

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**International Trade Administration**

[A-570-112, C-570-113]

Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Orders on Certain Collated Steel Staples From the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Affirmative Determinations of Circumvention With Respect to the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) preliminarily determines that imports of certain collated steel staples (collated staples) that were: (1) exported from the Kingdom of Thailand (Thailand) using inputs (*i.e.*, steel wire and wire band) manufactured in the People's Republic of China (China), and (2) exported from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (Vietnam) using wire band manufactured in China, as specified below, are circumventing the antidumping duty (AD) and countervailing duty (CVD) orders on collated staples from China.

DATES: Applicable August 24, 2023.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Brian Smith (Thailand) and Shane Subler (Vietnam), Office VIII, Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-1766 and (202) 482-6241, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

On July 20, 2020, Commerce published in the **Federal Register** AD and CVD orders on U.S. imports of collated staples from China.¹ On December 14, 2022, pursuant to section 781(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), and 19 CFR 351.226(d)(1)(ii), Commerce initiated country-wide circumvention inquiries to determine whether imports of collated staples, completed in Thailand and Vietnam (collectively, the third countries), using inputs (*i.e.*, steel wire and wire bands) manufactured in China, are circumventing the *Orders* and, accordingly, should be covered by the

¹ See *Certain Collated Steel Staples from the People's Republic of China: Antidumping Duty Order*, 85 FR 43815 (July 20, 2020) (*Collated Staples AD Order*) and *Certain Collated Steel Staples from the People's Republic of China: Countervailing Duty Order*, 85 FR 43813 (July 20, 2020) (*Collated Staples CVD Order*) (collectively, *Orders*).

scope of the *Orders*.² On March 3 and 7, 2023, Commerce selected two respondents from each of the examined third countries as the mandatory respondents in these circumvention inquiries.³

On May 11, 2023, Commerce extended the deadline for issuing the preliminary determinations in these circumvention inquiries by 88 days, until August 18, 2023.⁴ For a complete description of the events that followed the initiation of these circumvention inquiries, see the Preliminary Decision Memoranda.⁵ The topics included in the Preliminary Decision Memoranda are identified in Appendix I of this notice. The Preliminary Decision Memoranda are public documents and are on file electronically via Enforcement and Compliance's Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Centralized Electronic Service System (ACCESS). ACCESS is available to registered users at <https://access.trade.gov>. In addition, a complete version of the Preliminary Decision Memoranda can be accessed directly at <https://access.trade.gov/public/FRNoticesListLayout.aspx>.

Scope of the Orders

The merchandise covered by the *Orders* is certain collated steel staples. For a full description of the scope of the *Orders*, see the Preliminary Decision Memoranda.

Merchandise Subject to the Circumvention Inquiries

These circumvention inquiries cover collated staples, assembled or completed in Thailand using Chinese-origin steel wire and/or wire bands, and in Vietnam using Chinese-origin wire bands, that are subsequently exported from Thailand and Vietnam to the United States (inquiry merchandise).

² See *Certain Collated Steel Staples from the People's Republic of China: Initiation of Circumvention Inquiries on the Antidumping Duty and Countervailing Duty Orders*, 87 FR 78047 (December 21, 2022) (*Initiation Notice*).

³ See Memorandum, "Identification of Mandatory Respondents," dated March 3, 2023; see also Memorandum, "Kingdom of Thailand Respondent Identification," dated March 7, 2023.

⁴ See Memorandum, "Extension of Preliminary Determination," dated May 11, 2023.

⁵ See Memoranda, "Certain Collated Steel Staples from the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Decision Memorandum for the Circumvention Inquiry With Respect to the Kingdom of Thailand," and "Certain Collated Steel Staples from the People's Republic of China: Preliminary Decision Memorandum for the Circumvention Inquiry With Respect to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam," each dated concurrently with, and hereby adopted by, this notice (collectively, Preliminary Decision Memoranda).

Methodology

Commerce made these preliminary circumvention determinations in accordance with section 781(b) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.226. For a full description of the methodology underlying the preliminary determinations, see the Preliminary Decision Memoranda.

Preliminary Circumvention Determinations

We preliminarily determine that collated staples, assembled or completed in Thailand by the entities identified in Appendix II of this notice, using Chinese-origin steel wire, and/or wire bands, that are subsequently exported from Thailand to the United States, are circumventing the *Orders*. For a detailed explanation of our determinations with respect to the entities identified in Appendix II, see the Preliminary Decision Memorandum for Thailand.

We also preliminarily determine that collated staples, assembled or completed in Vietnam by the entities identified in Appendix II of this notice, using Chinese-origin wire bands, that are subsequently exported from Vietnam to the United States, are circumventing the *Orders*. For a detailed explanation of our determinations with respect to the entities identified in Appendix II, see the Preliminary Decision Memorandum for Vietnam and the "Use of Adverse Facts Available" section, below.

As detailed in the Preliminary Decision Memoranda, we also preliminarily determine that U.S. imports of inquiry merchandise exported from Thailand and Vietnam are circumventing the *Orders* on a country-wide basis.

