



### Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Centralization Team

In April, one Import Specialist from each Center for Excellence and Expertise (CEE), collectively known as the Antidumping and Countervailing Duty (AD/CVD) Centralization Team, (ACT) were detailed to the Antidumping/Counter Vailing Duty Division within the Office of International Trade (OT). The ACT is a “virtual” team; each of the members continues to work from their regular port location.

ACT facilitates the centralization of compilation of information relative to CPB’s carrying out Commerce’s liquidation and other instructions that previously was done by all ports, thus eliminating redundancy of work. This new approach to oversight is intended to increase the accuracy of the AD/CVD liquidation process, and frees up resources for AD/CVD and other trade enforcement.

### CBP Penalizes Wire Hanger Importers

CBP imposed \$3.9 million in civil penalties on three importers for evading the antidumping duty order on wire hangers from China. CBP found that these importers failed to properly report the imports as subject to antidumping and failed to pay the antidumping duties. This resulted in a potential loss of revenue of \$3.4 million in antidumping duties. CBP found the importers to be negligent of making false statements and false invoicing. CBP is continuing its enforcement of the antidumping duty orders on wire hangers from China, Vietnam and Taiwan. Note: This is an update to the article in the January 2016 AD/CVD Update.

### CSMS Messages

On March 4, the Department of Commerce initiated its less-than-fair-value and countervailing duty investigations on “Stainless Sheet and Strip from China” (Initiation Notices). These investigations have been assigned the following case numbers: A-70-042 and C-570-043.

### Hearing on the Global Steel Industry

On April 21, the U.S. government held a public hearing on “Recommendations on the Global Steel Industry Situation and the Impact on U.S. Steel Industry and Market.” The hearing was chaired by Ambassador Michael Froman and Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker, with officials from CBP, and the Departments of State, Treasury, and Labor.

The eleven panelists of industry and Congressional representatives discussed the severe economic challenges of the U.S. steel industry resulting from global steel overcapacity, and from steel overcapacity in China in particular. The panelists called for verifiable reductions in Chinese steel capacity and subsidies to the Chinese steel industry, as well as reductions in steel capacity in other countries, such as South Korea and Turkey.

Many panelists also advocated for strong enforcement of antidumping and countervailing duty laws by both the Commerce Department and CBP. AD/CVD enforcement is a priority for CBP, and CBP is implementing enhanced steel enforcement measures on high-risk steel imports.



*Cynthia Whittenburg, (in the foreground, first chair by the marble partition) Acting Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Office of Trade, co-chair of steel hearing*

*If you have knowledge of a violation of U.S. trade laws, please report it by filing an e-Allegation at <https://apps.cbp.gov/eallegations>*