

from respondents The Wire Works, Inc., and Electrodes, Inc.

The proposed consent order has been placed on the public record for sixty (60) days for reception of comments by interested persons. Comments received during this period will become part of the public record. After sixty (60) days, the Commission will again review the agreement and the comments received and will decide whether it should withdraw from the agreement and take other appropriate action or make final the agreement's proposed order.

This matter concerns advertising, labeling, and promotional practices related to the sale of brass electrical discharge machining ("EDM") wire electrodes. Wire EDM is a metal removal technique that is used to cut metal parts. The Commission's complaint charges that respondents misrepresented that certain of its EDM wire electrodes were all or virtually all made in the United States when, in truth and in fact, a substantial portion of their content was of foreign origin.

The proposed consent order contains a provision that is designed to remedy the charges and to prevent the respondents from engaging in similar acts and practices in the future. Part I of the proposed order prohibits the respondents from misrepresenting the extent to which their EDM wire electrodes are made in the United States. The proposed order would allow respondents to represent that such EDM wire electrodes are made in the United States as long as all, or virtually all, of the components of the EDM wire electrodes are of U.S. origin and all, or virtually all, of the labor in manufacturing them is performed in the United States. It also would allow respondents to make a representation regarding the U.S. origin or U.S. content of their EDM wire electrodes product as permitted in future regulations, guides, or enforcement policy statements promulgated by the Commission. The proposed order further would allow respondents to describe the specific processing that is performed on the product in the United States, e.g., that the product is "Drawn in the U.S.A.," "Annealed in U.S.A.," "Coldworked in U.S.A.," or "Strengthened in U.S.A.," so long as the claim is truthful and substantiated. If the product is not last substantially transformed in the United States, the proposed order would require the respondents to comply with regulations and rulings issued by the U.S. Customs Service under section 304 of the Tariff Act, 19 U.S.C. 1304.

Part II of the proposed order requires the respondents to maintain materials relied upon in disseminating any

representation covered by the order. Part III of the proposed order requires the respondents to distribute copies of the order to certain company officials and employees. Part IV of the proposed order requires the respondents to notify the Commission of any change in the corporations that may affect compliance obligations under the order. Part V of the proposed order requires the respondents to file one or more compliance reports. Part VI of the proposed order is a provision whereby the order, absent certain circumstances, terminates twenty years from the date of issuance.

The purpose of this analysis is to facilitate public comment on the proposed consent order. It is not intended to constitute an official interpretation of the agreement and proposed order or to modify in any way their terms.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-25419 Filed 9-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750-01-M

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Report of the "Tar," Nicotine, and Carbon Monoxide of the Smoke of 1262 Varieties of Domestic Cigarettes for the Year 1996 and Report of the "Tar," Nicotine, and Carbon Monoxide of the Smoke of 1252 Varieties of Domestic Cigarettes for the Year 1997

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Federal Trade Commission publishes the "Report of the 'Tar,' Nicotine, and Carbon Monoxide of the Smoke of 1262 Varieties of Domestic Cigarettes for the Year 1996" and the "Report of the 'Tar,' Nicotine, and Carbon Monoxide of the Smoke of 1252 Varieties of Domestic Cigarettes for the Year 1997."

DATES: September 30, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the reports are available from the FTC's World Wide Web site at: <http://www.ftc.gov> and from the FTC's Public Reference Branch, Room 130, 600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20580. Telephone (202) 326-3128.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Ostheimer, Staff Attorney Federal Trade Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection, 600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20580. Telephone (202) 326-2699.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: These reports contain data on the "tar," nicotine and carbon monoxide yields of

1262 varieties of cigarettes manufactured and sold in the United States in 1996, and of 1252 varieties sold in 1997. The Tobacco Institute Testing Laboratory (TITL), a private laboratory operated by the cigarette industry, conducted the "tar," nicotine, and carbon monoxide testing for the widely-available domestic cigarette varieties. This testing was conducted under the review of a representative of the FTC through periodic unannounced inspections. TITL provided the results to the respective cigarette companies, which then provided the data generated by TITL regarding their own brands to the Commission in response to compulsory process. Cigarette smoke from generic, private label, and not-widely-available cigarettes was not tested by TITL, but was tested by the cigarette companies and the test results were provided to the FTC in response to compulsory process.

In response to concerns that have been raised regarding the accuracy and utility of the testing method currently used to determine the "tar," nicotine, and carbon monoxide ratings of cigarettes, the Commission in 1998 requested the assistance of the Department of Health and Human Services in reviewing the scientific and public health questions surrounding the test method and, if appropriate, determining how the test method should be changed. In its July 1999 "Report to Congress for 1997, Pursuant to the Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act," the Commission recommended that Congress consider giving authority over cigarette testing to one of the Federal government's science-based, public health agencies.

By direction of the Commission.

Donald S. Clark,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-25417 Filed 9-29-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6750-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Office of Inspector General

Publication of the OIG Special Advisory Bulletin on the Effect of Exclusion From Participation in Federal Health Care Programs

AGENCY: Office of Inspector General (OIG), HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In its role of identifying and eliminating fraud, waste and abuse in the Department's health care programs, the OIG periodically develops and