

to the Bradford Hill criteria, the Science Team also considered the limitations of the evaluated evidence and whether the

evidence represents the 9/11-exposed population.
The Science Team discussed its evaluation in full in the Scientific

Evaluation, and summarized its findings in table 5, which is reproduced here:

Aspect of associative causal inference (“Bradford Hill Criteria”) [Hill 1965]	Evaluation findings
Strength of association (and estimate precision).	Among six high-quality studies identified for evaluation, none examined ALS risk separately in 9/11-exposed populations [Colbeth et al. 2020, 2023; Jordan et al. 2011; Jordan et al. 2018; Li et al. 2023; Singh et al. 2023; Stein et al. 2016]. Among the six studies, only one reported a statistically significant positive association of indicating modest excess of mortality from nervous system disorders, including ALS, among WTC Health Registry community members [Jordan et al. 2018]. The authors attributed the observed excess to Alzheimer’s disease, not ALS. The finding strongly depended on the choice of control group, indicating a potential for strong selection bias. The use of composite outcomes, external reference groups, and lack of exposure information are important study limitations common to all studies evaluated.
Consistency	All but the study by Jordan et al. [2018] reported less than expected deaths from nervous disorders when using an external reference population. Results supporting a causal association between 9/11 exposure and composite outcomes of neurologic diseases including ALS were not reproduced in different 9/11-exposed populations (e.g., firefighters, general responders, and community members). The lack of reproducible results is a strong limitation of causal inference.
Temporality	9/11 exposure was presumed to precede ALS onset because all studies were longitudinal and began observation on or after 9/11. However, no studies specifically examined temporal variations in risk.
Biological gradient	One study examined the exposure-response between categories of 9/11 exposure and mortality from a composite of other nervous system disorders (including ALS) in community members [Jordan et al. 2018]. That study found no evidence of increasing risk with 9/11 exposure.
Plausibility, Coherence, and Analogy.	There are no established environmental factors that are causal for ALS; therefore, no 9/11 agent has been identified as a contributing cause. However, the literature supports a general conclusion that a causal association between a 9/11 agent (e.g., metals, silica, formaldehyde) and ALS is plausible, although unproven. The assumption that the risk observed in a composite outcome is analogous to ALS risk is unsubstantiated, which is an important study limitation.
Representativeness	There was representation of all groups of 9/11-exposed populations.

Upon review of the evidence available in peer-reviewed, published, epidemiological studies regarding ALS among 9/11-exposed populations, the Science Team has assessed the degree to which the evidence supports a causal association between 9/11 exposures and ALS and has determined that the available evidence is inadequate to determine the likelihood of a causal association ³⁹ between 9/11 exposures and ALS (Category 5). The Science Team’s evaluation and categorization of the evidence has been provided to the Administrator.

E. Administrator’s Final Decision on Whether To Propose the Addition of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis to the List

Based on the Scientific Evaluation and the Science Team’s finding that there is inadequate evidence to determine whether a causal association exists between 9/11 exposures and ALS, the Administrator has determined that there is insufficient evidence of causal association between 9/11 exposures and

ALS to propose adding the condition to the List.⁴⁰ Pursuant to PHS Act, sec. 3312(a)(6)(B)(iv) and 42 CFR 88.16(a)(2)(iv), and in accordance with Sec. IX.B. of the *Policy and Procedures*, the Administrator is publishing this notice of his determination of insufficient evidence.

For the reasons discussed above, the request of Petitions 031, 036, 039, and 053 to add ALS to the List of WTC-Related Health Conditions is denied.

F. Approval To Submit Document to the Office of the Federal Register

The Secretary, HHS, or his designee, the Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Administrator, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), authorized the undersigned, the Administrator of the WTC Health Program, to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication as an official document of the WTC Health Program. Mandy Cohen M.D., M.P.H., Director, CDC, and Administrator, ATSDR,

approved this document for publication on January 6, 2025.

John J. Howard,
Administrator, World Trade Center Health Program and Director, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services.

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation Nos. 701–TA–754 and 731–TA–1732 (Preliminary)]

Temporary Steel Fencing From China; Institution of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Investigations and Scheduling of Preliminary Phase Investigations

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission.
ACTION: Notice.

evidence on the suspected causal association with that from an established association between similar (analogous) causes or effects.