See the "Suspension of Liquidation and Cash Deposit Requirements" section below for details regarding suspension of liquidation and cash deposit requirements. See the "Certification" and "Certification Requirements" sections below for details regarding the use of certifications for inquiry merchandise exported from Thailand and/or Vietnam.

Use of Adverse Facts Available

Pursuant to section 776(a) of the Act, if necessary information is not available on the record, or an interested party withholds requested information, fails to provide requested information by the deadline or in the form and manner requested, or significantly impedes a proceeding, Commerce shall use the facts otherwise available in reaching the applicable determination. Moreover, pursuant to section 776(b) of the Act,

Commerce may use inferences adverse to the interests of an interested party in selecting from among the facts otherwise available if the party fails to cooperate by not acting to the best of its ability to provide requested information.

For purposes of respondent selection, Commerce requested information from certain companies in Vietnam related to the quantity and value (Q&V) of their exports during the inquiry period. In these Q&V questionnaires, Commerce explained that, if the company to which Commerce issued the questionnaire failed to respond to the questionnaire, or failed to provide the requested information, Commerce may find that the company failed to cooperate by not acting to the best of its ability to comply with the request for information, and may use an inference that is adverse to the company's interests in selecting from the facts otherwise available. Two companies to which Commerce issued the Q&V questionnaire in the Vietnam inquiry (*i.e.*, Meihotech Vietnam Inc. (Meihotech) and Weifang Wenhe Pneumatic Tools Co., Ltd. (Weifang Wenhe)) received, but failed to timely respond to, the Q&V questionnaire.

Therefore, we preliminarily find that necessary information is not available on the record and that Meihotech and Weifang Wenhe withheld requested information, failed to provide requested information by the deadline or in the form and manner requested, and significantly impeded the inquiry. Moreover, we find that these companies failed to cooperate to the best of their ability to provide the requested Q&V information because they did not timely respond to Commerce's Q&V questionnaire. Consequently, we relied upon adverse inferences with respect to Meihotech and Weifang Wenhe in selecting from among the facts otherwise available on the record, pursuant to sections 776(a) and (b) of the Act. For details regarding the adverse facts available relied upon in our decision, *see* the Preliminary Decision Memorandum for Vietnam.

Therefore, we preliminarily determine that Meihotech and Weifang Wenhe exported inquiry merchandise and that U.S. entries of that merchandise are circumventing the *Orders*. Additionally, we are preliminarily precluding Meihotech and Weifang Wenhe from participating in the certification program that we are establishing for exports of collated staples from Vietnam.

U.S. entries of inquiry merchandise made on or after December 14, 2022, that are ineligible for certification based on the failure of Meihotech and Weifang Wenhe to cooperate, or for other

reasons, shall remain subject to suspension of liquidation until final assessment instructions on those entries are issued, whether by automatic liquidation instructions, or by instructions pursuant to the final results of an administrative review.⁶ Interested parties that wish to have their suspended entries, if any, reviewed, and their ineligibility for the certification program re-evaluated, should request an administrative review of the relevant suspended entries during the next anniversary month of these *Orders* (*i.e.*, July 2024).⁷

Suspension of Liquidation and Cash Deposit Requirements

Based on the preliminary affirmative country-wide determinations of circumvention for Thailand and Vietnam, and the preliminary affirmative determinations of circumvention for the companies identified in Appendix II, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.226(l)(2), we will direct U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to suspend liquidation and require a cash deposit of estimated duties on unliquidated entries of collated staples, assembled or completed in Thailand using Chinese-origin steel wire and/or wire bands, and in Vietnam using Chinese-origin wire bands, that were entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after December 21, 2022, the date of publication of the *Initiation Notice*.⁸

For exporters of the collated staples that have a company-specific cash deposit rate under the *Collated Staples AD Order* and/or *Collated Staples CVD Order*, the cash deposit rate will be the company-specific AD and/or CVD cash deposit rate established for that company in the most recently completed segment of the collated staples proceedings. For exporters of collated staples that do not have a company-specific cash deposit rate under the *Collated Staples AD Order* and/or *Collated Staples CVD Order*, the cash deposit rate will be the company-specific cash deposit rate established under the *Collated Staples AD Order* and/or *Collated Staples CVD Order* for the company that exported the steel wire and/or wire bands to the producer/exporter in Thailand and for the company that exported the wire bands to the producer/exporter in Vietnam

⁶ Commerce continues to consider the process by which companies may demonstrate eligibility for the certification program in future segments of the collated staples proceedings. Commerce encourages interested parties to provide comments on this topic in their case briefs.

⁷ See 19 CFR 351.213(b).

⁸ See 19 CFR 351.226(l)(2)(ii).

that were incorporated in the imported collated staples.

If neither the exporter of the collated staples from Thailand, nor the Chinese exporter of the steel wire and/or wire bands has a company-specific cash deposit rate, the AD cash deposit rate will be the China-wide rate (112.01 percent), and the CVD cash deposit rate will be the "all-others" rate (12.32 percent).

