

## **Part B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods**

The Commission does not use statistical sampling methodology for information collections conducted under the generic clearance but instead typically sends questionnaire to the entire population or to a substantial portion of the population of firms producing, importing, and/or purchasing the product in question. Initially, a petitioning domestic producer is required to identify all domestic producers and importers of the relevant product known to it as well as the foreign producers in the subject country(ies). The Commission supplements this information with publicly available sources (for domestic and foreign producers) and accesses confidential information from Customs (for importers and foreign producers) to compile the lists of firms to receive questionnaires. Purchaser names are provided to the Commission by the domestic producers and importers. See item 16 above for information on how the Commission maximizes response rates.

For a specific investigation, the Commission usually sends producer questionnaires to all U.S. firms manufacturing the product(s) in question. In most investigations there are no more than a total of 20 to 30 firms in the United States, and often far fewer, producing the relevant product(s). Some of the information contained in the producers' questionnaire (e.g., questions as to the impact of imports on firms' operations) is relevant for the Commission's determinations regardless of the size of the respondent. Similarly, the Commission attempts to obtain data from all foreign manufacturers of the subject product, especially if they are exporting to the United States. Typically, there are fewer than 10 foreign manufacturers per country involved in any Commission investigation.<sup>13</sup>

In contrast to domestic and foreign manufacturers, the Commission often does not attempt to obtain data from every U.S. importer and purchaser of the relevant product(s). Importer and purchaser questionnaires are, however, mailed to the most substantial firms that import or purchase from the countries where the subject merchandise is produced. Concentrating staff effort on a smaller group of firms permits the Commission to fully edit and review returned questionnaires and minimize the burden on smaller respondents. Where possible, the Commission uses official Commerce statistics to determine import levels, in some cases adjusting those statistics on the basis of importer questionnaire responses. Further, a key purpose of the purchasers' questionnaire is not to estimate population totals but to obtain an objective assessment of the factors of competition between domestically produced and imported products. Commission reports indicate when the entire universe of firms was not surveyed and notes what percentage of the market accounted for by the responding firms.

Notices of the institution of five-year sunset reviews are not mailed to firms, but published in the *Federal Register*. Responses are solicited and are voluntary.

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<sup>13</sup> The Commission compiles separate data for each country considered.