PURCHASERS' QUESTIONNAIRE

STAINLESS STEEL WIRE ROD FROM ITALY, JAPAN, KOREA, SPAIN, SWEDEN, AND TAIWAN

Return completed questionnaire to:

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

Office of Investigations, Room 615 500 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20436

So as to be received by the Commission by no later than March 24, 2004

The information called for in this questionnaire is for use by the United States International Trade Commission in connection with its countervailing duty/antidumping review investigations concerning stainless steel wire rod from Italy, Japan, Korea, Spain, Sweden, and Taiwan (invs. Nos. 701-TA-373 and 731-TA-770-775 (Review)). The information requested in the questionnaire is requested under the authority of the Tariff Act of 1930, title VII. This report is mandatory and failure to reply as directed can result in a subpoena or other order to compel the submission of records or information in your possession (19 U.S.C. § 1333(a)). Further information on this questionnaire can be obtained from James Fetzer (202-708-5403).

Name of firm

City State Zip code				
World Wi	de Web address			
	m purchased stainless steel wire rod (as defined in the instruction booklet) from <u>any</u> source (domestic or ny time since January 1, 1998?			
\square_{NO}	(Sign the certification below and promptly return only this page of the questionnaire to the Commission)			
YES (Read the instruction booklet carefully, complete all parts of the questionnaire, sign the certification, and return the entire questionnaire to the Commission)				
ana unaersta				
led in this quaission on the nission on the	Ind that the information submitted is subject to audit and verification by the Commission. If it is a subject to audit and verification by the Commission. It is a subject to audit and its employees and contract personnel, to use the interpretable and throughout these reviews in any other import-injury investigations or reviews conduct as a same or similar merchandise. (If you do not consent to such use, please note the certification according information submitted in this questionnaire response and throughout these reviews may be used by the Cocontract personnel who are acting in the capacity of Commission employees, for developing or main			
ded in this qualission on the mowledge that aployees, and ds of these rev programs an	ification I also grant consent for the Commission, and its employees and contract personnel, to use the it estionnaire and throughout these reviews in any other import-injury investigations or reviews conducts as ame or similar merchandise. (If you do not consent to such use, please note the certification according information submitted in this questionnaire response and throughout these reviews may be used by the Cocontract personnel who are acting in the capacity of Commission employees, for developing or main iews or related proceedings for which this information is submitted, or in internal audits and investigation of the Commission pursuant to 5 U.S.C. Appendix 3. I understand that all contract personne			
ded in this que nission on the nowledge that apployees, and ds of these reverses and disclosure agrees.	ification I also grant consent for the Commission, and its employees and contract personnel, to use the it estionnaire and throughout these reviews in any other import-injury investigations or reviews conducts as ame or similar merchandise. (If you do not consent to such use, please note the certification according information submitted in this questionnaire response and throughout these reviews may be used by the Cocontract personnel who are acting in the capacity of Commission employees, for developing or main iews or related proceedings for which this information is submitted, or in internal audits and investigation of the Commission pursuant to 5 U.S.C. Appendix 3. I understand that all contract personne			

PART I.--GENERAL QUESTIONS

The questions in this questionnaire have been reviewed with market participants to ensure that issues of concern are adequately addressed and that data requests are sufficient, meaningful, and as limited as possible. Public reporting burden for this questionnaire is estimated to average 20 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering the data needed, and completing and reviewing the questionnaire. Send comments regarding the accuracy of this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Office of Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20436.

hours	dollars	
	d address of establishment(s) covered et for reporting guidelines). If your find trading symbol.	
Is your firm owned, i	in whole or in part, by any other firm?	
□ _{No} □	YesList the following information.	
Firm name	Address	Extent of ownership
importing stainless st United States or which	any related firms, either domestic or teel wire rod from Italy, Japan, Korea ch are engaged in exporting stainless aniwan to the United States?	, Spain, Sweden, and Taiwan in
importing stainless st United States or which Spain, Sweden, or Ta	teel wire rod from Italy, Japan, Korea ch are engaged in exporting stainless	, Spain, Sweden, and Taiwan in

PART I.-GENERAL QUESTIONS--Continued

Firm name	Address	<u>Affiliation</u>
In Part III of this que company have a busi	stionnaire we request copies of your	company's business plan. Do
company have a busi		pies. If you are not providing

PART II.--PURCHASES

Please note that stainless steel wire rod from Taiwan that was produced by Yieh Hsing and stainless steel wire rod from Japan that was produced by Hitachi are not subject to antidumping duties; therefore, if your firm purchased product produced by either Hitachi in Japan or Yieh Hsing in Taiwan, please note this in your response.

