

U.S. PURCHASERS' QUESTIONNAIRE

VERTICAL METAL FILE CABINETS FROM CHINA

This questionnaire must be received by the Commission by **August 28, 2019**

See last page 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 and antidumping duty investigations concerning vertical metal file cabinets from China (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-623 and 731-TA-1449 (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 Pamela Davis (202-205-2218, Pamela.davis@usitc.gov).

Name of firm _____			
Address _____			
City _____	State _____	Zip Code _____	
Website _____			
Has your firm purchased or imported for own use or retail sale VMFCs (as defined on next page) from <u>any</u> source (domestic or foreign) at any time since January 1, 2016?			
<input type="checkbox"/>	NO	(Sign the certification below and promptly return only this page of the questionnaire to the Commission)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	YES	(Complete all parts of the questionnaire, and return the entire questionnaire to the Commission)	
Return questionnaire via the U.S. International Trade Commission Drop Box by clicking on the following link: https://dropbox.usitc.gov/oinv/. (PIN: FILE)			

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, the undersigned, acknowledge that information submitted in response to this request for information and throughout this proceeding or other proceedings may be disclosed to and used: (i) by the Commission, its employees and Offices, and contract personnel (a) for developing or maintaining the records of this or a related proceeding, or (b) in internal investigations, audits, reviews, and evaluations relating to the programs, personnel, and operations of the Commission including under 5 U.S.C. Appendix 3; or (ii) by U.S. government employees and contract personnel, solely for cybersecurity purposes. I understand that all contract personnel will sign appropriate nondisclosure agreements.

Name of Authorized Official

Title of Authorized Official

Date

Signature

Phone

Email address

PART I.—GENERAL INFORMATION

Background.--This proceeding was instituted in response to a petition filed on April 30, 2019, by Hirsh Industries LLC, Des Moines, Iowa. Countervailing and antidumping duties may be assessed on the subject imports as a result of these proceedings if the Commission makes an affirmative determination of injury, threat, or material retardation, and if the U.S. Department of Commerce (“Commerce”) makes an affirmative determination of subsidization and/or dumping. Questionnaires and other information pertinent to this proceeding are available at:

https://www.usitc.gov/investigations/701731/2019/vertical_metal_file_cabinets_china/preliminary.htm

Vertical metal file cabinets “VMFCs” covered by these investigations are freestanding vertical metal file cabinets containing two or more extendable file storage elements and having an actual width of 25 inches or less.

The subject vertical metal file cabinets have bodies made of carbon and/or alloy steel and or other metals, regardless of whether painted, powder coated, or galvanized or otherwise coated for corrosion protection or aesthetic appearance. The subject vertical metal file cabinets must have two or more extendable elements for file storage (*e.g.*, file drawers) of a height that permits hanging files of either letter (8.5” x 11”) or legal (8.5” x 14”) sized documents.

An “extendable element” is defined as a movable load-bearing storage component including, but not limited to, drawers and filing frames. Extendable elements typically have suspension systems, consisting of glide blocks or ball bearing glides, to facilitate opening and closing.

The subject vertical metal file cabinets typically come in models with two, three, four, or five-file drawers. The inclusion of one or more additional non-file-sized extendable storage elements, not sized for storage files (*e.g.*, box or pencil drawers), does not remove an otherwise in-scope product from the scope as long as the combined height of the non-file-sized extendable storage elements does not exceed six inches. The inclusion of an integrated storage area that is not extendable (*e.g.*, a cubby) and has an actual height of six inches or less, also does not remove a subject vertical metal file cabinet from the scope. Accessories packaged with a subject vertical file cabinet, such as separate printer stands or shelf kits that sit on top of the in-scope vertical file cabinet are not considered integrated storage.

“Freestanding” means the unit has a solid top and does not have an open top or a top with holes punched in it that would permit the unit to be attached to, hung from, or otherwise used to support a desktop or other work surface. The ability to anchor a vertical file cabinet to a wall for stability or to prevent it from tipping over does not exclude the unit from the scope.

The addition of mobility elements such as casters, wheels, or a dolly does not remove the product from the scope. Packaging a subject vertical metal file cabinet with other accessories, including, but not limited to, locks, leveling glides, caster kits, drawer accessories (*e.g.*, including but not limited to follower wires, follower blocks, file compressors, hanger rails, pencil trays, and hanging file folders), printer stand, shelf kit and magnetic hooks, also does not remove the product from the scope. Vertical metal file cabinets are also in scope whether they are imported assembled or unassembled with all essential parts and components included.

