SECTION E - FAIR COMPARISON

Section B sought information about the export prices to Australia and Section D sought information about prices on your domestic market for like goods (i.e. the normal value).

Where the normal value and the export price are not comparable adjustments may be made. This section informs you of the fair comparison principle and asks you to quantify the amount of any adjustment.

As prices are being compared, the purpose of the adjustments is to eliminate factors that have unequally modified the prices to be compared.

To be able to quantify the level of any adjustment it will usually be necessary to examine cost differences between sales in different markets. The Commission must be satisfied that those costs are likely to have influenced price. In practice, this means that the expense item for which an adjustment is claimed should have a close nexus to the sale. For example, the cost is incurred because of the sale, or because the cost is related to the sale terms and conditions.

Conversely, where there is not a direct relationship between the expense item and the sale a greater burden is placed upon the claimant to demonstrate that prices have been affected, or are likely to have been affected, by the expense item. In the absence of such evidence the Commission may disallow the adjustment.

Where possible, the adjustment should be based upon actual costs incurred when making the relevant sales. However, if such specific expense information is unavailable, cost allocations may be considered. In this case, the party making the adjustment claim must demonstrate that the allocation method reasonably estimates costs incurred.

A party seeking an adjustment has the obligation to substantiate the claim by relevant evidence that would allow a full analysis of the circumstances, and the accounting data, relating to the claim.

The investigation must be completed within strict time limits therefore you must supply information concerning claims for adjustments in a timely manner. Where an exporter has knowledge of the material substantiating an adjustment claim, that material is to be available at the time of the verification visit. The Commission will not consider new claims made after the verification visit.

E-1 COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH EXPORT SALES

These cost adjustments will relate to your responses made at Section B-4, '**Australian Sales**'.

1. Transportation

Explain how you have quantified the amount of inland transportation associated with the export sale ('**inland transportation costs**'). Identify the general ledger account where the expense is located. If the amount has been determined from contractual arrangements, not from an account item, provide details and evidence of payment.

Ans :- In Exports - Inland transportation freight included in to our **(CONFIDENTIAL TEXT DELETED – PRICE INFORMATION)** and Information of the same entered in to our books of accounts.

2. Handling, loading and ancillary expenses

List all charges that are included in the export price and explain how they have been quantified ('**handling, loading and ancillary expenses**'). Identify the general ledger account where the expenses are located. If the amounts have been determined using actual observations, not from a relevant account item, provide details.

The various export related ancillary costs are identified in the table at Section B-4, for example:

- terminal handling;
- wharfage and other port charges;
- container taxes;
- document fees and customs brokers fees;
- clearance fees;
- bank charges, letter of credit fees; and
- other ancillary charges.

Ans :- The above charges quantified against actual bills received against each line item and this Expenses located in to our book of accounts.

3. Credit

The cost of extending credit on export sales is not included in the amounts quantified at Section B-4. However, the Commission will examine whether a credit adjustment is warranted and determine the amount. Provide applicable interest rates over each month of the investigation period. Explain the nature of the interest rates most applicable to these export sales,e.g. short term borrowing in the currency concerned.

If your accounts receivable shows that the average number of collection days differs from the payment terms shown in the sales listing, *andif* export prices are influenced by this longer or shorter period, calculate the average number of collection days. See also item 4 in Section E-2 below.

Ans :-In Exports **(CONFIDENTIAL TEXT DELETED – CONTRACT / PRICE INFORMATION)**agreed term in contract.

4. Packing costs

List material and labour costs associated with packing the export product. Describe how the packing method differs from sales on the domestic market, for each model. Report the amount in the listing in the column headed '**packing**'.

Ans :- Export packing cost consist of **(CONFIDENTIAL TEXT DELETED – MATERIAL /PACKING COST DETAIL)**

5. Commissions

For any commissions paid in relation to the export sales to Australia:

- provide a description; and
- explain the terms and conditions that must be met.

Report the amount in the sales listing in Section B-4 under the column headed '**commissions'.** Identify the general ledger account where the expense is located.

Ans :- Not Applicable because **(CONFIDENTIAL TEXT DELETED – PRICING INFORMATION)**.

6. Warranties, guarantees, and after sales services

List the costs incurred. Show relevant sales contracts. Show how you calculated the expenses (‘**warranty and guarantee expenses**’ and ‘**technical assistance and other services**’), including the basis of any allocations. Include a record of expenses incurred. Technical services include costs for the service, repair or consultation. Where these expenses are closely related to the sales in question, an adjustment will be considered. Identify the ledger account where the expense is located.

Ans :- Not Applicable.

