U.S. PURCHASERS' QUESTIONNAIRE

HIGH PRESSURE STEEL CYLINDERS FROM CHINA

This questionnaire must be received by the Commission by no later than March 16, 2012

See page 4 of the Instruction Booklet for filing instructions.

The information called for in this questionnaire is for use by the United States International Trade Commission in connection with its countervailing duty/antidumping investigation(s) concerning high pressure steel cylinders from China (inv. Nos. 701-TA-480 and 731-TA-1188 (Final). 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 Clark Workman (202-205-3248, clark.workman@usitc.gov).

Name of fi	rm		
Address			
City		State	Zip Code
World Wie	de Web address		
(domestic or		1, 2009, or is you	l in the instruction booklet) from <u>any</u> source r firm a buying group that negotiates prices for
NO	(Sign the certification below and page	romptly return only	this page of the questionnaire to the Commission)
YES	(Read the instruction booklet carefi questionnaire to the Commission se	, I I	rts of the questionnaire, and return the entire y the date indicated above)

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the information herein supplied in response to this questionnaire is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and understand that the information submitted is subject to audit and verification by the Commission.

By submitting this certification I also grant consent for the Commission, and its employees and contract personnel, to use the information provided in this questionnaire and throughout this proceeding in any other import-injury proceedings conducted by the Commission on the same or similar merchandise.

I acknowledge that information submitted in this questionnaire response and throughout this proceeding may be used by the Commission, its employees, and contract personnel who are acting in the capacity of Commission employees, for developing or maintaining the records of this proceeding or related proceedings for which this information is submitted, or in internal audits and proceedings relating to the programs and operations of the Commission pursuant to 5 U.S.C. Appendix 3. I understand that all contract personnel will sign non-disclosure agreements.

Name of Authorized Official	Title of Authorized Official	Date	—
	Phone:		
Signature		E-mail address	
-	Fax		

PART I.—<u>GENERAL INFORMATION</u>

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 25 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.

I-1a. <u>**OMB statistics.--**</u>Please report the actual number of hours required and the cost to your firm of preparing the reply to this questionnaire and completing the form.

____hours ____dollars

- I-1b. <u>**OMB feedback.--**We are interested in any comments you may have for improving this questionnaire in general or the clarity of specific questions. Please attach such comments to your response or send them to the above address.</u>
- I-2. **Establishments covered.--**Provide the name and address of establishment(s) covered by this questionnaire (see page 3 of the instruction booklet for reporting guidelines). If your firm is publicly traded, please specify the stock exchange and trading symbol.
- I-3. **Ownership.--**Is your firm owned, in whole or in part, by any other firm? □ No Yes--List the following information. Extent of Firm name Address ownership I-4. Related SUBJECT importers/exporters.--Does your firm have any related firms, either domestic or foreign, which are engaged in importing high pressure steel cylinders from China into the United States or which are engaged in exporting high pressure steel cylinders from China to the United States? □ No Yes--List the following information. Affiliation Firm name Address

PART I.--<u>GENERAL INFORMATION</u>--Continued

No Y	esList the following information.	
Firm name and countr	ry <u>Address</u>	Affiliation
	Does your firm have any related finduction of high pressure steel cylir	
are engaged in the pro	•	
are engaged in the pro	oduction of high pressure steel cylir	

PART II.--PURCHASES

<u>**Contact information.**</u>-- Please identify the responsible individual and the manner by which Commission staff may contact that individual regarding the confidential information submitted in this questionnaire.

Name	
Title	
Email	
Telephone	
Fax	

II-1. **Purchases.-**Report, as indicated below, your firm's purchases (either directly or through a sales agent or broker) of high pressure steel cylinders. Report based on delivery date, not order date.