Excluded from the scope are lateral metal file cabinets. Lateral metal file cabinets have a width that is greater than the body depth, and have a body with an actual width that is more than 25 inches wide.

Also excluded from the scope are pedestal file cabinets. Pedestal file cabinets are metal file cabinets with body depths that are greater than or equal to their width, are under 31 inches in actual height, and have the following characteristics: (1) an open top or other the means for the cabinet to be attached to or hung from a desktop or other work surface such as holes punched in the top (*i.e.*, not freestanding); or (2) freestanding file cabinets that have all of the following: (a) at least a 90 percent drawer extension for all extendable file storage elements; (b) a central locking system; (c) a minimum weight density of 9.5 lbs./cubic foot; and (d) casters or leveling glides.

“Percentage drawer extension” is defined as the drawer travel distance divided by the inside depth dimension of the drawer. Inside depth of drawer is measured from the inside of the drawer face to the inside face of the drawer back. Drawer extension is the distance the drawer travels from the closed position to the maximum travel position which is limited by the out stops. In situations where drawers do not include an outstop, the drawer is extended until the drawer back is 3-1/2 inches from the closed position of inside face of the drawer front. The “weight density” is calculated by dividing the cabinet’s actual weight by its volume in cubic feet (the multiple of the product’s actual width, depth, and height). A “central locking system” locks all drawers in a unit.

Also excluded from the scope are fire proof or fire-resistant file cabinets that meet Underwriters Laboratories (UL) fire protection standard 72, class 350, which covers the test procedures applicable to fire-resistant equipment intended to protect paper records.

The merchandise subject to the investigation is classified under Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) subheading 9403.10.0020. The subject merchandise may also enter under HTSUS subheadings 9403.10.0040, 9403.20.0080, and 9403.20.0090. While HTSUS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the scope of the investigation is dispositive.

Purchaser.--Any firm engaged, either directly or through a parent company or subsidiary, in purchasing VMFCs from another firm that produces, imports, or otherwise distributes VMFCs.

Reporting of information.--If information is not readily available from your records, provide carefully prepared estimates. If your firm is completing more than one questionnaire (*i.e.*, a producer, importer, and/or purchaser questionnaire), you need not respond to duplicated questions.

Confidentiality.--The commercial and financial data furnished in response to this questionnaire that reveal the individual operations of your firm will be treated as confidential by the Commission to the extent that such data are not otherwise available to the public and will not be disclosed except as may be required by law (*see* 19 U.S.C. 1677f). Such confidential information will not be published in a manner that will reveal the individual operations of your firm; however, general characterizations of numerical business proprietary information (such as discussion of trends) will be treated as confidential business information only at the request of the submitter for good cause shown.

Verification.--The information submitted in this questionnaire is subject to audit and verification by the Commission. To facilitate possible verification of data, please keep all files, worksheets, and supporting documents used in the preparation of the questionnaire response. Please also retain a copy of the final document that you submit.

Release of information.--The information provided by your firm in response to this questionnaire, as well as any other business proprietary information submitted by your firm to the Commission in connection with this proceeding, may become subject to, and released under, the administrative protective order provisions of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. § 1677f) and section 207.7 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR § 207.7). This means that certain lawyers and other authorized individuals may temporarily be given access to the information for use in connection with this proceeding or other import-injury proceedings conducted by the Commission on the same or similar merchandise; those individuals would be subject to severe penalties if the information were divulged to unauthorized individuals.

I-1. **Establishments covered.**--Provide the name and address of your U.S. establishment(s) covered by this questionnaire, if different from that listed on the cover page. **Firms operating more than one establishment should combine the data for all establishments into a single response.**

"Establishment"--Each facility of a firm involved in the purchase of VMFCs, including auxiliary facilities operated in conjunction with (whether or not physically separate from) such facilities.

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I-2. **Ownership.**--Is your firm owned, in whole or in part, by any other firm?

No Yes--List the following information.

Firm name	Address	Extent of ownership (percent)

I-3. **Related importers/exporters.**--Does your firm have any related firms, either domestic or foreign, which import VMFCs into the United States or which export VMFCs to the United States?

