²⁰⁰ It observed that cumulated subject import volume and market share was significant during the original investigations but had subsequently declined to a low level because of the restraining effect of the orders.²⁰¹ Notwithstanding the orders, the Commission

¹⁹⁷ *Original Determinations on Brazil and Taiwan*, USITC Pub. 1918 at 16-17; *Original Determination on Japan*, USITC Pub. 1943 at 9-10.

¹⁹⁸ *Original Determinations on China and Thailand*, USITC Pub. 2528 at 24-27.

¹⁹⁹ *First Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3263 at 15.

²⁰⁰ *Second Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3809 at 18.

²⁰¹ *Second Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3809 at 18-19.

found that there *** of subject imports in the U.S. market.²⁰² It also found that subject producers had an incentive to increase exports of carbon steel BWPF to the U.S. market if the orders were revoked, given their substantial quantity of exports to third country markets, the relatively high prices available in the U.S. market, and the moderately high degree of substitutability between subject imports and the domestic like product.²⁰³

Third Five-Year Reviews. In the third five-year reviews, the Commission found that the volume of cumulated subject imports would likely be significant, both in absolute terms and relative to production and consumption in the United States, and increase significantly absent the restraining effect of the orders.²⁰⁴ The Commission observed that despite the restraining effect of the orders, cumulated subject imports maintained a presence in the U.S. market throughout the period of review.²⁰⁵ In light of the expedited nature of the reviews and a lack of information about the subject industries, the Commission found that there was no evidence indicating that the structure of the subject foreign industries had changed since the original investigations.²⁰⁶ It also found that subject producers exported significant quantities of subject merchandise to markets other than the United States during the period of review and that these producers would likely have an incentive to direct those exports to the U.S. market due to its size and relatively higher prices.²⁰⁷

Fourth Five-Year Reviews. In the fourth five-year reviews, the Commission found that the likely volume of subject imports would likely be significant, both in absolute terms and as a share of the U.S. market, if the orders were revoked.²⁰⁸ The Commission observed that cumulated subject imports remained in the market, albeit at quantities below those observed in the original investigations.²⁰⁹ Additionally, it found that industries in the subject countries

²⁰² *Second Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3809 at 19; *Confidential Second Five-Year Reviews* at 27.

²⁰³ *Second Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3809 at 19-20.

²⁰⁴ *Third Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4222 at 16.

²⁰⁵ *Third Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4222 at 15.

²⁰⁶ *Third Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4222 at 15.

²⁰⁷ *Third Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4222 at 15. According to the Commission, subject producers in China and Thailand had additional incentive to increase their exports to the United States because subject producers in China faced antidumping duty orders in the EU and Mexico, while subject producers in Thailand faced an antidumping duty order in the EU. *Id.*

²⁰⁸ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628, at 26. Commissioner Broadbent joined in this discussion as it pertained to subject imports from China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand. *Id.*, at 25-26, n. 159. As noted above, she determined that the volume of subject imports from Brazil likely would not be significant in the reasonably foreseeable future upon revocation of the antidumping duty order. *Id.*

²⁰⁹ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628, at 26.

continued to manufacture and export substantial volumes of carbon steel BWPF and export worldwide, providing an incentive to shift exports to the U.S. market if the orders were revoked due to import barriers in third country markets.²¹⁰

2. The Current Reviews

In the current reviews, the available data show that cumulated subject import volumes increased irregularly from 2016 to 2020.²¹¹ The quantity of cumulated subject imports increased from *** pounds in 2016 to a period high of *** pounds in 2018 before decreasing to *** pounds in 2020.²¹² The peak volume of cumulated subject imports during the current period of review was far below the peak annual cumulated subject import volume of *** pounds in 1991, indicating that the orders have had a disciplining effect.²¹³ Nevertheless, it is also evident that cumulated subject imports continue to be present in the U.S. market.

The record indicates that subject producers in Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand have the means to increase exports of subject merchandise to the U.S. market within a reasonably foreseeable time if the antidumping orders were revoked. As previously stated, no importer, producer, or exporter of subject merchandise participated in these reviews. TFA, MIW, and HL identify several manufacturers of subject merchandise in China along with estimated capacity and assert that the annual production capacity of eight producers of carbon steel BWPF from China is more than *** times the combined production capacity of TFA, MIW, and HL.²¹⁴ There is nothing in the record of these current reviews to suggest that the Commission's findings in the fourth reviews, that subject countries continued to manufacture substantial volumes of carbon steel BWPF has changed. As discussed above, all subject countries continue to export butt-weld fittings of iron or steel (other than cast fittings or fittings of stainless steel) a category that includes carbon steel BWPF. Moreover, China and Thailand remain two of the largest global exporters for the HS category that includes carbon steel BWPF, although this category also includes out of scope merchandise.²¹⁵

²¹⁰ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628, at 26.

²¹¹ CR/PR at Table I-4.

²¹² CR/PR at Table I-4.

²¹³ CR/PR at Tables I-4-5.

²¹⁴ Joint Response at 9. TFA, MIW, and HIL also provided limited information regarding the production capacity for the producers of carbon steel BWPF in Brazil, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand. Joint Response at 10-15 and 32-34.

²¹⁵ CR/PR at Table I-11.

The record further indicates that the subject industries are export oriented and that they view the United States as an attractive export market. As previously stated, notwithstanding the disciplining effects of the orders, cumulated subject imports maintained a presence in the U.S. market throughout the period of review, showing that subject producers remain interested in, and are able to sell to, the U.S. market. Indeed, the United States remained a top ten destination for the HS category that includes subject imports from Brazil, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand throughout the current period of review, and subject imports from China have had a continuous presence in the United States since imposition of the order.²¹⁶ Furthermore, antidumping duty measures on imports of carbon steel BWPF from China imposed by Argentina, the EU, Japan, Mexico, and Turkey provide further incentive for subject producers to direct exports to the U.S. market upon revocation.²¹⁷

In light of these factors, we find that subject producers are likely, upon revocation, to direct additional volumes of carbon steel BWPF to the U.S. market. We find that the likely cumulated volume of subject imports, both in absolute terms and relative to consumption in the United States, would be significant if the orders were revoked.²¹⁸

D. Likely Price Effects

1. The Prior Proceedings

Original Investigations. In the original investigations, the Commission found that subject imports and domestic product were relatively substitutable, price was an important factor in purchasing decisions, subject imports consistently undersold the domestic product by significant margins, and domestic prices declined as a result.²¹⁹

First Five-Year Reviews. In the first five-year reviews, the Commission found that revocation of the orders would likely lead to significant underselling and significant price

²¹⁶ CR/PR at Tables I-5, I-6, I-8, I-9, and I-10. The data in these tables are based on data for HS subheading 7307.93.

²¹⁷ CR/PR at I-37-40.

²¹⁸ While Section 301 tariffs currently impose a 25 percent *ad valorem* duty on subject imports from China, neither the domestic producers nor any responding purchaser reported that these tariffs have had an effect on either the supply of or demand for subject imports or that they anticipated such effects in the reasonably foreseeable future. See CR/PR at D-3.

²¹⁹ *Original Determinations on Brazil and Taiwan*, USITC Pub. 1918 at 18-20; *Original Determination on Japan*, USITC Pub. 1943 at 10; *Original Determinations on China and Thailand*, USITC Pub. 2528 at 27.

depression and suppression within a reasonably foreseeable time. It noted that, despite the discipline of the orders, the average unit value for subject imports was lower than that of the domestic like product during the first review period, and the record indicated that competition in the marketplace was still predominantly based on price.²²⁰

Second Five-Year Reviews. In the second five-year reviews, the Commission found that limited underselling during the review period, as well as the underselling in the original investigations, made it reasonable to conclude that subject imports would undersell the domestic like product if the orders were revoked.²²¹ It also found that the average unit values of subject imports was significantly lower than that of the domestic like product during the review period, while recognizing the influence of the product mix.²²² Given the moderately high level of substitutability between subject imports and the domestic like product, and the importance of price in purchasing decisions, the Commission found that absent the orders, subject import underselling would likely force the domestic industry to either lower its prices or risk losing market share.²²³ For these reasons, the Commission concluded that revocation of the orders would likely result in significant subject import underselling and adverse price effects on domestic producers.²²⁴

Third Five-Year Reviews. In the third five-year reviews there were no new pricing comparisons on the record.²²⁵ The Commission found that the average unit values for subject imports from China, Taiwan, and Thailand were significantly lower than that for U.S. shipments reported by domestic producers, and that domestic producers' average unit values were significantly higher in 2009 than any prior period examined.²²⁶ According to the Commission, the market for carbon steel BWPF was price competitive, in light of the market's maturity and the moderately high degree of substitutability between the domestic like product and imports from all sources.²²⁷ The Commission found that, absent the orders, it was likely that underselling by subject imports would resume, as it did in the original investigations, causing domestic producers to either reduce price or relinquish market share.²²⁸ For these reasons, the

²²⁰ *First Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3263 at 16.

²²¹ *Second Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3809 at 21.

²²² *Second Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3809 at 21.

²²³ *Second Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3809 at 21.

²²⁴ *Second Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3809 at 21.

²²⁵ *Third Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4222 at 16.

²²⁶ *Third Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4222 at 16-17.

²²⁷ *Third Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4222 at 17.

²²⁸ *Third Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4222 at 17.

Commission concluded that revocation of the orders would likely result in underselling and significant adverse price effects on the domestic industry.²²⁹

Fourth Year-Reviews. In the fourth five-year reviews, the record did not contain any current pricing information.²³⁰ The Commission observed that the pattern of cumulated subject imports having substantially lower average unit values than the domestic like product that had occurred in previous reviews reoccurred in 2015, the one year for which average unit value data was available for the domestic like product.²³¹ Accordingly, the Commission found that the likely significant volume of cumulated subject imports would likely undersell domestically produced carbon steel BWPF if the orders were revoked.²³² The Commission also found that, given the substitutability of subject imports and domestically produced carbon steel BWPF, that, absent the disciplining effect of the orders, cumulated subject imports would likely have significant depressing or suppressing effects on prices for the domestic like product.²³³

2. The Current Reviews

As previously discussed in Section IV.B.3., there is a moderate-to-high degree of substitutability between the domestic like product and cumulated subject imports and price continues to be an important factor in purchasing decisions. Due to the expedited nature of these reviews, the record does not contain new product-specific pricing information. As discussed above, the cumulated subject imports consistently undersold the domestic like product by significant margins in the original investigation. In addition, average unit values of subject imports in 2020 continued to be lower than for domestic shipments, as in prior reviews.²³⁴

We find that if the antidumping duty orders were revoked, subject imports would likely undersell the domestic like product to gain market share as they did during the original

²²⁹ *Third Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4222 at 17.

²³⁰ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 28. As noted above, Commissioner Broadbent joined this discussion as it pertained to subject imports from China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand; she determined that revocation of the antidumping duty order on subject imports from Brazil would not be likely to lead to significant adverse price effects for the domestic like product. *Id.* at note 28.

²³¹ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 28.

²³² *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 28.

²³³ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 28.

²³⁴ CR/PR at Tables I-4 and I-3. In 2020 AUVs for domestic shipments were \$3.68, AUVs for subject imports were \$1.18. *Id.*

investigations. This underselling would likely force domestic producers to either reduce their prices or risk losing sales and market share to subject imports.

Accordingly, we find that if the orders were revoked, significant volume of cumulated subject imports would likely undersell the domestic like product to a significant degree to capture market share, and would likely gain market share or have a significant depressing or suppressing effect on prices for the domestic like product.

E. Likely Impact

1. The Prior Proceedings

Original Investigations. In the 1986 original investigations, the Commission found a significant adverse impact based on the significant volume of subject imports, the consistently high market penetration of subject imports, underselling by subject imports while domestic prices declined, and the unprofitability of the domestic industry.²³⁵ In the 1992 original determinations, the Commission found the domestic industry threatened with material injury based on the following factors: (1) unused or underutilized capacity in the subject countries and inventory buildup that would lead to an increase in the volume and market share of subject imports; (2) substitutability of the product and price sensitivity of the market which would result in price suppression and depression; and (3) the declining profitability and vulnerability of the domestic industry.²³⁶

First Five-Year Reviews. In the first five-year reviews, the Commission found that there likely would be a significant adverse impact on the domestic industry if the orders were revoked. It observed that the industry's condition had improved immediately after the orders were imposed, but then began to decline again, and found the domestic industry to be vulnerable to the continuation or recurrence of material injury.²³⁷

Second Five-Year Reviews. In the second five-year reviews, although the Commission did not find the domestic industry vulnerable in light of its increased profitability over the review period, the Commission nevertheless found that the domestic industry's level of profitability was unlikely to continue if the orders were revoked, given its poor or declining

²³⁵ *Original Determinations on Brazil and Taiwan*, USITC Pub. 1918 at 20; *Original Determination on Japan*, USITC Pub. 1943 at 1-12.

