# **U.S. PURCHASERS' QUESTIONNAIRE**

# CORROSION-RESISTANT CARBON STEEL FLAT PRODUCTS FROM GERMANY AND KOREA

### This questionnaire must be received by the Commission by no later than AUGUST 15, 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 review of the countervailing duty and antidumping orders concerning corrosion-resistant carbon steel flat products from Germany and Korea (inv. No. 701-TA-350 and 731-TA-616 and 618 (Third 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 Samantha Day (202-205-2088, Samantha.Day@usitc.gov).

Name of fi	Name of firm							
Address								
City	State Zip Code							
World Wid	le Web address							
	m purchased corrosion-resistant carbon steel flat products ("corrosion-resistant steel") (as defined in booklet) from any source (domestic or foreign) at any time since January 1, 2006?							
<b>NO</b>	(Sign the certification below and promptly return only this page of the questionnaire to the Commission)							
<b>YES</b>	(Read the instruction booklet carefully, complete all parts of the questionnaire, and return the entire questionnaire to the Commission so as to be received by 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 means of 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 or reviews 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	
-	<i>Fax</i>		

# 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 40 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, that are engaged in importing corrosion-resistant steel from Germany and Korea into the United States or that are engaged in exporting corrosion-resistant steel from Germany and Korea to the United States? No Yes--List the following information. Address Affiliation Firm name

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

<b><u>Related NONSUBJECT importers/exporters.</u></b> Does your firm have any related firms, either domestic or foreign, that are engaged in importing corrosion-resistant steel from countries other than Germany and Korea into the United States or that are engaged in exporting corrosion-resistant steel from countries other than Germany and Korea to the United States?					
🗌 No	YesList t	he following information.			
Firm name an	d country	Address	Affiliation		
		ur firm have any related firms, orrosion-resistant steel?	either domestic or foreign, that		
	_				
No	YesList t	he following information.			
∐ No <u>Firm name</u>	YesList t	he following information. <u>Address</u>	Affiliation		
	YesList t	Ū.	<u>Affiliation</u>		
	YesList t	Ū.	<u>Affiliation</u>		
Firm name Business plan	<u>1</u> Does your co	<u>Address</u>	Affiliation		

# 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. **<u>Purchases.--</u>**Report, as indicated below, your firm's purchases (either directly or through a sales agent or broker) of corrosion-resistant steel. Report based on delivery date, not order date.

		Quantity (in short tons) and value (in \$1,000)					
			Calenda	ar years			JanJune
ltem	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Purchases of corrosion-r	resistant s	teel produce	ed in				
The United States: Quantity							
Value							
<b>Germany:</b> Quantity							
Value							
Korea: Quantity							
Value							
All other countries: <sup>1</sup> Quantity							
Value							
<sup>1</sup> Please identify these	countries:		•	•	•	•	

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# 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 corrosion-resistant steel from different sources (both domestic and foreign) have changed since 2006.

Source of purchases	Did not purchase	Increased	Constant	Fluctuated	Explanation for relative trend
United States					
Germany					
Korea					
All other countries					

- II-3. **<u>Purchases from one country only</u>**.--If your firm has purchased corrosion-resistant steel from only one country, please explain the reasons for doing so.
- II-4. **Supplier identification.--** Please list your firm's **FIVE** largest suppliers for corrosion-resistant steel since 2006. Also, provide the share of the quantity of your firm's total purchases of corrosion-resistant steel 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			%

III-1. **<u>Firm type</u>.--**Which of the following best describes your firm as a purchaser of corrosion-resistant steel (check all that apply)?

	Steel service cen	user Describe:	)
III-2.	Competition for sa	<u>les</u> .—	
		ibutor or reseller of corrosion-resistant steel, do you compete for sales to with the manufacturers or importers from which you purchase corrosion-	
	No	YesPlease describe	
		ibutor or reseller of corrosion-resistant steel, do you compete with import ders of corrosion-resistant steel from Germany and/or Korea for custome	
	🗌 No	YesPlease describe	

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

# PART III.-- MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES--Continued

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

	Share of total cost in you produce a		
Product(s) you produce	Corrosion-resistant steel (percent)	Other inputs (percent)	Total
	%	%	100%
	%	%	100%
	%	%	100%

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

(a) If your firm is an end user of corrosion-resistant steel, has the demand for your firm's final products incorporating corrosion-resistant steel changed since 2006?

