

correct the problem in response to a supplemental questionnaire. These problems precluded the Department from merging sales and constructed value data to form one consolidated response for these related entities. Therefore, we preliminarily determine that the members of the Queen's Flowers Group have significantly impeded our reviews and we have used as uncooperative, or first-tier, BIA, the highest rate for any company for this same class or kind of merchandise from this or any prior segment of the proceeding.

Based on the responses provided by these eight respondents, we believe that there are an additional 12 companies with strong ties to the Queen's Flowers Group. We are giving these 12 companies an opportunity to respond to our questionnaire. Since these companies were not included in our "Notice of Initiation," there will not be a preliminary margin applicable to these companies. If, however, in our final results of review, we conclude that any or all of these companies are significantly related to the Queen's Flowers Group to be considered to be one entity, the rates for the group will apply to these companies as well.

Two firms, Agricola Uzatama and Proflores Ltda., responded to our original questionnaire, but failed to respond to our requests for supplemental information. We preliminarily determine that these companies have not cooperated with our requests for information. Therefore, we have preliminarily applied a first-tier BIA rate to these firms for the seventh review, which is 83.61 percent, the highest rate for any firm in any segment of this proceeding.

Although Iturrana and Santa Helena submitted responses to our supplemental questionnaires, these firms failed to provide information allowing us to correct serious deficiencies in their cost responses. Therefore we were unable to use their cost data for comparison purposes. However, because these firms substantially cooperated with our requests for information, we have preliminarily applied a cooperative, or second-tier, BIA rates to sales made by these companies.

Flores el Zorro, Ltda., substantially cooperated with our requests for information and provided complete sales and cost data for its U.S. sales. However, the data provided by Flores el Zorro contained numerous problems and deficiencies (specifically in the areas of indirect selling expenses incurred in the United States, indirect selling expenses incurred in the home

market, financial expenses, and financial income). Since insufficient information was placed on the record by Flores el Zorro to correct these problems and we were unable to use the firm's response to make comparisons because of the existing deficiencies, we have preliminarily applied second-tier BIA rates to sales made by Flores el Zorro for all three reviews.

We conducted verification of responses submitted by the Agrodex Group, Cultivos Miramonte, Floralex, Flores Aurora, Flores Depina, the Funza Group, Flores de la Vereda, Flores Juanambu, the Florex Group, the Guacatay Group, the HOSA Group, Industrial Agricola, the Santana Group, Senda Brava, and the Tinzuque Group. We encountered serious verification problems with respect to Flores de la Vereda and Floralex. During the verification of Flores de la Vereda, we could not successfully verify completeness and accuracy of the company's sales data. Also, during the verification of Floralex, we were unable to verify the accuracy of the constructed value information submitted by this firm. Because Flores de la Vereda and Floralex have substantially cooperated with our requests for information, we have preliminarily applied a second-tier BIA rate to these firms for all three reviews.

Also, we are applying a second-tier BIA rate to sales made by Colflores, Flores Estrella, Flores Mountgar, and Flor Colombia S.A. These firms are no longer in business, and we have preliminarily determined, in accordance with the standards enunciated in *Certain Fresh Cut Flowers From Colombia; Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review, and Notice of Revocation of Order (in Part)*, 59 FR 15159 (March 31, 1994), that they are unable to respond to the Department's questionnaire.

In certain situations, we found it necessary to use partial BIA for a number of firms to correct for more limited response deficiencies. In a supplemental questionnaire, Flores de Aposentos reported aggregate carnation sales totals made through resellers which it knew were destined for sale in the United States. Since these sales were not broken down in the company's response as required by the Department's questionnaire, we applied the BIA rate for cooperative firms and limited its application to the particular sales involved.

In the case of Las Amalias, we found that the firm had reported its sales prices to a related importer for certain U.S. sales transactions instead of its sales prices to the first unrelated U.S.

customer as required by our questionnaire. We applied the BIA rate for cooperative firms to these particular transactions.

United States Price

Pursuant to section 777A of the Tariff Act, we determined that it was appropriate to average U.S. prices on a monthly basis in order (1) to use actual price information that is often available only on a monthly basis, (2) to account for large sales volumes, and (3) to account for perishable product pricing practices (see *Final Results of Antidumping Duty Administrative Review; Certain Fresh Cut Flowers from Colombia* (56 FR 50554, October 7, 1991)).

In calculating USP, we used purchase price when sales were made to unrelated purchasers in the United States prior to the date of importation, or exporter's sales price (ESP) when sales were made to unrelated purchasers in the United States after the date of importation, both pursuant to section 772 of the Tariff Act.

We calculated purchase price based on the packed price to the first unrelated purchaser in the United States. The terms of purchase price sales were either f.o.b. Bogotá or c.i.f. Miami. We made deductions, where appropriate, for foreign inland freight, air freight, brokerage and handling, U.S. customs duties, and return credits.

ESP, for sales made on consignment or through a related affiliate, was calculated based on the packed price to the first unrelated customer in the United States. We made adjustments, where appropriate, for foreign inland freight, brokerage and handling, air freight, box charges, credit expenses, returned merchandise credits, royalties, U.S. duty, and either commissions paid to unrelated U.S. consignees or indirect U.S. selling expenses of related consignees.

Foreign Market Value

Section 733(a)(1)(A) of the Tariff Act requires the Department to compare sales in the United States with viable home market sales of such or similar merchandise sold in the home market or a third-country market in the ordinary course of trade. Although some companies reported either viable home or third-country markets for sales of particular flower types, consistent with our discussion in *Certain Fresh Cut Flowers from Colombia; Final Results of Antidumping Duty Review, and Notice of Revocation of Order (in Part)* (59 FR 15159, March 31, 1994), we have concluded that home market and third-