²³⁶ *Original Determinations on China and Thailand*, USITC Pub. 2528 at 30-31.

²³⁷ *First Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3263 at 18.

performance with respect to sales volume and market share.²³⁸ The Commission found that while the domestic industry raised its prices to cover its increased raw material costs, it lost market share to nonsubject imports as a result.²³⁹ Consequently, the Commission concluded that the likely significant increase in subject imports coupled with their likely adverse price effects would likely result in a significant adverse impact on the domestic industry within a reasonably foreseeable time.²⁴⁰

Third Five-Year Reviews. In the third five-year reviews, there was limited information on the record regarding the domestic industry's condition. Although the domestic industry's output, rate of capacity utilization, U.S. shipments, and market share in 2009 were significantly lower than in any other period examined, the industry's net sales value and operating income were higher than in any other period.²⁴¹ The Commission did not make a finding on vulnerability, given the limited evidence on the record.²⁴² It found that the likely volume and price effects of the subject imports would likely have a significant impact on the industry's production, sales, and revenues and that a significant portion of the expected increase in subject imports would be at the expense of the domestic industry, particularly given the likelihood of subject import underselling and adverse price effects. It accordingly concluded that revocation of the orders under review would likely have a significant adverse impact on the domestic industry.²⁴³

Fourth Five-Year Reviews. In the fourth five-year reviews, the Commission determined that the limited record was insufficient to make a finding on whether the domestic industry was vulnerable to continuation or recurrence of material injury in the event of the revocation of the orders.²⁴⁴ The Commission observed that the domestic industry's capacity was 72.7 million pounds in 2015, its production was 34.9 million pounds, and its capacity utilization was 48.0 percent. U.S. shipments were 31.3 million pounds in 2015. The industry reported an operating income of \$7.5 million, resulting in an operating income margin of 6.8 percent in 2015.²⁴⁵

The Commission held that given the substitutable nature of the product, the likely significant volume of cumulated subject imports would place pricing pressure on domestic

²³⁸ *Second Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3809 at 22-23.

²³⁹ *Second Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3809 at 23.

²⁴⁰ *Second Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 3809 at 23-24.

²⁴¹ *Third Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4222 at 18.

²⁴² *Third Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4222 at 18.

²⁴³ *Third Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4222 at 18-19.

²⁴⁴ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 30.

²⁴⁵ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 30.

producers, forcing them to cut prices or cede market share to subject imports. The Commission also found that the likely significant volume of cumulated subject imports and their price effects would negatively affect the domestic industry's capacity, production, capacity utilization, net sales values and quantities, employment levels, operating income, operating income margins, and capital investments.²⁴⁶ Lastly, the Commission considered the role of factors other than subject imports, including nonsubject imports, so as not to attribute injury from other factors to the subject imports. The Commission recognized that there were several nonsubject countries whose industries supplied carbon steel BWPF to the U.S. market and that there were large and increasing volumes and market penetration of nonsubject imports over the period of review. The Commission, however, found that the adverse effects that subject imports would likely cause to the domestic industry's output, prices, and financial performance were distinguishable from any effects from the nonsubject imports.²⁴⁷ It accordingly concluded that revocation of the orders under review would likely have a significant adverse impact on the domestic industry within a reasonably foreseeable time.²⁴⁸

2. The Current Reviews

Due to the expedited nature of these reviews, the record contains limited new information on the domestic industry's condition, consisting of data provided by the domestic producers in their response to the notice of institution. The limited record in these reviews is insufficient for us to make a finding as to whether the domestic industry is vulnerable to the continuation or recurrence of material injury in the event of revocation of the orders.

The available data indicate that in 2020 the domestic industry's production capacity was 85.8 million pounds, its production was 18.1 million pounds, and its capacity utilization rate was 21.1 percent.²⁴⁹ U.S. shipments were 16.9 million pounds, with a value of \$62.2 million and an average unit value ("AUV") of \$3.7 per pound.²⁵⁰ In 2020, the domestic industry had net sales

²⁴⁶ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 30-31.

²⁴⁷ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 31.

²⁴⁸ *Fourth Five-Year Reviews*, USITC Pub. 4628 at 31.

²⁴⁹ CR/PR at Table I-3. Reported capacity utilization in 2020 was lower than in any year in prior proceedings. *Id.* See also CR/PR Appendix C (Table I-6).

²⁵⁰ CR/PR at Table I-3. While the quantity of U.S. shipments was lower than in all previous periods of investigation and review, reported AUVs in 2019 were higher than during any year of the previous period of investigation or review. *Id.*

revenues of \$***, cost of goods sold (“COGS”) of \$***, a gross profit of \$***, and an operating income of \$***; its ratio of operating income to net sales was *** percent.²⁵¹

Based on the information available in these reviews, we find that revocation of the orders would likely lead to a significant volume of cumulated subject imports that would likely significantly undersell the domestic like product. Given the moderately high degree of substitutability between the domestically produced carbon steel BWPF and cumulated subject imports and the importance of price to purchasers, increasing volumes of low-priced subject imports would likely capture market share from the domestic industry or force domestic producers to lower their prices to defend their sales, thereby depressing or suppressing prices for the domestic like product to a significant degree. Consequently, cumulated subject imports would likely have a significant impact on the production, shipments, sales, market share, and revenue of the domestic industry. These declines would likely impact the domestic industry’s profitability and employment, its ability to raise capital, and to make and maintain capital investments.

We have also considered the role of factors other than cumulated subject imports, including the presence of nonsubject imports, so as not to attribute injury from other factors to cumulated subject imports. Although nonsubject imports have increased their presence in the U.S. market, and their market share was *** percent in 2020,²⁵² there is no information on the record indicating that the presence of nonsubject imports would prevent cumulated subject imports from entering the U.S. market in significant quantities upon revocation of the orders. Given the high degree of substitutability between cumulated subject imports and the domestic like product, the importance of price in purchasing decisions, and the likelihood of underselling by subject imports in the absence of the discipline of the orders, we find it likely that any increase in subject imports would come at least in part at the expense of the domestic industry. Consequently, we find that subject imports would likely cause adverse effects on the domestic industry that are distinct from those of nonsubject imports in the event of revocation.

²⁵¹ CR/PR at Table I-3. The industry’s net sales during the period of review were lower than in all previous periods except for 1985 and 1991. COGS were higher in 2020 than during the original investigations in 1985 and the first five-year reviews in 1991, but lower than the reviews in 2004, 2009, and 2015. The operating income ratio was lower than in the previous periods of investigation and review; however, the gross profits were lower than in the previous periods of investigation and review except for during the original investigations in 1985. *See id.*

²⁵² CR/PR at Tables I-4-I-5.

Accordingly, we conclude that if the antidumping duty orders were revoked, cumulated subject imports from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand would likely have a significant impact on the domestic industry within a reasonably foreseeable time.

V. Conclusion

For the reasons discussed above, we determine that revocation of the antidumping duty orders on carbon steel BWPF from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand, would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time.

Information obtained in these reviews

Background

On July 1, 2021, the U.S. International Trade Commission (“Commission”) gave notice, pursuant to section 751(c) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (“the Act”),¹ that it had instituted reviews to determine whether revocation of antidumping duty orders on carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury.² All interested parties were requested to respond to this notice by submitting certain information requested by the Commission.³ ⁴ The following tabulation presents information relating to the background and schedule of this proceeding:

Effective date	Action
July 1, 2021	Notice of initiation by Commerce (86 FR 35070, July 1, 2021)
July 1, 2021	Notice of institution by Commission (86 FR 35133, July 1, 2021)
September 17, 2021	Commerce’s results of its expedited reviews
October 4, 2021	Commission’s vote on adequacy
February 2, 2022	Commission’s determinations and views

¹ 19 U.S.C. 1675(c).

² 86 FR 35133, July 1, 2021. In accordance with section 751(c) of the Act, the U.S. Department of Commerce (“Commerce”) published a notice of initiation of five-year reviews of the subject antidumping duty orders. 86 FR 35070, July 1, 2021. Pertinent Federal Register notices are referenced in app. A, and may be found at the Commission’s website (www.usitc.gov).

³ As part of their response to the notice of institution, interested parties were requested to provide company-specific information. That information is presented in app. B. Summary data compiled in the original investigations and subsequent reviews are presented in app. C.

⁴ Interested parties were also requested to provide a list of three to five leading purchasers in the U.S. market for the subject merchandise. Presented in app. D are the responses received from purchaser surveys transmitted to the purchasers identified in this proceeding.

Responses to the Commission’s notice of institution

Individual responses

The Commission received two submissions in response to its notice of institution in the subject reviews. They were filed on behalf of the following entities:

1. Tube Forgings of America, Inc. (“Tube Forgings”), Mills Iron Works, Inc. (“Mills Iron”), and Hackney Ladish, Inc. (a subsidiary of Precision Castparts Corp.) (“Hackney Ladish”), domestic producers of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings
2. Weldbend Corporation (“Weldbend”), a domestic producer of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings

A complete response to the Commission’s notice of institution requires that the responding interested party submit to the Commission all the information listed in the notice. Responding firms are given an opportunity to remedy and explain any deficiencies in their responses. A summary of the number of responses and estimates of coverage for each is shown in table I-1.

Table I-1
Carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings: Summary of completed responses to the Commission’s notice of institution

Interested party	Type	Number of firms	Coverage
U.S. producer	Domestic	4	***%

Note: The U.S. producer coverage figure is the estimated share of total U.S. production of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings in 2020 accounted for by responding firms. In their response to the Commission’s notice of institution, Tube Forgings, Mills Iron, and Hackney Ladish estimated that their combined share of U.S. production of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings in 2020 was *** percent. Tube Forgings, Mills Iron, and Hackney Ladish also estimated that Weldbend’s share of total U.S. production of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings in 2020 was *** percent. These firms explained that the estimates provided are based on historical estimates ***. Tube Forgings, Mills Iron, and Hackney Ladish’s response to the notice of institution, July 30, 2021, pp. 29-30. In its response to the Commission’s notice of institution, Weldbend reported that it did not know what proportion of total U.S. production of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings in 2020 is accounted for by its production. Weldbend’s response to the notice of institution, August 2, 2021, p. 7.

Party comments on adequacy

The Commission received party comments on the adequacy of responses to the notice of institution and whether the Commission should conduct expedited or full reviews jointly from domestic interested parties Tube Forgings, Mills Iron, and Hackney Ladish, as well as separately from domestic interested party Weldbend. Tube Forgings, Mills Iron, and Hackney Ladish request that the Commission conduct expedited reviews of the subject antidumping duty orders on carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings.⁵ Weldbend also requests that the Commission conduct expedited reviews of the subject antidumping duty orders.⁶

The original investigations and subsequent reviews

The original investigations

The original investigations concerning imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil, Japan, and Taiwan (Inv. Nos. 731-TA-308-310) resulted from petitions filed on February 24, 1986 with Commerce and the Commission by the U.S. Butt-Weld Fittings Committee, an ad hoc organization consisting of U.S. producers Ladish Co., Inc. (“Ladish”); Mills Iron; and Steel Forgings, Inc (“Steel Forgings”).⁷ On September 9, 1986, Commerce published a notice that it was postponing its final determination with respect to its antidumping duty investigation concerning imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Japan.⁸ On October 24, 1986, Commerce determined that imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil and Taiwan were being sold at less than fair value (“LTFV”).⁹ On December 29, 1986, Commerce determined that imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Japan were being sold at LTFV.¹⁰ The Commission determined on December 9, 1986 that the domestic industry was materially injured by reason of LTFV imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings

⁵ Tube Forgings, Mills Iron, and Hackney Ladish’s comments on adequacy, September 9, 2021, pp. 8-9.

⁶ Weldbend’s comments on adequacy, September 10, 2021, p. 3.

⁷ Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings from Brazil and Taiwan, Inv. Nos. 731-TA-308 and 310 (Final), USITC Publication 1918, December 1986 (“Original Brazil and Taiwan publication”), p. A-1 and Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings from Japan, Inv. No. 731-TA-309 (Final), USITC Publication 1943, January 1987 (“Original Japan publication”), p. A-1.

⁸ 51 FR 32117, September 9, 1986.

⁹ 51 FR 37770 and 51 FR 37772, October 24, 1986.

