North American Steel Trade Committee (NASTC)

Best practices drawn from NASTC Import Licensing Summit held April 4, 2008

Highlights of Systems in Place

	Steel Licensing Program	Monitoring system	HTS digits
Canada	Yes, applies to steel and other products	Yes, using aggregate data collected from the licenses	Up to 10
U.S.	Yes, applies only to steel mill products	Yes, in time series, combining data collected from the licenses and public Census releases	Up to 6 (in monitor)
Mexico	Not at this time	Yes, using publicly available trade data	Up to 10

➢ **Focus on smart automation of the data collection process and sharing of the information to include:**
   - Expert view/templates
   - Continued emphasis on security and the confidential nature of the license data

➢ **Emphasize clear reporting of the early import statistics**
   - Incorporation of public statistics with early warning (for example, U.S. Census data has now become available earlier than in the past).
   - Built-in automated quality checks reviewed by trained analysts

Expert View

The Canadian system allows high volume users to access an "expert view" and to use Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) to apply for multiple licenses simultaneously. This feature helps to significantly reduce the amount of data entry that frequent importers are required to complete.

➢ **Coordination of requirements**
   - Exemptions: Both the U.S. and Canada have low-value exemptions but vary in dollar amounts.
   - Timing of requirement: entry vs. accounting. U.S. requires license at the time of accounting/entry summary, while Canada requires license at the time of release.

Public Data Availability

A very popular feature of the U.S. Steel Import Monitor is the readily available data in a time series format. The monitor publishes both monthly and annual data by country and 6-digit HTS code.

➢ **Customer service/Ease of use**
   - Applicants: automated systems allow for easier interface, application processing, and user updates. Web-based systems provide users with prompt applications.
   - Monitor: U.S. monitor provides extensive data that can be tailored to viewers' needs in table and graphic forms. The monitor provides up-to-date (nearly real time) data for licenses and official statistics.

➢ **Continued coordination with Customs enforcement authorities toward streamlined processes**

Low-value, Multi-use Licenses

The U.S. and Canada have significantly different requirements for applicants of low-value, multiple-use licenses. Currently the U.S. grants the low-value license for multiple shipments valued at under $250, while the Canadian low-value license applies to shipments under C$5000.

Action items on which to coordinate:
   - Standardizing the time of requirement to the time of accounting
   - The use of an Electronic Data Interchange to assist users with multiple license entries
   - Additional coordination on low-value, multi-use licenses