

## U.S. IMPORTERS' QUESTIONNAIRE

### RUBBER BANDS FROM CHINA, SRI LANKA, AND THAILAND

This questionnaire must be received by the Commission by **February 13, 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 antidumping and countervailing duty investigations concerning rubber bands from China, Sri Lanka, and Thailand (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-598-600 and 731-TA-1408-1410 (Preliminary)). 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 firm's possession (19 U.S.C. § 1333(a)).

<p>Name of firm _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____</p> <p>Website _____</p> <p>Has your firm imported rubber bands (as defined on next page) and/or select excluded rubber band products (as defined on next page) from any country at any time since January 1, 2015?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>NO</b> (Sign the certification below and promptly return <b>only</b> this page of the questionnaire to the Commission)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>YES</b> (Complete all parts of the questionnaire and return the entire questionnaire to the Commission)</p> <p>Return questionnaire via the U.S. International Trade Commission <i>Drop Box</i> by clicking on the following link: <a href="https://dropbox.usitc.gov/oinv/">https://dropbox.usitc.gov/oinv/</a>. (PIN: <b>BAND</b>)</p>
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#### CERTIFICATION

*I certify that the information herein supplied in response to this questionnaire is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and understand that the information submitted is subject to audit and verification by the Commission. By means of this certification I also grant consent for the Commission, and its employees and contract personnel, to use the information provided in this questionnaire and throughout this proceeding in any other import-injury proceedings 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 January 30, 2018 by Alliance Rubber Co., Hot Springs, Arkansas. 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 [https://www.usitc.gov/investigations/701731/2018/rubber\\_bands\\_china\\_sri\\_lanka\\_and\\_thailand/preliminary.htm](https://www.usitc.gov/investigations/701731/2018/rubber_bands_china_sri_lanka_and_thailand/preliminary.htm).

**Rubber bands** covered by the scope of these investigations are defined as bands made of vulcanized rubber, with a flat length, as measured end-to-end by the band lying flat, no less than 1/2 inch and no greater than 10 inches; with a width, which measures the dimension perpendicular to the length, of at least 3/64 inch and no greater than 2 inches; and a wall thickness from 0.020 inch to 0.125 inch. Vulcanized rubber has been chemically processed into a more durable material by the addition of sulfur or other equivalent curatives or accelerators. Subject products are included regardless of color or inclusion of printed material. The scope includes vulcanized rubber bands which are contained or otherwise exist in various fowls and packages, such as, without limitation, vulcanized rubber bands included within a desk accessory set or other type of set or package, and vulcanized rubber band balls, but excludes Bedford Elastitags®, and bands that are being used at the time of import to fasten an imported product.

Rubber bands are currently imported under statistical reporting number 4016.99.3510 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS). The HTSUS provisions are for convenience and customs purposes; the written description of the scope is dispositive.

**Select excluded (or out-of-scope) rubber band products** are as follows: (1) Vulcanized rubber bands with a flat length less than 1/2 inches or greater than 10 inches, a width less than 3/64 inches or greater than 2 inches, or a wall thickness less than 0.020 inches or greater than 0.125 inches (“Excluded vulcanized rubber bands”); (2) Bedford Elastitags®; and (3) Non-latex rubber bands.

**Importer.**--Any person or firm engaged, either directly or through a parent company or subsidiary, in importing rubber bands (as defined above) into the United States from a foreign manufacturer or through its selling agent.

**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.

**Valid number error messages.**--If you are completing this form in a country that uses periods (".") to delineate multiples of 1000 (e.g., one million would appear as \$1.000.000 rather than \$1,000,000), you may be unable to enter in numbers greater than 999 in numeric form fields. The solution to this data entry issue is to temporarily change your operating system's number formatting to be consistent with the U.S. number formatting system while you complete this form. Detailed instructions on how to resolve this issue is provided at the end of this questionnaire and is available upon request from Amanda Lawrence (202-205-3185, [amanda.lawrence@usitc.gov](mailto:amanda.lawrence@usitc.gov)).

I-1. **OMB statistics.**--Please report below 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 40 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.

I-2. **Establishments covered.**--Provide the name and address of establishment(s) covered by this questionnaire. If your firm is publicly traded, please specify the stock exchange and trading symbol.

**“Establishment”**--Each facility of a firm involved in the importation of rubber bands, including auxiliary facilities operated in conjunction with (whether or not physically separate from) such facilities.

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I-3. **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-4. **Related importers/exporters.**--Does your firm have any related firms, either domestic or foreign, that are engaged in importing rubber bands from China, Sri Lanka, and Thailand into the United States or that are engaged in exporting rubber bands from China, Sri Lanka, and Thailand to the United States?

No             Yes--List the following information.

Firm name	Country	Affiliation

I-5. **Related producers.**--Does your firm have any related firms, either domestic or foreign, that are engaged in the production of rubber bands?

No             Yes--List the following information.

Firm name	Country	Affiliation

I-6. **Importing operations.**--Please indicate the nature of your firm's importing operations on rubber bands. More than one answer may be applicable.

Importer of record	Takes title to the imported product(s)	Consignee of the imported products(s)	Customs broker or freight forwarder
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I-7. **Consignee.**--If your firm is an importer of record of rubber bands but is not the consignee, please list the consignees below (firm name, address, telephone number, and individual to contact).

Firm name	Address	Contact person and phone number

I-8. **FTZ, TIB, or bonded warehouses.**--Please indicate whether your firm enters rubber bands into, or withdraws such merchandise from, foreign trade zones or bonded warehouses. Also indicate whether your firm imports rubber bands under the TIB (temporary importation under bond) program.

**“Foreign trade zone”** is a designated location in the United States where firms utilize special procedures that allow delayed or reduced customs duty payments on foreign merchandise, as well as other savings. A foreign trade zone must be designed as such pursuant to the rules and procedures set forth in the Foreign-Trade Zones Act.

**“Bonded warehouse”** is a secured facility supervised by U.S. customs, where dutiable landed imports are stored pending their re-export, or release after payment of import duties, taxes, and other charges. A bonded warehouse must be designed as such pursuant to the rules and procedures set forth in 19 U.S.C. § 1555.

**“Temporary Importation under Bond (“TIB”) program”** is a procedure whereby imported merchandise may be entered under certain conditions for a limited time into the United States free of duty. Under the program, an importer posts a bond for twice the amount of duty, taxes, etc. that would otherwise be owed on the importation and agrees to export or destroy the merchandise within a specified time or pay liquidated damages. This program is restricted to certain categories of merchandise listed in subheadings 9813.00.05 through 9813.00.75 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS).

Item	No	Yes
Foreign trade zones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bonded warehouses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Temporary importation under bond	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I-9. **Other trade actions.**--To your knowledge, have the products subject to this proceeding been the subject of any other import relief proceedings in the United States or in any other countries?

No       Yes--Please specify.

**PART II.--TRADE AND RELATED INFORMATION**

Further information on this part of the questionnaire can be obtained from Amanda Lawrence (202-205-3185, [amanda.lawrence@usitc.gov](mailto:amanda.lawrence@usitc.gov)). **Supply all data requested on a calendar-year basis.**

- II-1. **Contact information.**--Please identify the responsible individual and the manner by which Commission staff may contact that individual regarding the confidential information submitted in part II.

Name	
Title	
Email	
Telephone	
Fax	

- II-2. **Changes in operations.**--Please indicate whether your firm has experienced any of the following changes in relation to the importation of rubber bands since January 1, 2015.