If neither the exporter of the collated staples from Vietnam, nor the Chinese exporter of the wire bands, has a company-specific cash deposit rate, the AD cash deposit rate will be the China-wide rate (112.01 percent), and the CVD cash deposit rate will be the "all-others" rate (12.32 percent). Commerce has established the following third-country case numbers in the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) for such entries: Thailand A-549-112/C-549-113; Vietnam A-552-112/C-552-113. The suspension of liquidation will remain in effect until further notice.

Certified Entries

Entries for which the importer and exporter have met the certification requirements described below and in Appendices III and IV to this notice will not be subject to suspension of liquidation, or the cash deposit requirements described above. Failure to comply with the applicable requisite certification requirements may result in the merchandise being subject to antidumping and countervailing duties.

Certifications

In order to administer the preliminary country-wide and company-specific affirmative determinations of circumvention for Thailand and Vietnam, Commerce has established importer and exporter certifications. These certifications will permit importers and exporters to establish that specific entries of collated staples from Thailand and Vietnam are not subject to suspension of liquidation or the collection of cash deposits pursuant to these preliminary country-wide affirmative determinations of circumvention because the merchandise meets the component content requirements described in the certification (*see* Appendix III (for Thailand) and Appendix IV (for Vietnam) to this notice). Because Meihotech and Weifang Wenhe were non-cooperative, they are not eligible to use the certifications described above.⁹

⁹ See Preliminary Decision Memorandum for Vietnam at "Use of Facts Available with Adverse Inferences," and, e.g., *Anti-circumvention Inquiry of the Antidumping Duty Order on Certain Pasta from Italy: Affirmative Preliminary Determination of*

Importers and exporters that claim that an entry of collated staples is not subject to suspension of liquidation or the collection of cash deposits based on the inputs used to manufacture such merchandise must complete the applicable certification and meet the certification and documentation requirements described below, as well as the requirements identified in the applicable certification.

Certification Requirements

Importers are required to complete and maintain the applicable importer certification, and maintain a copy of the applicable exporter certification, and retain all supporting documentation for both certifications. With the exception of the entries described below, the importer certification must be completed, signed, and dated by the time the entry summary is filed for the relevant entry. The importer, or the importer's agent, must submit both the importer's certification and the exporter's certification to CBP as part of the entry process by uploading them into the document imaging system (DIS) in ACE. Where the importer uses a broker to facilitate the entry process, it should obtain the entry summary number from the broker. Agents of the importer, such as brokers, however, are not permitted to certify on behalf of the importer.

Exporters are required to complete and maintain the applicable exporter certification and provide the importer with a copy of that certification and all supporting documentation (e.g., invoice, purchase order, production records, etc.). With the exception of the entries described below, the exporter certification must be completed, signed, and dated by the time of shipment of the relevant entries. The exporter certification must be completed by the party selling the collated staples that were manufactured in Thailand or Vietnam to the United States.

Additionally, the claims made in the certifications and any supporting documentation are subject to verification by Commerce and/or CBP. Importers and exporters are required to maintain the certifications and supporting documentation until the later of: (1) the date that is five years after the latest entry date of the entries covered by the certification; or (2) the date that is three years after the

conclusion of any litigation in United States courts regarding such entries.

For all collated staples from Thailand and Vietnam that were entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption during the period December 2022 (*i.e.*, the date of publication of the *Initiation Notice*, through the date of publication of these preliminary determinations in the **Federal Register**, where the entry has not been liquidated (and entries for which liquidation has not become final), the relevant certification should be completed and signed as soon as practicable, but not later than 45 days after the date of publication of these preliminary determinations in the **Federal Register**. For such entries, importers and exporters each have the option to complete a blanket certification covering multiple entries, individual certifications for each entry, or a combination thereof. The exporter must provide the importer with a copy of the exporter certification within 45 days of the date of publication of these preliminary determinations in the **Federal Register**.

For unliquidated entries (and entries for which liquidation has not become final) of collated staples that were declared as non-AD/CVD type entries (e.g., type 01) and entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption in the United States during the period December 21, 2022 (the date of publication of the *Initiation Notice*) through the date of publication of these preliminary determinations in the **Federal Register**, for which none of the above certifications may be made, importers must file a Post Summary Correction with CBP, in accordance with CBP's regulations, regarding conversion of such entries from non-AD/CVD type entries to AD/CVD type entries (e.g., type 01 to type 03). Importers should report those AD/CVD type entries using the following third-country case numbers: Thailand A-549-112/C-549-113; Vietnam A-552-112/C-552-113. Other third-country case numbers may be established following the process described above. The importer should pay cash deposits on those entries consistent with the regulations governing post summary corrections that require payment of additional duties.

If it is determined that an importer and/or exporter has not met the certification and/or related documentation requirements for certain entries, Commerce intends to instruct CBP to suspend, pursuant to these preliminary country-wide affirmative determinations of circumvention and

the *Orders*,¹⁰ all unliquidated entries for which these requirements were not met and to require the importer to post applicable AD and CVD cash deposits equal to the rates noted above.

Interested parties may comment in their case briefs on these certification requirements, and on the certification language contained in the appendices to this notice.

