

U.S. PURCHASERS' QUESTIONNAIRE

STAINLESS STEEL FLANGES FROM CHINA AND INDIA

This questionnaire must be received by the Commission by **March 5, 2018**
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 stainless steel (SS) flanges from China and India (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-585-586 and 731-TA-1383-1384 (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 Andrew Knipe (202-205-2390, Andrew.Knipe@usitc.gov)

Name of firm _____		
Address _____		
City _____	State _____	Zip Code _____
Website _____		
Has your firm purchased stainless steel flanges (as defined on next page) from <u>any</u> source (domestic or foreign) at any time since January 1, 2015?		
<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: SSF)		

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

Phone:

Signature

Email address

PART I.—GENERAL INFORMATION

Background.--This proceeding was instituted in response to a petition filed on August 16, 2017, by Core Pipe Products, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois and Maass Flange Corporation, Houston, Texas. Antidumping and Countervailing 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 dumping and subsidization. Questionnaires and other information pertinent to this proceeding are available at http://www.usitc.gov/investigations/701731/2018/stainless_steel_flanges_china_and_india/final.htm.

Stainless steel flanges covered by these investigations are certain forged stainless steel flanges, whether unfinished, semi-finished, or finished, generally manufactured to the material specification of ASTM/ASME A/SA182, and made in alloys such as, but not limited to, 304, 304L, 316, and 316L (or combinations thereof). The scope includes six general types of flanges. They are: (1) weld neck, used in butt-weld line connection; (2) threaded, used for threaded line connections; (3) slip-on, used to slide over pipe; (4) lap joint, used with stub-ends/butt-weld line connections; (5) socket weld, used to fit pipe into a machine recession; and (6) blind, used to seal off a line. The sizes and descriptions of the flanges within the scope include all pressure classes of ASME B16.5 and range from one-half inch to twenty-four inches nominal pipe size (NPS). Specifically excluded from the scope of these orders are cast stainless steel flanges. Cast stainless steel flanges generally are manufactured to specification ASTM A351.

Unfinished stainless steel flanges possess the approximate shape of finished stainless steel flanges and have not yet been machined to final specification after the initial casting, forging, or like operations. These machining processes may include boring, facing, spot facing, drilling, tapering, threading, beveling, heating, or compressing.

The country of origin for certain forged stainless steel flanges, whether unfinished, semi-finished, or finished is the country where the flange was forged. Subject merchandise includes stainless steel flanges as defined above that have been further processed in a third country, including but not limited to processing such as boring, facing, spot facing, drilling, tapering, threading, beveling, heating, or compressing, or any other processing that would not otherwise remove the merchandise from the scope of the investigations if performed in the country of manufacture of the stainless steel flanges.

Merchandise subject to the investigations is typically imported under subheadings 7307.21.1000 and 7307.21.5000 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS). While HTS subheadings are provided for convenience and customs purposes, the written description of the scope is dispositive.

Stainless steel flanges excluded by NPS have a NPS less than 0.5 inches or greater than 24 inches but otherwise meet the definition of stainless steel flanges in the scope.

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

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 stainless steel flanges, 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 stainless steel flanges into the United States or which export stainless steel flanges 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 stainless steel flanges?

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 stainless steel flanges.

"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	2015	2016	2017
	Quantity (in 1,000 pounds)		
Purchases of stainless steel flanges produced in—			
United States			
China			
India			
Philippines			
All other countries ¹			
Sources unknown			
Total purchases	0	0	0
Imports of stainless steel flanges from—			
China			
India			
Philippines			
All other countries ¹			
Total imports	0	0	0
¹ Please identify these countries:			

II-2. **Changes in purchasing patterns.**--Please indicate how the shares of your firm's purchases of stainless steel flanges from different sources have changed since January 1, 2015.

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

II-3. **Country knowledge.**--Please indicate the countries of origin with which your firm has experience or information in the stainless steel flanges market.

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

II-4. **Supplier identification.**--Please list your firm's **FIVE** largest suppliers for stainless steel flanges since January 1, 2015. Also, provide the share of the quantity of your firm's total purchases of stainless steel flanges that each of these suppliers accounted for in 2017.

No.	Supplier's name	City and state	Share of quantity of 2017 purchases
1			%
2			%
3			%
4			%
5			%

PART III.--MARKET CHARACTERISTICS AND PURCHASING PRACTICES

In responding to the questions in part III, if your firm's responses would differ based on the level of processing (e.g., between finished and unfinished SS flanges), please indicate the difference in the narrative field of the question to which it applies, or in question V-1 for other explanations.

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

End user (oil & gas sector)	End user (other sectors)	Distributor	Other	Describe other
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

If your firm is a distributor of stainless steel flanges, please answer questions III-2 and III-3.

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

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 stainless steel flanges?

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If your firm is an end user of stainless steel flanges, please answer questions III-4 and III-5.

III-4. **End uses.**--List the top 3 products your firm makes using stainless steel flanges and estimate the percent of your total production cost that is accounted for by stainless steel flanges and by other inputs (such as labor, energy, and other raw materials).