<i>(check as many as appropriate)</i>		<i>(If checked, please describe; leave blank if not applicable)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Office/warehouse openings	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Office/warehouse closings	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Relocations	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Expansions	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Acquisitions	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consolidations	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prolonged shutdowns or importation curtailments	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Revised labor agreements	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (e.g., technology)	

II-3. **Arranged imports.**--Has your firm imported or arranged for the importation of in-scope rubber bands for delivery after **December 31, 2017**?

**“Arranged imports”** are imports for which your firm has placed an order with a foreign supplier for subject merchandise, but delivery of those imports is not scheduled to occur until after the date listed above.

No                       Yes—Fill out the table below.

<b>Quantity (in pounds)</b>				
<b>Period/Source</b>	<b>Jan-Mar 2018</b>	<b>Apr-June 2018</b>	<b>July-Sept 2018</b>	<b>Oct-Dec 2018</b>
China				
Sri Lanka				
Thailand				
All other sources <sup>1</sup>				
<sup>1</sup> List other country sources: .				

II-4. **Reasons for importing if producer.**--If your firm also produces rubber bands in the United States, please indicate the reasons for importing this product. If your firm’s reasons differ by source, please elaborate.



**Definitions**

**“Imports”** –Those products identified for Customs purposes as imports for consumption for which your firm was the importer of record (i.e., was responsible for paying any import duty) or consignee (i.e., to which the merchandise was first delivered).

**“Import quantities”** –Quantities reported should be net of returns.

**“Import values”** –Values reported should be landed, duty-paid values at the U.S. port of entry, including ocean freight and insurance costs, brokerage charges, and import duties (i.e., all charges except inland freight in the United States).

**“Bulk commercial U.S. shipments”** –Shipments made within the United States as a result of an arm’s length commercial transaction in the ordinary course of business. Report net values (i.e., gross sales values less all discounts, allowances, rebates, prepaid freight, and the value of returned goods) in U.S. dollars, f.o.b. your point of shipment. For the purposes of this questionnaire, bulk commercial U.S. shipments should include sales to distributors, to end users, and to retail establishments, whether or not already packaged for retail sale, but should not include sales made at the retail level of trade to individual customers (including to other businesses).

**“Internal consumption / including for retail sale”** --Product consumed internally by your firm and product that is destined for sale by your firm at a retail level to individual consumers. Such transactions should be valued at fair market value of the bulk rubber bands (i.e., not the retail price).

**“Transfers to related firms”** –Shipments made to related domestic firms. Such transactions are valued at fair market value.

**“Related firm”** –A firm that your firm solely or jointly owns, manages, or otherwise controls.

**“Export shipments”**— Shipments to destinations outside the United States, including shipments to related firms.

**“Inventories”** --Finished goods inventory, not raw materials or work in progress.

*Note: As requested in Part I of this questionnaire, please keep all supporting documents/records used in the preparation of the trade data, as Commission staff may contact your firm regarding questions on the trade data. The Commission may also request that your company submit copies of the supporting documents/records (such as production and sales schedules, inventory records, etc.) used to compile these data.*

II-5a. **U.S. imports from China.**—Report your firm's imports and your firm's shipments and inventories of in-scope rubber bands imported from China by your firm during the specified periods.

## China

<b>Quantity (in pounds), value (in dollars)</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Calendar years</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Beginning-of-period inventories (quantity) (A)</b>			
<b>Imports:</b> <sup>1</sup>			
Quantity (B)			
Value (C)			
<b>U.S. shipments:</b>			
<b>Bulk commercial shipments:</b>			
Quantity (D)			
Value (E)			
<b>Internal consumption / including for retail sale by your firm:</b> <sup>2</sup>			
Quantity (F)			
Value <sup>2</sup> (G)			
<b>Transfers to related firms:</b> <sup>2</sup>			
Quantity (H)			
Value <sup>2</sup> (I)			
<b>Export shipments:</b> <sup>3</sup>			
Quantity (J)			
Value (K)			
<b>End-of-period inventories (quantity) (L)</b>			
<sup>1</sup> Please identify the foreign producers, if known: _____. <sup>2</sup> Internal consumption and transfers to related firms must be valued at fair market value. If your firm uses a different basis for valuing these transactions in your records, please specify that basis (e.g., cost, cost plus, etc.): _____. However, the data provided above in this table should be based on fair market value. <sup>3</sup> Identify your firm's principal export markets: _____.			

**RECONCILIATION OF SHIPMENTS, IMPORTS, AND INVENTORIES.**—Generally, the data reported for the end-of-period inventories (i.e., line L) should be equal to the beginning-of-period inventories (i.e., line A), plus imports (i.e., line B), less total shipments (i.e., lines D, F, H, and J). Please ensure that any differences are not due to data entry errors in completing this form, but rather actually reflect your firm's records; and also provide any likely explanations for any differences (e.g., theft, loss, damage, record systems issues, etc.) if they exist.

<b>Reconciliation</b>	<b>Calendar years</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
A + B – D – F – H – J – L = should equal zero ("0") or provide an explanation. <sup>1</sup>	0	0	0
<sup>1</sup> Explanation if the calculated fields above are returning values other than zero (i.e., "0") but are nonetheless accurate: _____.			

II-5b. **Channels of distribution: China.**--Report your firm's U.S. shipments (i.e., inclusive of bulk commercial U.S. shipments, internal consumption, and transfers to related firms) of imports of in-scope rubber bands from China by channel of distribution. If your firm is a retailer and directly imports in-scope rubber bands for use in your own or a related firm's retail locations, please report those as U.S. shipments "To retailers" here.

## China

Quantity (in pounds)			
Item	Calendar years		
	2015	2016	2017
<b>Channels of distribution:</b>			
<b>U.S. shipments:</b>			
To distributors (M)			
To retailers and office supply stores: branded <sup>1</sup> (N)			
To retailers and office supply stores: private label <sup>1</sup> (O)			
To end users: agricultural/floral/grocery (P)			
To end users: industrial/hardware/construction (Q)			
To end users: newspaper/packaging/stationery <sup>2</sup> (R)			
To end users: all other end users <sup>3</sup> (S)			
<sup>1</sup> Include stationery stores, such as Staples, Office Depot, etc., in retail category. <sup>2</sup> Include end users, such as government or post offices, that purchase rubber bands for stationery use in end users category. <sup>3</sup> Please specify the other types of end users: _____.			

**RECONCILIATION OF CHANNELS.**--Please ensure that the quantities reported for channels of distribution (i.e., lines M through S) in each time period equal the quantity reported for U.S. shipments (i.e., lines D, F, and H) in each time period. If the calculated fields below return values other than zero (i.e., "0"), the data reported must be revised prior to submission to the Commission.

Reconciliation	Calendar years		
	2015	2016	2017
M + N + O + P + Q + R + S – D – F – H = zero ("0"), if not revise.	0	0	0

II-5c. **U.S. shipments by product size: China.**--Report your firm's U.S. shipments (i.e. inclusive of commercial U.S. shipments, internal consumption, and transfers to related firms) of imports of in-scope rubber bands from China by product size.