¹⁰ 51 FR 46892, December 29, 1986.

from Brazil and Taiwan.¹¹ On December 17, 1986, Commerce issued its antidumping duty orders on imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil and Taiwan, with the final weighted-average dumping margins of 52.25 percent for Brazil and ranging from 6.84 to 87.30 percent for Taiwan.¹² The Commission determined on January 29, 1987 that the domestic industry was materially injured by reason of LTFV imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Japan.¹³ On February 10, 1987, Commerce issued its antidumping duty order on imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Japan with the final weighted-average dumping margins ranging from 30.83 to 65.81 percent.¹⁴

The original investigations concerning imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from China and Thailand resulted from petitions filed on May 22, 1991 with Commerce and the Commission by the U.S. Fittings Group, an ad hoc trade association consisting of U.S. producers Hackney, Inc. (“Hackney”); Ladish; Mills Iron; Steel Forgings; and Tube Forgings.¹⁵ On May 18, 1992, Commerce determined that imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from China and Thailand were being sold at LTFV.¹⁶ The Commission determined on June 25, 1992 that the domestic industry was materially injured by reason of LTFV imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from China and Thailand.¹⁷ On July 6, 1992, Commerce issued its antidumping duty orders on imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from China and Thailand, with the final weighted-average dumping margins ranging from 35.06 to 182.90 percent for China and 0.22 (de minimis) to 50.84 percent for Thailand.¹⁸

The first five-year reviews

On August 5, 1999, the Commission determined that it would conduct expedited reviews of the antidumping duty orders on carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand.¹⁹ On December 3, 1999, Commerce determined that

¹¹ 51 FR 45188, December 17, 1986.

¹² 51 FR 45152, December 17, 1986.

¹³ 52 FR 3498, February 4, 1987

¹⁴ 52 FR 4167, February 10, 1987.

¹⁵ Certain Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings from China and Thailand, Inv. Nos. 731-TA-520-521 (Final), USITC Publication 2528, June 1992 (“Original China and Thailand publication”), p. I-3

¹⁶ 57 FR 21058 and 57 FR 21065, May 18, 1992.

¹⁷ 57 FR 29331, July 1, 1992.

¹⁸ The antidumping duty order on carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Thailand excluded imports from Awaji Sangyo (Thailand) Co. (“Awaji”), which Commerce found to have a de minimis dumping margin. 57 FR 29702, July 6, 1992.

¹⁹ 64 FR 44536, August 16, 1999.

revocation of the antidumping duty orders on carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of dumping.²⁰ On December 16, 1999, the Commission determined that revocation of the antidumping duty orders on carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time.²¹ Following affirmative determinations in the first five-year reviews by Commerce and the Commission, effective January 6, 2000, Commerce issued a continuation of the antidumping duty orders on imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand.²²

The second five-year reviews

On March 7, 2005, the Commission determined that it would conduct full reviews of the antidumping duty orders on carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand.²³ On July 8, 2005, Commerce determined that revocation of the antidumping duty orders on carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of dumping.²⁴ On October 31, 2005, the Commission determined that revocation of the antidumping duty orders on carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time.²⁵ Following affirmative determinations in the second five-year reviews by Commerce and the Commission, effective November 21, 2005, Commerce issued a continuation of the antidumping duty orders on imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand.²⁶

The third five-year reviews

On January 4, 2011, the Commission determined that it would conduct expedited reviews of the antidumping duty orders on carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil,

²⁰ 64 FR 67847, December 3, 1999.

²¹ 64 FR 71830, December 22, 1999.

²² 65 FR 753, January 6, 2000.

²³ 70 FR 14713, March 23, 2005.

²⁴ 70 FR 39486, July 8, 2005.

²⁵ 70 FR 66847, November 3, 2005.

²⁶ 70 FR 70059, November 21, 2005.

China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand.²⁷ On April 15, 2011, Commerce determined that revocation of the antidumping duty orders on carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of dumping.²⁸ On April 4, 2011, the Commission determined that revocation of the antidumping duty orders on carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time.²⁹ Following affirmative determinations in the third five-year reviews by Commerce and the Commission, effective April 15, 2011, Commerce issued a continuation of the antidumping duty orders on imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand.³⁰

The fourth five-year reviews

On June 6, 2016, the Commission determined that it would conduct expedited reviews of the antidumping duty orders on carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand.³¹ On July 7, 2016, Commerce determined that revocation of the antidumping duty orders on carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of dumping.³² On August 3, 2016, the Commission determined that revocation of the antidumping duty orders on carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand would be likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time.³³ Following affirmative determinations in the fourth five-year reviews by Commerce and the Commission, effective August 23, 2016, Commerce issued a continuation of the antidumping duty orders on imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand.³⁴

²⁷ 76 FR 5205, January 28, 2011.

²⁸ 76 FR 21331, April 15, 2011.

²⁹ 76 FR 19788, April 8, 2011.

³⁰ 76 FR 21331, April 15, 2011.

³¹ 81 FR 40923, June 23, 2016.

³² 81 FR 44270, July 7, 2016.

³³ 81 FR 52460, August 8, 2016. In the fourth five-year reviews, Commissioner Meredith M. Broadbent determined that revocation of the antidumping duty order on carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil was not likely to lead to continuation or recurrence of material injury to an industry in the United States within a reasonably foreseeable time.

³⁴ 81 FR 57562, August 23, 2016.

Previous and related investigations

Title VII investigations

In February 1994, the U.S. Fittings Group filed a petition alleging that LTFV imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from France, India, Israel, Malaysia, Korea, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and Venezuela were materially injuring or threatening to materially injure the domestic industry and that the governments of India and Israel were granting countervailable subsidies to their domestic industries.³⁵ Commerce determined that imports from France, India, Israel, Malaysia, Korea, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and Venezuela were sold in the United States at LTFV and that the governments of India and Israel were subsidizing their respective domestic industries. However, the Commission determined that the U.S. industry was not materially injured or threatened with material injury by reason of LTFV imports from any of the subject countries nor by reason of subsidized imports from India or Israel.³⁶ Consequently, Commerce did not issue antidumping or countervailing duty orders against U.S. imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from these countries.

Safeguard investigation

In 2001, the Commission conducted a safeguard investigation of steel products (Inv. No. TA-201-73) that included carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings. Following affirmative determinations of serious injury and remedy recommendations by the Commission, the President issued a proclamation on March 5, 2002, imposing temporary import relief, effective March 20, 2002, for a period not to exceed three years and one day, on imports from selected countries.³⁷ Import relief relating to carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings consisted of an

³⁵ The U.S. Fittings Group was an ad hoc association consisting of U.S. producers Hackney; Ladish; Mills Iron; Steel Forgings; and Tube Forgings. The U.S. Fittings Group's petition with regard to Thailand was only applicable to one producer, Awaji. All other producers and exporters of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Thailand were subject to the 1992 antidumping duty order (included in the current five-year reviews) in effect at that time. Certain Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings from France, India, Israel, Malaysia, The Republic of Korea, Thailand, The United Kingdom, and Venezuela, Investigation Nos. 701-TA-360-361 and 731-TA-688-695 (Final), USITC Publication 2870, April 1995, p. II-3.

³⁶ 60 FR 18611, April 12, 1995.

³⁷ 67 FR 10553, March 7, 2002. The safeguard measures were applied to imports of subject steel products from all countries except Canada, Israel, Jordan, and Mexico, and developing countries that were members of the World Trade Organization, whose share of total imports of a particular product did not exceed three percent (provided that imports that were the product of all such countries with

(continued...)

additional tariff of 13 percent *ad valorem* on imports in the first year, 10 percent in the second year, and 7 percent in the third year.

On March 5, 2003, the Commission instituted a mid-term review of the President's section 203 imports relief, as required by section 204(a)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974.³⁸ The Commission issued its assessment of the relief on September 19, 2003, noting that since the safeguard measures were instituted, the U.S. industry producing the pipe fittings increased its market share slightly to 39.9 percent from 36.4 percent, that total quantity of imports of pipe fittings declined, and that demand for pipe fittings during the period also declined.³⁹ On December 4, 2003, the President terminated the steel safeguard tariffs.⁴⁰

Commerce's five-year reviews

Commerce announced that it would conduct expedited reviews with respect to the antidumping duty orders on imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand with the intent of issuing the final results of these reviews based on the facts available not later than October 29, 2021.⁴¹ Commerce's Issues and Decision Memoranda, published concurrently with Commerce's final results, will contain complete and up-to-date information regarding the background and history of the orders, including scope rulings, duty absorption, changed circumstances reviews, and anti-circumvention. Upon publication, a complete version of the Issues and Decision Memoranda can be accessed at <http://enforcement.trade.gov/frn/>. The Issues and Decision Memoranda will also include any decisions that may have been pending at the issuance of this report. Any foreign producers/exporters that are not currently subject to the antidumping duty orders on imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand are noted in the sections titled "The original investigations" and "U.S. imports," if applicable.

(...continued)

less than a three percent import share collectively accounted for not more than nine percent of total imports of the product).

³⁸ 68 FR 12380, March 14, 2003.

³⁹ Steel: Monitoring Developments in the Domestic Industry, Inv. No. TA-204-9, Volume I, USITC Publication 3632, September 2003, p. xvii.

⁴⁰ 68 FR 68483, December 8, 2003.

⁴¹ Letter from Melissa G. Skinner, Senior Director, AD/CVD Operations, Enforcement and Compliance, U.S. Department of Commerce to Nannette Christ, Director of Investigations, August 20, 2021.

The product

Commerce's scope

Commerce has defined the scope as follows:

*{C}ertain carbon steel butt-weld type fittings, other than couplings, under 14 inches in diameter, whether finished or unfinished.*⁴²

U.S. tariff treatment

Carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings are currently provided for in HTS subheading 7307.93.30. Carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings imported from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand enter the U.S. market at a column 1-general duty rate of 6.2 percent. Decisions on the tariff classification and treatment of imported goods are within the authority of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Section 232 tariff treatment

Goods in HTS heading 7307 (including carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings) are not subject to Section 232 duties. See U.S. notes 16(a) and 16(b), subchapter III of HTS chapter 99.⁴³

Section 301 tariff treatment

Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended,⁴⁴ authorizes the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative ("USTR"), at the discretion of the President, to take appropriate action to respond to a country's unfair trade practices. Pursuant to Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, products of China classified under HTS subheading 7307.93.30 were included in USTR's third enumeration ("Tranche 3") that became subject to the additional 10 percent ad valorem duties on or after September 24, 2018.⁴⁵ Effective May 10, 2019, the 10 percent duty was increased to

⁴² 81 FR 57562, August 23, 2016. The scope language varies slightly amongst the subject countries due to the fact the investigations and subsequent orders for China and Thailand occurred after the investigations for Brazil, Japan, and Taiwan. Additionally, the scope language for Taiwan includes a reference to a scope decision.

⁴³ HTSUS (2021) Basic Revision 7, USITC Publication 5224, August 2021, ch. 99, pp. 99-III-5 – 99-III-6.

⁴⁴ 19 U.S.C. § 2411.

⁴⁵ 83 FR 47974, September 21, 2018.

25 percent for the products enumerated in Tranche 3.⁴⁶ See also U.S. notes 20(e) and 20(f) to subchapter III of HTS subchapter 99.⁴⁷

Description and uses⁴⁸

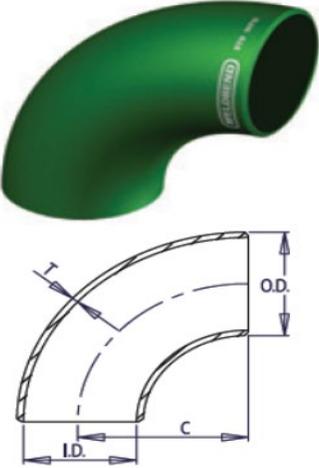
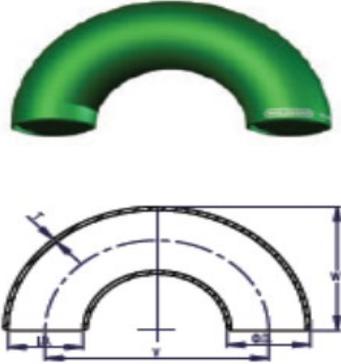
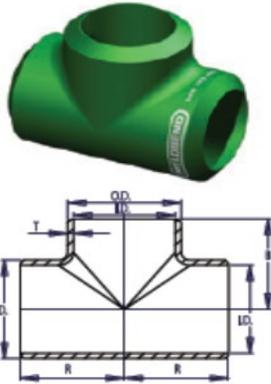
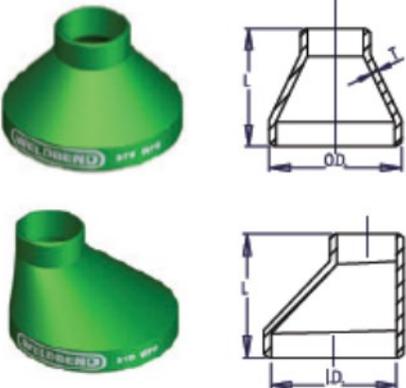
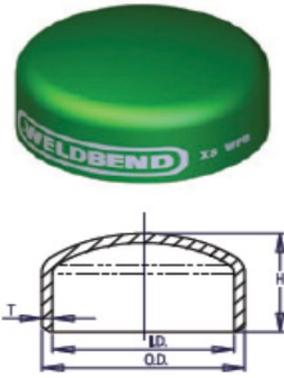
Butt-weld pipe fittings are used to connect pipe sections where conditions require permanent, welded connections. The beveled edges of butt-weld pipe fittings distinguish them from other types of pipe fittings, such as threaded, grooved, or bolted fittings, which rely on different types of fastening methods. When placed against the end of a beveled pipe or another fitting, the beveled edges of a butt-weld pipe fitting form a shallow channel that accommodates the “bead” of the weld that fastens the two adjoining pieces. Butt-weld pipe fittings can be produced from various materials, including carbon steel, alloy steel, and stainless steel; however, only those butt-weld pipe fittings produced from carbon steel and which are under 14 inches (356 mm) in inside diameter are covered by these reviews. Carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings come in several basic shapes, the most common of which are elbows, tees, reducers, and caps (figure I-1). Elbows are two-outlet fittings usually having a 45-degree or 90-degree bend, tees are T-shaped fittings having three outlets, and reducers are two-outlet fittings that connect pipes of two different diameters. Caps are used to seal the end of a pipe. There are further variations within each class of fitting based on differences in the size of one or more of the outlets (for example, there are reducing elbows and reducing tees).