Increased	No change	Decreased	Fluctuated

(b) Has this had any effect on your firm's demand for corrosion-resistant steel?

No	Yes	Explain

III-6. <u>Changes in end uses</u>.-- Have there been any changes in the end uses of corrosion-resistant steel since 2006? Do you anticipate any future changes?

Changes in end uses	No	Yes	Explain
Changes since 2006			
Anticipated changes			

## PART III.-- MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES--Continued

III-7. <u>Substitutes</u>.--Can other products be substituted for corrosion-resistant steel?

No

Yes--Please fill out the table.

	End use in which thi		Have changes in the prices of this substitute affected the price for corrosion-resistant steel?			
	Substitute	substitute is used	No	Yes	Explanation	
1.						
2.						
3.						

III-8. <u>Changes in substitutes</u>.-- Have there been any changes in the number or types of products that can be substituted for corrosion-resistant steel since 2006? Do you anticipate any future changes?

Changes in substitutes	No	Yes	Explain
Changes since 2006			
Anticipated changes			

III-9. <u>Demand trends</u>.-- Indicate how demand within the United States and outside of the United States (if known) for corrosion-resistant steel has changed since January 1, 2006, and how you anticipate demand will change in the future (through 2014). Describe the principal factors that have affected, and that you anticipate will affect, these changes in demand. Please also provide reasons why you think these factors will affect demand in the future.

Market	Increase	No change	Decrease	Fluctuate	Factors/Reasons
			Dema	and since 20	006
Within the United States					
Outside the United States					
			Anticipat	ed future de	emand
Within the United States					
Outside the United States					

# PART III.-- MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES--Continued

- III-10. <u>Market studies</u>.--Please provide as a separate attachment to this request any studies, surveys, etc. that you are aware of that quantify and/or otherwise discuss corrosion-resistant steel supply (including production capacity and capacity utilization) and demand in (1) the United States, (2) each of the other major producing/consuming countries, including Germany and Korea, and (3) the world as a whole. Of particular interest is such data from 2006 to the present and forecasts for the future.
- III-11. <u>Changes in factors affecting supply</u>.--Have any changes occurred in any other factors affecting supply (e.g., changes in availability or prices of 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.S.-produced corrosion-resistant steel in the U.S. market since 2006?

No	Yes	Explain

III-12. <u>Importance of purchasing domestic product</u>.--Is buying a product that is produced in the United States an important factor in your firm's purchases of corrosion-resistant steel (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 our purchases of corrosion-resistant steel.
- Yes--Purchases of domestic product are not required by law or regulation, but are by our customers. This involves \_\_\_\_\_ percent of all our purchases of corrosion-resistant steel.
- Yes--Purchases of domestic product are required for other reasons (please specify these reasons below). This involves \_\_\_\_\_ percent of all our purchases of corrosion-resistant steel.

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### PART III.-- MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES--Continued

#### III-13. Conditions of competition.--

a) Is the corrosion-resistant steel market subject to business cycles or conditions of competition (including seasonal business) distinctive to corrosion-resistant steel?

No (skip to question III-14.)	Yes Please describe and then answer part (b).
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(b) If yes, have there been any changes in the business cycles or conditions of competition for corrosion-resistant steel since January 1, 2006?

🗌 No	Yes Please describe.
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III-14. **Decisions based on producer**.--Does your firm, and to the extent that you know, do your customers make purchasing decisions involving corrosion-resistant steel based on the producer of the corrosion-resistant steel 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-15. <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 corrosion-resistant steel based on the country of origin of the corrosion-resistant steel 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					

#### PART III.-- MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES--Continued

#### III-16. Purchasing frequency.--

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

Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Quarterly	Annually	Other	If other, specify

(b) Do you expect this purchasing pattern to change in the next two years?

No Yes-- How and why do you expect these changes to occur?