## China

<b>Quantity (in pounds)</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Calendar year 2017</b>
<b>U.S. shipments.--</b>	
Rubber bands balls (T)	
Other than rubber band balls:	
Sizes 8 through 19 and 117-A <sup>1</sup> (U)	
Sizes 27 through 33 and 117-B <sup>2</sup> (V)	
All other sizes (W) <sup>3</sup>	
<sup>1</sup> Sizes 8 through 19 and 117-A, based on common industry standards, have a width of 1/16". Lengths are as follows: size 8—7/8", size 10—1 ¼", size 12—1 ¾", size 14—2", size 16—2 ½", size 18—3", size 19—3 ½", and size 117-A—7". <sup>2</sup> Sizes 27 through 33 and 117-B, based on common industry standards, have a width of 1/8". Lengths are as follows: size 27—1 ¼", size 30—2", size 31—2 ½", size 32—3", size 33—3 ½", and size 117-B—7". <sup>3</sup> Please specify the other sizes: _____.	

**RECONCILIATION OF U.S. SHIPMENTS.**--Please ensure that the quantities and values reported for US shipments by product type (i.e., lines T through W) in 2017 equal the quantity and value reported for U.S. shipments (i.e., lines D through I) in 2017 in question II-7. If the calculated fields below return values other than zero (i.e., "0"), the data reported must be revised prior to submission to the Commission.

<b>Reconciliation</b>	<b>Calendar year 2017</b>
<b>Quantity:</b> T + U + V + W – D – F – H = zero ("0"), if not revise.	0

II-6a. **U.S. imports from Sri Lanka.**—Report your firm’s imports and your firm’s shipments and inventories of in-scope rubber bands imported from Sri Lanka by your firm during the specified periods.

## Sri Lanka

<b>Quantity (in pounds), value (in dollars)</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Calendar years</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Beginning-of-period inventories (quantity) (A)</b>			
<b>Imports:<sup>1</sup></b>			
Quantity (B)			
Value (C)			
<b>U.S. shipments:</b>			
<b>Bulk commercial shipments:</b>			
Quantity (D)			
Value (E)			
<b>Internal consumption / including for retail sale by your firm:<sup>2</sup></b>			
Quantity (F)			
Value <sup>2</sup> (G)			
<b>Transfers to related firms:<sup>2</sup></b>			
Quantity (H)			
Value <sup>2</sup> (I)			
<b>Export shipments:<sup>3</sup></b>			
Quantity (J)			
Value (K)			
<b>End-of-period inventories (quantity) (L)</b>			
<sup>1</sup> Please identify the foreign producers, if known: _____. <sup>2</sup> Internal consumption and transfers to related firms must be valued at fair market value. If your firm uses a different basis for valuing these transactions in your records, please specify that basis (e.g., cost, cost plus, etc.): _____. However, the data provided above in this table should be based on fair market value. <sup>3</sup> Identify your firm’s principal export markets: _____.			

**RECONCILIATION OF SHIPMENTS, IMPORTS, AND INVENTORIES.**—Generally, the data reported for the end-of-period inventories (i.e., line L) should be equal to the beginning-of-period inventories (i.e., line A), plus imports (i.e., line B), less total shipments (i.e., lines D, F, H, and J). Please ensure that any differences are not due to data entry errors in completing this form, but rather actually reflect your firm’s records; and also provide any likely explanations for any differences (e.g., theft, loss, damage, record systems issues, etc.) if they exist.

<b>Reconciliation</b>	<b>Calendar years</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
A + B – D – F – H – J – L = should equal zero ("0") or provide an explanation. <sup>1</sup>	0	0	0
<sup>1</sup> Explanation if the calculated fields above are returning values other than zero (i.e., "0") but are nonetheless accurate: _____.			

II-6b. **Channels of distribution: Sri Lanka.**--Report your firm's U.S. shipments (i.e., inclusive of bulk commercial U.S. shipments, internal consumption, and transfers to related firms) of imports of in-scope rubber bands from Sri Lanka by channel of distribution. If your firm is a retailer and directly imports rubber bands for use in your own or a related firm's retail locations, please report those as U.S. shipments "To retailers" here.

## Sri Lanka

Quantity (in pounds)			
Item	Calendar years		
	2015	2016	2017
<b>Channels of distribution:</b>			
<b>U.S. shipments:</b>			
To distributors (M)			
To retailers and office supply stores: branded <sup>1</sup> (N)			
To retailers and office supply stores: private label <sup>1</sup> (O)			
To end users: agricultural/floral/grocery (P)			
To end users: industrial/hardware/construction (Q)			
To end users: newspaper/packaging/stationery <sup>2</sup> (R)			
To end users: all other end users <sup>3</sup> (S)			
<sup>1</sup> Include stationery stores, such as Staples, Office Depot, etc., in retail category. <sup>2</sup> Include end users, such as government or post offices, that purchase rubber bands for stationery use in end users category. <sup>3</sup> Please specify the other types of end users: _____.			

**RECONCILIATION OF CHANNELS.**--Please ensure that the quantities reported for channels of distribution (i.e., lines M through S) in each time period equal the quantity reported for U.S. shipments (i.e., lines D, F, and H) in each time period. If the calculated fields below return values other than zero (i.e., "0"), the data reported must be revised prior to submission to the Commission.

Reconciliation	Calendar years		
	2015	2016	2017
M + N + O + P + Q + R + S – D – F – H = zero ("0"), if not revise.	0	0	0

II-6c. **U.S. shipments by product size: Sri Lanka.**--Report your firm's U.S. shipments (i.e. inclusive of commercial U.S. shipments, internal consumption, and transfers to related firms) of imports of in-scope rubber bands from Sri Lanka by product size.

## Sri Lanka

Quantity (in pounds)	
Item	Calendar year 2017
<b>U.S. shipments.--</b>	
Rubber bands balls (T)	
Other than rubber band balls:	
Sizes 8 through 19 and 117-A <sup>1</sup> (U)	
Sizes 27 through 33 and 117-B <sup>2</sup> (V)	
All other sizes (W) <sup>3</sup>	
<sup>1</sup> Sizes 8 through 19 and 117-A, based on common industry standards, have a width of 1/16". Lengths are as follows: size 8—7/8", size 10—1 ¼", size 12—1 ¾", size 14—2", size 16—2 ½", size 18—3", size 19—3 ½", and size 117-A—7". <sup>2</sup> Sizes 27 through 33 and 117-B, based on common industry standards, have a width of 1/8". Lengths are as follows: size 27—1 ¼", size 30—2", size 31—2 ½", size 32—3", size 33—3 ½", and size 117-B—7". <sup>3</sup> Please specify the other sizes: _____.	

**RECONCILIATION OF U.S. SHIPMENTS.**--Please ensure that the quantities and values reported for US shipments by product type (i.e., lines T through W) in 2017 equal the quantity and value reported for U.S. shipments (i.e., lines D through I) in 2017 in question II-7. If the calculated fields below return values other than zero (i.e., "0"), the data reported must be revised prior to submission to the Commission.

Reconciliation	Calendar year 2017
<b>Quantity:</b> T + U + V + W – D – F – H = zero ("0"), if not revise.	0

II-7a. **U.S. imports from Thailand.**—Report your firm’s imports and your firm’s shipments and inventories of in-scope rubber bands imported from Thailand by your firm during the specified periods.