Public Comment

Case briefs or other written comments for a particular country should be submitted to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance no later than 14 days after the issuance of these preliminary determinations.¹¹ Rebuttal briefs, limited to issues raised in case briefs, may be submitted no later than seven days after the deadline for case briefs.¹² Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.309(c)(2) and (d)(2), parties who submit case briefs or rebuttal briefs in these circumvention inquiries are encouraged to submit with each argument: (1) a statement of the issue; (2) a brief summary of the argument; and (3) a table of authorities. Note that Commerce has temporarily modified certain of its requirements for serving documents containing business proprietary information, until further notice.¹³

Pursuant to 19 CFR 351.310(c), interested parties who wish to request a hearing for a particular country, limited to issues raised in the case and rebuttal briefs, must submit a written request to the Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance, U.S. Department of Commerce, within 30 days after the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. Requests should contain: (1) the requesting party's name, address, and telephone number; (2) the number of individuals from the requesting party that will attend the hearing and whether any of those individuals is a foreign national; and (3) a list of the issues that the party intends to discuss at the hearing. If a request for a hearing is made, Commerce intends to hold the hearing at a time and date to be determined. Parties should confirm by telephone the date, time, and location of the hearing two days before the scheduled date of the hearing.

¹⁰ See *Orders*.

¹¹ See 19 CFR 351.226(f)(4).

¹² *Id.*; see also 19 CFR 351.303 (for general filing requirements).

¹³ See *Temporary Rule Modifying AD/CVD Service Requirements Due to COVID-19; Extension of Effective Period*, 85 FR 41363 (July 10, 2020).

**U.S. International Trade Commission
Notification**

Consistent with section 781(e) of the Act, Commerce will notify the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) of these preliminary determinations to include the merchandise subject to these circumvention inquiries within the *Orders*. Pursuant to section 781(e) of

the Act, the ITC may request consultations concerning Commerce's proposed inclusion of the inquiry merchandise. If, after consultations, the ITC believes that a significant injury issue is presented by the proposed inclusion, it will have 60 days from the date of notification by Commerce to provide written advice.

Notification to Interested Parties

These determinations are issued and published in accordance with section 781(b) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.226(g)(1).

Dated: August 18, 2023.

Lisa W. Wang,

Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

Appendix No.	Appendix name
I	Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memoranda.
II	Companies Preliminarily Found to Be Circumventing the <i>Orders</i> .
III	Certification Regarding Chinese Inputs—Thailand.
IV	Certification Regarding Chinese Inputs—Vietnam.

Appendices**Appendix I****Topics Discussed in the Preliminary Decision Memoranda****Thailand**

- I. Summary
- II. Background
- III. Scope of the *Orders*
- IV. Merchandise Subject to the Circumvention Inquiry
- V. Period of the Circumvention Inquiry
- VI. Affiliation
- VII. Non-Market Economy Methodology for Valuing Material Inputs From China
- VIII. Statutory and Regulatory Framework for the Circumvention Inquiry
- IX. Statutory Analysis for the Circumvention Inquiry
- X. Summary of Statutory Analysis
- XI. Certification Process and Country-Wide Affirmative Determination of Circumvention
- XII. Recommendation

Vietnam

- I. Summary
- II. Background
- III. Scope of the *Orders*
- IV. Merchandise Subject to the Circumvention Inquiry
- V. Period of the Circumvention Inquiry
- VI. Application of Facts Available and Use of Adverse Inferences
- VII. Surrogate Country and Methodology for Valuing Factors of Production and Processing in Vietnam
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- IX. Statutory and Regulatory Framework for the Circumvention Inquiry
- X. Analysis of Statutory Criteria for the Circumvention Inquiry
- XI. Summary of Statutory Analysis
- XII. Country-Wide Affirmative Determination of Circumvention
- XIII. Recommendation

Appendix II**Companies Found To Be Circumventing the Orders****Thailand**

- 1. YF Technology Corporation, Ltd.

2. UM Industry, Co., Ltd.

Vietnam

- 1. Vina Hardwares Joint Stock Company
- 2. VN Fasteners Co., Ltd.
- 3. Vina Staples Company Limited
- 4. Meihotech Vietnam Inc. (based on adverse facts available)
- 5. Weifang Wenhe Pneumatic Tools Co., Ltd. (based on adverse facts available)

Appendix III**Certification Regarding Chinese Inputs (for Thailand)****Importer Certification**

I hereby certify that:

A. My name is {IMPORTING COMPANY OFFICIAL'S NAME} and I am an official of {NAME OF IMPORTING COMPANY}, located at {ADDRESS OF IMPORTING COMPANY}.

B. I have direct personal knowledge of the facts regarding the importation into the Customs territory of the United States of the certain collated steel staples (collated staples) from the People's Republic of China (China) completed in Thailand that entered under the entry summary number(s), identified below, and are covered by this certification. "Direct personal knowledge" refers to the facts the certifying party is expected to have in its own records. For example, the importer should have direct personal knowledge of the exporter's and/or seller's identity and location.

C. If the importer is acting on behalf of the first U.S. customer, include the following sentence as paragraph C of this certification:

The collated staples covered by this certification were imported by {NAME OF IMPORTING COMPANY} on behalf of {NAME OF U.S. CUSTOMER}, located at {ADDRESS OF U.S. CUSTOMER}.

