Defining the scope of product under consideration – Australia's experience

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Introduction

- The Anti-Dumping Commission is Australia's anti-dumping authority
- Product under consideration plays a central role in the Anti-Dumping Commission's investigations
 - Need to determine whether there is an Australian industry producing like goods
 - Sets the parameters of products to be examined in the exporter's domestic market
 - Integral to determining the scope of any anti-dumping measures imposed

Pre-initiation phase

- The Commission does not undertake any in-depth scoping inquiries
 - Onus on the applicant to fully describe the product the subject of the application
- The Commission has developed detailed instructions and guidelines to assist applicants with completing their application
 - Applicants are asked to fully and accurately describe the imported products
- The description of the product under consideration can be discussed with the applicant during a screening period after the application is lodged

After initiation

During the course of the investigation

- The scope of the product under consideration is set out in a public notice at the outset of the investigation.
- Once the investigation is initiated, it is generally not possible to alter the scope of the inquiry.

Following the imposition of anti-dumping measures

- Any anti-dumping measures will be imposed on the goods initially described by the applicant.
- The description may be examined (and possibly narrowed) if an interested party wants the decision to impose anti-dumping measures reviewed.
- The description of a good may be expanded following an anti-circumvention inquiry.

Exemptions

- Under Australia's anti-dumping legislation there is a process whereby certain goods may be exempted from anti-dumping duties.
- The granting of an exemption does not alter the description of the product under consideration.
 - Rather, it allows a product to be exempted from anti-dumping measures where it would otherwise fit within the description.

Products investigated by the Commission

- The Commission's investigations have centered on products that entailed a specific description of the product under consideration.
- The Commission has not investigated products that, by their nature, must encompass a broad range of goods in the product under consideration description.