II-1. Report, as indicated below, your firm's purchases (either directly or through a sales agent or broker) of stainless steel wire rod.

(<i>Quantity</i> in short tons, <i>value</i> in \$1,000)						
Item	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
PURCHASES FROM U.S. PRODUCERS:						
Quantity						
Value						
PURCHASES FROM ITALY:						
Quantity						
Value						
PURCHASES FROM JAPAN (excluding product produced by Hitachi in Japan):						
Quantity						
Value						
PURCHASES FROM KOREA:						
Quantity						
Value						
PURCHASES FROM SPAIN:						
Quantity						
Value						
PURCHASES FROM SWEDEN:						
Quantity						
Value						
PURCHASES FROM TAIWAN (excluding product produced by Yieh Hsing in Taiwan):						
Quantity						
Value						
PURCHASES FROM ALL OTHER COUNTRIES:1						
Quantity						
Value						
¹ Please identify these countries:						

PART II.--PURCHASES--Continued

(a)	Did your firm purchase stainless steel wire rod from Italy, Japan, Korea, Spain, Sweder or Taiwan before 1998?
	\square NoSkip to (c) \square Yes
(b)	If yes, has your pattern of purchasing stainless steel wire rod from Italy, Japan, Korea, Spain, Sweden, and Taiwan changed since 1998? (Indicate whether your answer differ depending on the country of origin).
	No, our pattern of purchasing is essentially unchanged.
	Yes, we discontinued purchases from Italy, Japan, Korea, Spain, Sweden, and Taiv because of the order(s).
	Yes, we reduced purchases from Italy, Japan, Korea, Spain, Sweden, and Taiwan because of the order(s).
	Yes, but we changed the pattern of purchases from Italy, Japan, Korea, Spain, Sweden, and Taiwan for reasons other than the order(s) (please explain below).
(c)	Has your pattern of purchasing stainless steel wire rod from nonsubject foreign sources changed since 1998 (please check all that apply).
	We did not purchase from nonsubject foreign sources before or after the order(s).
	No, our pattern of purchasing is essentially unchanged.
	Yes, we increased purchases from nonsubject countries because of the order(s).
	Yes, but we changed our pattern of purchases from nonsubject countries for reason other than the order (please explain below).

Please note that stainless steel wire rod from Taiwan that was produced by Yieh Hsing and stainless steel wire rod from Japan that was produced by Hitachi are not subject to antidumping duties; therefore, if your firm purchased product produced by either Hitachi in Japan or Yieh Hsing in Taiwan, please note this in your response.

III-1.	Which of the following best describes all that apply, noting the specific end		stainless steel wire rod (check
	End User ()
	Wire Drawer ()
	Distributor ()
	Other ()
III-2.	If your firm is a distributor or reseller consumers to which you sell stainless	of stainless steel wire rod, v	
III-3.	List, in order of quantity of stainless s which your firm purchases stainless s indicate what percentage of the total of	teel wire rod as a component	t part or material input. Please
	End-use product	Percent of total purchases	Percent of cost accounted for by stainless steel wire rod
	1	1	1
	2	2	2
	3	3	3
III-4.	Have there been any changes in the end of No YesDiscuss the	nd uses of stainless steel wire changes, noting the time per	

III-5.	If your firm is an end user of stainless steel wire rod, has the demand for your firm's final products incorporating stainless steel wire rod changed since 1998?
	YesPlease indicate the direction of change and identify the major factors that have contributed to this change and describe the ways in which any changes in demand for your firm's final products have affected your firm's purchases.
III-6.	Do substitutes exist for the end-use products listed previously?
	No YesPlease identify any such substitutes and explain the effect of any such substitutes on your sales of the listed end-use products and on your purchases of stainless steel wire rod.
III-7.	How has demand within the United States (and outside the United States, if known) for stainless steel wire rod changed since 1998? Unchanged Increased Decreased Other (describe)
	What were the principal factors affecting changes in demand?
III-8.	Do you anticipate any future changes in stainless steel wire rod demand in the United States and, if known, the rest of the world?
	No YesPlease describe and identify the time period. Provide any underlying assumptions, along with relevant portions of business plans or other supporting documentation, that address this issue.