Quantity (<i>in UNITS</i>) and value (<i>in \$1,000</i>)				
Item	2009	2010	2011	
Purchases of high pressure steel cylinders produced in The United States: Quantity				
Value				
China: Quantity				
Value				
All other countries: ¹ Quantity				
Value				
¹ Please identify these countries:	·	•		

PART II.--<u>PURCHASES</u>--Continued

II-2. <u>Changes in purchasing patterns</u>.—Please indicate how the relative levels of your firm's purchases of high pressure steel cylinders from different sources have changed in the last three years.

Source of purchases	Did not purchase	Decreased	Increased	Constant	Fluctuated	Explanation for trend
United States						
China						
All other countries						

- II-3. **<u>Purchases from one country only</u>**.--If your firm has purchased high pressure steel cylinders from only one country, please explain the reasons for doing so.
- II-4. **Supplier identification.**--Please list your firm's **FIVE** largest suppliers for high pressure steel cylinders since 2009. Also, provide the share of the quantity of your firm's total purchases of high pressure steel cylinders that each of these suppliers accounted for in 2011.

No.	Supplier's name	City and state	Share of quantity of 2011 purchases
1			%
2			%
3			%
4			%
5			%

Page 6

PART III.--MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES

III-1(a). **Firm type.--**Which of the following best describes your firm as a purchaser of high pressure steel cylinders (check all that apply)?

End user	
Distributor	
Other (Describe:	_)

If you checked the box indicating that your firm functioned as a distributor, please attach a list of your customers for high pressure steel cylinders. If your firm, acting as a distributor, negotiated prices with a buying group, please identify each buying group to which a competitive bid was submitted and provide all correspondence relating to your 2010 bids, including your initial quotes to the buying groups(s), any responses from the buying groups(s), and any subsequent quotes that were modifications to your original quotes.

III-1(b): Do you represent a buying group?

Yes No

III-1(c): If you are the representative of a buying group, please provide all bid and term sheets submitted by suppliers of high pressure steel cylinders during 2009, 2010, and 2011, as well as the identity of all preferred and qualified suppliers of high pressure steel cylinders during 2008, 2010, and 2011.

III-1(b): Is your firm a member of a buying group?

Yes	No 🗌
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If yes, check the buying group in which your firms is a member, and complete question III-28 of this questionnaire.

Name of group	Member?
IWDC	
Big Buying Group	
AIWD	
ADA/LDA	
IDC	
Other	

Page 7

PART III.--<u>MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES</u>--Continued

III-2. <u>Competition for sales</u>.--If you are a <u>distributor</u> or <u>reseller</u> of high pressure steel cylinders, do you compete for sales to your customers with the manufacturers or importers from which you purchase high pressure steel cylinders?

No Yes--Please describe.

III-3. **Types of customers.--**If your firm is a <u>distributor</u> or <u>reseller</u> of high pressure steel cylinders, what are the major types of consumers to which you sell high pressure steel cylinders?

III-4. <u>End uses</u>.--If your firm is an end user of high pressure steel cylinders, list in order of quantity of high pressure steel cylinders consumed, the top 3 products for which your firm purchases high pressure steel cylinders as a component part or input. Please indicate what percentage of the <u>total cost</u> is accounted for by high pressure steel cylinders and other inputs.

	Share of total cost in you produce a		
Product(s) you produce	High pressure steel cylinders (percent)	Other inputs (percent)	Total
	%	%	100%
	%	%	100%
	%	%	100%

III-5. Demand for end use products.--

(a) If your firm is an end user of high pressure steel cylinders, has the demand for your firm's final products incorporating high pressure steel cylinders changed since 2009?

Increased	l 🗌 No change	Decreased	Fluctuated
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(b) Has this had any effect on your firm's demand for high pressure steel cylinders?

No No

Yes--Please describe.

PART III.--<u>MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES</u>--Continued

III-6. <u>Substitutes</u>.--Can other products be substituted for high pressure steel cylinders?

|--|

Yes--Please fill out the table below.

