U.S. PURCHASERS' QUESTIONNAIRE

DIFFUSION-ANNEALED, NICKEL-PLATED STEEL FROM JAPAN

This questionnaire must be received by the Commission by no later than January 31, 2014

See 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 antidumping investigation concerning diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel flat-rolled products ("diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel") from Japan (Inv. No. 731-TA-1206 (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 John Benedetto (202-205-3270, John.Benedetto@usitc.gov).

Name of firm

City		State	Zip Code	9	
Has your firm	purchased diffusion-an	nnealed, nickel-plated steel me since January 1, 2011?			
□NO	(Sign the certification be	elow and promptly return only	this page of the qu	estionnaire to the Co	ommission)
☐ YES		oklet carefully, complete all pumission so as to be received			entire
		CERTIFICATION	ON		
f and understand itting this certificion provided in	d that the information cation I also grant co this questionnaire and	n response to this question submitted is subject to au onsent for the Commission of throughout this proceed	naire is complete dit and verificatio on, and its emplo	on by the Commiss oyees and contract	ion. t personnel, t
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if and understand itting this certification provided in mission on the solution, its employed ing the records of the personnel will signal.	I that the information cation I also grant cathis questionnaire and time or similar merchant mation submitted in es, and contract person this proceeding or refer programs and operagn non-disclosure agressial	n response to this question submitted is subject to au onsent for the Commission throughout this proceed andise. this questionnaire responsionnel who are acting in the elated proceedings for where a commission the commission eements.	naire is completed that and verification, and its emploing in any other are and through the capacity of Control of Control of the capacity of Control of the capacity of Control of Contr	on by the Commission by the Commission import-injury proceeding this proceeding ommission employ on is submitted, or J.S.C. Appendix 3.	ion. t personnel, to ceedings condings condings g may be usone wees, for dever in internal a

PART I.—GENERAL INFORMATION

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. OMB statistics.--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. 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.
- 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?

 \[\sum \text{No} \sum \text{Yes--List the following information.} \]

Firm name	Address	Extent of ownership (percent)

PART I.--GENERAL INFORMATION--Continued

	s/exportersDoes your firm have					
lomestic or foreign, which are engaged in importing diffusion-annealed, nickel-plate apan into the United States or which are engaged in exporting diffusion-annealed, n						
steel from Japan to the United		rusion unincureu, mener pre				
	1 C. 11					
No YesList	List the following information.					
Firm name	Address	Affiliation				
	the United States or which are engrom countries other than Japan to the					
amourou, monor platou steel il	nealed, nickel-plated steel from countries other than Japan to the United States?					
□ No □ YesList t	No YesList the following information.					
Firm name and country	Address	Affiliation				
1						
	ur firm have any related firms, either	•				
are engaged in the production	of diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated	•				
are engaged in the production	•	•				
are engaged in the production	of diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated	•				
are engaged in the production No YesList	of diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated the following information.	l steel?				
are engaged in the production No YesList	of diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated the following information.	l steel?				
are engaged in the production No YesList	of diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated the following information.	l steel?				

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 diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel. Report based on delivery date, not order date.

Item	2011	2012	2013
Purchases of diffusion-annealed, nickel- plated steel produced in The United States: Quantity (in short tons)			
Value (in dollars)			
Japan: Quantity (in short tons)			
Value (in dollars)			
Germany: Quantity (in short tons)			
Value (in dollars)			
Korea: Quantity (in short tons)			
Value (in dollars)			
All other countries: ¹ Quantity (in short tons)			
Value (in dollars)			
¹ Please identify these countries:		•	

PART II.--PURCHASES--Continued

II-2. <u>Changes in purchasing patterns.</u>—Please indicate how the relative levels of your firm's purchases of diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel 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						
Japan						
Germany						
Korea						
All other countries						
(a) If yo	our firm has	a preference explain the	for purchas	sing diffusio	on-annealed,	nickel-plated steel from
(b) If w	our firm has		C 1	11.00		

PART II.--PURCHASES--Continued

II-4. **Supplier identification.--**Please list your firm's **FIVE** largest suppliers for diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel since January 1, 2011. Also, provide the share of the quantity of your firm's total purchases of diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel that each of these suppliers accounted for in 2013.

No.	Supplier's name	City and state	Share of quantity of 2013 purchases
1			%
2			%
3			%
4			%
5			%

PART III.--MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES

III-1. <u>Firm type.</u>--Which of the following best describes your firm as a purchaser of diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel (check all that apply)?

End user (battery producer)	End user (can stamper)	Distributor	Other	Describe other

If your firm is a distributor of diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel, please answer questions III-2 and III-3.

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

No	Yes	If yes, please describe.

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

If your firm is an end user (e.g., battery producer, can stamper) of diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel, please answer questions III-4 through III-6.