III-9.	Please identify any supply factor(s) (e.g., changes in availability or prices of raw materials, energy, or labor; transportation conditions; production capacity and/or methods of production; technology; export markets; or alternative production opportunities) that affected the availability of U.Sproduced stainless steel wire rod in the U.S. market since 1998. Please note the time period(s) of any such changes, the factor(s) involved, and the impact such changes had on your shipment volumes and prices.
III-10.	What do you think will be the likely effects of any revocation of the countervailing duty order/antidumping duty orders for imports of stainless steel wire rod from Italy, Japan, Korea, Spain, Sweden, and Taiwan? As appropriate, please discuss any potential effects of revocation of the countervailing duty order/antidumping duty orders on (1) the future activities of your firm and (2) the U.S. market as a whole. Please note the future time period to which you are referring. Attach additional pages if necessary.
	(1) Activities of your firm:
	(2) Entire U.S. market:
III-11.	Please provide as separate attachments to this request any studies, surveys, etc., that you are aware of that quantify and/or otherwise discuss stainless steel wire rod demand and/or factors affecting stainless steel wire rod demand in the (1) United States, (2) each of the major producing/consuming countries, including those subject to this review, and (3) the world as a whole. Of particular interest is such data on an annual basis from 1998 to the present and forecasts of these demand data.
III-12.	(a) Are there other products that could be substituted for stainless steel wire rod in its end uses? No YesPlease identify such substitutes. If multiple end uses exist for stainless steel wire rod, please discuss potential substitutes for each.
	(b) Have there been any changes in the number or type of products that can be substituted for stainless steel wire rod since 1998 concerning imports from Italy, Japan, Korea, Spain, Sweden, and Taiwan?
	No YesPlease explain.

	(c) Since 1998, have prices for these substitute products increased, decreased, or remained the same relative to those for stainless steel wire rod? Have changes in these relative prices caused your firm to shift purchases from stainless steel wire rod to the substitute products or vice versa?
III-13.	Is buying a product that is produced in the United States an important factor in your firm's purchases of stainless steel wire rod (please check ALL that apply)?
	\square_{No}
	YesPurchases of domestic product are required by law or regulation (for example, government purchases under "Buy American" provisions). This involves percent of all purchases of stainless steel wire rod.
	YesPurchases of domestic product are not required by law or regulation, but are by your customers. This involves percent of all purchases of stainless steel wire rod.
	YesPurchases of domestic product are required for other reasons (please specify these reasons below). This involves percent of all purchases of stainless steel wire rod.
III-14.	(a) Is the stainless steel wire rod market subject to business cycles or conditions of competition distinctive to stainless steel wire rod?
	No YesPlease explain and provide estimates of the duration of any such cycle.
	(b) Has the emergence of new markets for stainless steel wire rod since 1998 affected the business cycles or conditions of competition distinctive to stainless steel wire rod?
	No YesPlease explain any such changes.

III-15.	Who are your major competitors?				
III-16.	Does your firm, and to the extent that you know, do your customers make purchasing decisions involving stainless steel wire rod based on the producer of the stainless steel wire rod you purchase?				
	Your firm:				
	Your customers:				
	If at least sometimes, please discuss how your firm or your customers determine the producer and why this information is important.				
	Your firm:				
	Your customers:				
III-17.	Does your firm, and to the extent that you know, do your customers make purchasing decisions involving stainless steel wire rod based on the country of origin of the stainless steel wire rod you purchase?				
	Your firm:				
	Your customers:				
	If at least sometimes, please discuss how your firm or your customers determine the source and why this information is important.				
	Your firm:				
	Your customers:				
III-18.	(a) How frequently do you make purchases?				
	Daily Weekly Monthly Quarterly Annually				
	Other (specify)				