		End use in which this substitute is used	Have changes in the prices of this substitute affected the price for high pressure steel cylinders?			
	Substitute		No	Yes	Explanation	
1.						
2.						
3.						

- III-7. **ISO cylinders.--**Are cylinders meeting ISO standards a substitute for the high pressure steel cylinders that are the subject of these investigations?
 - No Yes

Please discuss the extent of substitutability or lack of substitutability in the space provided.

III-8.	Do DOT HIGH PRESSURE STEEL CYLINDERS and UN-ISO-9809-1 HIGH PRESSURE STEEL
	CYLINDERS have the same physical characteristics and end uses?

No	Yes
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Please describe the similarities and/or differences between the physical characteristics or end uses.

III.9.	Do you or your customers perceive <u>DOT HIGH PRESSURE STEEL CYLINDERS</u> and <u>UN-ISO-9809-1 HIGH PRESSURE STEEL CYLINDERS</u> to be similar products?								
	Yes	No, please describe the perceived differences between the two products:							
III.10.		ly differences in price between <u>DOT HIGH PRESSURE STEEL</u> 1 <u>UN-ISO-9809-1 HIGH PRESSURE STEEL CYLINDERS</u> of the same size?							
	🗌 No								
		HIGH PRESSURE STEEL CYLINDERS are generally higher in price than 1 HIGH PRESSURE STEEL CYLINDERS of the same size.							
		SO-9809-1 HIGH PRESSURE STEEL CYLINDERS are generally higher in price GH PRESSURE STEEL CYLINDERS of the same size.							
Please	explain:								
III-11.		re aluminum cylinders Are DOT high pressure aluminum cylinders a substitute cylinders that are the subject of these investigations?	for						
	No Yes								
Please	discuss the extent	f substitutability or lack of substitutability in the space provided.							

Page 10

PART III.--<u>MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES</u>--Continued

III-12.	Do <u>DOT HIGH PRESSURE STEEL CYLINDERS</u> and <u>DOT HIGH PRESSURE ALUMINUM</u> <u>CYLINDERS</u> have the same physical characteristics and end uses?
	🗌 No 📃 Yes
Please	describe the similarities and/or differences between the physical characteristics or end uses.
III.13.	Do you or your customers perceive <u>DOT HIGH PRESSURE STEEL CYLINDERS</u> and <u>DOT HIGH PRESSURE ALUMINUM CYLINDERS</u> to be similar products?
	Yes No, please describe the perceived differences between the two products:
TTT 1 4	
III.14.	Are there generally differences in price between <u>DOT HIGH PRESSURE STEEL</u> <u>CYLINDERS</u> and <u>DOT HIGH PRESSURE ALUMINUM CYLINDERS</u> of the same size?
	🗌 No
	Yes, <u>DOT HIGH PRESSURE STEEL CYLINDERS</u> are generally higher in price than <u>DOT</u> <u>HIGH PRESSURE ALUMINUM CYLINDERS</u> of the same size.
	Yes, <u>DOT HIGH PRESSURE ALUMINUM CYLINDERS</u> are generally higher in price than <u>DOT HIGH PRESSURE STEEL CYLINDERS</u> of the same size.
Please	explain:
III-15.	Do DOT HIGH PRESSURE STEEL CYLINDERS ABOVE 150 CUBIC FEET ("LARGE CYLINDERS") AND DOT HIGH PRESSURE STEEL CYLINDERS 150 CUBIC FEET AND BELOW ("SMALL CYLINDERS") have the same physical characteristics and end uses?
	No Yes
Please	describe the similarities and/or differences between the physical characteristics or end uses.

Business Proprietary

U.S. Purchasers' Questionnaire - High Pressure Steel Cylinders

Page 11

PART III.--<u>MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES</u>--Continued

Do you or your customers perceive <u>LARGE CYLINDERS AND SMALL CYLINDERS</u> to be similar products?						
Yes	No, please describe the perceived differences between the two products:					
Are there generally o	lifferences in price between LARGE CYLINDERS AND SMALL CYLINDERS?					
🗌 No						
Yes, <u>LARGE</u>	CYLINDERS are generally higher in price than SMALL CYLINDERS.					
Yes, <u>SMALL</u>	CYLINDERS are generally higher in price than LARGE CYLINDERS.					
explain:						
	products?					