## Thailand

<b>Quantity (in pounds), value (in dollars)</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Calendar years</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Beginning-of-period inventories (quantity) (A)</b>			
<b>Imports:<sup>1</sup></b>			
Quantity (B)			
Value (C)			
<b>U.S. shipments:</b>			
<b>Bulk commercial shipments:</b>			
Quantity (D)			
Value (E)			
<b>Internal consumption / including for retail sale by your firm:<sup>2</sup></b>			
Quantity (F)			
Value <sup>2</sup> (G)			
<b>Transfers to related firms:<sup>2</sup></b>			
Quantity (H)			
Value <sup>2</sup> (I)			
<b>Export shipments:<sup>3</sup></b>			
Quantity (J)			
Value (K)			
<b>End-of-period inventories (quantity) (L)</b>			
<sup>1</sup> Please identify the foreign producers, if known: _____. <sup>2</sup> Internal consumption and transfers to related firms must be valued at fair market value. If your firm uses a different basis for valuing these transactions in your records, please specify that basis (e.g., cost, cost plus, etc.): _____. However, the data provided above in this table should be based on fair market value. <sup>3</sup> Identify your firm’s principal export markets: _____.			

**RECONCILIATION OF SHIPMENTS, IMPORTS, AND INVENTORIES.**—Generally, the data reported for the end-of-period inventories (i.e., line L) should be equal to the beginning-of-period inventories (i.e., line A), plus imports (i.e., line B), less total shipments (i.e., lines D, F, H, and J). Please ensure that any differences are not due to data entry errors in completing this form, but rather actually reflect your firm’s records; and also provide any likely explanations for any differences (e.g., theft, loss, damage, record systems issues, etc.) if they exist.

<b>Reconciliation</b>	<b>Calendar years</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
A + B – D – F – H – J – L = should equal zero ("0") or provide an explanation. <sup>1</sup>	0	0	0
<sup>1</sup> Explanation if the calculated fields above are returning values other than zero (i.e., "0") but are nonetheless accurate: _____.			



II-7b. **Channels of distribution: Thailand.**--Report your firm's U.S. shipments (i.e., inclusive of bulk commercial U.S. shipments, internal consumption, and transfers to related firms) of imports of in-scope rubber bands from Thailand by channel of distribution. If your firm is a retailer and directly imports in-scope rubber bands for use in your own or a related firm's retail locations, please report those as U.S. shipments "To retailers" here.

## Thailand

Quantity (in pounds)			
Item	Calendar years		
	2015	2016	2017
<b>Channels of distribution:</b>			
<b>U.S. shipments:</b>			
To distributors (M)			
To retailers and office supply stores: branded <sup>1</sup> (N)			
To retailers and office supply stores: private label <sup>1</sup> (O)			
To end users: agricultural/floral/grocery (P)			
To end users: industrial/hardware/construction (Q)			
To end users: newspaper/packaging/stationery <sup>2</sup> (R)			
To end users: all other end users <sup>3</sup> (S)			
<sup>1</sup> Include stationery stores, such as Staples, Office Depot, etc., in retail category. <sup>2</sup> Include end users, such as government or post offices, that purchase rubber bands for stationery use in end users category. <sup>3</sup> Please specify the other types of end users: _____.			

**RECONCILIATION OF CHANNELS.**--Please ensure that the quantities reported for channels of distribution (i.e., lines M through S) in each time period equal the quantity reported for U.S. shipments (i.e., lines D, F, and H) in each time period. If the calculated fields below return values other than zero (i.e., "0"), the data reported must be revised prior to submission to the Commission.

Reconciliation	Calendar years		
	2015	2016	2017
M + N + O + P + Q + R + S – D – F – H = zero ("0"), if not revise.	0	0	0

II-7c. **U.S. shipments by product size: Thailand.**--Report your firm's U.S. shipments (i.e. inclusive of commercial U.S. shipments, internal consumption, and transfers to related firms) of imports of in-scope rubber bands from Thailand by product size.

## Thailand

Quantity (in pounds)	
Item	Calendar year 2017
<b>U.S. shipments.--</b>	
Rubber bands balls (T)	
Other than rubber band balls:	
Sizes 8 through 19 and 117-A <sup>1</sup> (U)	
Sizes 27 through 33 and 117-B <sup>2</sup> (V)	
All other sizes (W) <sup>3</sup>	
<sup>1</sup> Sizes 8 through 19 and 117-A, based on common industry standards, have a width of 1/16". Lengths are as follows: size 8—7/8", size 10—1 ¼", size 12—1 ¾", size 14—2", size 16—2 ½", size 18—3", size 19—3 ½", and size 117-A—7". <sup>2</sup> Sizes 27 through 33 and 117-B, based on common industry standards, have a width of 1/8". Lengths are as follows: size 27—1 ¼", size 30—2", size 31—2 ½", size 32—3", size 33—3 ½", and size 117-B—7". <sup>3</sup> Please specify the other sizes: _____.	

**RECONCILIATION OF U.S. SHIPMENTS.**--Please ensure that the quantities and values reported for US shipments by product type (i.e., lines T through W) in 2017 equal the quantity and value reported for U.S. shipments (i.e., lines D through I) in 2017 in question II-7. If the calculated fields below return values other than zero (i.e., "0"), the data reported must be revised prior to submission to the Commission.

Reconciliation	Calendar year 2017
<b>Quantity:</b> T + U + V + W – D – F – H = zero ("0"), if not revise.	0

II-8a. **U.S. imports from all other sources.**—Report your firm’s imports and your firm’s shipments and inventories of in-scope rubber bands imported from all other sources by your firm during the specified periods.

## All other sources

(list sources: \_\_\_\_\_)

Quantity (in pounds), value (in dollars)			
Item	Calendar years		
	2015	2016	2017
<b>Beginning-of-period inventories (quantity) (A)</b>			
<b>Imports:<sup>1</sup></b>			
Quantity (B)			
Value (C)			
<b>U.S. shipments:</b>			
<b>Bulk commercial shipments:</b>			
Quantity (D)			
Value (E)			
<b>Internal consumption / including for retail sale by your firm:<sup>2</sup></b>			
Quantity (F)			
Value <sup>2</sup> (G)			
<b>Transfers to related firms:<sup>2</sup></b>			
Quantity (H)			
Value <sup>2</sup> (I)			
<b>Export shipments:<sup>3</sup></b>			
Quantity (J)			
Value (K)			
<b>End-of-period inventories (quantity) (L)</b>			
<sup>1</sup> Please identify the foreign producers, if known: _____. <sup>2</sup> Internal consumption and transfers to related firms must be valued at fair market value. If your firm uses a different basis for valuing these transactions in your records, please specify that basis (e.g., cost, cost plus, etc.): _____. However, the data provided above in this table should be based on fair market value. <sup>3</sup> Identify your firm’s principal export markets: _____.			

**RECONCILIATION OF SHIPMENTS, IMPORTS, AND INVENTORIES.**—Generally, the data reported for the end-of-period inventories (i.e., line L) should be equal to the beginning-of-period inventories (i.e., line A), plus imports (i.e., line B), less total shipments (i.e., lines D, F, H, and J). Please ensure that any differences are not due to data entry errors in completing this form, but rather actually reflect your firm’s records; and also provide any likely explanations for any differences (e.g., theft, loss, damage, record systems issues, etc.) if they exist.

Reconciliation	Calendar years		
	2015	2016	2017
A + B – D – F – H – J – L = should equal zero ("0") or provide an explanation. <sup>1</sup>	0	0	0
<sup>1</sup> Explanation if the calculated fields above are returning values other than zero (i.e., "0") but are nonetheless accurate: _____.			

II-8b. **Channels of distribution: All other sources.**--Report your firm's U.S. shipments (i.e., inclusive of bulk commercial U.S. shipments, internal consumption, and transfers to related firms) of imports of in-scope rubber bands from all other sources by channel of distribution. If your firm is a retailer and directly imports in-scope rubber bands for use in your own or a related firm's retail locations, please report those as U.S. shipments "To retailers" here.