	(b) Do you exp	pect this purchasing pattern to change in the next two years?
	No	YesHow and why do you expect these changes to occur?
III-19.	How many sup	opliers do you generally contact before making a purchase?
III-20.	(a) Do purchas purchaser?	ses of stainless steel wire rod usually involve negotiations between supplier and
	No	YesPlease describe these negotiations. In your response, please comment on whether purchasers generally quote competing prices as part of the negotiation process.
		firm tend to vary its purchases from a given supplier within a specified time period rice offered for that period?
	No	YesSpecify the time period.
III-21.	Have you chan	YesPlease list the supplier or suppliers and indicate whether the firm was added or dropped as a supplier. Also give the reasons for the change and how frequently you change suppliers.
III-22.	(a) Are you aw in the last 3 ye	vare of any new suppliers, either foreign or domestic, that have entered the market ars?
	□No	YesPlease identify the firms and indicate how you become aware of them.

(b) Do you expect new stainless steel wire rod suppliers to enter the market in the future?
No YesPlease provide details, noting the specific future time period in your response.
Please list, in order of their importance, the three major factors generally considered by your firm in deciding from whom to purchase stainless steel wire rod for any one order (examples include current availability, extension of credit, prearranged contracts, price, quality of product, range of supplier's product line, traditional supplier, etc.).
1.
2
3
What characteristics does your firm consider when determining the quality of stainless steel wire rod?
How often does your firm purchase stainless steel wire rod that is offered at the lowest price?
Always Usually Sometimes Never
(a) Are U.Sinland transportation costs a major factor in your firm's consideration of which suppliers to source its stainless steel wire rod requirements?
□ No □ Yes
(b) Of the total cost of the stainless steel wire rod that your firm purchases, approximately what percent is accounted for by U.S. inland transportation costs (please answer separately for each of your sources)?
Source percent
Source percent
Sourcepercent

III-27.	Have individual U.S. producers, importers, purchasers, or foreign producers/exporters of stainless steel wire rod influenced the U.S. wholesale market price of stainless steel wire rod since 1998?
	YesPlease identify any such firm(s) and note the time period when the firm influenced price, whether the effect was to increase or decrease the price, and why your firm believes that the actions of the firm(s) were responsible for the price change.
III-28.	How frequently does the price of the stainless steel wire rod you are purchasing change?
III-29.	(a) Do you require your suppliers to become certified or pre-qualified with respect to the quality, chemistry, strength, or other performance characteristic of stainless steel wire rod they sell to your firm?
	No YesApproximately percent of your firm's total 2003 purchases of stainless steel wire rod required some form of certification or prequalification.
	(b) Explain why your firm requires supplier certification or pre-qualification.
	(c) Briefly describe the factors that are considered when qualifying a new supplier (e.g., quality of product, reliability of supplier, etc.) and estimate the time it takes to qualify a new supplier.
	(d) Since 1998, have any domestic or foreign producers ever failed in their attempts to qualify their stainless steel wire rod with your firm or have any producers lost their approved status?
	No YesPlease identify these firms, the countries where they are located, and the reasons why they failed the qualification process.

III-30.	(a) As an attachment to this questionnaire, please identify and discuss any improvements/changes in the U.S. stainless steel wire rod industry since 1998 and explain fully, to the extent possible, the factor(s), including the order(s) under review, that was/(were) responsible for each improvement/change.
	(b) Please also discuss fully, to the extent possible, any improvements/changes that you anticipate in the future in the U.S. stainless steel wire rod industry. Identify the specific future time period covered in your response, and discuss the factors that you believe would be responsible for each improvement/change.
III-31.	Does your firm purchase stainless steel wire rod over the internet?
	No YesPlease describe, noting the estimated percentage of your firm's total purchases of stainless steel wire rod in 2003 accounted for by internet purchases.
PART	IV <u>COMPARISONS BETWEEN IMPORTED AND U.SPRODUCED PRODUCT</u>
steel w	note that stainless steel wire rod from Taiwan that was produced by Yieh Hsing and stainless ire rod from Japan that was produced by Hitachi are not subject to antidumping duties; ore, if your firm purchased product produced by either Hitachi in Japan or Yieh Hsing in n, please note this in your response.
IV-1.	Please indicate the countries of origin for stainless steel wire rod for which your firm has actual marketing/pricing knowledge.
	United States
	Sweden
IV-2.	Do the specifications of stainless steel wire rod vary depending on the end-use application?
	YesPlease list the specifications of the material for each end-use application. If the specifications vary based on the supplier, please list the product specifications for each supplier, noting the country of origin in your response.