If the importer is not acting on behalf of the first U.S. customer, include the following sentence as paragraph C of this certification:

{NAME OF IMPORTING COMPANY} is not acting on behalf of the first U.S. customer.

D. The collated staples covered by this certification were shipped to {NAME OF PARTY IN THE UNITED STATES TO WHOM THE MERCHANDISE WAS FIRST SHIPPED}, located at {U.S. ADDRESS TO WHICH MERCHANDISE WAS SHIPPED}.

E. I have personal knowledge of the facts regarding the production of the imported products covered by this certification.

"Personal knowledge" includes facts obtained from another party, (e.g., correspondence received by the importer (or exporter) from the producer regarding the source of the inputs used to produce the imported products).

F. The importer certifies that the collated staples produced in Thailand that are covered by this certification were not manufactured using steel wire and/or wire bands produced in China, regardless of whether sourced directly from a Chinese producer or from a downstream supplier.

G. The collated staples covered by this certification are not covered by the antidumping duty or countervailing duty orders on collated staples from China.

H. This certification applies to the following entries (repeat this block as many times as necessary):

Entry Summary #:

Entry Summary Line Item #:

Foreign Seller:

Foreign Seller's Address:

Foreign Seller's Invoice #:

Foreign Seller's Invoice Line Item #:

Producer:

Producer's Address:

I. I understand that {NAME OF IMPORTING COMPANY} is required to maintain a copy of this certification and sufficient documentation supporting this certification (*i.e.*, documents maintained in the normal course of business, or documents obtained by the certifying party, for example, product specification sheets, production records, invoices, etc.) until the later of: (1) the date that is five years after the latest entry date of the entries covered by the certification; or (2) the date that is three years after the conclusion of any litigation in United States courts regarding such entries.

J. I understand that {NAME OF IMPORTING COMPANY} is required to maintain a copy of the exporter's certification (attesting to information regarding the production and/or exportation of the imported merchandise identified above), and any supporting documentation provided to the importer by the exporter, until the later of: (1) the date that is five years after the latest entry date of the entries covered by the

certification; or (2) the date that is three years after the conclusion of any litigation in United States courts regarding such entries.

K. I understand that {NAME OF IMPORTING COMPANY} is required to provide U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and/or the U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) with the importer certification, and any supporting documentation, and a copy of the exporter's certification, and any supporting documentation provided to the importer by the exporter, upon the request of either agency.

L. I understand that the claims made herein, and the substantiating documentation, are subject to verification by CBP and/or Commerce.

M. I understand that failure to maintain the required certifications and supporting documentation, or failure to substantiate the claims made herein, or not allowing CBP and/or Commerce to verify the claims made herein, may result in a *de facto* determination that all entries to which this certification applies are entries of merchandise that is covered by the scope of the antidumping and countervailing duty orders on certain collated steel staples from China. I understand that such a finding will result in:

(i) suspension of liquidation of all unliquidated entries (and entries for which liquidation has not become final) for which these requirements were not met;

(ii) the importer being required to post the antidumping duty and countervailing duty cash deposits determined by Commerce; and

(iii) the importer no longer being allowed to participate in the certification process.

N. I understand that agents of the importer, such as brokers, are not permitted to make this certification.

O. This certification was completed and signed on, or prior to, the date of the entry summary if the entry date is more than 14 days after the date of publication of the notice of Commerce's preliminary determination of circumvention in the **Federal Register**. If the entry date is on or before the 14th day after the date of publication of the notice of Commerce's preliminary determination of circumvention in the **Federal Register**, this certification was completed and signed by no later than 45 days after publication of the notice of Commerce's preliminary determination of circumvention in the **Federal Register**.

P. I am aware that U.S. law (including, but not limited to, 18 U.S.C. 1001) imposes criminal sanctions on individuals who knowingly and willfully make materially false statements to the U.S. government.

Signature

{NAME OF COMPANY OFFICIAL}
{TITLE OF COMPANY OFFICIAL}
{DATE}

Exporter Certification

The party that made the sale to the United States should fill out the exporter certification.

I hereby certify that:

A. My name is {COMPANY OFFICIAL'S NAME} and I am an official of {NAME OF EXPORTING COMPANY}, located at {ADDRESS OF EXPORTING COMPANY}.

B. I have direct personal knowledge of the facts regarding the production and exportation of the collated staples for which sales are identified below. "Direct personal knowledge" refers to facts the certifying party is expected to have in its own records. For example, an exporter should have direct personal knowledge of the producer's identity and location.

C. The collated staples covered by this certification were shipped to {NAME OF PARTY IN THE UNITED STATES TO WHOM MERCHANDISE WAS FIRST SHIPPED}, located at {U.S. ADDRESS TO WHICH MERCHANDISE WAS SHIPPED}.

D. The seller certifies that the collated staples produced in Thailand that are covered by this certification were not manufactured using steel wire and/or wire bands produced in China, regardless of whether sourced directly from a Chinese producer or from a downstream supplier.