## All other sources

Quantity (in pounds)			
Item	Calendar years		
	2015	2016	2017
<b>Channels of distribution:</b>			
<b>U.S. shipments:</b>			
To distributors (M)			
To retailers and office supply stores: branded <sup>1</sup> (N)			
To retailers and office supply stores: private label <sup>1</sup> (O)			
To end users: agricultural/floral/grocery (P)			
To end users: industrial/hardware/construction (Q)			
To end users: newspaper/packaging/stationery <sup>2</sup> (R)			
To end users: all other end users <sup>3</sup> (S)			
<sup>1</sup> Include stationery stores, such as Staples, Office Depot, etc., in retail category. <sup>2</sup> Include end users, such as government or post offices, that purchase rubber bands for stationery use in end users category. <sup>3</sup> Please specify the other types of end users: _____.			

**RECONCILIATION OF CHANNELS.**--Please ensure that the quantities reported for channels of distribution (i.e., lines M through S) in each time period equal the quantity reported for U.S. shipments (i.e., lines D, F, and H) in each time period. If the calculated fields below return values other than zero (i.e., "0"), the data reported must be revised prior to submission to the Commission.

Reconciliation	Calendar years		
	2015	2016	2017
M + N + O + P + Q + R + S – D – F – H = zero ("0"), if not revise.	0	0	0

II-8c. **U.S. shipments by product size: All other sources.**--Report your firm's U.S. shipments (i.e. inclusive of commercial U.S. shipments, internal consumption, and transfers to related firms) of imports of in-scope rubber bands from all other sources by product size.

## All other sources

Quantity (in pounds)	
Item	Calendar year 2017
<b>U.S. shipments.--</b>	
Rubber bands balls (T)	
Other than rubber band balls:	
Sizes 8 through 19 and 117-A <sup>1</sup> (U)	
Sizes 27 through 33 and 117-B <sup>2</sup> (V)	
All other sizes (W) <sup>3</sup>	
<sup>1</sup> Sizes 8 through 19 and 117-A, based on common industry standards, have a width of 1/16". Lengths are as follows: size 8—7/8", size 10—1 ¼", size 12—1 ¾", size 14—2", size 16—2 ½", size 18—3", size 19—3 ½", and size 117-A—7". <sup>2</sup> Sizes 27 through 33 and 117-B, based on common industry standards, have a width of 1/8". Lengths are as follows: size 27—1 ¼", size 30—2", size 31—2 ½", size 32—3", size 33—3 ½", and size 117-B—7". <sup>3</sup> Please specify the other sizes: _____.	

**RECONCILIATION OF U.S. SHIPMENTS.**--Please ensure that the quantities and values reported for US shipments by product type (i.e., lines T through W) in 2017 equal the quantity and value reported for U.S. shipments (i.e., lines D through I) in 2017 in question II-7. If the calculated fields below return values other than zero (i.e., "0"), the data reported must be revised prior to submission to the Commission.

Reconciliation	Calendar year 2017
<b>Quantity:</b> T + U + V + W – D – F – H = zero ("0"), if not revise.	0

II-9. **Other explanations.**--If your firm would like to further explain a response to a question in Part II that did not provide a narrative response box, please note the question number and the explanation in the space provided below. Please also use this space to highlight any issues your firm had in providing the data in this section, including but not limited to technical issues with the MS Word questionnaire.

**PART III.--PRICING AND MARKET FACTORS**

Further information on this part of the questionnaire can be obtained from Lauren Gamache (202-205-3489, [lauren.gamache@usitc.gov](mailto:lauren.gamache@usitc.gov)).

III-1. **Contact information.**--Please identify the responsible individual and the manner by which Commission staff may contact that individual regarding the confidential information submitted in part III.

Name	
Title	
Email	
Telephone	
Fax	

**PRICE DATA**

III-2. This question requests quarterly quantity and value data for your firm's commercial shipments to unrelated U.S. customers since January 1, 2015 of the following products your firm imported from China, Sri Lanka, and/or Thailand:

**Product 1.**-- Size #32 rubber bands (3" x 1/8"), natural/latex, sold in 1 lb. poly bags

**Product 2.**-- Size #33 rubber bands (3 1/2" x 1/8"), natural/latex, sold in 1 lb. poly bags

**Product 3.**-- Size #64 rubber bands (3 1/2" x 1/4"), natural/latex, sold in 1 lb. poly bags

**Product 4.**-- Size #18 rubber bands (3" x 1/16"), newspaper size, natural/latex, sold in 1 lb. poly bags

**Product 5.**-- Size #14 rubber bands (2" x 1/16"), agricultural size, natural/latex, sold in 1 lb. poly bags

**Product 6.**-- Size #16, rubber bands (2 1/2" x 1/16"), agricultural size, natural /latex, sold in 1 lb. poly bags

**Please note that values should be f.o.b., U.S. point of shipment and should not include U.S.-inland transportation costs. Values should reflect the *final net* amount paid to your firm (i.e., should be net of all deductions for discounts or rebates).**

During January 2015-December 2017, did your firm import from China, Sri Lanka, and Thailand and sell to unrelated U.S. customers any of the above listed products (or any products that were competitive with these products)?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Yes.</b> --Please complete the following pricing data table(s) as appropriate.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>No.</b> --Skip to question III-3.

III-2(a). **Price data.**--Report below the quarterly price data<sup>1</sup> for pricing products<sup>2</sup> imported from China and sold by your firm.

## China

**Report data in pounds and dollars.**

<i>(Quantity in pounds, value in dollars)</i>						
Period of shipment	Product 1		Product 2		Product 3	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
<b>2015:</b>						
January-March						
April-June						
July-September						
October-December						
<b>2016:</b>						
January-March						
April-June						
July-September						
October-December						
<b>2017:</b>						
January-March						
April-June						
July-September						
October-December						
<i>(Quantity in pounds, value in dollars)</i>						
Period of shipment	Product 4		Product 5		Product 6	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
<b>2015:</b>						
January-March						
April-June						
July-September						
October-December						
<b>2016:</b>						
January-March						
April-June						
July-September						
October-December						
<b>2017:</b>						
January-March						
April-June						
July-September						
October-December						

<sup>1</sup> Net values (i.e., gross sales values less all discounts, allowances, rebates, prepaid freight, and the value of returned goods), f.o.b. your firm's U.S. point of shipment.

<sup>2</sup> Pricing product definitions are provided on the first page of Part IV.

**Note.**--If your firm's product does not exactly meet the product specifications but is competitive with the specified product, provide a description of your firm's product. Also, please explain any anomalies in your firm's reported pricing data.

Product 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Product 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Product 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Product 5: \_\_\_\_\_

Product 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Product 6: \_\_\_\_\_

III-2(b). **Price data.**--Report below the quarterly price data<sup>1</sup> for pricing products<sup>2</sup> imported from Sri Lanka and sold by your firm.

