

6.3.3.2 Export Promotion Assistance Program (APEX)

Under the APEX program, Quebec shared certain costs incurred by a Quebec company in the penetration of new foreign markets. Such costs included missions to develop new markets, participation in foreign trade fairs, adaptation of products to new export markets, preparation of bids with the assistance of consultants, preparation of marketing studies and strategies to enter foreign markets, and the hiring of international marketing experts.

Because receipt of benefits under this program was contingent upon export performance, Commerce determined that it was an export subsidy. It was also determined that the grants received by Leclere constituted a countervailable subsidy because they were direct transfers of funds, conferring a benefit to Leclere in the amount of the face value of the grant. The grant was treated as a non-recurring subsidy and the benefit was allocated over the average useful life of Leclere's non-renewable physical assets. The net rate was 0.00%.

6.4 Programs Determined Not to be Countervailable

6.4.1 Federal Programs

6.4.1.1 Export Development Corporation (EDC)

One of EDC's services was the provision of insurance intended to protect exporters against losses resulting from non-payment relating to commercial and political risks.

During the period of investigation, Leclere purchased export credit insurance from EDC that covered sales of the subject merchandise. No claims were made or pay-outs received by Leclere during this period.

Commerce's standard methodology for examining government export credit insurance programs was to determine whether the premium charged by the government entity was adequate to cover the long-term operating costs and losses of the program. According to EDC annual reports, the Corporation's insurance program reported profits from 1991 to 1995. Given that the premium rates charged by EDC had been more than adequate to cover the operating costs and losses of its export insurance program, Commerce determined that the program did not confer a benefit and therefore was not a subsidy.

6.4.2 Provincial Programs

6.4.2.1 Société québécoise de développement de la main-d'oeuvre— Program for the Development of Human Resources

Commerce concluded that this program was neither *de facto* nor *de jure* specific, and had not conferred a countervailable subsidy on Leclere. The program was available to all commercial enterprises, workers' unions, other worker's groups