³⁹ See *Policy and Procedures supra* note 5 at Sec. V.E.—Evidence is Inadequate to Determine a Causal Association.

⁴⁰ See *Policy and Procedures supra* note 5 at Sec. VIII.B, proposed additions to the List are made pursuant to PHS Act, sec. 3312(a)(6)(B)(ii) and 42 CFR 88.16(a)(2)(ii). The Administrator has also determined that insufficient evidence is available to publish a determination not to publish a proposed

rule in the **Federal Register** (pursuant to PHS Act, sec. 3312(a)(6)(B)(iii) and 42 CFR 88.16(a)(2)(iii)); nor is requesting a recommendation from the STAC (pursuant to PHS Act, sec. 3312(a)(6)(B)(i) and 42 CFR 88.16(a)(2)(i)) warranted.

SUMMARY: The Commission hereby gives notice of the institution of investigations and commencement of preliminary phase antidumping and countervailing duty investigation Nos. 701–TA–754 and 731–TA–1732 (Preliminary) pursuant to the Tariff Act of 1930 (“the Act”) to determine whether there is a reasonable indication that an industry in the United States is materially injured or threatened with material injury, or the establishment of an industry in the United States is materially retarded, by reason of imports of temporary steel fencing from China, provided for in subheading 7308.90.95 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, that are alleged to be sold in the United States at less than fair value and alleged to be subsidized by the Government of China. Unless the Department of Commerce (“Commerce”) extends the time for initiation, the Commission must reach a preliminary determination in antidumping and countervailing duty investigations in 45 days, or in this case by March 3, 2025. The Commission’s views must be transmitted to Commerce within five business days thereafter, or by March 10, 2025.

DATES: January 15, 2025.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kristina Lara ((202) 205–3386), Office of Investigations, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20436. Hearing-impaired persons can obtain information on this matter by contacting the Commission’s TDD terminal on 202–205–1810. Persons with mobility impairments who will need special assistance in gaining access to the Commission should contact the Office of the Secretary at 202–205–2000. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its internet server (<https://www.usitc.gov>). The public record for these investigations may be viewed on the Commission’s electronic docket (EDIS) at <https://edis.usitc.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background.—These investigations are being instituted, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 733(a) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1671b(a) and 1673b(a)), in response to petitions filed on January 15, 2025, by ZND US Inc, Statesville, North Carolina.

For further information concerning the conduct of these investigations and rules of general application, consult the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, part 201, subparts A and B (19 CFR part 201), and part 207, subparts A and B (19 CFR part 207).

Participation in the investigations and public service list.—Persons (other than petitioners) wishing to participate in the investigations as parties must file an entry of appearance with the Secretary to the Commission, as provided in §§ 201.11 and 207.10 of the Commission’s rules, not later than seven days after publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. Industrial users and (if the merchandise under investigation is sold at the retail level) representative consumer organizations have the right to appear as parties in Commission antidumping duty and countervailing duty investigations. The Secretary will prepare a public service list containing the names and addresses of all persons, or their representatives, who are parties to these investigations upon the expiration of the period for filing entries of appearance.

Limited disclosure of business proprietary information (BPI) under an administrative protective order (APO) and BPI service list.—Pursuant to § 207.7(a) of the Commission’s rules, the Secretary will make BPI gathered in these investigations available to authorized applicants representing interested parties (as defined in 19 U.S.C. 1677(9)) who are parties to the investigations under the APO issued in the investigations, provided that the application is made not later than seven days after the publication of this notice in the **Federal Register**. A separate service list will be maintained by the Secretary for those parties authorized to receive BPI under the APO.

Conference.—The Office of Investigations will hold a staff conference in connection with the preliminary phase of these investigations beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 5, 2025. Requests to appear at the conference should be emailed to preliminaryconferences@usitc.gov (DO NOT FILE ON EDIS) by no later than noon (12 p.m.) on Monday, February 3, 2025. Please provide an email address for each conference participant in the email. Information on conference procedures, format, and participation, including guidance for requests to appear as a witness via videoconference, will be available on the Commission’s Public Calendar (Calendar (USITC) | United States International Trade Commission). A nonparty who has testimony that may aid the Commission’s deliberations may request permission to participate by submitting a short statement.