No Yes--List the following information.

Firm name	Country	Affiliation

I-4. **Related producers.**--Does your firm have any related firms, either domestic or foreign, which produce VMFCs?

No Yes--List the following information.

Firm name	Country	Affiliation

PART II.--PURCHASES

Contact information.--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	

II-1. **Purchases and imports.**--Report separately your firm's domestic purchases and imports of VMFCs.

"Purchase" – Purchase from a U.S. entity such as a U.S. producer, a U.S. importer, or other U.S. firm.

"Import" – Purchase directly from a foreign supplier and your firm is the importer of record.

Item	2016	2017	2018	January-June 2019
	Quantity (in units)			
Purchases of VMFCs produced in—				
United States				
China				
Mexico				
All other countries ¹				
Sources unknown ²				
Total purchases	0	0	0	0
Imports of VMFCs from—				
China				
Mexico				
All other countries ¹				
Total imports ³	0	0	0	0

¹ Please identify these countries:

² Please indicate the firm(s) from which you purchased this merchandise:

³ If your firm imported VMFCs at any time since January 1, 2016, please also complete and return a U.S. importers' questionnaire in this proceeding. It can be **downloaded at:**

II-2. **Changes in purchasing patterns.**--Please indicate how the shares of your firm's purchases of VMFCs from different sources have changed since January 1, 2016.

Source of purchases	Did not purchase	Decreased	Increased	Constant	Fluctuated	Explanation for trend
United States	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
China	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
All other countries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sources unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

II-3. **Major purchasing factors.**--Please list, in order of their importance, the main factors your firm considers in deciding from whom to purchase VMFCs.

1.	
2.	
3.	
Please list any other factors that are very important in your purchase decisions:	

II-4. **Country knowledge.**--Please indicate the countries of origin with which your firm has experience or information in the VMFCs market.

United States	China	Mexico	Other countries	Other countries (specify)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

II-5. **Supplier identification.**--Please list your firm's **FIVE** largest suppliers for VMFCs since January 1, 2016. Also, provide the share of the quantity of your firm's total purchases of VMFCs that each of these suppliers accounted for in 2018.

No.	Supplier's name	City and state	Share of quantity of 2018 purchases
1			%
2			%
3			%
4			%
5			%

PART III.--MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES

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

End user	Retailer	Distributor	Other	Describe other
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

If your firm is a retailer or distributor of VMFCs, please answer questions III-2 and III-4.

III-2. **Competition for sales.**--Does your firm compete for sales to customers with the manufacturers or importers from which your firm purchases VMFCs?

No	Yes	If yes, please describe.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-3. **Types of customers.**--What are the major types of consumers to which your firm sells VMFCs?

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III-4. **Substitutes.**—

(a) **Specific substitutes.**--Are these specific products considered as substitutes for VMFCs in the same end use(s)?

Specific substitutes	Are these considered substitutes in the market?		End use(s) in which this substitute is used	Have changes in the price of this substitute affected the price of VMFCs?		
	No	Yes		No	Yes	Explanation
Lateral metal file cabinets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pedestal metal file cabinets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Filing cabinets not made of metal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Desks or other office furniture with storage capacity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Electronic document storage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

(b) **Other substitutes.**--Can other products not already listed in part "a" of this question be substituted for VMFCs?

No Yes--Please fill out the table.

	Other substitutes	End use in which this substitute is used	Have changes in the price of this substitute affected the price for VMFCs?		
			No	Yes	Explanation
1.			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3.			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4.			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-5. **Demand trends.**--Indicate how demand within the United States and outside of the United States (if known) for VMFCs has changed since January 1, 2016. Explain any trends and describe the principal factors that have affected these changes in demand for your firm and the overall VMFCs market (e.g., general economic growth, office vacancy rates, etc.).

Market	Overall increase	No change	Overall decrease	Fluctuate with no clear trend	Explanation and factors
Within the United States	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Outside the United States	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-6. **Digital file storage.**--Has the use of digital file storage affected overall demand for VMFCs since January 1, 2016?

No	Yes	Please describe.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-7. **Internet sales.**--Have internet sales affected price, competition, or other factors since January 1, 2016?

Factor	No	Yes	If yes, please describe.
Price	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Competition	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-8. **Country preferences.**--Do you or your customers ever specifically order VMFCs from one country in particular over other possible sources of supply?