III-18. <u>Demand trends</u>.-- Indicate how demand within the United States and outside of the United States (if known) for high pressure steel cylinders has changed since January 1, 2009. Describe the principal factors that have affected these changes in demand.

Market	Increase	No change	Decrease	Fluctuate	Factors
Within the United States					
Outside the United States					

- III-19. **Importance of purchasing domestic product.--**Is buying a product that is produced in the United States an important factor in your firm's purchases of high pressure steel cylinders (check ALL that apply)?
 - No
- Yes--Purchases of domestic product are required by law or regulation (for example, government purchases under "Buy American" provisions). This involves _____ percent of all purchases of high pressure steel cylinders.
- Yes--Purchases of domestic product are not required by law or regulation, but are by your customers. This involves _____ percent of all purchases of high pressure steel cylinders.
- Yes--Purchases of domestic product are required for other reasons (please specify these reasons below). This involves _____ percent of all purchases of high pressure steel cylinders.

III-20. Conditions of competition.--

(a) Is the high pressure steel cylinders market subject to business cycles or conditions of competition other than the changes in the overall economy?

🗌 No	YesPlease explain and estimate the duration of any such cycle.
	res rieuse emplain und estimate the duration of any such eyere.

(b) Have the business cycles or conditions of competition for high pressure steel cylinders changed since 2009?

No Yes--Please explain any such changes.

III-21. <u>Decisions based on producer</u>.--Does your firm, and to the extent that you know, do your customers make purchasing decisions involving high pressure steel cylinders based on the producer of the high pressure steel cylinders you purchase?

	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Never	If at least sometimes, discuss how your firm/customers determine the producer and why this information is important
Your firm					
Your customers					

III-22. <u>Decisions based on country-of-origin</u>.--Does your firm, and to the extent that you know, do your customers make purchasing decisions involving high pressure steel cylinders based on the country of origin of the high pressure steel cylinders you purchase?

	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Never	If at least sometimes, discuss how your firm/customers determine the source and why this information is important
Your firm					
Your customers					

III-23. Purchasing frequency.--

(a) How frequently do you make purchases (check one)?

Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Quarterly	Annually	Other	If other, specify

- (b) Have you made significant changes in your purchasing patterns (e.g., frequency) since 2009?
- III-24. <u>Number of suppliers contacted</u>.--How many suppliers do you generally contact before making a purchase? _____ firms

III-25. Supplier negotiations.--

(a)	Do purchases of high pressure steel cylinders usually involve negotiations between supplier and purchaser?
	No YesPlease describe these negotiations, noting whether purchasers generally quote competing prices as part of the negotiation process.
(b)	Does your firm tend to vary its purchases from a given supplier within a specified time period based on the price offered for that period?
	No YesSpecify the time period.
III-26.	Change in suppliersHave you changed suppliers since 2009?
🗌 No	YesPlease list the supplier(s), whether the firm was added or dropped, the reasons for the change, and how frequently you change suppliers.
	<u>New suppliers</u> Are you aware of any new suppliers, either foreign or domestic, that have entered the since 2009?
🗌 No	YesPlease identify the firms and indicate how you became aware of them.

Page 15

PART III.--<u>MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES</u>--Continued

III-28. Supplier qualification

(a) Do you require your suppliers to be or to become certified or qualified to sell high pressure steel cylinders to your firm?

🗌 No	Yes	percent of purchases in 2011	Yesall purchases
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(b) Please provide a general description of the certification or qualification process. Briefly describe the factors that you consider when qualifying a new supplier (e.g., quality of product, reliability of supplier, etc.)