Please note the Secretary’s Office will accept only electronic filings during this time. Filings must be made through the Commission’s Electronic Document Information System (EDIS, <https://edis.usitc.gov>).

No in-person paper-based filings or paper copies of any electronic filings will be accepted until further notice.

Written submissions.—As provided in §§ 201.8 and 207.15 of the Commission’s rules, any person may submit to the Commission on or before 5:15 p.m. on February 10, 2025, a written brief containing information and arguments pertinent to the subject matter of the investigations. Parties shall file written testimony and supplementary material in connection with their presentation at the conference no later than 4:00 p.m. on February 4, 2025. All written submissions must conform with the provisions of § 201.8 of the Commission’s rules; any submissions that contain BPI must also conform with the requirements of §§ 201.6, 207.3, and 207.7 of the Commission’s rules. The Commission’s *Handbook on Filing Procedures*, available on the Commission’s website at https://www.usitc.gov/documents/handbook_on_filing_procedures.pdf, elaborates upon the Commission’s procedures with respect to filings.

In accordance with §§ 201.16(c) and 207.3 of the rules, each document filed by a party to the investigations must be served on all other parties to the investigations (as identified by either the public or BPI service list), and a certificate of service must be timely filed. The Secretary will not accept a document for filing without a certificate of service.

Certification.—Pursuant to § 207.3 of the Commission’s rules, any person submitting information to the Commission in connection with these investigations must certify that the information is accurate and complete to the best of the submitter’s knowledge. In making the certification, the submitter will acknowledge that any information that it submits to the Commission during these investigations may be disclosed to and used: (i) by the Commission, its employees and Offices, and contract personnel (a) for developing or maintaining the records of these or related investigations or reviews, or (b) in internal investigations, audits, reviews, and evaluations relating to the programs, personnel, and operations of the Commission including under 5 U.S.C. appendix 3; or (ii) by U.S. Government employees and contract personnel, solely for cybersecurity purposes. All contract personnel will sign appropriate nondisclosure agreements.

Authority: These investigations are being conducted under authority of title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930; this notice

is published pursuant to § 207.12 of the Commission's rules.

By order of the Commission.

Issued: January 15, 2025.

Lisa Barton,

Secretary to the Commission.

[FR Doc. 2025-01434 Filed 1-21-25; 8:45 am]

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 337-TA-1431]

Certain Nanolaminate Alloy Coated Metal Parts and Products Containing Same; Notice of Institution of Investigation

AGENCY: U.S. International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that a complaint was filed with the U.S. International Trade Commission on November 19, 2024, under section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, on behalf of Modumetal, Inc. of Snohomish, Washington. A letter supplementing the complaint was filed on December 4, 2024. The complaint, as supplemented, alleges violations of section 337 based upon the importation into the United States, the sale for importation, and the sale within the United States after importation of certain nanolaminate alloy coated metal parts, components thereof, and products containing the same by reason of the infringement of certain claims of U.S. Patent No. 10,253,419 ("the '419 patent") and U.S. Patent No. 11,242,613 ("the '613 patent"). The complaint further alleges that an industry in the United States exists as required by the applicable Federal Statute. The complainant requests that the Commission institute an investigation and, after the investigation, issue a limited exclusion order and cease and desist orders.

ADDRESSES: The complaint, except for any confidential information contained therein, may be viewed on the Commission's electronic docket (EDIS) at <https://edis.usitc.gov>. For help accessing EDIS, please email EDIS3Help@usitc.gov. Hearing impaired individuals are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal on (202) 205-1810. Persons with mobility impairments who will need special assistance in gaining access to the Commission should contact the Office of the Secretary at (202) 205-2000. General information concerning

the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its internet server at <https://www.usitc.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Orndoff, The Office of Docket Services, U.S. International Trade Commission, telephone (202) 205-1802.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: The authority for institution of this investigation is contained in section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, 19 U.S.C. 1337, and in section 210.10 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 19 CFR 210.10 (2024).

