# **U.S. PURCHASERS' QUESTIONNAIRE**

# STANDARD STEEL WELDED WIRE MESH FROM MEXICO

# This questionnaire must be received by the Commission by <u>January 8, 2021</u> 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 investigations concerning standard steel welded wire mesh ("wire mesh") from Mexico (Inv. Nos. 701-TA-653 and 731-TA-1527 (Final)). The information requested in the questionnaire is requested under the authority of the Tariff Act of 1930, title VII. This report is mandatory and failure to reply as directed can result in a subpoena or other order to compel the submission of records or information in your possession (19 U.S.C. § 1333(a)). Further information on this questionnaire can be obtained from Pamela Davis (202-205-2218, <u>Pamela.Davis@usitc.gov</u>).

| Name of f | irm  |
|-----------|--|
| Address _ |  |
| City      | State Zip Code   |
| Website _ |  |
| ,         | rm purchased, or imported for its own use or retail sale, wire mesh (as defined on next page) from<br>(domestic or foreign) at any time since January 1, 2017? |
|           | (Sign the certification below and promptly return <b>only</b> this page of the questionnaire to the Commission)  |
| YES       | (Complete all parts of the questionnaire, and return the entire questionnaire to the Commission)   |
| •         | estionnaire via the U.S. International Trade Commission <i>Drop Box</i> by clicking on the link: <u>https://dropbox.usitc.gov/oinv/</u> . (PIN: MESH)          |

### CERTIFICATION

I certify that the information herein supplied in response to this questionnaire is complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and understand that the information submitted is subject to audit and verification by the Commission. By submitting this certification I also grant consent for the Commission, and its employees and contract personnel, to use the information provided in this questionnaire and throughout this proceeding in any other import-injury proceedings conducted by the Commission on the same or similar merchandise.

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

Name of Authorized Official

Title of Authorized Official

Date

Signature

Email address

## PART I.—GENERAL INFORMATION

**Background.**--This proceeding was instituted in response to a petition filed on June 30, 2020, by Insteel Industries Inc., Mount Airy, North Carolina; Mid South Wire Company, Nashville, Tennessee; National Wire LLC, Conroe, Texas; Oklahoma Steel & Wire Co., Madill, Oklahoma; and Wire Mesh Corp., Houston, Texas. Countervailing and antidumping duties may be assessed on the subject imports as a result of these proceedings if the Commission makes an affirmative determination of injury, threat, or material retardation, and if the U.S. Department of Commerce ("Commerce") makes an affirmative determination of subsidization and dumping. Questionnaires and other information pertinent to this proceeding are available at

https://usitc.gov/investigations/701731/2021/standard\_steel\_welded\_wire\_mesh\_mexico/final.htm.

**Standard steel welded wire mesh.**--The product covered by this definition is uncoated standard welded steel reinforcement wire mesh ("wire mesh") produced from smooth or deformed wire. Subject wire mesh is produced in square and rectangular grids of uniformly spaced steel wires that are welded at all intersections. Sizes are specified by combining the spacing of the wires in inches or millimeters and the wire cross-sectional area in hundredths of square inch or millimeters squared. Subject wire mesh may be packaged and sold in rolls or in sheets.

Subject wire mesh is currently produced to ASTM specification A1064/A1064M, which covers carbonsteel wire and welded wire reinforcement, smooth and deformed, for concrete in the following seven styles:

1. 6X6 W1.4/W1.4 or D1.4/D1.4 2. 6X6 W2.1/W2.1 or D2.1/D2.1 3. 6X6 W2.9/W2.9 or D2.9/D2.9 4. 6X6 W4/W4 or D4/D4 5. 6X12 W4/W4 or D4/D4 6. 4X4 W2.9/W2.9 or D2.9/D2.9 7. 4X4 W4/W4 or D4/D4

The first number in the style denotes the spacing between the longitudinal wires and the second number denotes the spacing between the transverse wires. In the first style listed above, for example, "6X6" denotes a grid size of six inches by six inches. "W" denotes the use of smooth wire, and "D" denotes the use of deformed wire in making the mesh. The number following the W or D denotes the cross-sectional area of the transverse and longitudinal wires in hundredths of a square inch (i.e., W1.4 or D1.4 is .014 square inches).