E. The collated staples covered by this certification are not covered by the antidumping duty or countervailing duty orders on collated staples from China.

F. This certification applies to the following sales to {NAME OF U.S. CUSTOMER}, located at {ADDRESS OF U.S. CUSTOMER} (repeat this block as many times as necessary):

Foreign Seller's Invoice # to U.S. Customer:
Foreign Seller's Invoice to U.S. Customer

Line Item #:

Producer Name:

Producer's Address:

Producer's Invoice # to the Foreign Seller: (if the foreign seller and the producer are the same party, report "NA" here)

G. I understand that {EXPORTING COMPANY} is required to maintain a copy of this certification and sufficient documentation supporting this certification (*i.e.*, documents maintained in the normal course of business, or documents obtained by the certifying party, for example, product specification sheets, customer specification sheets, production records, invoices, etc.) until the later of: (1) the date that is five years after the latest entry date of the entries covered by the certification; or (2) the date that is three years after the conclusion of any litigation in United States courts regarding such entries.

H. I understand that {EXPORTING COMPANY} is required to provide the U.S. importer with a copy of this certification and is required to provide U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and/or the U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) with this certification, and any supporting documents, upon the request of either agency.

I. I understand that the claims made herein, and the substantiating documentation, are subject to verification by CBP and/or Commerce.

J. I understand that failure to maintain the required certification and supporting documentation, or failure to substantiate the claims made herein, or not allowing CBP and/or Commerce to verify the claims made herein, may result in a *de facto* determination that all sales to which this certification applies are sales of merchandise that is covered by the scope of the

antidumping and countervailing duty orders on collated staples from China. I understand that such a finding will result in:

(i) suspension of liquidation of all unliquidated entries (and entries for which liquidation has not become final) for which these requirements were not met;

(ii) the importer being required to post the antidumping and countervailing duty cash deposits determined by Commerce; and

(iii) the seller/exporter no longer being allowed to participate in the certification process.

K. I understand that agents of the seller/exporter, such as freight forwarding companies or brokers, are not permitted to make this certification.

L. This certification was completed and signed, and a copy of the certification was provided to the importer, on, or prior to, the date of shipment if the shipment date is after the date of publication of the notice of Commerce's preliminary determination of circumvention in the **Federal Register**. If the shipment date is on or before the date of publication of the notice of Commerce's preliminary determination of circumvention in the **Federal Register**, this certification was completed and signed, and a copy of the certification was provided to the importer, by no later than 45 days after publication of the notice of Commerce's preliminary determination of circumvention in the **Federal Register**.

M. I am aware that U.S. law (including, but not limited to, 18 U.S.C. 1001) imposes criminal sanctions on individuals who knowingly and willfully make materially false statements to the U.S. government.

Signature

{NAME OF COMPANY OFFICIAL}
{TITLE OF COMPANY OFFICIAL}
{DATE}

Appendix IV

Certification Regarding Chinese Inputs (for Vietnam)

Importer Certification

I hereby certify that:

A. My name is {IMPORTING COMPANY OFFICIAL'S NAME} and I am an official of {NAME OF IMPORTING COMPANY}, located at {ADDRESS OF IMPORTING COMPANY}.

B. I have direct personal knowledge of the facts regarding the importation into the Customs territory of the United States of the certain collated steel staples (collated staples) from the People's Republic of China (China) completed in Vietnam that entered under the entry summary number(s), identified below, and are covered by this certification. "Direct personal knowledge" refers to the facts the certifying party is expected to have in its own records. For example, the importer should have direct personal knowledge of the exporter's and/or seller's identity and location.

C. If the importer is acting on behalf of the first U.S. customer, include the following sentence as paragraph C of this certification:

The collated staples covered by this certification were imported by {NAME OF IMPORTING COMPANY} on behalf of {NAME OF U.S. CUSTOMER}, located at {ADDRESS OF U.S. CUSTOMER}.

If the importer is not acting on behalf of the first U.S. customer, include the following sentence as paragraph C of this certification:

{NAME OF IMPORTING COMPANY} is not acting on behalf of the first U.S. customer.

D. The collated staples covered by this certification were shipped to {NAME OF PARTY IN THE UNITED STATES TO WHOM THE MERCHANDISE WAS FIRST SHIPPED}, located at {U.S. ADDRESS TO WHICH MERCHANDISE WAS SHIPPED}.

E. I have personal knowledge of the facts regarding the production of the imported products covered by this certification. "Personal knowledge" includes facts obtained from another party, (e.g., correspondence received by the importer (or exporter) from the producer regarding the source of the inputs used to produce the imported products).

F. The importer certifies that the collated staples produced in Vietnam that are covered by this certification were not manufactured using wire bands produced in China, regardless of whether sourced directly from a Chinese producer or from a downstream supplier.

G. The collated staples covered by this certification are not covered by the antidumping duty or countervailing duty orders on collated staples from China.