IV-3. Is stainless steel wire rod produced in the United States and in other countries used in the same applications?

Country nois		-	ith products fi	rom a specifie	ed country-pai	r. ¹	dicate that the ed in the same Nonsubject
Country-pair	Italy	Japan	Korea	Spain	Sweden	Taiwan	countries
United States							
Italy							
Japan							
Korea							
Spain							
Sweden							
Taiwan							
Nonsubject							
Do you or your customers ever specifically order stainless steel wire rod from one country in particular over other possible sources of supply? No YesPlease identify all relevant countries (including the United States and both subject and nonsubject foreign countries) from which you or your customers prefer to order, and indicate why stainless steel wire rod from these countries is preferred over product from other countries (please note the specific product in your response).							

IV-5.		ades/types/sizes oreign, including			vailable from only a si ct countries)?	ngle source
	\square No					
	YesPleas	se identify the so	ource and the g	grade/type/size	e.	
IV-6.	been higher, lower, all country combin	, or about the sa ations you are fa	me as those of amiliar with (a	product from s indicated in	different sources have other sources. Please your response to the fonsubject foreign cour	e answer for first question
	(country)	Higher	Lower	Same	priced than from _	(country)
	(country)	Higher	Lower	Same	priced than from _	(country)
	(country)	Higher	Lower	Same	priced than from _	(country)

V-7.	price of U.Sp	produced stainles	a change in the price of stainless steel wire rod? If so, has the ss steel wire rod changed more or less than the price of imported aly, Japan, Korea, Spain, Sweden, and Taiwan?
	☐ No change	in price	
	Prices have	e changed by the	e same amount
	Price of U. steel wire rod		inless steel wire rod has changed relative to the price of stainless
	Price of U. steel wire rod		inless steel wire rod has changed relative to the price of stainless
	Price of U. steel wire rod		inless steel wire rod has changed relative to the price of stainless
	Price of U. steel wire rod		inless steel wire rod has changed relative to the price of stainless
	Price of U. steel wire rod		inless steel wire rod has changed relative to the price of stainless
	Price of U. steel wire rod		inless steel wire rod has changed relative to the price of stainless
	stainless steel	wire rod from It	ed stainless steel wire rod has changed relative to the price of aly, Japan, Korea, Spain, Sweden, and Taiwan, the price of U.Sod is now relatively
	Italy:	Higher	Lower
	Japan:	Higher	Lower
	Korea:	Higher	Lower
	Spain:	Higher	Lower
	Sweden:	Higher	Lower
	Taiwan:	Higher	Lower

IV-8. For the factors listed below, please rate how stainless steel wire rod produced in each country you identified in your response to question IV-1 compares with stainless steel wire rod produced in each of the other countries you identified (including the United States and both subject and nonsubject foreign countries). Copy this page as necessary to cover all possible country combinations and please attach any comments you care to make concerning your responses, especially in comparisons where you rate product from one country superior or inferior to product from another.

	compared to _		
(specify country)		(specify country)	
	SUPERIOR	COMPARABLE	INFERIOR
Availability			
Delivery terms			
Delivery time			
Discounts offered			
Extension of credit			
Lower price			
Minimum qty requirements			
Packaging			
Product consistency			
Quality meets industry standards			
Quality exceeds industry standar	ds 🔲		
Product range			
Reliability of supply			
Technical support/service			
Lower U.S. transportation costs			
Other (specify):			

IV-9. For the factors listed below, please rate each in terms of its importance in your purchase decision for stainless steel wire rod.

	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT
Availability			
Delivery terms			
Delivery time			
Discounts offered			
Extension of credit			
Price			
Minimum qty requirements			
Packaging			
Product consistency			
Quality meets industry standard	ds		
Quality exceeds industry stands	ards 🔲		
Product range			
Reliability of supply			
Technical support/service			
U.S. transportation costs			
Other (specify):			

PART V.--SUPPLIER IDENTIFICATION

Please list the suppliers from which you have purchased stainless steel wire rod since 1998 and approximate the percentage of your stainless steel wire rod purchases each accounted for in 2003.

No.	Firm name	Percentage of purchases	No.	Firm name	Percentage of purchases
1			6		
2			7		
3			8		
4			9		
5			10		