

NEWS



SPECIALTY STEEL INDUSTRY OF NORTH AMERICA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SSINA Applauds Efforts to Strengthen U.S. Specialty Metals Industry

(Washington, DC) (October 28, 2004) – The U.S. specialty metals industry today praised recently published Department of Defense guidelines that will help maintain a viable domestic capability to produce titanium products.

The guidelines, issued on October 22, 2004 by the Under Secretary of Defense, require the Armed Services to notify Congress prior to any purchase of non-U.S. manufactured titanium products. In addition, in September 2004, the Bush Administration terminated a special tariff preference on titanium mill products for Russian imports. Removal of the preference helps restore competitive balance to the U.S. marketplace for titanium products.

“The new guidelines and special tariff termination are very important to the several thousand employees involved in titanium manufacturing in North and South Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Oregon, Washington and Nevada,” said Henry S. Ashbaugh, Chairman of the Superalloys Committee of the Specialty Steel Industry of North America (SSINA). “Both actions demonstrate the government’s appreciation of the importance of a strong U.S. metals industry to the defense sector. We particularly appreciate the efforts of Congressman Robin Hayes (R-8th NC) who took important steps to help develop a level playing field for U.S. producers of titanium. We hope that the steps taken by the Department of Defense will eventually extend to all specialty metals used for defense purposes.”

“Congressman Hayes, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, worked closely with the Chairman of that Committee, Duncan Hunter (R-52nd CA) to focus Congress’ attention on the importance of the specialty metals industry to national security,” explained Ashbaugh. “Both Chairman Hunter and Congressman Hayes recognize that a technologically advanced and reliable U.S. supplier base for specialty metals manufacturing is critical to virtually every military system, particularly for aerospace.”

SSINA is a Washington, DC-based trade association representing virtually all continental specialty steel and superalloy producers. Products produced by SSINA member companies include high technology, high value stainless and other specialty alloy products, including nickel and titanium-based alloys.

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