Smooth wire is wire that has a uniform cross-sectional diameter throughout the length of the wire.

Deformed wire is wire with indentations or raised transverse ribs, which results in wire that does not have a uniform cross-sectional diameter throughout the length of the wire.

Rolls of subject wire mesh are currently produced in the following styles and actual width and length combinations:

Style: 6X6 W1.4/W1.4 or D1.4/D1.4 (i.e., 10 gauge) Roll Sizes: 5' X 50'

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5' X 150' 6' X 150' 5' X 200' 7' X 200' 7.5' X 200' Style: 6X6 W2.1/W2.1 or D2.1/D2.1 (i.e., 8 gauge) Roll Sizes: 5' X 150' Style: 6X6 W2.9/W2.9 or D2.9/D2.9 (i.e., 6 gauge) Roll Sizes: 5' X 150' 7' X 200'

All rolled wire mesh is included in scope regardless of length.

Sheets of subject standard welded wire mesh are currently produced in the following styles and actual width and length combinations:

Style: 6X6 W1.4/W1.4 or D1.4/D1.4 (i.e., 10 gauge) Sheet Size: 3'6" X 7' 4' X 7' X 7'6" 5' X 10' 7' X 20' 7'6" X 20' 8' X 12'6" 8' X 15' 8' X 20' Style: 6X6 W2.1/W2.1 or D2.1/D2.1 (i.e., 8 gauge) Sheet Size: 5' X 10' 7' X 20' 7'6" X 20' 8' X 12'6" 8' X 15' 8' X 20' Style: 6X6 W2.9/W2.9 or D2.9/D2.9 (i.e., 6 gauge) Sheet Size: 3'6" X 20' 5' X 10' 7' X 20' 7'6" X 20' 8' X 12'6" 8' X 15' 8' X 20'

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Style: 6X12 W4/W4 or D4/D4 (i.e., 4 gauge) Sheet Size: 8' X 20'

Style: 4X4 W2.9/W2.9 or D2.9/D2.9 (i.e., 6 gauge) Sheet Size: 5' X 10' 7' X 20' 7'6" X 20' 8' X 12'6" 8' X 12'8" 8' X 15'

8' X 20' Style: 4X4 W4/W4 or D4/D4 (i.e., 4 gauge) Sheet Size: 5' X 10' 8' X 12'6" 8' X 12'8" 8' X 15'

8' X 20'

Any product imported, sold, or invoiced in one of these size combinations is included in this definition.

ASTM specification A1064/A1064M provides for permissible variations in wire gauges, the spacing between transverse and longitudinal wires, and the length and width combinations. To the extent a roll or sheet of welded wire mesh falls within these permissible variations, it is included in this definition.

ASTM specification A1064/A1064M also defines permissible oversteeling, which is the use of a heavier gauge wire with a larger cross-sectional area than nominally specified. It also permits a wire diameter tolerance of + 0.003 inches for products up to W5/D5 and + 0.004 for sizes over W5/D5. A producer may oversteel by increasing smooth or deformed wire diameter up to two whole number size increments on Table 1 of A1064. Subject wire mesh has the following wire diameter ranges, which account for both oversteeling and diameter tolerance:

| W/D No. | Maximum Oversteeling No. | Diameter Range (inch) |
|---------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.4     | (i.e., 10 gauge)         | 3.4 0.093 to 0.211    |
| 2.1     | (i.e., 8 gauge)          | 4.1 0.161 to 0.231    |
| 2.9     | (i.e., 6 gauge)          | 4.9 0.189 to 0.253    |
| 4.0     | (i.e., 4 gauge)          | 6.0 0.223 to 0.280    |

To the extent a roll or sheet of wire mesh falls within the permissible variations provided above, it is within this scope.

In addition to the tolerances permitted in ASTM specification A1064/A1064M, wire mesh in this definition includes combinations where:

1. A width and/or length combination varies by + one grid size in any direction, i.e., + 6 inches in length or width where the wire mesh's grid size is "6X6"; and/or

2. The center-to-center spacing between individual wires may vary by up to one quarter of an inch from the nominal grid size specified.