III-4. <u>End uses.--</u>List the top 3 products you make using diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel **and** estimate the percent of your <u>total production cost</u> that is accounted for by diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel and by other inputs (such as labor, energy, and other raw materials).

	Share of total cost in each of the product(s) you produce accounted for by				
Product(s) you produce	diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel		Other inputs		Total
	%	+	%	=	100%
	%	+	%	=	100%
	%	+	%	=	100%

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

	III-5.	Demand	for	end	use	products
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(a)	If your firm is an end user of diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel, has the demand for
	your firm's final products incorporating diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel changed
	since January 1, 2011?

Increased	No change	Decreased	Fluctuated

(b) Has this had any effect on your firm's demand for diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel?

No	Yes	Explain

III-6. Contracts.—

(a) Does your firm purchase diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel under contracts committing a certain percentage of your purchases?

No	Yes	Explain

(b) If your firm is a can stamper, does your firm work under contracts negotiated with your suppliers by your customers?

No	Yes	Explain

100

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reasons (explain:

			e substitute Please fill ot			n-annealed, nickel-plated steel?
				Hav	e chai	nges in the prices of this substitu d the price for diffusion-annealed nickel-plated steel?
Substitute		End use in which this substitute is used				Explanation
Market	Overall increase	No change	Overall decrease	Fluct with no tre	clea	r Explanation and factors
Within the United States]	
Outside the United States]	
percentage of	your firm'	s total 201	3 purchases	s of diff	ısion-	out the table below, estimating the annealed, nickel-plated steel that the United States. Estimated percentage of your firm's total 2013 purchases of diffusion-
						annealed, nickel-
Purchases th						annealed, nickel- plated steel
Purchases the Purchases of regulation (expressions)	f domestic	product	that were r	equired		annealed, nickel- plated steel %

III-10.	Conditions	of compe	tition							
	a) Is the diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel market subject to business cycles (other than general economy-wide conditions) and/or other conditions of competition distinctive to diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel?									
	Yes-Bus	 No (skip to question III-10.) Yes-Business cycles (e.g. seasonal business). Yes-Other distinctive conditions of competition. 								
	If yes, desc	If yes, describe below.								
	Business	cycles								
	Other cor									
	(b) Have there been any changes in the business cycles or conditions of competition for diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel since January 1, 2011?									
	No	Yes	If yes, describe.							
III-11.	customers 1	hasing	decision		ffusion-ar	the extent that you know, do your nnealed, nickel-plated steel based on u purchase?				
		Alway	ys U	sually	Sometimes	Never	If at least sometimes, discuss how your firm/customers determine the producer and why this information is important			
	Your firm									
	Your customer	s 🗆								

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

III-12.	<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 diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel
	based on the country of origin of the diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated 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
V					
Your firm	Ш				
Your customers					

III-13. Purchasing frequen	cv
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(a)	How frequently do you make purchases of diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel (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 January 1, 2011?

No	Yes	If yes, how and why do you expect these changes to occur?

III-14.	Number of suppliers	contacted	-How many	suppliers do y	you generally	contact before	making a
	purchase? Between	and	firms				

PART	111 <u>MA</u>	AKKET	<u>CHAR</u>	ACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICESContinued		
III-15.	Supplie	er negoti	ations	-		
	(a)	Do purchases of diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel usually involve negotiations between supplier and purchaser?				
		No	Yes	If yes, please describe how negotiations take place, including whether you issue requests for quotations to multiple suppliers and what factors you use to evaluate bids from suppliers.		
	(b)			tend to vary its purchases from a given supplier within a specified time the price offered for that period?		
		No	Yes	If yes, specify the time period.		
	(c)	Does your firm typically negotiate with suppliers simultaneously for purchases of diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel inside and outside the United States?				
		No	Yes	If so, please describe how your overall worldwide negotiations affect your decisions about supply of diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel for your U.S. needs.		
III-16.	Change	e in supp	oliersF	Have you changed suppliers since January 1, 2011?		
		No	Yes	If 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-17.				u aware of any new suppliers, either foreign or domestic, that have January 1, 2011?		
		No	Yes	If yes, please identify the firms and indicate how you became aware of them.		

18. Suppl i	ier qu	nalification					
(a)		you require your suppliers to be or to become aled, nickel-plated steel to your firm?	ne certified or qualified to sell diffusion-				
		No Yes- Please answer (b) thro	ough (e).				
(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 o product, reliability of supplier, etc.).						
(c)	Hov	w long does it take to qualify a new supplier	r?days				
(d)	Please identify all the suppliers of diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel that were qualified to supply your firm in 2013 and 2014, by battery specification:						
Specificat	ion	Qualified Producers - 2013	Qualified producers – 2014				
AA can							
AAA can							
AAAA can							
C can							
D can							
End caps							
Automotiv	'e						
(e)		es your firm ever allow a supplier to bid on eed steel, even if the supplier is not yet quali					

III-19.	Failure to certify Since January 1, 2011, have any domestic or foreign producers failed in their
	attempts to certify or qualify their diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel with your firm or have
	any producers lost their approved status?