7. Other factors

There may be other factors for which an adjustment is required if the costs affect price comparability – these are identified in the column headed ‘**other factors**’. For example, other variable or fixed selling expenses, including salesmen’s salaries, salesmen’s travel expenses, advertising and promotion, samples and entertainment expenses. Your consideration of questions asked at Section G, concerning domestic and export costs, would have alerted you to such other factors.

Ans :- Not Applicable in case of ISC.

8. Currency conversions

In comparing export and domestic prices a currency conversion is required. Fluctuations in exchange rates can only be taken into account when there has been a ‘sustained’ movement during the period of investigation (see Article 2.4.1 of the WTO Agreement). The purpose is to allow exporters 60 days to adjust export prices to reflect ‘sustained’ movements. Such a claim requires detailed information on exchange movements in your country over a long period that includes the investigation period.

Ans :- In present situation above is not applicable on us.

E-2 COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH DOMESTIC SALES

These cost adjustments will relate to your responses made at Section D-4, '**domestic sales**'.

The following items are not separately identified in the amounts quantified at Section D-4. However you should consider whether any are applicable.

1. Physical characteristics

The adjustment recognises that differences such as quality, chemical composition, structure or design mean that goods are not identical and the differences can be quantified in order to ensure fair comparison.

The amount of the adjustment shall be based upon the market value of the difference, but where this is not possible the adjustment shall be based upon the difference in cost plus the gross profit mark-up (i.e. an amount for selling general and administrative (SG&A) costs, plus profit).

The adjustment is based upon actual physical differences in the goods being compared and upon the manufacturing cost data. Identify the physical differences between each model. State the source of your data.

2. Import charges and indirect taxes

If exports to Australia:

- are partially or fully exempt from internal taxes and duties that are borne by the like goods in domestic sales (or on the materials and components physically incorporated in the goods); or
- if such internal taxes and duties have been paid and are later remitted upon exportation to Australia,

then the price of like goods must be adjusted downwards by the amount of the taxes and duties.

The taxes and duties include sales, excise, turnover, value added, franchise, stamp, transfer, border and excise taxes. Direct taxes such as corporate income tax are not included as such taxes do not apply to the transactions.

Adjustment for drawback is not made in every situation where drawback has been received. Where an adjustment for drawback is appropriate you must provide information showing **the import duty borne by the domestic sales**. That is, it is not sufficient to show the drawback amount and the export sales quantity to Australia. For example, you may calculate the duty borne on domestic sales by quantifying the total amount of import duty paid and subtracting the duty refunded on exports to all countries. The difference, when divided by the domestic sales volume, is the amount of the adjustment.

In substantiating the drawback claim the following information is required:

- a copy of the relevant statutes/regulations authorising duty exemption or remission, translated into English;
- the amount of the duties and taxes refunded upon exportation and an explanation how the amounts were calculated and apportioned to the exported goods;
- an explanation as to how you calculated the amount of duty payable on imported materials is borne by the goods sold domestically but is not borne by the exports to Australia.

Substitution drawback systems

Annex 3 of the WTO *Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures* provides:

> '[d]rawback systems can allow for the refund or drawback of import duties on inputs which are consumed in the production process of another product and where the export of this latter product contains domestic inputs having the same quality and characteristics as those substituted for the imported inputs'.

If such a scheme operates in the country of export adjustments can also be made for the drawback payable on the substituted domestic materials, provided the total amount of the drawback does not exceed the total duty paid.

3. <u>Level of trade</u>

Section D-4 asks you to indicate the level of trade to the domestic customer. To claim an adjustment for level of trade differences you will need to quantify the amount by which level of trade influences price.

Trade level is the level a company occupies in the distribution chain. The trade level to which that company in turn sells the goods and the functions carried out distinguish a level of trade. Examples are producer, national distributor, regional distributor, wholesaler, retailer, end user and original equipment manufacturer.

It may not be possible to compare export prices and domestic prices at the same level of trade. Where relevant sales of like goods at the next level of trade must be used to determine normal values, an adjustment for the difference in level of trade may be required where it is shown that the difference affects price comparability.

The information needs to establish that there are real trade level differences, not merely nominal differences. Real trade level differences are characterised by a consistent pattern of price differences between the levels and by a difference in functions performed. If there is no real trade level differences all sales are treated as being at the same level of trade.

A real difference in level of trade may be adjusted for using either of the following methods:

a) *costs arising from different functions*
The amount of the costs, expenses etc incurred by the seller in domestic sales of the like goods resulting from activities that would not be performed were the domestic sales made at the same level as that of the importer.

This requires the following information:

- a detailed description of each sales activity performed in selling to your domestic customers (for example: sales personnel, travel, advertising, entertainment etc);
- the cost of carrying out these activities in respect of like goods;
- for each activity, whether your firm carries out the same activity when selling to importers in Australia;
- an explanation as to why you consider that you are entitled to a level of trade adjustment; or

b) *level discount*

The amount of the discount granted to purchasers who are at the same level of trade as the importer in Australia. This is determined by an examination of price differences between the two levels of trade in the exporter's domestic market, for example sales of like goods by other vendors or sales of the same general category of goods by the exporter.