Length is measured from the ends of any wire and width is measured between the center-line of end longitudinal wires.

Additionally, although the subject wire mesh typically meets ASTM A1064/A1064M, the failure to include certifications, test reports or other documentation establishing that the product meets this specification does not remove the product from the scope. Wire mesh made to comparable foreign specifications (e.g., DIN, JIS, etc.) or proprietary specifications is included in the scope.

Excluded from the scope is wire mesh that is galvanized (i.e., coated with zinc) or coated with an epoxy coating. In order to be excluded as galvanized, the excluded welded wire mesh must have a zinc coating thickness meeting the requirements of ASTM specification A641/A641M. Epoxy coating is a mix of epoxy resin and hardener that can be applied to the surface of steel wire.

Wire mesh is currently imported under statistical reporting numbers 7314.20.0000 and 7314.39.0000. 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.

**Engineered wire mesh.--** Engineered wire mesh (also referred to as "structural mesh") is assembled from steel wires welded together in a grid pattern, complies with ASTM A1064 or equivalent specifications, and is designed to reinforce concrete. Being custom designed for specific end uses and customers, engineered wire mesh often, but not always, consists of non-uniform or heavier wires, non-uniform grid sizes, or in sheet dimensions different from standard wire mesh.

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

**<u>Reporting of information</u>**.--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.

<u>Confidentiality</u>.--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.

**<u>Release of information</u>**.--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.

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- I-1a. <u>Establishments covered</u>.--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.

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

- I-1b. <u>Stock symbol information.</u>-- If your firm or parent firm is publicly traded, please specify the stock exchange and trading symbol: \_\_\_\_\_.
- I-1c. **External counsel.**-- If your firm or parent firm is represented by external counsel in relation to this proceeding, please specify the name of the law firm and the lead attorney(s).

| Law firm:         |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Lead attorney(s): |  |

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

No Yes--List the following information, relating to the ultimate parent/owner.

| Firm name | Country | Extent of ownership<br>(percent) |
|-----------|---------|----------------------------------|
|           |         |                                  |
|           |         |                                  |

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

No Yes--List the following information.

| Firm name | Country | Affiliation |
|-----------|---------|-------------|
|           |         |             |
|           |         |             |
|           |         |             |

I-4. **<u>Related producers.--</u>**Does your firm have any related firms, either domestic or foreign, which produce wire mesh?

No No

Yes--List the following information.

| Firm name | Country | Affiliation |
|-----------|---------|-------------|
|           |         |             |
|           |         |             |
|           |         |             |
|           |         |             |

#### PART II.--PURCHASES

<u>Contact information</u>.--Please identify the responsible individual and the manner by which Commission staff may contact that individual regarding the confidential information submitted in this questionnaire.

| Name      |  |
|-----------|--|
| Title     |  |
| Email     |  |
| Telephone |  |

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

"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.

|   | 2017           | 2018                     | 2019 | JanSept. 2020 |  |  |
|---|----------------|--------------------------|------|---------------|--|--|
| ltem  | ·              | Quantity (in short tons) |      |               |  |  |
| Purchases of wire<br>mesh produced in—<br>United States |                |                          |      |               |  |  |
| Mexico  |                |                          |      |               |  |  |
| All other<br>countries <sup>1</sup>                     |                |                          |      |               |  |  |
| Sources<br>unknown <sup>2</sup>                         |                |                          |      |               |  |  |
| Total<br>purchases                                      | 0              | 0                        | 0    | 0             |  |  |
| Imports of wire<br>mesh from—<br>Mexico                 |                |                          |      |               |  |  |
| All other<br>countries <sup>1</sup>                     |                |                          |      |               |  |  |
| Total imports <sup>3</sup>                              | 0              | 0                        | 0    | 0             |  |  |
| <sup>1</sup> Please identify th                         | ese countries: |                          |      |               |  |  |

these countries:

<sup>2</sup> Please indicate the firm(s) from which you purchased this merchandise: \_\_\_\_\_.