- (c) Do you purchase larger volumes of corrosion-resistant steel during certain seasons or at certain points in the year, or is the quantity purchased by your firm consistent throughout the year?
- III-17. <u>Number of suppliers contacted</u>.--How many suppliers do you generally contact before making a purchase? \_\_\_\_\_ firms

#### III-18. Supplier negotiations.--

(a) Do purchases of corrosion-resistant steel usually involve negotiations between supplier and purchaser?

No Yes--Please 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 ti	me period.
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# PART III.-- <u>MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES</u>--Continued

III-19.	<u>Chang</u>	e in suppliersHave you changed suppliers since 2006?
	🗌 No	Yes Please list the supplier(s), whether the firm was added or dropped, the reasons for the change, and how frequently you change suppliers.
III-20.	<u>New su</u>	ppliers
	(a)	Are you aware of any new suppliers, either foreign or domestic, that have entered the market since 2006?
		No YesPlease identify the firms and indicate how you became aware of them.
	(b)	Do you expect new corrosion-resistant steel suppliers to enter the U.S. market?
		No YesPlease provide details.
III-21.	<u>Supplie</u>	er qualification
		you require your suppliers to be or to become certified or qualified to sell corrosion- t steel to your firm?
	🗌 No	Yes percent of value of purchases in 2011 Yesall purchases
	describ	ase provide a general description of the certification or qualification process. Briefly e the factors that you consider when qualifying a new supplier (e.g., quality of product, ity of supplier, etc.)

(c) How long does it take to qualify a new supplier? \_\_\_\_\_days

# PART III.-- MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES--Continued

IV-20.	<u>Supply constraints</u> Has your firm been refused, declined, or been unable to purchase corrosion-resistant steel since January 1, 2006 (examples include placing customers on allocatio or "controlled order entry," declining to accept new customers or renew existing customers, delivering less than the quantity promised, been unable to meet timely shipment commitments, etc.)?							
	No Yes Please identify the time frame in which this occurred, the specific products involved, and the circumstances in which you were not able to supply the products.							
III-22.	<b>Failure to certify</b> Since 2006, have any domestic or foreign producers failed in their attempts to certify or qualify their corrosion-resistant steel 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 certification/qualification.							

# PART III.-- MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES--Continued

III-23. **<u>Purchasing factors.--</u>**For the factors listed below, please rate each in terms of its importance in your purchase decision for corrosion-resistant steel.

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
Ability to meet purchaser qualification standards			
Availability			
Availability of price adjustments during contract term			
Currency exchange rate fluctuations			
Contract with supplier			
Delivery terms			
Delivery time			
Discounts offered			
Extension of credit			
International transportation costs			
Price			
Local service availability (pre- and post-sale)			
Minimum qty requirements			
Packaging			
Product consistency			
Quality meets industry standards			
Quality exceeds industry standards			
Product range			
Proximity of supplier			
Reliability of supply			
Technical support/service			
U.S. transportation costs			
Other (specify):			

# PART III.-- MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES--Continued

III-24. <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 corrosion-resistant steel 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.					

Other factors or comments:

III-25. **<u>Quality characteristics.--</u>**What characteristics does your firm consider when determining the quality of corrosion-resistant steel?

III-26. **Frequency of decisions based on price.--**How often does your firm purchase the corrosion-resistant steel that is offered at the lowest price?

Always	Usually	Sometimes	Never

III-27. <u>Price leaders</u>.— 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 corrosion-resistant steel market since 2006. Describe how the firm(s) exhibited price leadership.

### PART III.-- MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES--Continued

#### III-28. Changes in U.S. industry.--

(a) Please identify and discuss any improvements/changes in the U.S. corrosion-resistant steel industry since 2006 and explain the factors, including the order(s) under review, that were responsible for each improvement/change.

(b) Please discuss any improvements/changes that you anticipate in the future in the U.S. corrosion-resistant steel industry. Identify the time period and causes for these improvements/changes.

III-29. <u>Effect of revocation</u>.--What do you think will be the likely effects of any revocation of the countervailing duty and antidumping duty orders for imports of corrosion-resistant steel from Germany and Korea? As appropriate, please discuss any potential effects of revocation of the countervailing duty and 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.

