



SPECIALTY STEEL INDUSTRY OF NORTH AMERICA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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U.S. Stainless Producers Ask That India Be Added to President's Import Relief Program

(Washington, DC) (April 25, 2003) -- U.S. stainless steel bar, angle, rod and wire producers have called upon President Bush to add India to President Bush's temporary safeguards import relief program. Imports of stainless steel long products from India have surged since the March 5, 2002 announcement by the President that India would be excluded from the program. At that time, the President explained that if a surge in imports from excluded developing countries undermines the effectiveness of the safeguard measure, the program will be modified to apply to those products.

"The Indian government has thumbed its nose at the U.S.," said Paul A. Kelly, Chairman of the Specialty Steel Industry of North America (SSINA) and President and Chief Executive Officer of Slater Steel, Inc. "Last fall, Indian government representatives advised the Office of the United States Trade Representative that they were aware of the surge in exports of stainless steel long products, and that the surge would end beginning in January of this year."

"Regrettably, the Indian government and its steel producers have not lived up to their promises. Imports of Indian long products in January and February 2003 were triple the monthly average in 2001, and about 37 percent greater than 2002, a year in which imports surged dramatically. Imports of stainless steel angle alone were up by 635 percent over the 2001 monthly average. Ninety-nine percent of all stainless steel angle imports in February were from India," Mr. Kelly added.

Commerce Department data on requests for import licenses by Indian producers in February and March remained at extraordinarily high levels. (See attached table illustrating the dramatic growth in Indian imports.)

“The U.S. domestic industry has been patient for months since we first advised U.S. Trade Representative Zoellick and Department of Commerce Secretary Evans of our concerns on July 30, 2002, and again on September 30, November 19 and March 18, 2003. The U.S. government should not accept such deceit by an important trading partner. Indian stainless steel long products should be brought under the safeguard program immediately,” Mr. Kelly added.

The producers are members of the Specialty Steel Industry of North America. SSINA is a Washington, DC-based trade association representing virtually all continental specialty steel producers. Specialty steels are high technology, high value stainless and other specialty alloy products. While shipments of specialty steel account for only 2% of all steel shipped, annual revenues of approximately \$8 billion account for 14% of the total value of all steel shipped.

David A. Hartquist, an international trade attorney with the Washington, DC law firm Collier Shannon Scott, PLLC, serves as lead counsel to SSINA.

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U.S. Imports of Stainless Steel Long Products from India				
In short tons				
	Monthly Average 2001	Monthly Average 2002	Monthly Average Jan - Feb 03	Percent Change 2001-2003
Bar	386	883	1,120	190%
Angle	126	646	929	635%
Subtotal	512	1,529	2,049	300%
Rod	250	366	394	58%
Wire	304	469	788	159%
Subtotal	554	835	1,182	113%
Total	1,066	2,364	3,231	203%

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce

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