<sup>3</sup> If your firm imported wire mesh at any time since January 1, 2017, please also complete and return a U.S. importers' questionnaire in this proceeding.

II-2. **Changes in purchasing patterns.--**Please indicate how the shares of your firm's purchases of wire mesh from different sources have changed since January 1, 2017.

| Source of purchases | Did not<br>purchase | Increased | Constant | Decreased | Fluctuated | Explanation for trend |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|------------|-----------------------|
| United States       |                     |           |          |           |            |                       |
| Mexico              |                     |           |          |           |            |                       |
| All other countries |                     |           |          |           |            |                       |
| Sources unknown     |                     |           |          |           |            |                       |

II-3. <u>**Country knowledge.--**</u>Please indicate the countries of origin with which your firm has experience or information in the wire mesh market.

| United<br>States | Mexico | Other<br>countries Other countries | Other countries (specify) |
|------------------|--------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
|                  |        |                                    |                           |

II-4. **Supplier identification.--**Please list your firm's **FIVE** largest suppliers for wire mesh since January 1, 2017. Also, provide the share of the quantity of your firm's total purchases of wire mesh that each of these suppliers accounted for in 2019.

| No. | Supplier's name | City and state | Share of quantity of 2019 purchases |
|-----|-----------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1   |                 |                | %                                   |
| 2   |                 |                | %                                   |
| 3   |                 |                | %                                   |
| 4   |                 |                | %                                   |
| 5   |                 |                | %                                   |

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

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

| End user<br>Construction | End user<br>Agriculture | End user<br>Industrial | End user<br>Transportation | Distributor | Other | Describe<br>other |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|-------|-------------------|
|                          |                         |                        |                            |             |       |                   |

#### If your firm is a distributor of wire mesh, please answer questions III-2 and III-3.

III-2. <u>Competition for sales</u>.--Does your firm compete for sales to customers with the manufacturers or importers from which your firm purchases wire mesh?

| No | Yes | If yes, please describe. |
|----|-----|--------------------------|
|    |     |                          |

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

### If your firm is an end user of wire mesh, please answer questions III-4 and III-5.

III-4. <u>End uses</u>.--List the top 3 products your firm makes using wire mesh and estimate the percent of your <u>total production cost</u> that is accounted for by wire mesh and by other inputs (such as labor, energy, and other raw materials).

|                                  | Share of total cost in each of the product(s) your<br>firm produces accounted for by |   |              |   | <b>Total</b><br>(should     |  |
|----------------------------------|--|---|--------------|---|-----------------------------|--|
| Product(s) your firm<br>produces | Wire mesh  |   | Other inputs |   | sum to<br>100.0%<br>across) |  |
|                                  | %  | + | %            | = | 0.0 %                       |  |
|                                  | %  | + | %            | = | 0.0 %                       |  |
|                                  | %  | + | %            | = | 0.0 %                       |  |

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

(a) Has the demand for your firm's final products incorporating wire mesh changed since January 1, 2017?

| Increased | No change | Decreased | Fluctuated |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
|           |           |           |            |

(b) Has this had any effect on your firm's demand for wire mesh?

| No | Yes | Explain |
|----|-----|---------|
|    |     |         |

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# III-6. **<u>Substitutes</u>.--**Can other products be substituted for wire mesh?

No

Yes--Please fill out the table.

|    |            | End use in which this |    | Have changes in the price of this substitute<br>affected the price for wire mesh? |             |  |  |
|----|------------|-----------------------|----|---|-------------|--|--|
|    | Substitute | substitute is used    | No | Yes   | Explanation |  |  |
| 1. |            |                       |    |   |             |  |  |
| 2. |            |                       |    |   |             |  |  |
| 3. |            |                       |    |   |             |  |  |

III-7. <u>Demand trends</u>.--Indicate how demand within the United States and outside of the United States (if known) for wire mesh has changed since January 1, 2017. Explain any trends and describe the principal factors that have affected these changes in demand.