(1) Activities of your firm:

(2) Entire U.S. market:

### PART IV.-- PRODUCT COMPARISIONS

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

United States	Germany	Korea	Other	If other, specify

IV-2. **Interchangeability by country-pair.--**Is for corrosion-resistant steel 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	Germany	Korea	Other countries
United States			
Germany			
Korea			
	producing corrosion-resist se explain the factors tha		

### PART IV.-- PRODUCT COMPARISIONS--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 corrosion-resistant steel 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	Germany	Korea	Other countries
United States			
Germany			
Korea			
factor in your firm's pu	or which factors other tha irchases of corrosion-res advantages imparted by	istant steel, identify the c	

# PART IV.-- PRODUCT COMPARISIONS--Continued

IV-4.	<u>Availability of merchandise</u> Are certain grades/types/sizes of corrosion-resistant steel 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.					
IV-5.	<u>Choice of product not based on price</u> If you purchased corrosion-resistant steel 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.					

## PART IV.-- PRODUCT COMPARISIONS--Continued

IV-6. **Factor country comparisons.-**For the factors listed below, please rate how corrosion-resistant steel produced in each country you identified in your response to the first question in Part IV compares with corrosion-resistant steel produced in each of the other countries you identified (including the United States and both subject and nonsubject foreign countries).

	product from <u>United States</u> compared to product from <u>Germany</u>		product from <u>United States</u> compared to product from <u>Korea</u>		product from <u>United States</u> compared to product from <u>Other countries</u>		tes to om		
	Superior	Comparable	Inferior	Superior	Comparable	Inferior	Superior	Comparable	Inferior
Ability to meet purchaser qualification standards									
Availability									
Availability of price adjustments during contract term									
Currency exchange rate fluctuations									
Contract with supplier									
Delivery terms									
Delivery time									
Discounts offered									
Extension of credit									
International transportation costs									
Price <sup>1</sup>									
Local service availability									
Minimum quantity requirements									
Packaging									
Product consistency									
Quality meets industry standards									
Quality exceeds industry standards									
Product range									
Proximity of supplier									
Reliability of supply									
Technical support/service									
U.S. transportation costs <sup>1</sup>									
Other (specify):									

<sup>1</sup> 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.-- PRODUCT COMPARISIONS--Continued

# IV-6. *Continued.*

	product from <u>Germany</u> compared to product from <u>Korea</u>		product from <u>Germany</u> compared to product from <u>Other countries</u>		product from <u>Korea</u> compared to product from <u>Other countries</u>		l to om		
	Superior	Comparable	Inferior	Superior	Comparable	Inferior	Superior	Comparable	Inferior
Ability to meet purchaser qualification standards Availability									
Availability of price adjustments during contract term									
Currency exchange rate fluctuations									
Contract with supplier									
Delivery terms									
Delivery time									
Discounts offered									
Extension of credit									
International transportation costs									
Price <sup>1</sup>									
Local service availability									
Minimum quantity requirements									
Packaging									
Product consistency									
Quality meets industry standards									
Quality exceeds industry standards									
Product range									
Proximity of supplier									
Reliability of supply									
Technical support/service									
U.S. transportation costs <sup>1</sup>									
Other (specify):									

<sup>1</sup> 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.-- PRODUCT COMPARISIONS--Continued

IV-7. <u>Minimum quality</u>.--How often does corrosion-resistant steel 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					
Germany					
Korea					
Other:					
Other:					

# IV-8. Change in price.--

(a) Since 2006, has there been a change in the price of corrosion-resistant steel? If so, has the price of U.S.-produced corrosion-resistant steel changed more or less than the price of imported corrosion-resistant steel from Germany and Korea? Please provide any additional information in the space provided.

No change in price
Prices have changed by the same amount
Price of U.Sproduced corrosion-resistant steel has changed relative to the price of
corrosion-resistant steel from Germany.
Drive of U.C. and have described and interview of the scheme of a static term in the

Price of U.S.-produced corrosion-resistant steel has changed relative to the price of corrosion-resistant steel from Korea.

Additional information:

(b) If the price of U.S.-produced corrosion-resistant steel has changed relative to the price of corrosion-resistant steel from Germany and Korea, the price of U.S.-produced corrosion-resistant steel is now relatively

Higher	Lower – than those from Germany.

 $\square$  Higher  $\square$  Lower – than those from Korea.