For this method to be used it is important that **a clear pattern** of pricing be established for the differing trade levels. Such pattern is demonstrated by a general availability of the discounts to the level - isolated instances would not establish a pattern of availability.

4. <u>Credit</u>

The cost of extending credit on domestic sales is not included in the amounts quantified at Section D-4. However, the Commission will examine whether a credit adjustment is warranted and determine the amount. An adjustment for credit is to be made even if funds are not borrowed to finance the accounts receivable.

The interest rate on domestic sales in order of preference is:

- the rate, or average of rates, applying on actual short term borrowings by the company; or
- the prime interest rate prevailing for commercial loans in the country for credit terms that most closely approximate the credit terms on which the sales were made; or
- such other rate considered appropriate in the circumstances.

Provide the applicable interest rate over **each month** of the investigation period.

If your accounts receivable shows that the average number of collection days differs from the payment terms shown in the sales listing, and if domestic prices are influenced by this longer or shorter period, calculate the average number of collection days.

Where there is no fixed credit period agreed at the time of sale the period of credit is determined on the facts available. For example, where payment is made using an open account system,[1] the average credit period may be determined as follows:

a) *Calculate an accounts receivable turnover ratio*

This ratio equals the total credit sales divided by average accounts receivable.It is a measure of how many times the average receivables balance is converted into cash during the year.

In calculating the accounts receivable turnover ratio, credit sales should be used in the numerator whenever the amount is available from the financial statements. Otherwise, net sales revenue may be used in the numerator.

An average accounts receivable over the year is used in the denominator. This may be calculated by:

- using opening accounts receivable at beginning of period plus closing accounts receivable at end of period divided by two; or
- total monthly receivables divided by 12.

b) *Calculate the average credit period*

The average credit period equals 365 divided by the accounts receivable turnover ratio determined above at point a).

---

[1] Under an open account system, following payment the balance of the amount owing is carried into the next period. Payment amounts may vary from one period to the next, with the result that the amount owing varies.

The resulting average credit period should be tested against randomly selected transactions to support the approximation.

The following items are identified in the amounts quantified at Section D-4:

5. <u>Transportation</u>

Explain how you have quantified the amount of inland transportation associated with the domestic sales ('**inland transportation costs**'). Identify the general ledger account where the expense is located. If the amount has been determined from contractual arrangements, not from an account item, provide details and evidence of payment.

6. <u>Handling, loading and ancillary expenses</u>

List all charges that are included in the domestic price and explain how they have been quantified ('**handling, loading and ancillary expenses**'). Identify the general ledger account where the expense is located. If the amounts have been determined using actual observations, not from a relevant account item, provide details.

7. <u>Packing</u>

List material and labour costs associated with packing the domestically sold product. Describe how the packing method differs from sales on the domestic market, for each model. Report the amount in the listing in the column headed '**packing**'.

8. <u>Commissions</u>

For any commissions paid in relation to the domestic sales:

- provide a description; and
- explain the terms and conditions that must be met.

Report the amount in the sales listing under the column headed '**commissions**'. Identify the general ledger account where the expense is located.

9. <u>Warranties, guarantees and after sales services</u>

List the costs incurred. Show relevant sales contracts. Show how you calculated the expenses ('**Warranty and guarantee expenses**' and '**technical assistance and other services**'), including the basis of any allocations. Include a record of expenses incurred. Technical services include costs for the service, repair or consultation. Where these expenses are closely related to the sales in question, an adjustment will be considered. Identify the ledger account where the expense is located.

10. <u>Other factors</u>

There may be other factors for which an adjustment is required if the costs affect price comparability – these are identified in the column headed '**other factors**'. List the factors and show how each has been quantified in per unit terms. For example:

- inventory carrying cost – describe how the products are stored prior to sale and show data relating to the average length of time in inventory. Indicate the interest rate used;
- warehousing expense – an expense incurred at the distribution point;
- royalty and patent fees – describe each payment as a result of production or sale, including the key terms of the agreement;
- advertising; and
- bad debt.

E-3 DUPLICATION

In calculating the amount of the adjustments you must ensure that there is no duplication.

For example:
- adjustments for level of trade, quantity or other discounts may overlap, or
- calculation of the amount of the difference for level of trade may be based upon selling expenses such as salesperson's salaries, promotion expenses, commissions, and travel expenses.

Separate adjustment items must avoid duplication.

An adjustment for quantities may not be granted unless the effect on prices for quantity differences is identified and separated from the effect on prices for level of trade differences.