

the most recent 12 month period for which data are available as compared to the same period of time during the immediately preceding 12 month period; and

(2) Either sales or production, or both of the firm have decreased absolutely during the 12-month period preceding the most recent 12-month period for which data are available; and

(3) There has been an increase of imports (absolute or relative to domestic production) of articles like or directly competitive with articles produced by such firm which contributed importantly to such total or partial separation or threat thereof, and to such decline in sales or production; provided that imports will not be considered to have contributed importantly if other factors were so dominant, acting singly or in combination, that the worker separation or threat thereof, or decline in sales or production would have been essentially the same irrespective of the influence of imports.

[65 FR 71026, Nov. 28, 2000]

**§ 315.10 Processing petitions for certification.**

(a) Firms are encouraged to consult with a TAAC or EDA for guidance and assistance in the preparation of their petitions for certification.

(b) A firm seeking certification shall complete a petition (OMB Control Number 0610-0091) in the form prescribed by EDA with the following information about such firm:

(1) Identification and description of the firm, including legal form of organization, economic history, major ownership interests, officers, directors, management, parent company, subsidiaries or affiliates, and production and sales facilities;

(2) Description of goods and services produced and sold;

(3) Description of imported articles like or directly competitive with those produced;

(4) Data on its sales, production and employment for the two most recent years;

(5) Copies of its audited financial statements, or if not available, unaudited financial statements and Federal income tax returns for the two most recent years;

(6) Copies of unemployment insurance reports for the two most recent years;

(7) Information concerning its major customers and their purchases; and

(8) Such other information as EDA may consider material.

(c) EDA shall determine whether the petition has been properly prepared and can be accepted. Immediately thereafter, EDA shall notify the petitioner that the petition has been accepted or advise the petitioner that the petition has not been accepted, but may be resubmitted at any time without prejudice when the specified deficiencies have been corrected and the resubmission will be treated as a new petition.

(d) A notice of acceptance of a petition shall be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(e) An investigation shall be initiated by EDA to determine whether the petitioner meets requirements set forth in section 251(c) of the Trade Act and §315.9 above. The investigation can be terminated at any time for failure to meet such requirements. A report of this investigation shall become part of the record upon which a determination of the petitioner's eligibility to apply for adjustment assistance shall be made.

(f) A petitioner may withdraw a petition for certification if a request for withdrawal is received by EDA before a certification determination or denial is made. Such firm may submit a new petition at any time thereafter in accordance with the requirements of this section and §315.9.

(g) Following acceptance, EDA shall decide what action to take on petitions for certification as follows:

(1) Make a determination based on the record as soon as possible after all material has been submitted. In no event may the period exceed 60 days from the date on which the petition was accepted; and

(2) Either certify the petitioner eligible to apply for adjustment assistance or deny the petition, and in either event EDA shall promptly give notice of the action in writing to the petitioner. A notice to the petitioner or

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any parties requesting notice as specified in §315.10(d) of a denial of a petition shall specify the reasons upon which the denial is based. If a petition is denied, the petitioner shall not be entitled to resubmit its petition within one year from the date of the denial. At the time of the denial of a petition EDA may waive the 1-year limitation for good cause.

### §315.11 Hearings, appeals and final determinations.

(a) Any petitioner may appeal to EDA from a denial of certification provided that the appeal is received by EDA in writing by personal delivery or by registered mail within 60 days from the date of notice of denial under §315.10(g). The appeal shall state the grounds on which the appeal is based, including a concise statement of the supporting facts and law. The decision of EDA on the appeal shall be the final determination within the Department of Commerce. In the absence of an appeal by the petitioner under this paragraph, such final determination shall be determined under §315.10(g).

(b) A firm, its representative or any other interested domestic party aggrieved by a final determination under paragraph (a) of this section may, within 60 days after notice of such determination, begin a civil action in the United States Court of International Trade for review of such determination in accordance with section 284 of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2395).

(c) EDA will hold a public hearing on an accepted petition not later than 10 days after the date of publication of the Notice of Acceptance in the FEDERAL REGISTER if requested by either the petitioner or any other person found by EDA to have a substantial interest in the proceedings, under procedures, as follows:

(1) The petitioner and other interested persons shall have an opportunity to be present, to produce evidence, and to be heard;

(2) A request for public hearing must be delivered by hand or by registered mail to EDA. A request by a person other than the petitioner shall contain:

(i) The name, address, and telephone number of the person requesting the hearing; and

(ii) A complete statement of the relationship of the person requesting the hearing to the petitioner and the subject matter of the petition, and a statement of the nature of its interest in the proceedings.

(3) If EDA determines that the requesting party does not have a substantial interest in the proceedings, a written notice of denial shall be sent to the requesting party. The notice shall specify the reasons for the denial;

(4) EDA shall publish a notice of a public hearing in the FEDERAL REGISTER, containing the subject matter, name of petitioner, and date, time and place of hearing;

(5) EDA shall appoint the presiding officer of the hearing who shall determine all procedural questions;

(6) Procedures for requests to appear are as follows:

(i) Within 5 days after publication of the Notice of Public Hearing in the FEDERAL REGISTER, each party wishing to be heard must file a request to appear with EDA. Such request may be filed by:

(A) The party requesting such hearing;

(B) Any other party with substantial interest; or

(C) Any other party demonstrating to the satisfaction of the presiding officer that it should be allowed to be heard.

(ii) The party filing the request shall submit the names of the witnesses and a summary of the evidence it wishes to present; and

(iii) Such requests to appear may be approved as deemed appropriate by the presiding officer.

(7) Witnesses will testify in the order and for the time designated by the presiding officer, except that the petitioner shall have the opportunity to make its presentation first. After testifying, a witness may be questioned by the presiding officer or his/her designee. The presiding officer may allow any person who has been granted permission to appear to question the witnesses for the purpose of assisting him/her in obtaining relevant and material facts on the subject matter of the hearing;

(8) The presiding officer may exclude evidence which s/he deems improper or irrelevant. Formal rules of evidence