H. This certification applies to the following entries (repeat this block as many times as necessary):

Entry Summary #:

Entry Summary Line Item #:

Foreign Seller:

Foreign Seller's Address:

Foreign Seller's Invoice #:

Foreign Seller's Invoice Line Item #:

Producer:

Producer's Address:

I. I understand that {NAME OF IMPORTING COMPANY} is required to maintain a copy of this certification and sufficient documentation supporting this certification (*i.e.*, documents maintained in the normal course of business, or documents obtained by the certifying party, for example, product specification sheets, production records, invoices, etc.) until the later of: (1) the date that is five years after the latest entry date of the entries covered by the certification; or (2) the date that is three years after the conclusion of any litigation in United States courts regarding such entries.

J. I understand that {NAME OF IMPORTING COMPANY} is required to maintain a copy of the exporter's certification (attesting to information regarding the production and/or exportation of the imported merchandise identified above), and any supporting documentation provided to the importer by the exporter, until the later of: (1) the date that is five years after the latest entry date of the entries covered by the certification; or (2) the date that is three years after the conclusion of any litigation in United States courts regarding such entries.

K. I understand that {NAME OF IMPORTING COMPANY} is required to provide U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and/or the U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) with the importer certification, and any supporting

documentation, and a copy of the exporter's certification, and any supporting documentation provided to the importer by the exporter, upon the request of either agency.

L. I understand that the claims made herein, and the substantiating documentation, are subject to verification by CBP and/or Commerce.

M. I understand that failure to maintain the required certifications and supporting documentation, or failure to substantiate the claims made herein, or not allowing CBP and/or Commerce to verify the claims made herein, may result in a *de facto* determination that all entries to which this certification applies are entries of merchandise that is covered by the scope of the antidumping and countervailing duty orders on collated staples from China. I understand that such a finding will result in:

(i) suspension of liquidation of all unliquidated entries (and entries for which liquidation has not become final) for which these requirements were not met;

(ii) the importer being required to post the antidumping duty and countervailing duty cash deposits determined by Commerce; and

(iii) the importer no longer being allowed to participate in the certification process.

N. I understand that agents of the importer, such as brokers, are not permitted to make this certification.

O. This certification was completed and signed on, or prior to, the date of the entry summary if the entry date is more than 14 days after the date of publication of the notice of Commerce's preliminary determination of circumvention in the **Federal Register**. If the entry date is on or before the 14th day after the date of publication of the notice of Commerce's preliminary determination of circumvention in the **Federal Register**, this certification was completed and signed by no later than 45 days after publication of the notice of Commerce's preliminary determination of circumvention in the **Federal Register**.

P. I am aware that U.S. law (including, but not limited to, 18 U.S.C. 1001) imposes criminal sanctions on individuals who knowingly and willfully make materially false statements to the U.S. government.

Signature

{NAME OF COMPANY OFFICIAL}
{TITLE OF COMPANY OFFICIAL}
{DATE}

Exporter Certification

The party that made the sale to the United States should fill out the exporter certification.

I hereby certify that:

A. My name is {COMPANY OFFICIAL'S NAME} and I am an official of {NAME OF EXPORTING COMPANY}, located at {ADDRESS OF EXPORTING COMPANY}.

B. I have direct personal knowledge of the facts regarding the production and exportation of the collated staples for which sales are identified below. "Direct personal knowledge" refers to facts the certifying party is expected to have in its own records. For example, an exporter should have direct personal knowledge of the producer's identity and location.

C. The collated staples covered by this certification were shipped to {NAME OF PARTY IN THE UNITED STATES TO WHOM MERCHANDISE WAS FIRST SHIPPED}, located at {U.S. ADDRESS TO WHICH MERCHANDISE WAS SHIPPED}.

D. The seller certifies that the collated staples produced in Vietnam that are covered by this certification were not manufactured using wire bands produced in China, regardless of whether sourced directly from a Chinese producer or from a downstream supplier.

E. The collated staples covered by this certification are not covered by the antidumping duty or countervailing duty orders on collated staples from China.

F. This certification applies to the following sales to {NAME OF U.S. CUSTOMER}, located at {ADDRESS OF U.S. CUSTOMER} (repeat this block as many times as necessary):

Foreign Seller's Invoice # to U.S. Customer:
Foreign Seller's Invoice to U.S. Customer

Line Item #:

Producer Name:

Producer's Address:

Producer's Invoice # to the Foreign Seller: (if the foreign seller and the producer are the same party, report "NA" here)

G. I understand that {EXPORTING COMPANY} is required to maintain a copy of this certification and sufficient documentation supporting this certification (*i.e.*, documents maintained in the normal course of business, or documents obtained by the certifying party, for example, product specification sheets, customer specification sheets, production records, invoices, etc.) until the later of: (1) the date that is five years after the latest entry date of the entries covered by the certification; or (2) the date that is three years after the conclusion of any litigation in United States courts regarding such entries.

H. I understand that {EXPORTING COMPANY} is required to provide the U.S. importer with a copy of this certification and is required to provide U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and/or the U.S. Department of Commerce (Commerce) with this certification, and any supporting documents, upon the request of either agency.

I. I understand that the claims made herein, and the substantiating documentation, are subject to verification by CBP and/or Commerce.