No	Yes	If yes, identify the countries and explain.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-9. **Importance of purchasing domestic product.**--Please fill out the table below, estimating the percentage of your firm's total 2018 purchases of VMFCs that required VMFCs produced in the United States.

Item	Estimated percentage of your firm's total 2018 purchases of VMFCs
Purchases that did not require domestic product	%
Purchases that were required by law or regulation to be domestic product (e.g., government purchases under "Buy American" provisions)	%
Purchases that were not required by law or regulation, but were required by your customers to be domestic product	%
Purchases that were required to be domestic product for other reasons (explain:)	%
Total (should sum to 100.0%)	0.0 %

III-10. Conditions of competition.--

- (a) Is the VMFCs market subject to business cycles (other than general economy-wide conditions) and/or other conditions of competition distinctive to VMFCs?

Check all that apply.	Please describe.
<input type="checkbox"/> No	Skip to question III-11.
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes-Business cycles (e.g. seasonal business)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes-Other distinctive conditions of competition	

- (b) Have there been any changes in the business cycles or conditions of competition for VMFCs since January 1, 2016?

No	Yes	If yes, describe.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-11. Decisions based on producer and country-of-origin.--How often does your firm, and if known, do your customers, make purchasing decisions involving VMFCs based on its producer or country of origin?

Item	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Never	If at least sometimes, explain.
Decision based on producer					
Your firm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Your customers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Decision based on country of origin					
Your firm	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Your customers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-12. **Availability of supply.**--Has the availability of VMFCs in the U.S. market changed since January 1, 2016?

Availability in the U.S. market	No	Yes	Please explain, noting the countries and reasons for the changes.
U.S.-produced product	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Imports from China	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Imports from other countries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-13. **Supply constraints.**--Has any firm refused, declined, or been unable to supply your firm with VMFCs since January 1, 2016 (examples include placing customers on allocation or "controlled order entry," declining to accept new customers or renew existing customers, delivering less than the quantity promised, being unable to meet timely shipment commitments, etc.)?

No	Yes	If yes, please describe.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-14. **Availability of specific product types.**--Are certain grades/types/sizes/features of VMFCs only available from certain country sources?

No	Yes	If yes, please identify the countries and the grade/type/size.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-15. **Purchasing frequency.**--

(a) How frequently does your firm make purchases of VMFCs (check one)?

Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Quarterly	Annually	Other	<i>If other, specify</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

(b) Has this purchasing frequency changed since January 1, 2016?

No	Yes	If yes, please describe.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-16. **Raw material prices.**—

(a) Is your firm familiar with the prices for raw materials used in the production of VMFCs?

No	Yes – please answer (b)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(b) Has information on raw material prices affected your firm's negotiations or contracts to purchase VMFCs since January 1, 2016?

No	Yes	Explain
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-17. **Impact of the section 301 investigation.**-- This question concerns the section 301 investigation and subsequent announcement of additional tariffs that include VMFCs proposed and implemented by the United States in response to Chinese trade practices.

- (a) Has the implementation of tariff remedies in the section 301 investigation impact, or do you anticipate that it will impact, your firm's VMFCs business and/or the U.S. VMFCs market as a whole?

Yes—Please answer b and c.	No	Don't know
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- (b) Please indicate the impact of implementation of remedies in the section 301 investigation and tariff actions regarding VMFCs on each of the following factors.

Impact on	Overall Increase	No change	Overall Decrease	Fluctuate with no clear trend
Demand for VMFCs in the U.S. market	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supply of VMFCs imported from China in the U.S. market	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Supply of VMFCs imported from sources other than China in the U.S. market	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prices for VMFCs in the U.S. market	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Raw materials costs for VMFCs in the U.S. market	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- (c) Describe the impact of the 301 tariffs on your firm and the overall market for VMFCs. Please identify the magnitude and timing of the reported effects, and compare your firm's operations/overall market before and after the implementation of tariffs.

III-18. **Number of suppliers contacted.**--How many suppliers does your firm generally contact before making a purchase? Between ____ and ____ firms

III-19. **Supplier negotiations.**--Do your firm's purchases of VMFCs usually involve negotiations between supplier and purchaser?

No	Yes	If yes, explain the factors your firm generally negotiates and note whether your firm quotes competing prices during negotiations.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-20. **Change in suppliers.**--Has your firm changed suppliers since January 1, 2016?