⁴⁶ 84 FR 20459, May 9, 2019.

⁴⁷ HTSUS (2021) Basic Revision 7, USITC Publication 5224, August 2021, ch. 99, pp. 99-III-23 – 99-III-46.

⁴⁸ Unless otherwise noted, information in this section is from Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand, Inv. Nos. 731-TA-308-310 and 520-521 (Fourth Review), USITC Publication 4628, August 2016 (“Fourth review publication”), pp. I-4-I-6.

Figure I-1
Carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings: Representative products

Elbow with 90-degree bend	180-degree return bend
	
Elbow with 45-degree bend	Tee
	
Reducers	Cap
	

Source: Images and drawings excerpted from Weldbend Corp., *Weldbend: Carbon Steel Weld Fitting & Weld Flange Products for Piping and Construction, Sixty-Third Edition*, 2010.
<https://www.weldbend.com/catalog.pdf> (accessed August 11, 2021).

The subject product is utilized in residential, commercial, or industrial pipe systems in chemical synthesis, petroleum refining, electric-power generation, construction, and shipbuilding. Butt-weld pipe fittings join pipes in straight lines and change or divide the flow of fluids (oil, water, natural gas or other gases, or steam). They are welded into permanent, fixed piping systems that convey gases or liquids in plumbing, heating, refrigeration, air-conditioning, automatic fire sprinklers, electrical conduit, irrigation, and process-piping systems. Butt-weld pipe fittings are also found in structural applications for construction, where pipes and fittings are used as support members.

Manufacturing process⁴⁹

The manufacture of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings typically begins with seamless carbon steel pipe which is first transformed into the rough shape of an elbow, tee, reducer, etc., through a cold- or hot-forming (or forging) process. At this stage of production, the fittings are considered to be in a rough, “as formed,” state. After forming, the pipe often must undergo a “reforming” or “sizing” operation to ensure that the fitting will match the pipe to which it is to be welded. The finishing steps may include shot blasting, or other cleaning, machine beveling of the fitting edges, boring and tapering, grinding, die stamping, inspection, and painting.

Carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings historically were manufactured by firms that entered the production process at various stages. Integrated producers generally begin with seamless pipe as the raw material and perform both forming and machining operations. Converters purchase rough formed or semifinished pipe fittings and perform only machining and finishing operations. Combination producers produce some fittings in an integrated process and others in a conversion process. All carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings, whether imported or domestically produced, must meet American Society for Testing and Materials (“ASTM”) and American National Standards Institute (“ANSI”) specifications.

⁴⁹ Unless otherwise noted, information in this section is from fourth review publication, p. I-6.

The industry in the United States

U.S. producers

Since the original investigations, the U.S. industry has experienced consolidation and the exit of a number of U.S. producers of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings. During the final phase of the original investigations concerning imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil, Japan, and Taiwan, the Commission identified 12 U.S. producers of such fittings. The twelve firms included: Flo-Blend, Inc. (“Flo-Blend”); Hackney; ITT Grinnell; Ladish; L.A. Boiler Works, Inc. (“L.A. Boiler”); Mills Iron; Standard Fittings Co. (“Standard Fittings”); Steel Forgings; Tube Forgings; Tube-Line Co. (“Tube-Line”); Tube Turns, Inc. (“Tube Turns”); and Weldbend. The Commission received U.S. producer questionnaires from 11 of the 12 identified firms, which accounted for virtually all production of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings in 1985.⁵⁰

During the final phase of the original investigations concerning imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from China and Thailand, the Commission identified seven U.S. producers of such fittings: Hackney, Ladish, Mills Iron, Steel Forgings, Tube Forgings, Tube-Line, and Weldbend.⁵¹ The Commission received U.S. producer questionnaires from all seven identified firms, accounting for an estimated 100 percent of U.S. production of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings at that time.⁵²

During the first five-year reviews concerning imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand, there were five known U.S. producers of such fittings: Mills Iron; Trinity Fittings and Flange Group, Inc. (“Trinity”); Tube Forgings;

⁵⁰ Six of these 12 firms were integrated producers, four were combination producers, and two were exclusively converters of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings. Integrated producers begin with seamless pipe as the raw material and perform both forming and machining operations. Converters purchase rough formed or semifinished pipe fittings and perform only machining and finishing operations. Combination producers produce some fittings in an integrated process and others in a conversion process. Original Brazil and Taiwan publication, p. A-10.

⁵¹ ITT Grinnell ceased production of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings in 1985, Tube Turns ceased production in 1987, and L.A. Boiler ceased production in 1988. Additionally, Standard Fittings ceased production of the subject merchandise and Flo-Blend shifted its production to specialty alloy steel fittings. Original China and Thailand publication, p. I-16.

⁵² Two responding U.S. producers, Tube-Line and Weldbend, added capital equipment since the original investigations concerning Brazil, Japan, and Taiwan that granted them some integrated production capability, thereby making them combination producers instead of mere converters. *Ibid.*, pp. I-16-I-17.

Tube-Line; and Weldbend.⁵³ ⁵⁴ Four domestic producers that submitted a response to the Commission's notice of institution in those reviews (Mills Iron, Trinity, Tube Forgings, and Weldbend) accounted for approximately *** percent of estimated U.S. production of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings during 1998.⁵⁵

During the second full five-year reviews, the Commission identified five firms as U.S. producers of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings.⁵⁶ The Commission received U.S. producer questionnaires from four firms (Mills Iron, Trinity, Tube Forgings, and Weldbend), which accounted for an estimated *** percent of U.S. production of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings during that proceeding.⁵⁷

During the third five-year reviews, four firms provided U.S. industry data in response to the Commission's notice of institution (Tube Forgings, Mills Iron, Hackney Ladish (formerly Trinity), and Weldbend) and estimated that collectively they accounted for *** percent of total U.S. production of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings during 2009.⁵⁸

⁵³ Trinity (under the name of Hackney) was a party to the original investigations concerning imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from China and Thailand. Another U.S. producer that participated in that proceeding, Steel Forgings, shifted its production to specialty products. Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand, Investigation Nos. 731-TA-308-310 and 520-521 (Review), USITC Publication 3263, December 1999 ("First review publication"), p. I-10.

⁵⁴ Ladish sold its production facilities and brand name to Hackney (referred to herein as "Hackney Ladish"), which ***. Investigation Nos. 731-TA-308-310 and 520-521 (Review): Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand, Confidential Report, INV-W-252, November 3, 1999, as supplemented in INV-W-274, December 9, 1999, p. I-13.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, p. I-13.

⁵⁶ Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand, Investigation Nos. 731-TA-308-310 and 520-521 (Second Review), USITC Publication 3809, October 2005 ("Second review publication"), p. I-16.

⁵⁷ Domestic interested parties in the second full five-year reviews estimated that Tube-Line (the fifth identified U.S. producer, which did not submit a questionnaire response) accounted for *** percent of U.S. production of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings during that proceeding and that the remainder of U.S. production may have been accounted for by specialty fittings makers producing small quantities of subject product. Investigation Nos. 731-TA-308-310 and 520-521 (Second Review): Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand, Confidential Report, INV-CC-166, September 29, 2005 ("Second review confidential report"), pp. I-19, I-21-I-22.

⁵⁸ Domestic interested parties estimated that there were a number of U.S. firms that produce predominantly specialty pipe fittings that would not be within the scope of the reviews but may also produce small quantities of pipe fittings that would be within the scope. These firms were believed to account for approximately *** percent of total U.S. production of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings in 2009. Investigation Nos. 731-TA-308-310 and 520-521 (Third Review): Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand, Confidential Report, INV-JJ-018, March 2, 2011 ("Third review confidential report"), p. I-16.

During the fourth five-year reviews, four firms provided U.S. industry data in response to the Commission's notice of institution (Tube Forgings, Mills Iron, Hackney Ladish, and Weldbend) and estimated that collectively they accounted for *** percent of total U.S. production of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings during 2015.⁵⁹

In response to the Commission's notice of institution in these current five-year reviews, domestic interested parties provided a list of five known and currently operating U.S. producers of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings. Four firms providing U.S. industry data in response to the Commission's notice of institution (Tube Forgings, Mills Iron, Hackney Ladish, and Weldbend) are estimated to account for approximately *** percent of total U.S. production of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings during 2020.⁶⁰

⁵⁹ Investigation Nos. 731-TA-308-310 and 520-521 (Fourth Review): Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand, Confidential Report, INV-OO-048, May 23, 2016 ("Fourth review confidential report"), p. I-22.

⁶⁰ Tube Forgings, Mills Iron, and Hackney Ladish's response to the notice of institution, July 30, 2021, pp. 29-30 and Weldbend's response to the notice of institution, August 2, 2021, p. 5. In their response to the Commission's notice of institution in the current five-year reviews, Tube Forgings, Mills Iron, and Hackney Ladish also identified eight firms believed to produce principally specialty products. They further stated that to the extent that any of these identified firms produce commodity-type products within the scope of these reviews, such production is small and incidental to their specialty products. Tube Forgings, Mills Iron, and Hackney Ladish's response to the notice of institution, July 30, 2021, pp. 29-30.

Recent developments

Since the Commission’s fourth five-year reviews, Weldbend began installation in 2018 of a new cold-form tee press (table I-2). In addition to this company-specific event, U.S. producers reported that the decline in oil prices in late 2019 and 2020 adversely affected demand for carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings.⁶¹

U.S. producers report that both the subject product and the industry are “technologically mature.” The subject product is “not susceptible to technological advances” and that “production techniques remain essentially unchanged.”⁶²

Table I-2 presents events in the U.S. industry since the last five-year reviews.

Table I-2
Carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings: Recent developments in the U.S. industry

Item	Firm	Event
Expansion	Weldbend	In October 2018, Weldbend began installation of a new cold-form tee-press with the capacity to forge up to 20-inch tees.

Source: Supply House Times, “Weldbend begins installation of newest, biggest Tee-Press,” October 17, 2018, <https://www.supplyht.com/articles/101678-weldbend-begins-installation-of-newest-biggest-tee-press>, retrieved August 18, 2021.

U.S. producers’ trade and financial data

The Commission asked domestic interested parties to provide trade and financial data in their response to the notice of institution in the current five-year reviews.⁶³ Table I-3 presents a compilation of the trade and financial data submitted from all responding U.S. producers in the original investigations and subsequent five-year reviews.

⁶¹ Tube Forgings, Mills Iron, and Hackney Ladish’s response to the notice of institution, July 30, 2021, pp. 27, 38. “Oil prices fell in early 2019, before recovering later in the year. However, the average price of Brent crude oil, the international benchmark, was \$64 per barrel in 2019, lower than the 2018 average by \$7 per barrel (11 percent). Famously, the price of crude oil fell below zero in April 2020. Spot prices on December 31, 2020 were \$14.62 per barrel (23 percent) lower than they were on December 31, 2019. Crude oil production in the United States fell by 8 percent in 2020, the largest annual decrease in history. The businesses that rely upon the oil and gas industry suffered accordingly.”