| Market                       | Overall<br>increase | No<br>change | Overall<br>decrease | Fluctuate<br>with no<br>clear trend | Explanation and factors |
|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Within the United<br>States  |                     |              |                     |                                     |                         |
| Outside the United<br>States |                     |              |                     |                                     |                         |

# III-8. <u>**Country preferences.--**</u>Do you or your customers ever specifically order wire mesh from one country in particular over other possible sources of supply?

| No | Yes | If yes, identify the countries and explain. |
|----|-----|---|
|    |     |   |

III-9. Importance of purchasing domestic product.--Please fill out the table below, estimating the percentage of your firm's total 2020 purchases of wire mesh that required wire mesh produced in the United States.

|  | Estimated percentage of<br>your firm's total 2020<br>purchases of wire mesh |
|--|---|
| Purchases that did not require domestic product  | %   |
| <b>Purchases that were required by law or regulation to be domestic product</b> (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 wire mesh market subject to business cycles and/or other conditions of competition distinctive to wire mesh?

| Check a | ll that apply.                                  | Please describe.         |
|---------|---|--------------------------|
|         | No  | Skip to question III-11. |
|         | Yes-Business cycles (e.g.<br>seasonal business) |                          |
|         | Yes-Other distinctive conditions of competition |                          |

(b) Have there been any changes in the business cycles or conditions of competition for wire mesh since January 1, 2017?

| No | Yes | If yes, describe. |
|----|-----|-------------------|
|    |     |                   |

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

| ltem                       | Always                              | Usually | Sometimes | Never | If at least sometimes, explain. |  |  |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------|-----------|-------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Decision based on producer |                                     |         |           |       |                                 |  |  |
| Your firm                  |                                     |         |           |       |                                 |  |  |
| Your<br>customers          |                                     |         |           |       |                                 |  |  |
|                            | Decision based on country of origin |         |           |       |                                 |  |  |
| Your firm                  |                                     |         |           |       |                                 |  |  |
| Your<br>customers          |                                     |         |           |       |                                 |  |  |

III-12. **Availability of supply.--**Has the availability of wire mesh in the U.S. market changed since January 1, 2017?

| Availability in the U.S.<br>market | No | Yes | Please explain, noting the countries and reasons for the changes. |
|------------------------------------|----|-----|---|
| U.Sproduced product                |    |     |   |
| Subject imports                    |    |     |   |
| Nonsubject imports                 |    |     |   |

III-13. Supply constraints.--Has any firm refused, declined, or been unable to supply your firm with wire mesh since January 1, 2017 (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. |  |
|----|-----|--------------------------|--|
|    |     |                          |  |

III-14. <u>Availability of specific product types</u>.--Are certain grades/types/sizes of wire mesh only available from certain country sources?

| No | Yes | If yes, please identify the countries and the grade/type/size. |
|----|-----|--|
|    |     |  |

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#### III-15. Purchasing frequency.--

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

| Dai | y Weekly | Monthly | Quarterly | Annually | Other | If other, specify |
|-----|----------|---------|-----------|----------|-------|-------------------|
|     |          |         |           |          |       |                   |

(b) Has this purchasing frequency changed since January 1, 2017?

| No | Yes | If yes, please describe. |  |
|----|-----|--------------------------|--|
|    |     |                          |  |

#### III-16. Raw material prices.—

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

| No | Yes – please answer (b) and (c) |
|----|---------------------------------|
|    |                                 |

(b) Has information on raw material prices affected your firm's negotiations or contracts to purchase wire mesh since 2018?

| No | Yes | Explain |
|----|-----|---------|
|    |     |         |

(c) Are wire mesh prices indexed to wire rod prices?

| No | Yes | Explain |
|----|-----|---------|
|    |     |         |

(d) Are you aware of published spot prices for wire rod? Do published prices for wire rod impact your decision-making and expectations on purchasing price, quantities, and/or times?

| No | Yes | Explain |
|----|-----|---------|
|    |     |         |

- III-17. <u>Number of suppliers contacted</u>.--How many suppliers does your firm generally contact before making a purchase? Between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ firms
- III-18. **Supplier negotiations.--**Do your firm's purchases of wire mesh usually involve negotiations between supplier and purchaser?