No	Yes	If yes, please list the supplier(s), whether the firm was added or dropped, and the reasons for the change.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-21. **New suppliers.**--Are you aware of any new suppliers, either foreign or domestic, that have entered the market since January 1, 2016?

No	Yes	If yes, please identify the firms.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-22. **Supplier qualification.**--Do you require your suppliers to be or to become certified or qualified to sell VMFCs to your firm?

If yes, provide the following information.

- The number of days to qualify a new supplier.
- A general description of the certification or qualification process. Also, a brief description of the factors that you consider when qualifying a new supplier (e.g., quality of product, reliability of supplier, etc.).

No	Yes	Number of days	Process and factors
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

III-23. **Failure to certify.**--Since January 1, 2016, have any domestic or foreign producers failed in their attempts to certify or qualify their VMFCs with your firm or have any producers lost their approved status?

No	Yes	If yes, please identify these firms, the countries where they are located, and the reasons why they failed the certification/qualification.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-24. **Major purchasing factors.**--Please list, in order of their importance, the main factors your firm considers in deciding from whom to purchase VMFCs (examples include availability, extension of credit, contracts, price, quality, range of supplier's product line, traditional supplier, etc.).

1.	
2.	
3.	
Please list any other factors that are very important in your purchase decisions:	

III-25. **Purchasing factors.**--Please rate the importance of the following factors in your firm's purchasing decisions for VMFCs.

Factor	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
Availability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Color, finish, and design	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delivery terms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delivery time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Discounts offered	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Durability, sturdiness, and longevity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minimum quantity requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Packaging	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Payment terms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Price	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Product consistency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Product depth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Product range	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality meets industry standards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality exceeds industry standards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reliability of supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Technical support/service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
U.S. transportation costs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

III-26. **Quality characteristics.**--What characteristics does your firm consider when determining the quality of VMFCs?

III-27. **Product characteristics.** –

(a) Please list product characteristics or features (e.g., steel gauge or type of steel, color, finish, design, safety, etc.) that would cause your firm to purchase two products with similar dimensions at different prices.

(b) Please list firm-specific product characteristics or features (e.g., steel gauge or type of steel, color, finish, design, safety, etc.) of the VMFCs that would cause two products with similar dimensions to be purchased at different prices.

III-28. **Minimum quality.**--How often does VMFCs 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
China	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mexico	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

III-29. **Frequency of decisions based on price.**--How often does your firm purchase the VMFCs that are offered at the lowest price?

Always	Usually	Sometimes	Never
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

III-30. **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 VMFCs market since January 1, 2016.

Firm(s)	Describe how the firm(s) exhibited price leadership

III-31. **Purchasing subject imports rather than domestic products.**—

(a) Since January 2016, did your firm import and/or purchase imports of VMFCs from China instead of purchasing U.S.-produced VMFCs?

Source	Yes (also respond to parts (b) and (c))	No (If “No”, skip to next question)
China	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(b) If you responded “Yes” to part (a), was the imported product priced lower than the domestic product?

Source	Yes	No
China	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(c) If you responded “Yes” to part (a), was price a primary reason for importing and/or purchasing subject imports rather than domestic product?

Source	Yes	If Yes, estimate the quantity of imports purchased and/or imported instead of domestic product since January 2016 (in units)	No	If No, please indicate the reason your firm imported and/or purchased imports instead of domestic product
China	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-32. **U.S. producers and import competition.**—

(a) Since January 1, 2016, in connection with a sale or offer to sell VMFCs to your firm, did U.S. producers reduce their prices of domestically produced VMFCs in order to compete with lower-priced imports of VMFCs from China?

Source	Yes (also respond to question part (b))	No (If “No”, skip to next question)	Don’t know
China	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(b) If your firm responded “yes”, please provide an estimate of the reduction in U.S. producers’ prices, and any additional explanations, such as timing (e.g., months/years), frequency of price reductions, or other market/competitive factors.