⁶² Tube Forgings, Mills Iron, and Hackney Ladish’s response to the notice of institution, July 30, 2021, p. 38.

⁶³ Individual company trade and financial data are presented in app. B.

Table I-3
Carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings: Trade and financial data submitted by U.S. producers, by period

Quantity in 1,000 pounds; Value in 1,000 dollars; Unit value in dollars per pound; Ratio is in percent; NA is not applicable or available

Item	Measure	1985	1991	1998	2004	2009	2015	2020
Capacity	Quantity	***	***	NA	114,000	96,421	72,671	85,750
Production	Quantity	47,580	***	***	67,809	30,172	34,889	18,101
Capacity utilization	Ratio	***	***	NA	59.5	31.3	48.0	21.1
U.S. shipments	Quantity	***	***	***	63,213	28,226	31,322	16,909
U.S. shipments	Value	***	***	***	84,173	109,794	111,314	62,189
U.S. shipments	Unit value	\$***	\$***	\$***	\$1.33	\$3.89	\$3.55	\$3.68
Net sales	Value	44,908	***	NA	85,048	109,994	111,314	***
COGS	Value	43,116	***	NA	67,523	83,336	80,407	***
COGS to net sales	Ratio	96.0	***	NA	79.4	75.8	72.2	***
Gross profit or (loss)	Value	1,792	***	NA	17,525	26,658	30,907	***
SG&A expenses	Value	5,858	***	NA	11,367	15,851	23,391	***
Operating income or (loss)	Value	(4,066)	***	NA	6,158	10,808	7,516	***
Operating income or (loss) to net sales	Ratio	(9.1)	***	NA	7.2	9.8	6.8	***

Source: For the year 1985, data are compiled using data submitted in the Commission's original investigations concerning imports from Brazil, Japan, and Taiwan. For the year 1991, data are compiled using data submitted in the Commission's original investigations concerning imports from China and Thailand. For the years 1998, 2004, 2009, and 2015, data are compiled using data submitted in the Commission's grouped (concerning imports from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand) first five-year reviews, second five-year reviews, third five-year reviews, and fourth five-year reviews, respectively. For the year 2020, data are compiled using data submitted by domestic interested parties. Tube Forgings, Mills Iron, and Hackney Ladish's response to the notice of institution, July 30, 2021, pp. 36-38; Weldbend's response to the notice of institution, August 2, 2021, attachment A; and Weldbend's supplemental response to the notice of institution, August 20, 2021, p. 1.

Note: For a discussion of data coverage, please see "U.S. producers" section.

Definitions of the domestic like product and domestic industry

The domestic like product is defined as the domestically produced product or products which are like, or in the absence of like, most similar in characteristics and uses with, the subject merchandise. The domestic industry is defined as the U.S. producers as a whole of the domestic like product, or those producers whose collective output of the domestic like product constitutes a major proportion of the total domestic production of the product. Under the related parties provision, the Commission may exclude a U.S. producer from the domestic industry for purposes of its injury determination if “appropriate circumstances” exist.⁶⁴

In its original determinations, its expedited first five-year review determinations, its full second five-year review determinations, and its expedited third and fourth five-year review determinations, the Commission defined the domestic like product as all carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings corresponding to Commerce's scope.⁶⁵

In its original determinations, its expedited first five-year review determinations, and its full second five-year review determinations, the Commission defined a single domestic industry: producers of finished and unfinished carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings having an inside diameter of less than 14 inches, including integrated producers, converters, and combination producers which perform both integrated production and conversion. One Commissioner defined the domestic industry differently in the original determinations concerning Brazil, Japan, and Taiwan. In the original determinations concerning China and Thailand, the Commission excluded two domestic producers, Tube Line and Weldbend, from the domestic industry under the related parties provision. In its expedited first five-year review determinations, the Commission once again excluded Tube Line from the domestic industry under the related parties provision but found that Weldbend was no longer a related party eligible for exclusion. Certain Commissioners did not exclude Tube Line from the domestic industry in the expedited first five-year reviews. In the full second five-year review determinations, the Commission determined that appropriate circumstances did not exist for excluding any domestic producer from the domestic industry as a related party. In its expedited third and fourth five-year review determinations, the Commission defined a single domestic industry consisting of all domestic producers of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings.⁶⁶

⁶⁴ Section 771(4)(B) of the Tariff Act of 1930, 19 U.S.C. § 1677(4)(B).

⁶⁵ 86 FR 35133, July 1, 2021.

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*

U.S. imports

U.S. importers

During the final phase of the original investigations concerning imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil, Japan, and Taiwan, the Commission received U.S. importer questionnaires from 24 firms, which accounted for virtually all U.S. imports of such fittings from Brazil, Japan, and Taiwan in 1985.⁶⁷ Import data presented in the original investigations concerning imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil, Japan, and Taiwan are based on official Commerce statistics and questionnaire responses.

During the final phase of the original investigations concerning imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from China and Thailand, the Commission received U.S. importer questionnaires from 27 firms. Of the 27 importing firms, 17 firms imported finished fittings from China, 10 firms imported finished fittings from Thailand, six firms imported unfinished fittings from China, and five firms imported unfinished fittings from Thailand.⁶⁸ Import data presented in the original investigations concerning imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from China and Thailand are based on questionnaire responses for imports from China and Thailand and official Commerce statistics for imports from all other sources.

Although the Commission did not receive responses from any respondent interested parties in its first five-year reviews, domestic interested parties identified one firm that may have imported carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Japan at that time, four firms that may have imported from Taiwan, and two firms that may have imported from Thailand at that time. No U.S. importers of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil or China could be identified during that proceeding.⁶⁹ Import data presented in the first five-year reviews are based on official Commerce statistics. During that proceeding, staff were unable to identify the exact quantity of U.S. imports from Thailand that were subject to the corresponding antidumping duty order. However, staff believed that the great majority of U.S. imports from Thailand were manufactured and/or exported by nonsubject Thai producer Awaji.

During the second full five-year reviews, the Commission received U.S. importer questionnaires from four firms that reported importing from subject sources, which accounted for approximately *** percent of U.S. imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from

⁶⁷ Original Brazil and Taiwan publication, p. A-13.

⁶⁸ Original China and Thailand publication, p. I-18.

⁶⁹ First review publication, p. I-15.

Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand during 2004.⁷⁰ Import data presented in the second five-year reviews are based on official Commerce statistics with adjustments to reclassify merchandise from nonsubject Thai producer Awaji. During that proceeding, nonsubject U.S. imports from Thailand accounted for *** of total U.S. imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Thailand during each year of the period of review, with the exception of 2001 where nonsubject imports accounted for *** of total imports from Thailand.⁷¹

Although the Commission did not receive responses from any respondent interested parties in its third five-year reviews, domestic interested parties identified seven firms that may have imported carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from subject countries at that time.⁷² Import data presented in the third five-year reviews are based on official Commerce statistics with adjustments to reclassify merchandise from nonsubject Thai producer Awaji. During that proceeding, nonsubject U.S. imports from Thailand accounted for *** of total U.S. imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Thailand during each year of the period of review.⁷³

Although the Commission did not receive responses from any respondent interested parties in its fourth five-year reviews, domestic interested parties identified six firms that may have imported carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from subject countries at that time.⁷⁴ Import data presented in the fourth five-year reviews are based on official Commerce statistics with adjustments to reclassify merchandise from nonsubject Thai producer Awaji. During that proceeding, nonsubject U.S. imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Thailand accounted for *** of total U.S. imports from Thailand during each year of the period of review.⁷⁵

Although the Commission did not receive responses from any respondent interested parties in these current reviews, in their responses to the Commission's notice of institution, domestic interested parties provided a list of eight potential U.S. importers of carbon steel butt-

⁷⁰ Second review confidential report, p. I-22.

⁷¹ *Ibid.*, p. IV-2.

⁷² Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand, Investigation Nos. 731-TA-308-310 and 520-521 (Third Review), USITC Publication 4222, April 2011 ("Third review publication"), p. I-13.

⁷³ Third review confidential report, p. I-19.

⁷⁴ Fourth review publication, p. I-20.

⁷⁵ Fourth review confidential report, I-32.

weld pipe fittings.⁷⁶ Import data presented in these current five-year reviews are based on official Commerce statistics.

U.S. imports

Table I-4 presents the quantity, value, and unit value of U.S. imports from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, and combined nonsubject sources.

⁷⁶ In their response to the Commission's notice of institution in these current five-year reviews, Tube Forgings, Mills Iron, and Hackney Ladish cited to a Commerce circumvention determination (see 84 FR 29164) and Customs & Border Protection Enforce and Protect Act ("EAPA") investigations (see EAPA Inv. Nos. 7297 and 7335) indicating that a portion of imports from third country sources in fact originate in China. Tube Forgings, Mills Iron, and Hackney Ladish's response to the notice of institution, July 30, 2021, pp. 31-32 and Weldbend's response to the notice of institution, August 2, 2021, p. 5.

Table I-4
Carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings: U.S. imports, by source and period

Quantity in 1,000 pounds; Value in 1,000 dollars

U.S. imports from	Measure	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Brazil	Quantity	---	0	---	4	---
China	Quantity	286	247	2,677	1,715	265
Japan	Quantity	1	36	0	10	5
Taiwan	Quantity	560	1,722	2,501	3,396	1,153
Thailand (subject)	Quantity	***	***	***	***	***
Subject sources	Quantity	***	***	***	***	***
Thailand (nonsubject)	Quantity	***	***	***	***	***
All other sources	Quantity	55,320	64,786	83,388	86,016	44,519
Nonsubject sources	Quantity	***	***	***	***	***
All import sources	Quantity	61,045	73,840	100,400	103,229	53,124
Brazil	Value	---	3	---	14	---
China	Value	239	402	3,198	2,728	505
Japan	Value	5	200	4	15	25
Taiwan	Value	636	1,647	2,293	3,740	1,174
Thailand (subject)	Value	***	***	***	***	***
Subject sources	Value	***	***	***	***	***
Thailand (nonsubject)	Value	***	***	***	***	***
All other sources	Value	54,852	57,919	94,919	110,077	46,123
Nonsubject sources	Value	***	***	***	***	***
All import sources	Value	61,930	67,528	114,254	131,539	55,996

Table continued on next page.

Table I-4 Continued
Carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings: U.S. imports, by source and period

Unit value in dollars per pound

U.S. imports from	Measure	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Brazil	Unit value	---	8.55	---	3.35	---
China	Unit value	0.84	1.63	1.19	1.59	1.91
Japan	Unit value	3.66	5.58	9.89	1.42	4.74
Taiwan	Unit value	1.14	0.96	0.92	1.10	1.02
Thailand (subject)	Unit value	***	***	***	***	***
Subject sources	Unit value	***	***	***	***	***
Thailand (nonsubject)	Unit value	***	***	***	***	***
All other sources	Unit value	0.99	0.89	1.14	1.28	1.04
Nonsubject sources	Unit value	***	***	***	***	***
All import sources	Unit value	1.01	0.91	1.14	1.27	1.05

Source: Compiled from official U.S. import statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce Census Bureau using HTS statistical reporting numbers 7307.93.3010 and 7307.93.3040, accessed August 10, 2021. Imports are based on the imports for consumption data series. Value data are reported based on a landed, duty-paid basis.

Note: Quantities shown as “0” represent values greater than zero, but less than 500 pounds.

Note: Because of rounding, figure may not add to total shown.

Note: As previously discussed, Thai producer Awaji is excluded from the subject antidumping duty order on U.S. imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Thailand. During prior proceedings, staff found that these nonsubject imports accounted for *** of total U.S. imports from Thailand. In the current five-year reviews, domestic interested parties believe that the bulk of the merchandise exported from Thailand was manufactured by nonsubject Thai producer Awaji. Tube Forgings, Mills Iron, and Hackney Ladish’s response to the notice of institution, July 30, 2021, p. 34. Based on information from previous five-year reviews and information submitted in response to the Commission’s notice of institution in the current five-year reviews, staff believes approximately *** percent of the merchandise imported from Thailand under the relevant statistical reporting numbers were imported from nonsubject Thai producer Awaji. As such, import data from Thailand in this table has been adjusted to reclassify this estimated share of imports as nonsubject.

Cumulation considerations⁷⁷

In assessing whether imports should be cumulated in five-year reviews, the Commission considers, among other things, whether there is a likelihood of a reasonable overlap of competition among subject imports and the domestic like product. Additional information concerning geographical markets and simultaneous presence in the market is presented below.⁷⁸

U.S. imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil were only reported in one month during 2017 and one month during 2019, with no reported imports from Brazil during the years 2016, 2018, and 2020. U.S. imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Japan were reported in nine of the 60 months between 2016 and 2020. In contrast, of the 60 months between 2016 and 2020, U.S. imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings were reported for the following: China (58 months), Taiwan (57 months), and Thailand (60 months).