## Sri Lanka

**Report data in pounds and dollars.**

<i>(Quantity in pounds, value in dollars)</i>						
Period of shipment	Product 1		Product 2		Product 3	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
<b>2015:</b>						
January-March						
April-June						
July-September						
October-December						
<b>2016:</b>						
January-March						
April-June						
July-September						
October-December						
<b>2017:</b>						
January-March						
April-June						
July-September						
October-December						
<i>(Quantity in pounds, value in dollars)</i>						
Period of shipment	Product 4		Product 5		Product 6	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
<b>2015:</b>						
January-March						
April-June						
July-September						
October-December						
<b>2016:</b>						
January-March						
April-June						
July-September						
October-December						
<b>2017:</b>						
January-March						
April-June						
July-September						
October-December						

<sup>1</sup> Net values (i.e., gross sales values less all discounts, allowances, rebates, prepaid freight, and the value of returned goods), f.o.b. your firm's U.S. point of shipment.

<sup>2</sup> Pricing product definitions are provided on the first page of Part IV.

**Note.**--If your firm's product does not exactly meet the product specifications but is competitive with the specified product, provide a description of your firm's product. Also, please explain any anomalies in your firm's reported pricing data.

Product 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Product 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Product 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Product 5: \_\_\_\_\_

Product 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Product 6: \_\_\_\_\_



III-2(c). **Price data.**--Report below the quarterly price data<sup>1</sup> for pricing products<sup>2</sup> imported from Thailand and sold by your firm.

## Thailand

**Report data in pounds and dollars.**

<i>(Quantity in pounds, value in dollars)</i>						
Period of shipment	Product 1		Product 2		Product 3	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
<b>2015:</b>						
January-March						
April-June						
July-September						
October-December						
<b>2016:</b>						
January-March						
April-June						
July-September						
October-December						
<b>2017:</b>						
January-March						
April-June						
July-September						
October-December						
<i>(Quantity in pounds, value in dollars)</i>						
Period of shipment	Product 4		Product 5		Product 6	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
<b>2015:</b>						
January-March						
April-June						
July-September						
October-December						
<b>2016:</b>						
January-March						
April-June						
July-September						
October-December						
<b>2017:</b>						
January-March						
April-June						
July-September						
October-December						

<sup>1</sup> Net values (i.e., gross sales values less all discounts, allowances, rebates, prepaid freight, and the value of returned goods), f.o.b. your firm's U.S. point of shipment.

<sup>2</sup> Pricing product definitions are provided on the first page of Part IV.

**Note.**--If your firm's product does not exactly meet the product specifications but is competitive with the specified product, provide a description of your firm's product. Also, please explain any anomalies in your firm's reported pricing data.

Product 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Product 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Product 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Product 5: \_\_\_\_\_

Product 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Product 6: \_\_\_\_\_

III-2 (d). **Price data checklist.**--Please check that the pricing data in question III-2(a) has been correctly reported.

Is the price data reported above:	<b>√ if Yes</b>
In actual dollars ( <b>not</b> \$1,000) and pounds?	<input type="checkbox"/>
F.o.b. U.S. point of shipment (i.e., does not include U.S. transport costs)?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Net of all discounts and rebates?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have returns credited to the quarter in which the sale occurred?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Less than reported commercial shipments in Part II in each year?	<input type="checkbox"/>

III-2(e). **Pricing data methodology.**--Please describe the method and the kinds of documents/records that were used to compile your price data.

*Note: As requested in Part I of this questionnaire, please keep all supporting documents/records used in the preparation of the price data, as Commission staff may contact your firm regarding questions on the price data. The Commission may also request that your company submit copies of the supporting documents/records (such as sales journal, invoices, etc.) used to compile these data.*

III-3. **Imports for internal use or retail sale.**--Did your firm import any of the pricing products identified above (III-2) for internal consumption or use for sales in your firm's retail locations since January 1, 2015?

No                       Yes--Please fill out the table.

	<b>Share of imports for internal consumption or retail sales in 2017 (percent)</b>		
	China (share of internal consumption reported in II-5a)	Sri Lanka (share of internal consumption reported in II-6a)	Thailand (share of internal consumption reported in II-7a)
Product 1			
Product 2			
Product 3			
Product 4			
Product 5			
Product 6			
All other products			
Total (should sum to 100 percent)			

III-4. **Price setting.**--How does your firm determine the prices that it charges for sales of rubber bands (*check all that apply*)? If your firm issues price lists, please submit sample pages of a recent list.

Transaction by transaction	Contracts	Set price lists	Other	If other, describe
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-5. **Discount policy.**--Please indicate and describe your firm's discount policies (*check all that apply*).

Quantity discounts	Annual total volume discounts	No discount policy	Other	Describe
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-6. **Pricing terms.**--

(a) What are your firm's typical sales terms for rubber bands imported from China, Sri Lanka, and Thailand?

Net 30 days	Net 60 days	2/10 net 30 days	Other	Other (specify)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

(b) On what basis are your firm's prices of imported rubber bands from China, Sri Lanka, and Thailand usually quoted (*check one*)?

Delivered	F.o.b.	If f.o.b., specify point
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-7. **Contract versus spot.**--Approximately what share of your firm's sales of rubber bands imported from China, Sri Lanka, and Thailand in 2017 was on a (1) long-term contract basis, (2) annual contract basis, (3) short-term contract basis, and (4) spot sales basis?

	Type of sale				Total (should sum to 100.0%)
	Long-term contracts (multiple deliveries for more than 12 months)	Annual contracts (multiple deliveries for 12 months)	Short-term contracts (multiple deliveries for less than 12 months)	Spot sales (for a single delivery)	
Share of 2017 sales	%	%	%	%	0.0 %

III-8. **Contract provisions.**— Please fill out the table regarding your firm's typical sales contracts for rubber bands from China, Sri Lanka, and/or Thailand (or check "not applicable" if your firm does not sell on a long-term, short-term and/or annual contract basis).

<b>Typical sales contract provisions</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Short-term contracts</b> (multiple deliveries for less than 12 months)	<b>Annual contracts</b> (multiple deliveries for 12 months)	<b>Long-term contracts</b> (multiple deliveries for more than 12 months)
Average contract duration	<i>No. of days</i>		365	
Price renegotiation (during contract period)	<i>Yes</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>No</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fixed quantity and/or price	<i>Quantity</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Price</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>Both</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Meet or release provision	<i>Yes</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<i>No</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not applicable		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

III-9. **Lead times.**--What is your firm's share of sales of rubber bands imported from China, Sri Lanka, and/or Thailand from inventory and produced to order and what is the typical lead time between a customer's order and the date of delivery for your firm's sales of rubber bands?

<b>Source</b>	<b>Share of 2017 sales</b>	<b>Lead time (Average number of days)</b>
From your firm's U.S. inventory	%	
From foreign manufacturers' inventory	%	
Produced to order	%	
<b>Total</b> (should sum to 100.0%)	0.0 %	

**III-10. Shipping information.—**

- (a) What is the approximate percentage of the cost of rubber bands imported from China, Sri Lanka, and/or Thailand that is accounted for by U.S. inland transportation costs?  
percent.
- (b) Who generally arranges the transportation to your firm's customers' locations?  
 Your firm    Purchaser *(check one)*
- (c) When your firm sells rubber bands imported from China, Sri Lanka, and/or Thailand, from where is it shipped?  
 Point of importation    Storage facility *(check one)*
- (d) Indicate the approximate percentage of your firm's sales of rubber bands imported from China, Sri Lanka, and/or Thailand that are delivered the following distances from your firm's U.S. point of shipment.

<b>Distance from your firm's U.S. point of shipment</b>	<b>Share</b>
Within 100 miles	%
101 to 1,000 miles	%
Over 1,000 miles	%
<b>Total</b> (should sum to 100.0%)	0.0 %

**III-11. Geographical shipments.—**In which U.S. geographic market area(s) has your firm sold rubber bands imported from subject countries since January 1, 2014 (check all that apply)?