Product(s) your firm produces	Share of total cost in each of the product(s) your firm produces accounted for by				Total (should sum to 100.0% across)
	Stainless steel flanges		Other inputs		
	%	+	%	=	0.0 %
	%	+	%	=	0.0 %
	%	+	%	=	0.0 %

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

(a) Has the demand for your firm's final products incorporating stainless steel flanges changed since January 1, 2015?

Increased	No change	Decreased	Fluctuated
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(b) Has this had any effect on your firm's demand for stainless steel flanges?

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

III-6. **Substitutes.**--Can other products be substituted for stainless steel flanges?

No Yes--Please fill out the table.

Substitute	End use in which this substitute is used	Have changes in the price of this substitute affected the price for stainless steel flanges?		
		No	Yes	Explanation
1.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-7. **Demand trends.**—

(a) Indicate how demand within the United States and outside of the United States (if known) for stainless steel flanges has changed since January 1, 2015. Explain any trends and describe the principal factors that have affected these changes in demand.

Market	January 1, 2015-December 31, 2016			Since January 1, 2016		
	Overall increase	No change	Overall decrease	Overall increase	No change	Overall decrease
Within the United States for the Oil and Gas Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Within the United States for all other sectors ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outside the United States for the Oil and Gas Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outside the United States for all other sectors ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Explanation and factors:						
¹ Please describe the "other" sectors:						

(b) Have any changes in raw material costs affected your firm's price negotiations and/or purchasing prices (including surcharges) since January 1, 2015? If there are relevant surcharges, please identify them specifically.

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

III-8. **Country preferences.**--Do you or your customers ever specifically order stainless steel flanges 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 2017 purchases of stainless steel flanges that required stainless steel flanges produced in the United States.

	Estimated percentage of your firm's total 2017 purchases of stainless steel flanges
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 stainless steel flanges market subject to business cycles (other than general economy-wide conditions) and/or other conditions of competition distinctive to stainless steel flanges?

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 stainless steel flanges since January 1, 2015?

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

- (c) Have there been any changes in your firm's purchases of stainless steel flanges as a result of the issuance of the exclusion order on Viraj (May 25, 2016)? If yes, please describe.

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 stainless steel flanges based on its producer or country of origin?

	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 stainless steel flanges in the U.S. market changed since January 1, 2015?

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 India	<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 stainless steel flanges since January 1, 2015 (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 of stainless steel flanges 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 stainless steel flanges (check one)?

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

(b) Has this purchasing frequency changed since January 1, 2015?

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

III-16. **Number of suppliers contacted.**--How many suppliers does your firm generally contact before making a purchase? Between ____ and ____ firms

III-17. **Supplier negotiations.**--Do your firm's purchases of stainless steel flanges 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-18. **Change in suppliers.**--Has your firm changed suppliers since January 1, 2015?

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-19. **New suppliers.**--Are you aware of any new suppliers, either foreign or domestic, that have entered the market since January 1, 2015?

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

III-20. **Supplier qualification.**--Do you require your suppliers to be or to become certified or qualified to sell stainless steel flanges 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-21. **Failure to certify.**--Since January 1, 2015, have any domestic or foreign producers failed in their attempts to certify or qualify their stainless steel flanges 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-22. **Major purchasing factors.**--Please list, in order of their importance, the main factors your firm considers in deciding from whom to purchase stainless steel flanges (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-23. **Purchasing factors.**--Please rate the importance of the following factors in your firm's purchasing decisions for stainless steel flanges.

Factor	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
Availability	<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"/>
Extension of credit	<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"/>
Price	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Product consistency	<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"/>
Other ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
¹ Please identify the "other" factors:			

III-24. **Quality characteristics.**--What characteristics does your firm consider when determining the quality of stainless steel flanges?

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III-25. **Minimum quality.**--How often does stainless steel flanges 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"/>				
China	<input type="checkbox"/>				
India	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Philippines	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>				

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

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

III-27. **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 stainless steel flanges market since January 1, 2015.

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

III-28. **Pricing factors.**—Rate and describe the effect of the following factors on the prices your firm pays for stainless steel flanges.

Factor	Rating of the factor					No role
	Minimal effect			Substantial effect		
	1	2	3	4	5	
Demand in oil and gas sector	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Demand in other sectors (please identify sector):	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Raw material costs for the production of stainless steel flanges	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Other:	<input type="checkbox"/>					
Please describe:						

III-29. **Purchasing subject imports rather than domestic products.**—

- (a) Since January 2015, did your firm purchase imports of stainless steel flanges from China and/or India instead of U.S.-produced stainless steel flanges? Respond for each subject country.

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

- (c) If you responded "Yes" to part (a), was price a primary reason for purchasing subject imports rather than domestic product?

Source	Yes	If Yes, estimate the quantity of imports purchased instead of domestic product since January 2015 (in 1,000 pounds)	No	If No, please indicate the reason your firm purchased imports instead of domestic product
China	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
India	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-30. U.S. producers and import competition. —

- (a) Since January 1, 2015, in connection with a sale or offer to sell stainless steel flanges to your firm, did U.S. producers reduce their prices of domestically produced stainless steel flanges in order to compete with lower-priced imports of stainless steel flanges from the subject countries? Respond for each subject country.