Source	Estimated reduction in U.S. prices (percent)	Additional explanation, including such information as timing (e.g., months/years), frequency of price reductions, or other market/competitive factors
China	%	

PART IV.—PRODUCT COMPARISONS

IV-1. **Interchangeability**.--Are VMFCs 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 O 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

O = *no familiarity* with products from a specified country-pair

Country-pair	China	Mexico	Other countries
United States			
China			
Mexico			
For any country-pair producing VMFCs which is <i>sometimes</i> or <i>never</i> interchangeable, please identify the country-pair and explain the factors that limit or preclude interchangeable use:			

IV-2. **Factors other than price.**--Are differences other than price (e.g., quality, availability, transportation network, product range, technical support, *etc.*) between VMFCs 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 O 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

O = *no familiarity* with products from a specified country-pair

Country-pair	China	Mexico	Other countries
United States			
China	X		
Mexico	X	X	
For any country-pair for which factors other than price <i>always</i> or <i>frequently</i> are a significant factor in your firm's purchases of VMFCs, identify the country-pair and report the advantages or disadvantages imparted by such factors:			

IV-3. **Factor country comparisons.**--For the factors listed below, please rate how VMFCs produced in each country you identified in your response to the first question in Part IV compare with VMFCs produced in each of the other countries you identified. If you are unfamiliar with the product from a particular country, please leave the boxes for those country comparisons blank.

Factor	Product from <u>United States</u> compared to product from <u>China</u>			Product from <u>United States</u> compared to product from <u>Other countries</u>			Product from <u>China</u> compared to product from <u>Other countries</u>		
	Superior	Comparable	Inferior	Superior	Comparable	Inferior	Superior	Comparable	Inferior
Availability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Color, finish, and design	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delivery terms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delivery time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Discounts offered	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Durability, sturdiness, and longevity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minimum quantity requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Packaging	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Payment terms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Price	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Product consistency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Product depth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Product range	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality meets industry standards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality exceeds industry standards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reliability of supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Technical support/service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
U.S. transportation costs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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 V.—ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- V-1. **Other explanations.**--If your firm would like to further explain a response to any question that for which a narrative response box was not provided, please note the question number and the explanation in the space provided below.

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- V-2. **OMB statistics.**--Please report the actual number of hours required and the cost to your firm of completing this questionnaire.

Hours	Dollars

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, gathering data, and completing and reviewing the questionnaire.

We welcome comments regarding the accuracy of this burden estimate, suggestions for reducing the burden, and any suggestions for improving this questionnaire. Please attach such comments to your response or send to the Office of Investigations, USITC, 500 E St. SW, Washington, DC 20436.

HOW TO FILE YOUR QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSE

This questionnaire is available as a “fillable” form in MS Word format on the Commission’s website at:

https://www.usitc.gov/investigations/701731/2019/vertical_metal_file_cabinets_china/preliminary.htm

Please do not attempt to modify the format or permissions of the questionnaire document. Please submit the completed questionnaire using one of the methods noted below. If your firm is unable to complete the MS Word questionnaire or cannot use one of the electronic methods of submission, please contact the Commission for further instructions.

- **Upload via Secure Drop Box.**—Upload the MS Word questionnaire along with a scanned copy of the signed certification page (page 1) through the Commission’s secure upload facility:

Web address: <https://dropbox.usitc.gov/oinv/> **Pin:** FILE

- **E-mail.**—E-mail the MS Word questionnaire to pamela.davis@usitc.gov; include a scanned copy of the signed certification page (page 1). *Submitters are strongly encouraged to encrypt nonpublic documents that are electronically transmitted to the Commission to protect your sensitive information from unauthorized disclosure. The USITC secure drop-box system and the Electronic Document Information System (EDIS) use Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) 140-2 cryptographic algorithms to encrypt data in transit. Submitting your nonpublic documents by a means that does not use these encryption algorithms (such as by email) may subject your firm’s nonpublic information to unauthorized disclosure during transmission. If you choose a non-encrypted method of electronic transmission, the Commission warns you that the risk of such possible unauthorized disclosure is assumed by you and not by the Commission.*

If your firm does not purchase this product, please fill out page 1, print, sign, and submit a scanned copy to the Commission.

Parties to this proceeding.—If your firm is a party to this proceeding, it is required to serve a copy of the completed questionnaire on parties to the proceeding that are subject to administrative protective order (see 19 CFR § 207.7). A list of such parties may be obtained from the Commission’s Secretary (202-205-1803). A certificate of service must accompany the completed questionnaire your firm submits (see 19 CFR § 207.7). Service of the questionnaire must be made in paper form.