<b>Geographic area</b>	<b>China</b>	<b>Sri Lanka</b>	<b>Thailand</b>
<b>Northeast.</b> —CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, and VT.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Midwest.</b> —IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, and WI.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Southeast.</b> —AL, DE, DC, FL, GA, KY, MD, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, and WV.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Central Southwest.</b> —AR, LA, OK, and TX.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Mountains.</b> —AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, and WY.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Pacific Coast.</b> —CA, OR, and WA.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Other.</b> —All other markets in the United States not previously listed, including AK, HI, PR, and VI.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

III-12. **End uses.**--List the end uses of the rubber bands that your firm imports. For each end-use product, what percentage of the total cost is accounted for by rubber bands and other inputs?

End use product	Share of total cost of end-use product accounted for by		Total (should sum to 100.0% across)
	Rubber bands	Other inputs	
	%	%	0.0 %
	%	%	0.0 %
	%	%	0.0 %

III-13. **Substitutes.**--Can other products be substituted for rubber bands?

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 rubber bands?		
		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-14. **Demand trends.**--Indicate how demand within the United States and outside of the United States (if known) for rubber bands has changed since January 1, 2015. Explain any trends and describe the principal factors that have affected these changes in demand.

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-15. **Product changes.**--Have there been any significant changes in the product range, product mix or marketing of rubber bands since January 1, 2015?

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

III-16. **Conditions of competition.**—

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

<b>Check all that apply.</b>	<b>Please describe.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>	Skip to question III-16.
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes-Business cycles (e.g. seasonal business)</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes-Other distinctive conditions of competition</b>	

(b) If yes, have there been any changes in the business cycles or conditions of competition for rubber bands since January 1, 2015?

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

III-17. **Supply constraints.**--Has your firm refused, declined, or been unable to supply rubber bands 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.)?

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

III-18. **Raw materials.**--How have rubber bands raw material prices changed since January 1, 2015?

<b>Overall increase</b>	<b>No change</b>	<b>Overall decrease</b>	<b>Fluctuate with no clear trend</b>	<b>Explain, noting how raw material price changes have affected your firm’s selling prices for rubber bands.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

III-19. **Bundling sales.**--Does your firm bundle sales of rubber bands with other products?

No	Yes	Estimate share of your rubber band sales that were sold in a bundle in 2017	Describe other product(s) that are typically in bundled sales
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

III-20. **Interchangeability.**—Are rubber bands 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	Sri Lanka	Thailand	Other countries
United States				
China				
Sri Lanka				
Thailand				
For any country-pair producing rubber bands that is <i>sometimes</i> or <i>never</i> interchangeable, identify the country-pair and explain the factors that limit or preclude interchangeable use:				



III-21. **Factors other than price.**--Are differences other than price (e.g., quality, availability, transportation network, product range, technical support, etc.) between rubber bands produced in the United States and in other countries a significant factor in your firm's sales 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

<b>Country-pair</b>	China	Sri Lanka	Thailand	Other countries
United States				
China	X			
Sri Lanka	X	X		
Thailand	X	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 sales of rubber bands, identify the country-pair and report the advantages or disadvantages imparted by such factors:				

III-22. **Customer identification.**--List the names and contact information for your firm's 10 largest U.S. customers for rubber bands since January 1, 2015. Indicate the share of the quantity of your firm's total shipments of rubber bands that each of these customers accounted for in 2017.

	Customer's name	Contact person	Email	Telephone	City	State	Share of 2017 sales (%)
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							

III-23. **Other explanations.**--If your firm would like to further explain a response to a question in Part III that did not provide a narrative response box, please note the question number and the explanation in the space provided below. Please also use this space to highlight any issues your firm had in providing the data in this section, including but not limited to technical issues with the MS Word questionnaire.

**PART IV.-- ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTS**

Further information on this part of the questionnaire can be obtained from Amanda Lawrence (202-205-3185, [amanda.lawrence@usitc.gov](mailto:amanda.lawrence@usitc.gov)).

IV-1. **Comparability of rubber band products.**--For each of the following product pairs indicate whether in-scope rubber bands produced in the United States are:

- F: fully comparable or the same, *i.e.*, have no differentiation between them;
- M: mostly comparable or similar;
- S: somewhat comparable or similar;
- N: never or not-at-all comparable or similar; or
- O: no familiarity with products.

Note.--Excluded vulcanized rubber bands, as defined on page 2, include bands made of vulcanized rubber with a flat length less than 1/2" or greater than 10", a width less than 3/64" or greater than 2", and a wall thickness less than 0.020" or greater than 0.125".

(a) **Physical Characteristics and Uses.**--The differences and similarities in the physical characteristics and uses.

<b>Product-pair</b>	Excluded vulcanized rubber bands	Bedford Elastitags®	Non-latex rubber bands
In-scope rubber bands			
For any product-pair for which you indicated "S" or "N", please provide a narrative discussion for the comparability ratings you provided in terms of their <i>physical characteristics and uses</i> :			

(b) **Interchangeability.**--The ability to substitute the products in the same application.

<b>Product-pair</b>	Excluded vulcanized rubber bands	Bedford Elastitags®	Non-latex rubber bands
In-scope rubber bands			
For any product-pair for which you indicated "S" or "N", please provide a narrative discussion for the comparability ratings you provided in terms of their <i>interchangeability</i> :			

IV-1. **Comparability of rubber band products.**--*Continued*

(c) **Common manufacturing facilities, production processes, and production employees.**--Whether manufactured in the same facilities, from the same inputs, on the same machinery and equipment, and using the same employees.

<b>Product-pair</b>	Excluded vulcanized rubber bands	Bedford Elastitags®	Non-latex rubber bands
In-scope rubber bands			
For any product-pair for which you indicated "S" or "N", please provide a narrative discussion for the comparability ratings you provided in terms of their <u>common manufacturing facilities, production processes, and production employees</u> :			

(d) **Channels of distribution.**--Channels of distribution/market situation through which the products are sold (i.e., sold direct to end users, through wholesalers/distributors, etc.).

<b>Product-pair</b>	Excluded vulcanized rubber bands	Bedford Elastitags®	Non-latex rubber bands
In-scope rubber bands			
For any product-pair for which you indicated "S" or "N", please provide a narrative discussion for the comparability ratings you provided in terms of their <u>channels of distribution</u> :			

(e) **Consumer and producer perceptions.**--Perceptions as to the differences and/or similarities.

<b>Product-pair</b>	Excluded vulcanized rubber bands	Bedford Elastitags®	Non-latex rubber bands
In-scope rubber bands			
For any product-pair for which you indicated "S" or "N", please provide a narrative discussion for the comparability ratings you provided in terms of their <u>consumer and producer perceptions</u> :			

IV-1. **Comparability of rubber band products.**--Continued

(f) **Price.**--Whether prices are comparable or differ between products.

<b>Product-pair</b>	Excluded vulcanized rubber bands	Bedford Elastitags®	Non-latex rubber bands
In-scope rubber bands			
For any product-pair for which you indicated "S" or "N", please provide a narrative discussion for the comparability ratings you provided in terms of their <u>price</u> :			

IV-2. **Out-of-scope rubber band imports.**--Report your firm's imports of out-of-scope rubber band products (i.e. excluded vulcanized rubber bands, as defined on page 2, Bedford Elastitags®, and non-latex rubber bands) from China, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and all other sources. Data reported below should not be included in data reported in part II.