Source	Yes (also respond to question part (b))	No (If "No" for all countries, skip to next question)	Don't know
China	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
India	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- (b) If your firm responded "yes" to any of the above countries, 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	%	
India	%	

PART IV.—PRODUCT COMPARISONS

IV-1. **Interchangeability.**--Is stainless steel flanges 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	India	Philippines	Other countries
United States				
China	X			
India	X	X		
Philippines	X	X	X	
For any country-pair producing stainless steel flanges 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 stainless steel flanges 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	India	Philippines	Other countries
United States				
China	X			
India	X	X		
Philippines	X	X	X	
<p>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 stainless steel flanges, identify the country-pair and report the advantages or disadvantages imparted by such factors:</p>				

IV-3. **Factor country comparisons.**--For the factors listed below, please rate how stainless steel flanges produced in each country you identified in your response to the first question in Part IV compares with stainless steel flanges 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>India</u>			Product from <u>China</u> compared to product from <u>India</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"/>
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"/>
Extension of credit	<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"/>
Price ¹	<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 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 ¹	<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"/>
Other ²	<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. ² Please identify the "other" factors:									

IV-3. **Continued.**

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>all nonsubject sources</u>			Product from <u>China</u> compared to product from <u>all nonsubject sources</u>			Product from <u>India</u> compared to product from <u>all nonsubject sources</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"/>
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"/>
Extension of credit	<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"/>
Price ¹	<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 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 ¹	<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"/>
Other ²	<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.									
² Please identify the "other" factors:									

PART V.—Alternative Product

Stainless steel flanges excluded by NPS have an NPS less than 0.5 inches or greater than 24 inches but otherwise meet the definition of stainless steel flanges in the scope.

V-1. **Comparability of stainless steel flanges vs stainless steel flanges excluded by NPS.**--For each of the following indicate whether stainless steel flanges and stainless steel flanges excluded by NPS are: fully comparable or the same, *i.e.*, have no differentiation between them; mostly comparable or similar; somewhat comparable or similar; never or not-at-all comparable or similar; or no familiarity with products.

(a) **Characteristics and Uses.**--The differences and similarities in the physical characteristics and end uses between stainless steel flanges and stainless steel flanges excluded by NPS.

Fully comparable	Mostly comparable	Somewhat comparable	Not at all comparable	NA/no familiarity
<input type="checkbox"/>				

Please provide a narrative discussion for the comparability ratings you provided in terms of their characteristics and uses:

(b) **Interchangeability.**--The ability to substitute stainless steel flanges and stainless steel flanges excluded by NPS in the same application.

Fully interchangeable	Mostly interchangeable	Somewhat interchangeable	Not at all interchangeable	NA/no familiarity
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide a narrative discussion for the comparability ratings you provided in terms of their interchangeability:

V-1. **Comparability of bulk tissue paper and consumer tissue paper.--Continued**

(c) **Manufacturing facilities, production processes, and production employees.--** Whether stainless steel flanges and stainless steel flanges excluded by NPS are manufactured in the same facilities, from the same inputs, on the same machinery and equipment, and using the same employees.

Fully the same	Mostly the same	Somewhat the same	Not at all the same	NA/no familiarity
<input type="checkbox"/>				

Please provide a narrative discussion for the comparability ratings you provided in terms of their manufacturing processes:

(d) **Channels of distribution.--**Channels of distribution/market situation through which stainless steel flanges and stainless steel flanges excluded by NPS are sold (i.e., sold direct to end users, through distributors, etc.).

Fully comparable	Mostly comparable	Somewhat comparable	Not at all comparable	NA/no familiarity
<input type="checkbox"/>				

Please provide a narrative discussion for the comparability ratings you provided in terms of their channels of distribution:

V-1. **Comparability of stainless steel flanges and stainless steel flanges excluded by NPS.--**
Continued

(e) **Customer and producer perceptions.**--Perceptions as to the differences and/or similarities in stainless steel flanges and stainless steel flanges excluded by NPS in the market (*e.g.*, sales/marketing practices).

Fully comparable	Mostly comparable	Somewhat comparable	Not at all comparable	NA/no familiarity
<input type="checkbox"/>				

Please provide a narrative discussion for the comparability ratings you provided in terms of their customer and producer perceptions:

(f) **Price.**--Whether prices are comparable or differ between stainless steel flanges and stainless steel flanges excluded by NPS.

Fully comparable	Mostly comparable	Somewhat comparable	Not at all comparable	NA/no familiarity
<input type="checkbox"/>				

Please provide a narrative discussion for the comparability ratings you provided in terms of their prices:

PART VI.—ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

--

VI-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:

http://www.usitc.gov/investigations/701731/2018/stainless_steel_flanges_china_and_india/final.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:** **SSF**

- **E-mail.**—E-mail the MS Word questionnaire to Andrew.Knipe@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.