J. I understand that failure to maintain the required certification and supporting documentation, or failure to substantiate the claims made herein, or not allowing CBP and/or Commerce to verify the claims made herein, may result in a *de facto* determination that all sales to which this certification applies are sales of merchandise that is covered by the scope of the antidumping and countervailing duty orders on collated staples from China. I understand that such a finding will result in:

(i) suspension of liquidation of all unliquidated entries (and entries for which liquidation has not become final) for which these requirements were not met;

(ii) the importer being required to post the antidumping and countervailing duty cash deposits determined by Commerce; and

(iii) the seller/exporter no longer being allowed to participate in the certification process.

K. I understand that agents of the seller/exporter, such as freight forwarding companies or brokers, are not permitted to make this certification.

L. This certification was completed and signed, and a copy of the certification was provided to the importer, on, or prior to, the date of shipment if the shipment date is after the date of publication of the notice of Commerce's preliminary determination of circumvention in the **Federal Register**. If the shipment date is on or before the date of publication of the notice of Commerce's preliminary determination of circumvention in the **Federal Register**, this certification was completed and signed, and a copy of the certification was provided to the importer, by no later than 45 days after publication of the notice of Commerce's preliminary determination of circumvention in the **Federal Register**.

M. I am aware that U.S. law (including, but not limited to, 18 U.S.C. 1001) imposes criminal sanctions on individuals who knowingly and willfully make materially false statements to the U.S. government.

Signature

{NAME OF COMPANY OFFICIAL}
{TITLE OF COMPANY OFFICIAL}
{DATE}

[FR Doc. 2023-18252 Filed 8-23-23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Manufacturing Extension Partnership Advisory Board

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce

ACTION: Notice of open meeting.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) announces that the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Advisory Board will hold an open meeting on Wednesday, September 13, 2023.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in person at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center, 153 Franklin St., Buffalo, NY 14202. Please note admittance instructions in the

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section below. Interested parties should be sure to check the NIST MEP Advisory Board website for the most up-to-date information at <http://www.nist.gov/mep/about/advisory-board>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Cheryl L. Gendron, Hollings
Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Program, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Mail Stop 4800, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-4800; telephone number 301-975-2785; email: cheryl.gendron@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The MEP Advisory Board is authorized under 15 U.S.C. 278k(m), in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. 1001 *et seq.* The Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program (Program) is a unique program consisting of Centers in all 50 states and Puerto Rico with partnerships at the federal, state and local levels. By statute, the MEP Advisory Board provides the NIST Director with: (1) advice on the activities, plans and policies of the Program; (2) assessments of the soundness of the plans and strategies of the Program; and (3) assessments of current performance against the plans of the Program.

Background information on the MEP Advisory Board is available at <http://www.nist.gov/mep/about/advisory-board>.

Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 5 U.S.C. 1001 *et seq.*, notice is hereby given that the MEP Advisory Board will hold an open meeting on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Eastern Time. The meeting will be open to the public. The meeting agenda will include an update on the MEP programmatic operations, as well as provide guidance and advice on current activities related to the current MEP National Network™ 2023–2027 Strategic Plan. The agenda may change to accommodate Board business. The final agenda will be posted on the MEP Advisory Board website at <http://www.nist.gov/mep/about/advisory-board>.

Individuals and representatives of organizations who would like to offer comments and suggestions related to the MEP Advisory Board's business are invited to request a place on the agenda. Approximately 20 minutes will be reserved for public comments at the end of the meeting. Speaking times will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. The amount of time per speaker will be determined by the number of requests received but is likely to be no more than three to five minutes each. Requests must be submitted by email to cheryl.gendron@nist.gov and must be received by Wednesday, September 6, 2023, to be considered. The exact time for public comments will be included in the final agenda that will be posted on the MEP Advisory Board website at

<http://www.nist.gov/mep/about/advisory-board>. Questions from the public will not be considered during this period. Speakers who wish to expand upon their oral statements, those who wished to speak but could not be accommodated on the agenda or those who are/were unable to attend the meeting are invited to submit written statements by email to cheryl.gendron@nist.gov.

Admittance Instructions: All wishing to attend the MEP Advisory Board meeting must submit their name, organization, email address and phone number to Cheryl Gendron (Cheryl.Gendron@nist.gov or 301-975-2785) no later than Wednesday, September 6, 2023, 5 p.m. Eastern Time. In person seating is limited and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Detailed instructions on how to join the meeting will be sent to registered attendees.

Alicia Chambers,
NIST Executive Secretariat.

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BILLING CODE 3510-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

A Preliminary Update From the Internet of Things Federal Working Group

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) seeks comments on the document *A Preliminary Update from the Internet of Things Federal Working Group* (Preliminary Update). The Preliminary Update was developed from input from the Federal Working Group and public information presented at the NIST IoT Advisory Board. It is intended to document the current state of the IoT Federal Working Group's approach to addressing the reporting requirements in the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Pub. L. 116-283).

DATES: Comments in response to this notice must be received by 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on September 25, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Written comments may be submitted by mail to Barbara Cuthill, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 2000, Gaithersburg, MD 20899. Electronic submissions may be sent to iotfwg@nist.gov, and may be in any of