Scope of Investigation: Having considered the complaint, the U.S. International Trade Commission, on January 15, 2025, *ordered that—*

(1) Pursuant to subsection (b) of section 337 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, an investigation be instituted to determine whether there is a violation of subsection (a)(1)(B) of section 337 in the importation into the United States, the sale for importation, or the sale within the United States after importation of certain products identified in paragraph (2) by reason of infringement of one or more of claims 1-3, 5, and 7 of the '419 patent and claims 1-3 and 5 of the '613 patent, and whether an industry in the United States exists as required by subsection (a)(2) of section 337;

(2) Pursuant to section 210.10(b)(1) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 19 CFR 210.10(b)(1), the plain language description of the accused products or category of accused products, which defines the scope of the investigation, is "metal parts coated with Parker Hannifin's ToughShield® Plus coating as well as bundles containing one or more parts with ToughShield® Plus coating";^{1 2 3}

¹ The Commission is not making a decision on the merits at this stage. Rather, the Commission has only assessed whether the complainant has satisfied the pleading requirements for purposes of institution. To that end, the scope of this investigation includes only those articles as to which the complaint states factual allegations of an alleged violation of section 337 as required by the statute and Commission regulations. The complaint as supplemented fails to contain any factual allegation that metal parts are being imported into the United States for domestic ToughShield Plus finishing in violation of section 337. For this reason, the Commission has determined to modify the plain language description of the accused products proposed by the complainant by deleting the phrase "components that are metal parts imported into the United States for domestic ToughShield® Plus finishing." The complainant may move to amend the complaint and NOI to add components, including metal parts imported for finishing, to the scope of the investigation if complainant makes factual allegations in support thereof for example based on information received in discovery. Further, there is no requirement that "components thereof" must appear in the case

(3) For the purpose of the investigation so instituted, the following are hereby named as parties upon which this notice of investigation shall be served:

(a) The complainant is: Modumetal, Inc., 20124 Broadway Ave., Building A, Snohomish, WA 98296

(b) The respondents are the following entities alleged to be in violation of section 337, and are the parties upon which the complaint is to be served: Parker Hannifin Corporation, 6035 Parkland Boulevard, Cleveland, OH 44124

Lu Chu Shin Yee Works Co., Ltd., 46, Shin Ming Road, Luchu District, Kaohsiung City, Taiwan 82146

(4) For the investigation so instituted, the Chief Administrative Law Judge, U.S. International Trade Commission, shall designate the presiding Administrative Law Judge. The Office of Unfair Import Investigations will not participate as a party in this investigation.

caption in order for the Commission to take action against any attempts to circumvent a Commission remedial order. *See also Certain Crafting Machines and Components Thereof*, Inv. No. 337-TA-1426, Notice of Investigation, 89 FR 99905 (Dec. 11, 2024).

² While Commissioner Schmidtlein agrees to institute this investigation and agrees with the modification of the plain language description of accused articles, she disagrees with her fellow Commissioners' decision to change the caption by deleting the phrase "components thereof." The Commission has routinely included "components thereof" language in the caption when proposed by complainants, and she sees no reason to treat it differently here. In Commissioner Schmidtlein's view, the absence of such language raises the question of whether a later enforcement action could be brought to remedy circumvention of an order through the importation of components given that the Commission's practice has been to define the scope of remedial orders consistent with the notice of investigation. *See Certain Automated Mech. Transmission Sys. for Medium-Duty and Heavy-Duty Trucks and Components Thereof*, Inv. No. 337-TA-503, Comm'n Op., 2007 WL 4473082, *10 (Aug. 1, 2007) ("[T]he scope of the remedy is dependent upon the scope of the investigation, which is determined by the notice of investigation.").

³ Commissioner Kearns agrees with the majority that Complainant has failed to provide any factual allegations that the only components identified in the Complaint, "metal parts imported into the United States for ToughShield plus finishing," violate section 337 either based on direct or indirect infringement. He also agrees that the Commission may take action against attempts to circumvent a remedial order even if "components thereof" does not appear in the case caption. He notes, moreover, that if sufficient allegations were presented in the Complaint, the Commission does have the authority under appropriate circumstances to investigate a section 337 violation involving imported components that are used to directly infringe the patent only after importation. *See Certain High-Density Fiber Optic Equipment and Components Thereof*, Inv. No. 337-TA-1194, Comm'n Op. at 98-104 (Additional Views of Chair Kearns Regarding "Articles that Infringe").