| No | If yes, explain the factors your firm generally negotiates and note whether your firm quotes competing prices during negotiations. |
|----|--|
|    |  |

III-19. Change in suppliers.--Has your firm changed suppliers since January 1, 2017?

| No | Yes | If yes, please list the supplier(s), whether the firm was added or dropped, and the reasons for the change. |
|----|-----|---|
|    |     |   |

III-20. <u>New suppliers</u>.--Are you aware of any new suppliers, either foreign or domestic, that have entered the market since January 1, 2017?

| No | Yes | If yes, please identify the firms. |  |
|----|-----|------------------------------------|--|
|    |     |                                    |  |

III-21. **Supplier qualification**.--Do you require your suppliers to be or to become certified or qualified to sell wire mesh 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<br>of days | Process and factors |
|----|-----|-------------------|---------------------|
|    |     |                   |                     |

III-22. **Failure to certify**.--Since January 1, 2017, have any domestic or foreign producers failed in their attempts to certify or qualify their wire mesh 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,<br>and the reasons why they failed the certification/qualification. |
|----|-----|--|
|    |     |  |

III-23. <u>Major purchasing factors</u>.--Please list, in order of their importance, the main factors your firm considers in deciding from whom to purchase wire mesh (examples include availability, extension of credit, contracts, price, quality, range of supplier's product line, traditional supplier, etc.).

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

III-24. **Purchasing factors.--**Please rate the importance of the following factors in your firm's purchasing decisions for wire mesh.

| Factor                             | Very<br>important | Somewhat<br>important | Not<br>important |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Availability                       |                   |                       |                  |
| Delivery terms                     |                   |                       |                  |
| Delivery time                      |                   |                       |                  |
| Discounts offered                  |                   |                       |                  |
| Durability                         |                   |                       |                  |
| Minimum quantity requirements      |                   |                       |                  |
| Packaging                          |                   |                       |                  |
| Payment terms                      |                   |                       |                  |
| Price                              |                   |                       |                  |
| Product consistency                |                   |                       |                  |
| Product range                      |                   |                       |                  |
| Quality meets industry standards   |                   |                       |                  |
| Quality exceeds industry standards |                   |                       |                  |
| Reliability of supply              |                   |                       |                  |
| Steel alloy                        |                   |                       |                  |
| Technical support/service          |                   |                       |                  |
| U.S. transportation costs          |                   |                       |                  |

III-25. **Quality characteristics.--**What characteristics does your firm consider when determining the quality of wire mesh?

III-26. <u>Minimum quality</u>.--How often does wire mesh from the following countries meet minimum quality specifications for your uses or your customers' uses?

| Source        | Always | Usually | Sometimes | Rarely or<br>never | Don't<br>know |
|---------------|--------|---------|-----------|--------------------|---------------|
| United States |        |         |           |                    |               |
| Mexico        |        |         |           |                    |               |
| Other:        |        |         |           |                    |               |

III-27. **Frequency of decisions based on price.--**How often does your firm purchase the wire mesh that is offered at the lowest price?

| Always | Usually | Sometimes | Never |
|--------|---------|-----------|-------|
|        |         |           |       |

III-28. **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 wire mesh market since January 1, 2017.

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

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# III-29. Purchasing subject imports rather than domestic products.-

(a) Since January 2017, did your firm import and/or purchase imports of wire mesh from Mexico instead of purchasing U.S.-produced wire mesh?

|        | Yes                                 | Νο                               |
|--------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Source | (also respond to parts (b) and (c)) | (If "No", skip to next question) |
| Mexico |                                     |                                  |

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

| Source | Yes | No |
|--------|-----|----|
| Mexico |     |    |

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

| Source | Yes | If Yes, estimate the quantity<br>of imports purchased and/or<br>imported instead of domestic<br>product since January 2017<br>(in short tons) | No | If No, please indicate the<br>reason your firm imported<br>and/or purchased imports<br>instead of domestic product |
|--------|-----|---|----|--|
| Mexico |     |   |    |  |

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

(a) Since January 1, 2017, in connection with a sale or offer to sell wire mesh to your firm, did U.S. producers reduce their prices of domestically produced wire mesh in order to compete with lower-priced imports of wire mesh from the subject countries?

| Source | Yes (also respond to question part (b)) | No (If "No", skip to next<br>question) | Don't know |
|--------|---|--|------------|
| Mexico |   |  |            |

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

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

#### PART IV.—PRODUCT COMPARISONS

IV-1. **Interchangeability.--**Is wire mesh produced in the United States and in other countries interchangeable (i.e., can they physically be used in the same applications)?