No	If yes, please identify these firms, the countries where they are located, and the reasons why they failed the certification/qualification.

III-20.	Major purchasing factorsPlease list, in order of their importance, the three major factors
	generally considered by your firm in deciding from whom to purchase diffusion-annealed, nickel-
	plated 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.	
Ple	ase list any other factors that are very important in your purchase decisions:

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

III-21. <u>Purchasing factors</u>.--For the factors listed below, please rate each in terms of its importance in your purchase decision for diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel.

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
Availability			
Delivery terms			
Delivery time			
Discounts offered			
Extension of credit			
Global relationship with supplier			
Minimum quantity requirements			
Overall cost effectiveness			
Packaging			
Price			
Processability of material			
Product consistency			
Product range			
Quality exceeds industry standards			
Quality meets industry standards			
Reliability of supply			
Technical support/service			
U.S. transportation costs			

II-22.		Quality characteristicsWhat characteristics does your firm consider when determining the quality of diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel?						
I-23.	Frequency of decisions based on priceHow often does your firm purchase the diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel that is offered at the lowest price?							
	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Never				
-24.	either upward or downw significant impact on pr Please list the names of	ward, that is followed by ices. A price leader is not any firms you considere	one or more firms that in other firms, or (2) one or ot necessarily the lowest-d price leaders in the diffiribe how the firm(s) exhibit	more firms that have a priced supplier. Susion-annealed, nickel-				

PART IV.—PRODUCT COMPARISONS

IV-1. <u>Country knowledge.</u>--Please indicate the countries of origin for diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel for which your firm has actual marketing/pricing knowledge.

United States	Japan	Other countries (specify)

IV-2. <u>Interchangeability by country-pair.</u>--Is diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated 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	Japan	Germany	Korea	Other countries
United States				
Japan				
Germany				
Korea				
	y-pair producing diffu geable, please expla			

PART IV.—PRODUCT COMPARISONS--Continued

IV-3. **Factors other than price.--**Are differences other than price (*i.e.*, quality, availability, transportation network, product range, technical support, *etc.*) between diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated 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	Japan	Germany	Korea	Other countries
United States				
Japan				
Germany				
Korea				
factor in your fir	y-pair for which factorm's sales of diffusion ntages or disadvanta	n-annealed, nickel-p	lated steel, identify the	

PART IV.—PRODUCT COMPARISONS--Continued

IV-5.

IV-6.

IV-4.	Country preferencesDo you or your customers ever specifically order diffusion-annealed
	nickel-plated steel from one country in particular over other possible sources of supply?

No	Yes	If yes, please 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 diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel from these countries is preferred over product from other countries (please note the specific product in your response).
steel avai nonsubje	ilable from	,
steel avai	ilable fro	m only a single source (domestic or foreign, including both subject and
steel avai nonsubje	ilable from	m only a single source (domestic or foreign, including both subject and ies)?
No Choice o from one price, ple States and	Yes f product source a case explad both su	m only a single source (domestic or foreign, including both subject and ies)?

PART IV.—PRODUCT COMPARISONS--Continued

IV-7. **Factor country comparisons.--**For the factors listed below, please rate how diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel produced in each country you identified in your response to the first question in Part IV compares with diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated steel produced in each of the other countries you identified (including the United States and both subject and nonsubject foreign countries).

	product from United States compared to product from Japan		product from United States compared to product from Nonsubject countries			product from Japan compared to product from Nonsubject countries			
	Superior	Comparable	Inferior	Superior	Comparable	Inferior	Superior	Comparable	Inferior
Availability									
Delivery terms									
Delivery time									
Discounts offered									
Extension of credit									
Global relationship with supplier									
Minimum quantity requirements									
Overall cost effectiveness									
Packaging									
Price ¹									
Processability of material									
Product consistency									
Product range									
Quality exceeds industry standards									
Quality meets industry standards									
Reliability of supply									
Technical support/service									
U.S. transportation costs 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.—PRODUCT COMPARISONS--Continued

IV-9.

IV-8. <u>Minimum quality</u>.--How often does diffusion-annealed, nickel-plated 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					
Japan					
Germany					
Korea					
Other:					
Other:					
Lost sales and lost revenue. the preliminary phase of these your firm has that would corretc Did your firm attach any such No Yes Additional comments.	e investigatior oborate detail	ns, please prov s in the allegat	ide any additio	onal document	ation that