U.S. imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from China, Taiwan, and Thailand entered through the northern, southern, eastern, and western borders of entry in all years from 2016 through 2020, with the exception of 2016 when U.S. imports from Taiwan did not enter through the eastern border of entry. U.S. imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil entered through the southern border of entry in 2017 and the northern border of entry in 2019. U.S. imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Japan entered through the southern border of entry during 2016-17, the eastern border of entry in 2018, the western border of entry in 2019, and the northern and western borders of entry in 2020.

⁷⁷ Unless otherwise noted, this information is based on official U.S. import statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce Census Bureau using HTS statistical reporting numbers 7307.93.3010 and 7307.93.3040, accessed August 10, 2021.

⁷⁸ In addition, available information concerning subject country producers and the global market is presented in the next section of this report.

Apparent U.S. consumption and market shares

Table I-5 presents data on U.S. producers' U.S. shipments, U.S. imports, apparent U.S. consumption, and market shares.

Table I-5
Carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings: Apparent U.S. consumption and market shares, by source and period

Quantity in 1,000 pounds; Value in 1,000 dollars; NA is not applicable or available

Source	Measure	1985	1991	1998	2004	2009	2015	2020
U.S. producers	Quantity	***	***	***	63,213	28,226	31,322	16,909
Brazil	Quantity	***	NA	---	---	---	---	---
China	Quantity	NA	***	14	177	389	648	265
Japan	Quantity	***	NA	32	0	2	---	5
Taiwan	Quantity	***	NA	5,878	2,482	1,203	1,526	1,153
Thailand (subject)	Quantity	NA	***	NA	***	***	***	***
Subject sources	Quantity	28,580	***	5,924	***	***	***	***
Thailand (nonsubject)	Quantity	NA	NA	NA	***	***	***	***
All other sources	Quantity	***	***	31,351	40,070	42,590	89,231	44,519
Nonsubject sources	Quantity	***	***	31,351	***	***	***	***
Total imports	Quantity	***	42,029	37,275	55,577	49,537	99,464	53,124
Apparent U.S. consumption	Quantity	79,015	101,784	***	118,790	77,763	130,786	70,033

Table continued on next page.

Table I-5 Continued

Carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings: Apparent U.S. consumption and market shares, by source and period

Share of quantity is the share of apparent U.S. consumption by quantity in percent; NA is not applicable or available

Source	Measure	1985	1991	1998	2004	2009	2015	2020
U.S. producers	Share of quantity	***	***	***	53.2	36.3	23.9	24.1
Brazil	Share of quantity	***	NA	---	---	---	---	---
China	Share of quantity	NA	***	0.0	0.1	0.5	0.5	0.4
Japan	Share of quantity	***	NA	0.0	0.0	0.0	---	0.0
Taiwan	Share of quantity	***	NA	***	2.1	1.5	1.2	1.6
Thailand (subject)	Share of quantity	NA	***	NA	***	***	***	***
Subject sources	Share of quantity	36.2	***	***	***	***	***	***
Thailand (nonsubject)	Share of quantity	NA	NA	NA	***	***	***	***
All other sources	Share of quantity	***	***	***	34.6	54.8	68.2	63.6
Nonsubject sources	Share of quantity	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
All import sources	Share of quantity	***	41.3	***	46.8	63.7	76.1	75.9

Source: For the year 1985, data are compiled using data submitted in the Commission's original investigations concerning imports from Brazil, Japan, and Taiwan. For the year 1991, data are compiled using data submitted in the Commission's original investigations concerning imports from China and Thailand. For the years 1998, 2004, 2009, and 2015, data are compiled using data submitted in the Commission's first, second, third, and fourth combined five-year reviews, respectively, concerning imports from Brazil, China, Japan, Thailand, and Taiwan. For the year 2020, U.S. producers' U.S. shipments are compiled from the domestic interested parties' responses to the Commission's notice of institution and U.S. imports are compiled official U.S. import statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce Census Bureau using HTS statistical reporting numbers 7307.93.3010 and 7307.93.3040, accessed August 10, 2021. Imports are based on the imports for consumption data series.

Table notes continued on next page.

Table I-5 Continued

Carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings: Apparent U.S. consumption and market shares, by source and period

Note: As previously discussed, Thai producer Awaji is excluded from the subject antidumping duty order on U.S. imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Thailand. During prior proceedings, staff found that these nonsubject imports accounted for *** of total U.S. imports from Thailand. In the current five-year reviews, domestic interested parties believe that the bulk of the merchandise exported from Thailand was manufactured by nonsubject Thai producer Awaji. Tube Forgings, Mills Iron, and Hackney Ladish's response to the notice of institution, July 30, 2021, p. 34. Based on information from previous five-year reviews and information submitted in response to the Commission's notice of institution in the current five-year reviews, staff believes approximately *** percent of the merchandise imported from Thailand under the relevant statistical reporting numbers were imported from nonsubject Thai producer Awaji. As such, import data from Thailand in this table has been adjusted to reclassify this estimated share of imports as nonsubject.

Note: For 1985, apparent U.S. consumption is derived from reported U.S. shipments of imports, rather than U.S. imports. For 1991, import data for imports from China and Thailand are based on questionnaire responses and import data for all other sources are based on official Commerce statistics. Thus, apparent U.S. consumption is derived from reported U.S. shipments of imports for imports from China and Thailand and is derived from official U.S. import statistics for imports from all other sources.

Note: For a discussion of data coverage, please see "U.S. producers" and "U.S. importers" sections.

Note: Quantities shown as "0" represent values greater than zero, but less than 500 pounds. Shares shown as "0.0" represent values greater than zero, but less than "0.05" percent.

The industry in Brazil

In the original investigations concerning imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil, Japan, and Taiwan, the Commission received a response to its foreign producer/exporter questionnaire from the sole Brazilian producer of such fittings during that proceeding, Conforja, S.A. (“Conforja”).⁷⁹ Although the Commission did not receive responses from any respondent parties during the first five-year reviews concerning imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand, domestic interested parties reported that Conforja continued to be the sole Brazilian producer of such fittings during that proceeding.⁸⁰ During the second full five-year reviews, the Commission did not receive any responses to its foreign producer/exporter questionnaire. U.S. producers continued to believe that the sole Brazilian producer of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings was Conforja, which had begun doing business as Uniforja, a cooperative owned by former Conforja employees.⁸¹ Although the Commission did not receive responses from any respondent interested party during the third and fourth five-year reviews, domestic interested parties maintained that Uniforja remained the sole Brazilian producer of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings, accounting for 100 percent of Brazil’s exports of such fittings to the United States.⁸²

The Commission did not receive responses from any respondent interested parties in these current five-year reviews, but domestic interested parties reported that Uniforja continues to be the sole Brazilian producer of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings.⁸³

Table I-6 presents export data for butt-weld tube or pipe fittings of iron or steel (other than cast fittings or fittings of stainless steel), a category that includes carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings and out-of-scope products, from Brazil (by export destination in descending order of quantity for 2020). The top 5 export markets for Brazilian butt-weld tube or pipe fittings of iron or steel were the United States, Bolivia, Honduras, Singapore, and Indonesia in 2020. Collectively, those five countries represented 88 percent of Brazil’s total exports of butt-weld tube or pipe fittings of iron or steel in 2020.

⁷⁹ Investigation Nos. 731-TA-308 and 310 (Final): Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings from Brazil and Taiwan, Confidential Report, INV-J-173, November 20, 1986 (“Original Brazil and Taiwan confidential report”), p. A-44.

⁸⁰ First review publication, p. I-22.

⁸¹ Second review publication, pp. IV-4-IV-5.

⁸² Third review publication, p. I-19 and fourth review publication, p. I-28.

⁸³ Tube Forgings, Mills Iron, and Hackney Ladish’s response to the notice of institution, July 30, 2021, p. 32 and Weldbend’s response to the notice of institution, August 2, 2021, p. 5.

Table I-6
Butt-weld fittings of iron or steel (other than cast fittings or fittings of stainless steel): Quantity of exports from Brazil, by destination and period

Quantity in 1,000 pounds

Destination market	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
United States	11	1	98	34	66
Bolivia	9	10	29	15	23
Honduras	---	---	---	2	7
Singapore	---	---	2	14	5
Indonesia	---	---	1	0	3
Bermuda	---	---	---	---	2
Paraguay	11	99	8	7	2
Angola	28	14	1	2	2
Uruguay	---	-	1	---	2
Panama	---	45	27	17	1
All other markets	410	60	36	142	5
All markets	468	229	203	234	118

Source: Global Trade Information Services, Inc., Global Trade Atlas, HS subheading 7307.93. These data may be overstated as HS subheading 7307.93 may contain products outside the scope of these reviews.

Note: Because of rounding, figures may not add to total shown.

Note: Quantities shown as "0" represent values greater than zero, but less than 500 pounds.

Note: In 2016, the leading destinations for Brazil's exports that are included in "All other markets" were Norway (329,000 pounds), Chile (38,000 pounds), and China (24,000 pounds). In 2019, Argentina was the leading destination and accounted for 96,000 pounds of Brazil's exports.

The industry in China

During the final phase of the original investigations concerning imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from China and Thailand, the Commission received responses to its request for information from seven firms, which accounted for approximately 31 percent of U.S. imports of such fittings in 1991.⁸⁴ Although the Commission did not receive responses from any respondent interested parties in its first five-year reviews, domestic interested parties identified six possible producers/exporters of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings in China during that proceeding.⁸⁵ During the second full five-year reviews, the Commission did not receive any responses from firms in China to its foreign producer/exporter questionnaire. During that proceeding, U.S. producers claimed that six Chinese firms represented the vast majority of exporting producers in China.⁸⁶ Although the Commission did not receive responses from any respondent interested parties in its third five-year reviews, domestic interested parties identified 11 possible producers/exporters of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings in China during that proceeding.⁸⁷ Although the Commission did not receive responses from any respondent interested parties in its fourth five-year reviews, domestic interested parties identified 12 possible producers/exporters of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings in China during that proceeding.⁸⁸

The Commission did not receive responses from any respondent interested parties in these current five-year reviews, but domestic interested parties provided a list of 19 possible producers/exporters of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings in China.⁸⁹

Table I-7 presents export data for butt-weld tube or pipe fittings of iron or steel (other than cast fittings or fittings of stainless steel), a category that includes carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings and out-of-scope products, from China (by export destination in descending order of quantity for 2020). The top 5 export markets for Chinese butt-weld tube or pipe fittings of iron or steel were India, Russia, the United Arab Emirates, Korea, and Indonesia in 2020. Collectively, those five countries represented 42 percent of China's total exports of butt-weld tube or pipe fittings of iron or steel in 2020. The United States was the destination market for

⁸⁴ Original China and Thailand publication, pp. I-32-I-33.

⁸⁵ First review publication, p. I-22.

⁸⁶ Second review publication, p. IV-7.

⁸⁷ Third review publication, p. I-20.

⁸⁸ Fourth review publication, p. I-30.

⁸⁹ Tube Forgings, Mills Iron, and Hackney Ladish's response to the notice of institution, July 30, 2021, pp. 32-33.

only 1,769 thousand pounds of China's exports of products in HS subheading 7307.93 and was the thirty-sixth leading export destination in 2020.

Table I-7
Butt-weld fittings of iron or steel (other than cast fittings or fittings of stainless steel): Quantity of exports from China, by destination and period

Quantity in 1,000 pounds

Destination market	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
India	33,262	48,421	53,443	44,081	46,884
Russia	21,951	24,086	27,776	28,029	37,509
United Arab Emirates	22,490	17,257	15,024	37,154	24,622
Korea	22,144	17,241	22,567	29,726	20,225
Indonesia	20,981	13,669	32,204	27,722	16,863
Vietnam	16,168	15,321	14,931	15,293	14,990
Thailand	15,260	9,947	13,530	12,031	13,638
Brazil	7,276	7,005	7,230	13,230	13,332
Singapore	9,286	6,419	6,700	11,255	10,782
Taiwan	9,909	9,059	10,428	11,925	10,429
All other markets	207,259	201,289	186,271	172,007	141,320
All markets	385,985	369,714	390,102	402,453	350,595

Source: Global Trade Information Services, Inc., Global Trade Atlas, HS subheading 7307.93. These data may be overstated as HS subheading 7307.93 may contain products outside the scope of these reviews.

Note: Because of rounding, figures may not add to total shown.

