

PUBLIC RECORD**Vietnam's CSVC monitoring imports of China CRC, HDG**

Date:Oct 08, 2015

Country:Vietnam

China Steel Sumikin Vietnam Joint Stock Co (CSVJ), operator of a 1.2 million metric tons/year cold rolling mill in Vung Tau in southern Vietnam, is closely watching imports of flat steel products from China for the impact these might have on its own business. "We have been feeling great pressure from cheaper Chinese imports into Vietnam since the beginning of 2015, and we've been obliged to match the prices to secure customers," a company official said Wednesday.

So CSVJ has begun collecting import data for China-origin pickled and oiled coil, cold rolled coil and hot-dip galvanized to determine whether it might have grounds for pursuing an antidumping claim, he added. CSVJ produces electrical steel coils as well. The official admitted, though, that filing a case against Chinese imports may be hard as CSVJ is a relative newcomer to Vietnam's steel industry having operated for only just over one year.

China Steel Corp, Taiwan's largest steel mill, holds a 56% stake in CSVJ and has been supplying the venture with hot rolled coil feedstock from its Kaohsiung works in southern Taiwan. In the future, CSVJ will be sourcing HRC feeds from Formosa Ha Tinh Steel in central-northern Vietnam's Ha Tinh province, after the latter commences trial production at its 3.5 million mt/year hot strip mill expected this month.

During January-April Vietnam was the largest recipient of China-origin steel imports among the six ASEAN countries, figures from the South East Asia Iron & Steel Institute showed. Vietnam took 2.7 million mt of the total 9.4 million mt steel that China shipped to the region over the period. No breakdown by product was available.

An official from Formosa Ha Tinh Steel, however, showed little concern about the challenge from China-origin HRC, explaining that his mill had already signed “a number of pre-sales agreements with our customers”, implying that its HRC business was secure for now.

Source: Platts