(c) How long does	it take to qualify	a new supplier?	days
(•) 110 // 10 mg 40000	it this to quantif	a new supprise	

III-29. **Failure to certify.--**Since 2009, have any domestic or foreign producers failed in their attempts to certify or qualify their high pressure steel cylinders with your firm or have any producers lost their approved status?

No Yes--Please identify these firms, the countries where they are located, and the reasons why they failed the certification/qualification process.

III-30. **<u>Purchasing factors</u>.-**For the factors listed below, please rate each in terms of its importance in your purchase decision for high pressure steel cylinders.

	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 standards			
Quality exceeds industry standards			
Product range			
Reliability of supply			
Technical support/service			
U.S. transportation costs			
Other (specify):			

Business Proprietary

PART III.--<u>MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES</u>--Continued

III-31. <u>Major purchasing factors</u>.--Please list, in order of their importance, the three major factors generally considered by your firm in deciding from whom to purchase high pressure steel cylinders for any one order (examples include availability, extension of credit, contracts, price, quality, range of supplier's product line, traditional supplier, etc.).

1.	
2.	
3.	
Ot	her factors or comments:

III-32. **<u>Quality characteristics</u>.-**-What characteristics does your firm consider when determining the quality of high pressure steel cylinders?

III-33. **Frequency of decisions based on price.**--How often does your firm purchase the high pressure steel cylinders that is offered at the lowest price?

Always	Usually	Sometimes	Never		

III-34. **Price leaders.**— A price leader is defined as (1) one or more firms that initiate a price change, either upward or downward, that is followed by other firms, or (2) one or more firms that have a significant impact on prices. A price leader is not necessarily the lowest priced supplier.

Please list the names of any firms you considered price leaders in the high pressure steel cylinders market since 2009. Describe how the firm(s) exhibited price leadership.

III-35. Buying group benefits.

(a) Did your firm purchase high pressure steel cylinders from your buying group's preferred supplier?

Yes No

(b) Did your firm purchase high pressure steel cylinders from a supplier approved by your buying group?

Yes No

(c) Did your firm purchase high pressure steel cylinders from a supplier other than a supplier approved by your buying group?

Yes No

(d) Did the price negotiated by your buying group serve as a ceiling or otherwise affect your negotiation of price with suppliers of high pressure steel cylinders?

Yes No If yes, please explain the impact of buying group membership on the prices at which you are able to purchase high pressure steel cylinders.

(e) Have you ever negotiated or received a price or terms outside of or better than that offered to the buying group of which you are a member?

Yes No If yes, please provide all correspondence relating to bids received from the supplier in 2010, including the supplier's initial quotes to you, any responses or counter offers made by you to the supplier, and any subsequent quotes that were modifications to the supplier's initial quotes.

PART IV.—PRODUCT COMPARISONS

IV-1. <u>Country knowledge</u>.--Please indicate the countries of origin for high pressure steel cylinders for which your firm has actual marketing/pricing knowledge.

United States

China

- Other countries (specify______
- IV-2. **Interchangeability by country-pair.--**Is high pressure steel cylinders produced in the United States and in other countries interchangeable (*i.e.*, can they physically be used in the same applications)?

Please indicate A, F, S, N, or 0 in the table below:

A = the products from a specified country-pair are *always* interchangeable

F = the products are *frequently* interchangeable

S = the products are *sometimes* interchangeable

N = the products are *never* interchangeable

0 = no familiarity with products from a specified country-pair

Country-pair	China	Other countries
United States		
China		
¹ For any country-pair p interchangeable, please expla	roducing high pressure steel cylinde in the factors that limit or preclude i	ers that is <i>sometimes</i> or <i>never</i> nterchangeable use:

)

PART IV.—<u>PRODUCT COMPARISONS</u>--Continued

IV-3. <u>Factors other than price</u>.--Are differences other than price (*i.e.*, quality, availability, transportation network, product range, technical support, *etc.*) between high pressure steel cylinders produced in the United States and in other countries a significant factor in your firm's purchases of the products?