The industry in Japan

During the final phase of the original investigations concerning imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil, Japan, and Taiwan, the Commission received responses to its request for certain data from two firms.⁹⁰ Although the Commission did not receive responses from any respondent interested parties in its first five-year reviews, domestic interested parties identified three possible producers/exporters of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings in Japan during that proceeding.⁹¹ During the second full five-year reviews, the Commission did not receive any responses from firms in Japan to its foreign producer/exporter questionnaire. During that proceeding, U.S. producers believed that three Japanese producers represented the vast majority of exporting producers in Japan.⁹² Although the Commission did not receive responses from any respondent interested parties in its third or fourth five-year reviews, domestic interested parties identified two possible producers/exporters of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings in Japan during those proceedings.⁹³

The Commission did not receive responses from any respondent interested parties in these current five-year reviews, but domestic interested parties provided a list of two possible producers/exporters of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings in Japan.⁹⁴

Table I-8 presents export data for butt-weld tube or pipe fittings of iron or steel (other than cast fittings or fittings of stainless steel), a category that includes carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings and out-of-scope products, from Japan (by export destination in descending order of quantity for 2020). The top 5 export markets for Japanese butt-weld tube or pipe fittings of iron or steel were Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, China, and the Philippines in 2020. Collectively, those five countries represented 80 percent of Japan's total exports of butt-weld tube or pipe fittings of iron or steel in 2020. The United States was the tenth leading export destination in 2020.

⁹⁰ Original Japan publication, p. A-4.

⁹¹ First review publication, p. I-22.

⁹² Second review publication, IV-9.

⁹³ Third review publication, p. I-21 and fourth review publication, p. I-31.

⁹⁴ Tube Forgings, Mills Iron, and Hackney Ladish's response to the notice of institution, July 30, 2021, p. 33 and Weldbend's response to the notice of institution, August 2, 2021, p. 5.

Table I-8**Butt-weld fittings of iron or steel (other than cast fittings or fittings of stainless steel): Quantity of exports from Japan, by destination and period**

Quantity in 1,000 pounds

Destination market	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Indonesia	158	3,084	1,093	1,098	2,385
Saudi Arabia	79	3,735	2,839	1,564	1,297
Singapore	377	153	1,340	1,518	940
China	406	343	299	352	619
Philippines	633	488	830	876	604
Azerbaijan	59	---	---	93	429
United Kingdom	139	96	188	240	205
Vietnam	59	30	34	208	189
Italy	177	84	112	211	188
United States	164	102	237	117	174
All other markets	1,334	1,064	468	824	314
All markets	3,583	9,180	7,440	7,100	7,345

Source: Global Trade Information Services, Inc., Global Trade Atlas, HS subheading 7307.93. These data may be overstated as HS subheading 7307.93 may contain products outside the scope of these reviews.

Note: Because of rounding, figures may not add to total shown.

The industry in Taiwan

During the final phase of the original investigations concerning imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from Brazil, Japan, and Taiwan, the Commission received responses to its request for certain data from two firms in Taiwan, Gei Bey Corp. and ***.⁹⁵ Although the Commission did not receive responses from any respondent interested parties in its first five-year review, domestic interested parties provided a list of four possible producers/exporters in Taiwan during that proceeding.⁹⁶ During the second full five-year reviews, the Commission requested data from two producers of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings in Taiwan and neither firm provided the Commission with a response.⁹⁷ Although the Commission did not receive responses from any respondent interested parties in its third five-year reviews, the domestic interested parties provided a list of four possible producers/exporters of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings in Taiwan during that proceeding.⁹⁸ Although the Commission did not receive responses from any respondent interested parties in its fourth five-year reviews, the domestic interested parties provided a list of four possible producers/exporters of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings in Taiwan in that proceeding.⁹⁹

The Commission did not receive responses from any respondent interested parties in these current five-year reviews, but the domestic interested parties provided a list of 12 possible producers/exporters of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings in Taiwan.¹⁰⁰

Table I-9 presents export data for butt-weld tube or pipe fittings of iron or steel (other than cast fittings or fittings of stainless steel), a category that includes carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings and out-of-scope products, from Taiwan (by export destination in descending order of quantity for 2020). The top 5 export markets for Taiwanese butt-weld tube or pipe fittings of iron or steel were the United States, Canada, Turkey, Italy, and Mexico in 2020. Collectively, those five countries represented 96 percent of Taiwan's total exports of butt-weld tube or pipe fittings of iron or steel in 2020.

⁹⁵ Original Brazil and Taiwan confidential report, pp. A-43-A-45.

⁹⁶ First review publication, p. I-22.

⁹⁷ Second review publication, IV-11.

⁹⁸ Third review publication, I-23.

⁹⁹ Fourth review publication, p. I-33.

¹⁰⁰ Tube Forgings, Mills Iron, and Hackney Ladish's response to the notice of institution, July 30, 2021, pp. 33-34 and Weldbend's response to the notice of institution, August 2, 2021, p. 5.

Table I-9
Butt-weld fittings of iron or steel (other than cast fittings or fittings of stainless steel): Quantity of exports from Taiwan, by destination and period

Quantity in 1,000 pounds

Destination market	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
United States	1,473	4,083	6,446	9,716	4,669
Canada	3,814	4,389	4,685	3,605	3,056
Turkey	2,566	1,290	2,174	2,579	2,317
Italy	2,008	1,307	2,324	2,017	1,561
Mexico	1,512	1,113	1,089	699	472
Germany	---	88	163	203	157
New Zealand	75	104	148	148	86
Japan	75	123	260	269	71
United Kingdom	---	---	---	64	66
Singapore	681	295	185	143	53
All other markets	752	417	185	313	26
All markets	12,957	13,210	17,659	19,756	12,533

Source: Global Trade Information Services, Inc., Global Trade Atlas, HS subheading 7307.93. These data may be overstated as HS subheading 7307.93 may contain products outside the scope of these reviews.

Note: Because of rounding, figures may not add to total shown.

The industry in Thailand

During the final phase of the original investigations concerning imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from China and Thailand, the Commission received responses to its request for certain data from two producers in Thailand, TTU Industrial Corp. Ltd. (“TTU”) and Thai Benkan Co., Ltd. (“Benkan”), which accounted for approximately *** percent of U.S. imports of such fittings from Thailand during 1991.¹⁰¹ A third producer in Thailand identified during that proceeding, Awaji, received a de minimis dumping margin and is currently excluded from the subject antidumping duty order on imports of such fittings from Thailand.¹⁰² Although the Commission did not receive responses from any respondent interested parties in its first five-year reviews, domestic interested parties reported that the same three producers in Thailand identified in the original investigations (Awaji, Benkan, and TTU) continued to operate during that proceeding.¹⁰³ During the second full five-year reviews, the Commission requested data from the two subject producers of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings in Thailand (Benkan and TTU) and neither firm provided the Commission with a response. These two firms were believed to represent the vast majority of exporting producers of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings in Thailand during that proceeding.¹⁰⁴ Although the Commission did not receive responses from any respondent interested parties in its third and fourth five-year reviews, domestic interested parties reported that the same three producers in Thailand (Awaji, Benkan, and TTU) continued to operate during those proceedings.¹⁰⁵ Additionally, during the fourth five-year reviews, domestic interested parties identified two other possible producers/exporters in Thailand, Thana Lohakit Company Co., Ltd. and Thai-Asia P.E. Pipe Company, Ltd.¹⁰⁶

Although the Commission did not receive responses from any respondent interested parties in these current five-year reviews, domestic interested parties provided a list of three possible producers/exporters of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings in Thailand: Awaji, Benkan, and TTU.¹⁰⁷

¹⁰¹ Investigation Nos. 731-TA-520-521 (Final): Certain Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings from China and Thailand, Confidential Report, INV-P-095, June 9, 1992, pp. I-58.

¹⁰² 57 FR 29702, July 6, 1992.

¹⁰³ First review publication, p. I-22.

¹⁰⁴ Second review publication, IV-13.

¹⁰⁵ Third review publication, p. I-24 and fourth review publication, p. I-34.

¹⁰⁶ Fourth review publication, p. I-34.

¹⁰⁷ Tube Forgings, Mills Iron, and Hackney Ladish’s response to the notice of institution, July 30, 2021, p. 34 and Weldbend’s response to the notice of institution, August 2, 2021, p. 5.

Table I-10 presents export data for butt-weld tube or pipe fittings of iron or steel (other than cast fittings or fittings of stainless steel), a category that includes carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings and out-of-scope products, from Thailand (by export destination in descending order of quantity for 2020). The top 5 export markets for Thai butt-weld tube or pipe fittings of iron or steel were Japan, the United States, Canada, Indonesia, and the United Arab Emirates in 2020. Collectively, those five countries represented 88 percent of Thailand’s total exports of butt-weld tube or pipe fittings of iron or steel in 2020.

Table I-10
Butt-weld fittings of iron or steel (other than cast fittings or fittings of stainless steel): Quantity of exports from Thailand, by destination and period

Quantity in 1,000 pounds

Destination market	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Japan	20,874	23,170	21,927	22,779	17,930
United States	7,779	10,793	18,369	15,138	7,435
Canada	3,151	5,528	8,470	6,003	2,447
Indonesia	1,974	1,280	3,292	2,610	1,768
United Arab Emirates	1,258	1,226	1,728	2,677	1,280
Singapore	2,435	1,152	1,521	1,740	877
Belgium	520	328	500	298	446
Saudi Arabia	1,432	1,525	872	739	412
United Kingdom	189	287	367	502	343
South Africa	343	330	407	603	316
All other markets	2,742	1,547	2,689	3,421	1,652
All markets	42,696	47,165	60,141	56,511	34,905

Source: Global Trade Information Services, Inc., Global Trade Atlas, HS subheading 7307.93. These data may be overstated as HS subheading 7307.93 may contain products outside the scope of these reviews.

Note: Because of rounding, figures may not add to total shown.

Third-country trade actions

Antidumping duty orders are currently maintained by Argentina, the European Union (“EU”), Japan, Mexico, and Turkey on imports of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from China.

Argentina

In October 2009, Argentina issued an antidumping duty order on carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from China, with an antidumping duty margin of \$3.94 per kilogram.¹⁰⁸ In October 2015, Argentina renewed the order and raised the duty to \$4.67 per kilogram.¹⁰⁹ Argentina commenced a review of the order in October 2020.¹¹⁰

European Union (EU)

In April 1996, the EU issued an antidumping duty order on certain tube or pipe fittings (including carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings) from China, with an antidumping duty margin of 58.6 percent.¹¹¹ These orders were renewed in June 2003, September 2009, and October 2015.¹¹² The EU commenced a review of the order in October 2020.¹¹³

The antidumping duty margin of 58.6 percent for carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from China has also been applied to EU imports of subject products from Indonesia, Taiwan, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines to prevent circumvention of Chinese-origin subject products

¹⁰⁸ World Trade Organization, *Semi-Annual Report under Article 16.4 of the Agreement: Argentina*, G/ADP/N/195/ARG, February 22, 2010, p. 4. The subject product are carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings of an external diameter of 2 inches or more but not exceeding 12 inches.

¹⁰⁹ World Trade Organization, *Semi-Annual Report under Article 16.4 of the Agreement: Argentina*, G/ADP/N/280/ARG, March 18, 2016, p. 6.

¹¹⁰ World Trade Organization, *Semi-Annual Report under Article 16.4 of the Agreement: Argentina*, G/ADP/N/350/ARG, March 19, 2021, p. 8.

¹¹¹ World Trade Organization, *Semi-Annual Report under Article 16.4 of the Agreement: European Community*, G/ADP/N/16/EEC, September 23, 1996, p. 3.

¹¹² World Trade Organization, *Semi-Annual Report under Article 16.4 of the Agreement: European Community*, G/ADP/N/105/EEC, September 3, 2003, p. 5. World Trade Organization, *Semi-Annual Report under Article 16.4 of the Agreement: European Union*, G/ADP/N/195/EEC, March 31, 2010, p. 10. World Trade Organization, *Semi-Annual Report under Article 16.4 of the Agreement: European Union*, G/ADP/N/280/EEC, April 8, 2016, p. 8.