Please indicate A, F, S, N, or 0 in the table below:

A = the products from a specified country-pair are *always* interchangeable

F = the products are *frequently* interchangeable

S = the products are *sometimes* interchangeable

N = the products are *never* interchangeable

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

| Country-pair  | Mexico | Other countries |  |  |  |
|---|--------|-----------------|--|--|--|
| United States   |        |                 |  |  |  |
| Mexico  |        |                 |  |  |  |
| For any country-pair producing wire mesh 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 wire mesh produced in the United States and in other countries a significant factor in your firm's purchases of the products?

Please indicate A, F, S, N, or 0 in the table below:

A = such differences are *always* significant

F = such differences are *frequently* significant

S = such differences are *sometimes* significant

N = such differences are *never* significant

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

| Country-pair   | Mexico | Other countries |  |  |  |  |
|--|--------|-----------------|--|--|--|--|
| United States  |        |                 |  |  |  |  |
| Mexico   |        |                 |  |  |  |  |
| 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 wire mesh, identify the country-pair and report the                       |        |                 |  |  |  |  |
| advantages or disadvantages imparted by such factors:  |        |                 |  |  |  |  |
|  |        |                 |  |  |  |  |

IV-3. **Factor country comparisons.--**For the factors listed below, please rate how wire mesh produced in each country you identified in your response to the first question in Part IV compares with wire mesh 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.

|   | <u>Un</u><br>compa | oduct fr<br>i <u>ted Sta</u><br>red to p<br>from<br><u>Mexico</u> | <u>tes</u><br>product | <u>Uni</u><br>cor<br>pro<br><u>No</u> | oduct fr<br>ted Sta<br>mparec<br>oduct fr<br>onsubje<br>ountrie | ates<br>I to<br>rom<br><u>ect</u> | <u>Mexi</u><br>to p<br><u>N</u> | oduct fr<br><u>co</u> comp<br>roduct f<br><u>onsubje</u><br>ountrie | pared<br>from<br>ect |
|---|--------------------|---|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Factor  | Superior           | Comparable  | Inferior              | Superior                              | Comparable  | Inferior                          | Superior                        | Comparable  | Inferior             |
| Availability  |                    |   |                       |                                       |   |                                   |                                 |   |                      |
| Delivery terms  |                    |   |                       |                                       |   |                                   |                                 |   |                      |
| Delivery time   |                    |   |                       |                                       |   |                                   |                                 |   |                      |
| Discounts offered   |                    |   |                       |                                       |   |                                   |                                 |   |                      |
| Durability  |                    |   |                       |                                       |   |                                   |                                 |   |                      |
| Minimum quantity requirements   |                    |   |                       |                                       |   |                                   |                                 |   |                      |
| Packaging   |                    |   |                       |                                       |   |                                   |                                 |   |                      |
| Payment terms   |                    |   |                       |                                       |   |                                   |                                 |   |                      |
| Price <sup>1</sup>  |                    |   |                       |                                       |   |                                   |                                 |   |                      |
| Product consistency   |                    |   |                       |                                       |   |                                   |                                 |   |                      |
| Product range   |                    |   |                       |                                       |   |                                   |                                 |   |                      |
| Quality meets industry standards  |                    |   |                       |                                       |   |                                   |                                 |   |                      |
| Quality exceeds industry standards  |                    |   |                       |                                       |   |                                   |                                 |   |                      |
| Reliability of supply   |                    |   |                       |                                       |   |                                   |                                 |   |                      |
| Steel alloy   |                    |   |                       |                                       |   |                                   |                                 |   |                      |
| Technical support/service   |                    |   |                       |                                       |   |                                   |                                 |   |                      |
| U.S. transportation costs <sup>1</sup>  |                    |   |                       |                                       |   |                                   |                                 |   |                      |
| <sup>1</sup> A rating of superior on price and U.S. transportation costs indicates that the first country generally has lower prices/U.S. transportation costs than the second country. |                    |   |                       |                                       |   |                                   |                                 |   |                      |