Please indicate A, F, S, N, or 0 in the table below:

- A = such differences are *always* significant
- F = such differences are *frequently* significant
- S = such differences are *sometimes* significant
- N = such differences are *never* significant
- 0 = no familiarity with products from a specified country-pair

Country-pair	China	Other countries
United States		
China		
¹ For any country-pair for w your firm's sales of high press disadvantages imparted by su	ure steel cylinders, identify the cour	s or <i>frequently</i> are a significant factor in htry-pair and report the advantages or

	U.S. Purchasers'	Questionnaire -	- High Pressure	Steel Cylinders
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PART IV.—<u>PRODUCT COMPARISONS</u>--Continued

IV-4.	Country preferences Do you or your customers ever specifically order high pressure steel cylinders 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 high pressure steel cylinders from these countries is preferred over product from other countries (please note the specific product in your response).
IV-5.	<u>Availability of merchandise</u> Are certain grades/types/sizes of high pressure steel cylinders available from only a single source (domestic or foreign, including both subject and nonsubject countries)?
	No YesPlease identify the source and the grade/type/size.
NIC	
IV-6.	<u>Choice of product not based on price</u> If you purchased high pressure steel cylinders from one source although a comparable product was available from another source at a lower price, please explain your reasons for doing so (please specify by country, including the United States and both subject and nonsubject foreign countries). Possibilities might include transaction characteristics such as length of time to fill orders, minimum order size, reliability of supply, etc.

Page 22

PART IV.—<u>PRODUCT COMPARISONS</u>--Continued

IV-7. <u>Factor country comparisons</u>.--For the factors listed below, please rate how high pressure steel cylinders produced in each country you identified in your response to the first question in Part IV compares with high pressure steel cylinders produced in each of the other countries you identified (including the United States and both subject and nonsubject foreign countries). **Duplicate (copy and paste) this table to account for a reasonable number of country comparisons given the number of countries subject to the proceeding and delete this note.**

	United col	oduct fr d State mparec oduct fr	s I to	CO	oduct fr mparec oduct fr	l to	COI	duct fr nparec duct fr	l to
	Superior	Comparable	Inferior	Superior	Comparable	Inferior	Superior	Comparable	Inferior
Availability									
Delivery terms									
Delivery time									
Discounts offered									
Extension of credit									
Price ¹									
Minimum quantity requirements									
Packaging									
Product consistency									
Quality meets industry standards									
Quality exceeds industry standards									
Product range									
Reliability of supply									
Technical support/service									
U.S. transportation costs ¹									
Other (specify):									

¹ A rating of superior on price and U.S. transportation costs indicates that the first country generally has lower prices/U.S. transportation costs than the second country.

IV-7. *Continued.*

	COI	oduct fr mparec oduct fr	l to	cor	duct fr npared duct fr	l to	cor	duct fr nparec duct fr	l to
	Superior	Comparable	Inferior	Superior	Comparable	Inferior	Superior	Comparable	Inferior
Availability									
Delivery terms									
Delivery time									
Discounts offered									
Extension of credit									
Price ¹									
Minimum quantity requirements									
Packaging									
Product consistency									
Quality meets industry standards									
Quality exceeds industry standards									
Product range									
Reliability of supply									
Technical support/service									
U.S. transportation costs ¹									
Other (specify):									
1									

¹ A rating of superior on price and U.S. transportation costs indicates that the first country generally has lower prices/U.S. transportation costs than the second country.

PART IV.—<u>PRODUCT COMPARISONS</u>--Continued

IV-8. <u>Minimum quality</u>.--How often does high pressure steel cylinders from the following countries meet minimum quality specifications for your uses or your customers' uses?

Source	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Rarely or never	Don't know
United States					
China					
Canada					
Korea					
Other:					
Other:					