(a) **Imports from China**

## China

<b>Quantity (in pounds)</b>			
<b>Item</b>	<b>Calendar years</b>		
	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Imports from China:</b>			
<b>Excluded vulcanized rubber bands:</b>			
<i>Quantity</i>			
<i>Value</i>			
<b>Bedford Elastitags®:</b>			
<i>Quantity</i>			
<i>Value</i>			
<b>Non-latex rubber bands:</b>			
<i>Quantity</i>			
<i>Value</i>			

IV-2. **Out-of-scope rubber band imports.**--*Continued*

(b) **Imports from Sri Lanka**

## Sri Lanka

Quantity (in pounds)			
Item	Calendar years		
	2015	2016	2017
<b>Imports from Sri Lanka:</b>			
<b>Excluded vulcanized rubber bands:</b>			
<i>Quantity</i>			
<i>Value</i>			
<b>Bedford Elastitags®:</b>			
<i>Quantity</i>			
<i>Value</i>			
<b>Non-latex rubber bands:</b>			
<i>Quantity</i>			
<i>Value</i>			

(c) **Imports from Thailand**

## Thailand

Quantity (in pounds)			
Item	Calendar years		
	2015	2016	2017
<b>Imports from Thailand:</b>			
<b>Excluded vulcanized rubber bands:</b>			
<i>Quantity</i>			
<i>Value</i>			
<b>Bedford Elastitags®:</b>			
<i>Quantity</i>			
<i>Value</i>			
<b>Non-latex rubber bands:</b>			
<i>Quantity</i>			
<i>Value</i>			

IV-2. **Out-of-scope rubber band imports.**--*Continued*

(d) **Imports from all other sources**

## All other sources

(list sources: \_\_\_\_\_)

Quantity (in pounds)			
Item	Calendar years		
	2015	2016	2017
<b>Imports from all other sources:</b>			
<b>Excluded vulcanized rubber bands:</b>			
<i>Quantity</i>			
<i>Value</i>			
<b>Bedford Elastitags®:</b>			
<i>Quantity</i>			
<i>Value</i>			
<b>Non-latex rubber bands:</b>			
<i>Quantity</i>			
<i>Value</i>			

IV-3. **Other explanations.**--If your firm would like to further explain a response to a question in Part V that did not provide a narrative response box, please note the question number and the explanation in the space provided below. Please also use this space to highlight any issues your firm had in providing the data in this section, including but not limited to technical issues with the MS Word questionnaire.

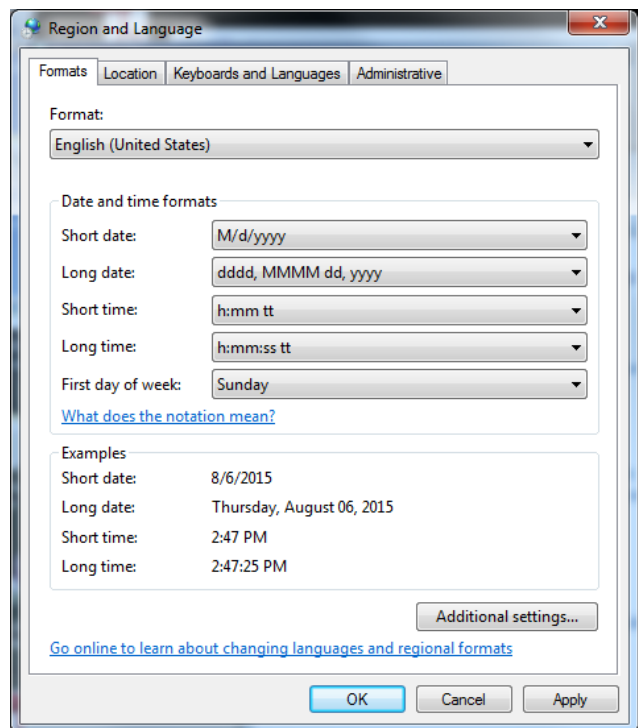
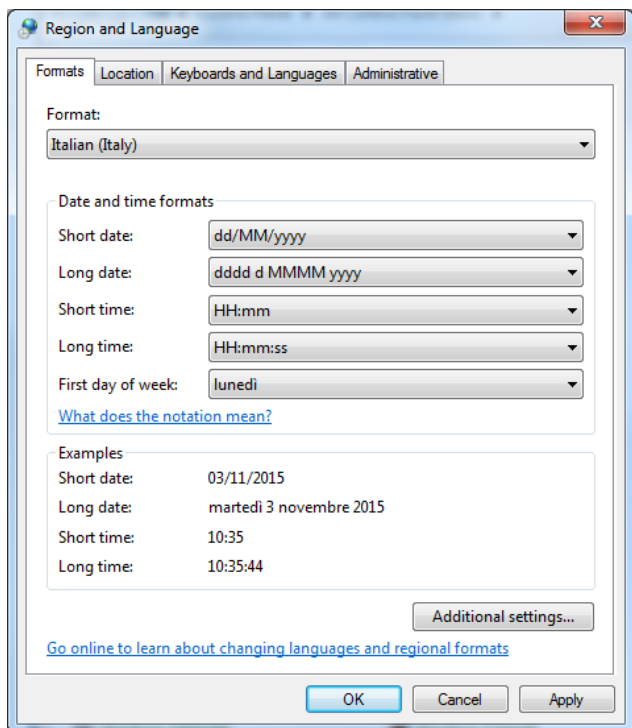
**Correcting Valid number error messages.**--If you are completing a Commission questionnaire in a country that uses periods (“.”) to delineate multiples of 1000 (e.g., one million would appear as \$1.000.000 instead of as \$1,000,000), you may be unable to enter in numbers greater than 999 in numeric form fields. This issues stem from your computer number formatting setting (e.g., not the MS Word document itself, but the computer from which you are opening up the document). In the United States commas (,) delineate multiples of 1000 and periods (.) delineate fractions less than one. Many EU countries use the reverse where multiples of 1000 are delineated with periods (.) and fractions less than one are delineated with commas (,). The US International Trade Commission’s questionnaires are set-up in the United States with the U.S. number formatting. When this formatting interacts with a computer set to EU number formatting, we believe this may cause this issue.

The solution to this data entry issue is to temporarily change your operating system’s number formatting to be consistent with the U.S. number formatting system while you complete the questionnaire.

To temporarily change your computer’s number settings to U.S. settings, please do the following (for Microsoft Windows Operating system):

- START
- Control Panel
- Region and Language (under Clock, Language, and Region category)
- Format tab
- Change the Format from your existing one (e.g. “Italian (Italy)”) to “English (United States)” (see screen shots below)

When you do this the number “twelve million dollars and thirty five cents” would change from \$12.000.000,35 (Italy format) to \$12,000,000.35 (U.S. format), and then there will be no conflict with the questionnaire. When you finish reporting the data then you can close the questionnaire and switch back to Italy settings.





## 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/701731/2018/rubber\\_bands\\_china\\_sri\\_lanka\\_and\\_thailand/preliminary.htm](https://www.usitc.gov/investigations/701731/2018/rubber_bands_china_sri_lanka_and_thailand/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:** **BAND**

- **E-mail.**—E-mail the MS Word questionnaire to [amanda.lawrence@usitc.gov](mailto:amanda.lawrence@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 did not import 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 you submit (see 19 CFR § 207.7). Service of the questionnaire must be made in paper form.