¹¹³ *Notice of initiation of an expiry review of the anti-dumping measures applicable to imports of certain tube and pipe fittings of iron or steel originating in the People's Republic of China (2020/C 361/06)*, Official Journal of the European Union, C 361/6, October 27, 2020. The EU duty orders cover products outside the scope of these reviews. The subject product of the EU antidumping duty order is defined as, "certain tube or pipe fittings (other than cast fittings, flanges and threaded fittings), of iron or steel (not including stainless steel), with a greatest external diameter not exceeding 609,6 mm, of a kind used for butt-welding or other purposes, originating in the People's Republic of China ('the product under review'), currently classified under CN codes ex 7307 93 11, ex 7307 93 19 and ex 7307 99 80 (TARIC codes 7307 93 11 91, 7307 93 11 93, 7307 93 11 94, 7307 93 11 95, 7307 93 11 99, 7307 93 19 91, 7307 93 19 93, 7307 93 19 94, 7307 93 19 95, 7307 93 19 99, 7307 99 80 92, 7307 99 80 93, 7307 99 80 94, 7307 99 80 95 and 7307 99 80 98)."

consigned to these countries and subsequently exported to the EU. The antidumping duty order on carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from China was first extended to Taiwan in April 2000, to Indonesia and Sri Lanka in December 2004, and to the Philippines in April 2006.¹¹⁴

Japan

In March 2018, Japan issued an antidumping duty order on carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from China, with an antidumping duty margin of 57.3 percent.¹¹⁵

Mexico

In August 2004, Mexico issued an antidumping duty order on carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings from China with a margin of 81.04 percent.¹¹⁶ In November 2006, Mexico renewed the order and changed to the duty to \$2.07 per kilogram.¹¹⁷ In February 2011, Mexico renewed the order and lowered the duty to \$1.05 per kilogram.¹¹⁸ Mexico again renewed the order in July 2015 and August 2020, with the duty remaining at \$1.05 per kilogram.¹¹⁹

Turkey

In January 2010, Turkey issued an antidumping duty order on pipe fittings (including carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings) from China, with the lesser of an antidumping duty margin

¹¹⁴ World Trade Organization, *Semi-Annual Report under Article 16.4 of the Agreement: European Communities*, G/ADP/N/65/EEC, August 17, 2000, p. 4 and 6. World Trade Organization, *Semi-Annual Report under Article 16.4 of the Agreement: European Communities*, G/ADP/N/126/EEC, March 8, 2005, p. 4. World Trade Organization, *Semi-Annual Report under Article 16.4 of the Agreement: European Communities*, G/ADP/N/145/EEC, September 22, 2006, p. 4.

¹¹⁵ World Trade Organization, *Semi-Annual Report under Article 16.4 of the Agreement: Japan*, G/ADP/N/314/JPN, August 9, 2018, p. 2.

¹¹⁶ World Trade Organization, *Semi-Annual Report under Article 16.4 of the Agreement: Mexico*, G/ADP/N/126/MEX, February 25, 2005, p. 3.

¹¹⁷ World Trade Organization, *Semi-Annual Report under Article 16.4 of the Agreement: Mexico*, G/ADP/N/153/MEX, March 22, 2007, p. 4. This report added further detail to the scope by stating that the order covers fittings with an outside diameter of 0.5 to 16 inches.

¹¹⁸ World Trade Organization, *Semi-Annual Report under Article 16.4 of the Agreement: Mexico*, G/ADP/N/216/MEX, September 29, 2011, p. 5.

¹¹⁹ World Trade Organization, *Semi-Annual Report under Article 16.4 of the Agreement: Mexico*, G/ADP/N/280/MEX, February 22, 2016, p. 7. World Trade Organization, *Semi-Annual Report under Article 16.4 of the Agreement: Mexico*, G/ADP/N/350/MEX, March 11, 2021, p. 6.

of 42.6 percent or \$663 per ton.¹²⁰ In April 2016, Turkey renewed the order with a duty of \$663 per ton.¹²¹

The global market

Table I-11 presents global export data for butt-weld tube or pipe fittings of iron or steel (other than cast fittings or fittings of stainless steel), a category that includes carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings and out-of-scope products (by source in descending order of quantity for 2020). In 2020, the United States exported 10,660 thousand pounds of products in HS subheading 7307.93 and was the eleventh leading global exporter.

Table I-11
Butt-weld fittings of iron or steel (other than cast fittings or fittings of stainless steel): Quantity of global exports by country and period

Quantity in 1,000 pounds

Exporting country	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
China	385,985	369,714	390,102	402,453	350,595
Korea	151,080	109,694	108,015	115,477	119,026
Italy	114,891	127,978	151,098	114,736	71,155
Thailand	42,696	47,165	60,141	56,511	34,905
Germany	33,917	31,112	30,278	23,016	17,979
Malaysia	32,598	46,883	37,509	33,287	20,211
Austria	31,022	32,660	36,223	31,114	27,739
Belarus	16,470	19,030	18,898	19,347	18,519
France	16,132	16,532	29,730	29,526	15,499
Russia	14,988	10,942	14,762	19,701	21,179
All other exporters	157,002	157,230	177,995	192,239	136,872
All exporters	996,782	968,941	1,054,750	1,037,407	833,679

Source: Global Trade Information Services, Inc., Global Trade Atlas, HS subheading 7307.93. These data may be overstated as HS subheading 7307.93 may contain products outside the scope of these reviews.

Note: Because of rounding, figures may not add to total shown.

¹²⁰ World Trade Organization, *Semi-Annual Report under Article 16.4 of the Agreement: Turkey*, G/ADP/N/202/TUR, August 6, 2010, p. 3.

¹²¹ World Trade Organization, *Semi-Annual Report under Article 16.4 of the Agreement: Turkey*, G/ADP/N/286/TUR, September 6, 2016, p. 8. The subject product of the Turkish antidumping duty order is defined as, "Certain tube or pipe fittings of iron or steel; 7307.91.00.00.00, 7307.93.11.00.11, 7307.93.11.00.12, 7307.93.19.00.00."

APPENDIX A
FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICES

The Commission makes available notices relevant to its investigations and reviews on its website, www.usitc.gov. In addition, the following tabulation presents, in chronological order, Federal Register notices issued by the Commission and Commerce during the current proceeding.

Citation	Title	Link
86 FR 35070 July 1, 2021	<i>Initiation of Five-Year (Sunset) Reviews</i>	https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-07-01/pdf/2021-14111.pdf
86 FR 35133 July 1, 2021	<i>Carbon Steel Butt-Weld Pipe Fittings From Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand; Institution of Five-Year Reviews</i>	https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-07-01/pdf/2021-14016.pdf

APPENDIX B
COMPANY-SPECIFIC DATA

* * * * *

APPENDIX C
SUMMARY DATA COMPILED IN PRIOR PROCEEDINGS

Table I-6
Carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings: Summary data from the original investigations, second full reviews, and third expedited reviews, 1983-1985, 1989-1991, 1999-2004, and 2009

Item	(Quantity=1,000 pounds; value=\$1,000; unit values, unit labor costs, and unit financial data are per pound)												
	1983	1984	1985	1989	1990	1991	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2009
U.S. consumption quantity: Amount	68,625	80,561	79,015	95,192	99,365	101,784	103,537	114,332	128,921	110,926	91,981	118,790	77,763
Producers' share ¹	***	***	***	***	***	***	64.8	59.3	48.3	56.8	55.3	53.2	36.3
Importer's share: ¹													
Brazil	***	***	***	(2)	(2)	(2)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0
China	(2)	(2)	(2)	***	***	***	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5
Japan	***	***	***	(2)	(2)	(2)	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0
Taiwan	***	***	***	(2)	(2)	(2)	4.8	2.9	2.5	1.0	1.7	2.1	1.5
Thailand (subject)	(2)	(2)	(2)	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Subtotal	30.4	38.6	36.2	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Thailand (nonsubject)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
All other countries ¹	***	***	***	***	***	***	19.2	26.5	38.7	32.0	31.3	34.6	54.8
Subtotal	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Total imports ¹	***	***	***	42.7	37.6	41.3	35.2	40.7	51.7	43.2	44.7	46.8	63.7
U.S. import quantity from--				(2)	(2)	(2)	0	0	0	0	10	0	0
Brazil	***	***	***										
China	(2)	(2)	(2)	***	***	***	125	138	224	68	83	177	389
Japan	***	***	***	(2)	(2)	(2)	292	220	74	101	0.4	0.1	2
Taiwan	***	***	***	(2)	(2)	(2)	4,952	3,308	3,173	1,076	1,602	2,482	1,203
Thailand (subject)	(2)	(2)	(2)	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Subtotal	20,880	31,059	28,580	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Thailand (nonsubject)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
Other sources	***	***	***	***	***	***	19,863	30,273	49,909	35,478	28,812	41,070	42,590
Subtotal	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	***	***	***	***	***	***	***
All sources	***	***	***	40,602	37,342	42,029	36,481	46,521	66,680	47,945	41,087	55,577	49,537

Table continued on next page.

Table I-6--Continued
Carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings: Summary data from the original investigations, second full reviews, 1983-1985, 1989-1991, 1999-2004, and 2009

Item	(Quantity=1,000 pounds; value=\$1,000; unit values, unit labor costs, and unit financial data are per pound)												
	1983	1984	1985	1989	1990	1991	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2009
U.S. producers'-- Capacity	***	***	***	***	***	***	114,000	114,000	101,000	96,520	87,225	114,000	96,421
Production	36,602	51,795	47,580	***	***	***	65,514	64,796	62,606	61,467	48,571	67,809	30,172
Capacity utilization ¹	***	***	***	***	***	***	57.5	56.8	62.0	63.7	55.7	59.5	31.3
U.S. shipments Quantity	***	***	***	***	***	***	67,056	67,811	62,241	62,981	50,894	63,213	28,226
Value	***	***	***	***	***	***	66,437	67,035	70,298	68,053	59,601	84,173	109,794
Unit value	***	***	***	***	***	***	\$0.99	\$0.99	\$1.13	\$1.08	\$1.17	\$1.33	\$3.89
Net sales	\$41,621	\$46,298	\$44,908	***	***	***	\$67,448	\$67,913	\$71,306	\$68,589	\$59,979	\$85,048	\$109,994
Operating income	(7,705)	(3,857)	(4,066)	***	***	***	(1,458)	(494)	2,577	3,407	1,013	6,158	10,808
Net income	(8,844)	(4,880)	(6,362)	***	***	***	(1,832)	(1,135)	2,122	3,231	1,556	6,479	(2)
Operating income to net sales ¹	(18.5)	(8.3)	(9.1)	***	***	***	(2.2)	(0.7)	3.6	5.0	1.7	7.2	9.8
Net income to net sales ¹	(21.2)	(10.5)	(14.2)	***	***	***	(2.7)	(1.7)	3.0	4.7	2.6	7.6	(2)

¹ In percent.

² Unavailable or not presented.

Note.--Because of rounding, figures may not add to the totals shown.

Source: Data for 1983-1985 are compiled from information collected in the Commission's original antidumping duty investigations on Brazil, Japan, and Taiwan: *Butt-weld Pipe Fittings from Brazil and Taiwan, Invs. Nos. 731-TA-308 and 310 (Final)*, USITC Publication 1918, December 1986 and *Butt-weld Pipe Fittings from Japan, Inv. No. 731-TA-309 (Final)*, USITC Publication 1943, January 1987.

Data for 1989-1991 are compiled from information collected in the Commission's original antidumping duty investigations on China and Thailand: *Certain Carbon Steel Butt-weld Pipe Fittings from China and Thailand, Invs. Nos. 731-TA-520 and 521 (Final)*, USITC Publication 2528, June 1992.

Data for 1999-2004 are compiled from information collected in the Commission's second full review on Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand. *Carbon Steel Butt-weld Pipe Fittings from Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and Thailand, Inv. Nos. 731-TA-308-310 and 520-521 (Second Review)*, USITC Publication 3809, October 2005.

Data for 2009 are compiled from data submitted in response to the Commission's notice of institution in the present expedited reviews, official Commerce statistics, and proprietary Customs data.

APPENDIX D

PURCHASER QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

As part of their response to the notice of institution, interested parties were asked to provide a list of three to five leading purchasers in the U.S. market for the domestic like product. Two responses were received from domestic interested parties and they named the following thirteen firms as top purchasers of carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings: ***. Purchaser questionnaires were sent to these thirteen firms and seven firms (***) provided responses, which are presented below.

1. Have there been any significant changes in the supply and demand conditions for carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings that have occurred in the United States or in the market for carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings in Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and/or Thailand since January 1, 2016?

Purchaser	Yes / No	Changes that have occurred
***	***	***
***	***	***

Table continued on next page.

Continued.

Purchaser	Yes / No	Changes that have occurred
***	***	*** .

2. Do you anticipate any significant changes in the supply and demand conditions for carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings in the United States or in the market for carbon steel butt-weld pipe fittings in Brazil, China, Japan, Taiwan, and/or Thailand within a reasonably foreseeable time?

Purchaser	Yes / No	Anticipated changes
***	***	*** .