#### PART V.--ALTERNATIVE PRODUCT INFORMATION

Product definitions for wire mesh and engineered wire mesh can be found on page 5 of the questionnaire. Further information on this part of the questionnaire can be obtained from Pamela Davis (202-205-2218, <u>pamela.davis@ustic.gov</u>).

- V-1. **Comparability of wire mesh and engineered wire mesh.**-- For each of the following indicate whether listed wire mesh products 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.
  - 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
  - 0: no familiarity with products.
  - (a) <u>Physical Characteristics and End Uses</u>.--The differences and similarities in the physical characteristics and end uses.

| Product-pair   | Comparison | Please provide a narrative discussion for the comparability ratings you provided in terms of their <i>physical characteristics and uses</i> : |
|--|------------|---|
| In-scope <u>wire mes</u> h vs out-of-<br>scope <u>engineered wire mesh</u> |            |   |

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

| Product-pair   | Comparison | Please provide a narrative discussion for the comparability ratings you provided in terms of their <i>interchangeability</i> : |
|--|------------|--|
| In-scope <u>wire mes</u> h vs out-of-<br>scope <u>engineered wire mesh</u> |            |  |

#### V-1. Comparability of certain in-scope and out-of-scope wire mesh products.--Continued

- 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
- 0: no familiarity with products.
- (c) <u>**Channels of distribution**</u>.--Channels of distribution/market situation through which the products are purchased (i.e., directly, through wholesaler/distributors, etc.).

| Product-pair   | Comparison | Please provide a narrative discussion for the comparability ratings you provided in terms of their <u>channels of distribution</u> : |
|--|------------|--|
| In-scope <u>wire mes</u> h vs<br>out-of-scope<br><u>engineered wire mesh</u> |            |  |

(d) <u>Manufacturing facilities, production processes, and production employees</u>.--Whether manufactured in the same facilities, from the same inputs, on the same machinery and equipment, and using the same employees.

| Product-pair   | Comparison | Please provide a narrative discussion for the comparability ratings you provided in terms of their <i>manufacturing facilities, production processes, and production employees</i> : |
|--|------------|--|
| In-scope <u>wire mes</u> h vs<br>out-of-scope<br><u>engineered wire mesh</u> |            |  |

#### V-1. Comparability of certain in-scope and out-of-scope wire mesh products.--Continued

- 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
- 0: no familiarity with products.
- (e) <u>**Customer and producer perceptions**</u>.--Perceptions as to the differences and/or similarities in the market (*e.g.*, sales/marketing practices).

| Product-pair   | Comparison | Please provide a narrative discussion for the comparability ratings you provided in terms of their <i>customer and product perceptions</i> : |
|--|------------|--|
| In-scope <u>wire mes</u> h<br>vs out-of-scope<br><u>engineered wire</u><br><u>mesh</u> |            |  |

(f) <u>Price</u>.--Whether prices are comparable or differ between the products.

| Product-pair   | Comparison | Please provide a narrative discussion for the comparability ratings you provided in terms of their <i>price</i> : |
|--|------------|---|
| In-scope <u>wire mes</u> h<br>vs out-of-scope<br><u>engineered wire</u><br><u>mesh</u> |            |   |

#### PART VI.--ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

# VI-2. <u>OMB statistics</u>.--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: <u>https://usitc.gov/investigations/701731/2021/standard\_steel\_welded\_wire\_mesh\_mexi</u> <u>co/final.htm</u>.

**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.

• <u>Upload via Secure Drop Box</u>.—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: MESH

• E-mail.—E-mail the MS Word questionnaire to <u>Pamela.Davis@usitc.gov</u>; 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 <u>does not</u> 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.