§ 356.11 Procedures for obtaining access to privileged information.

(a) Persons who may apply for access to privileged information under protective order and filing of applications—(1) Panelists. (i) If a panel decides that in camera examination of a document containing privileged information in an administrative record is necessary in order for the panel to determine whether the document, or portions thereof, should be disclosed under a Protective Order for Privileged Information, each panelist who is to conduct the in camera review, pursuant to the rules of procedure adopted by the United States and the free trade area countries to implement Article 1904 of the Agreement, shall submit an application for disclosure of the privileged information under Protective Order for Privileged Information to the United States section of the Secretariat for filing with the Department; and

(ii) If a panel orders disclosure of a document containing privileged information, any panelist who has not filed an application pursuant to paragraph (a)(1)(i) of this section shall submit an application for disclosure of the privileged information under a Protective Order for Privileged Information to the United States section of the Secretariat for filing with the Department.

(2) Designated officials of the United States Government. Where, in the course of a panel review, the panel has reviewed privileged information under a Protective Order for Privileged Information, and the issue to which such information pertains is relevant to the evaluation of whether the United States should request an extraordinary challenge committee, each official of the United States Government (other than an officer or employee of the investigating authority that issued the final determination subject to review) whom the United States Trade Representative informs the Department requires access for the purpose of such evaluation shall file the completed original and five copies of an application for a Protective Order for Privileged Information with the United States section of the Secretariat which, in turn, shall submit the original and one copy of the application to the Department.

(3) Designated officials of the government of a FTA country. Where, in the course of a panel review, the panel has reviewed privileged information under a Protective Order for Privileged Information, and the issue to which such information pertains is relevant to the evaluation of whether the Government of an involved FTA country should request an extraordinary challenge committee, each official of the Government of the involved FTA country whom an authorized agency of the involved FTA country informs the Department requires access for the purpose of such evaluation shall file the completed

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Modification or revocation of protective orders—(1) Notification. If any person believes that changed conditions of fact or law, or the public interest, may require that a protective order issued pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section be modified or revoked, in whole or in part, such person may notify the Department in writing. The notification shall state the changes desired and the changed circumstances warranting such action and shall include materials and argument in support thereof. Such notification shall be served by the person submitting it upon the person to whom the protective order was issued. Responses to the notification may be filed within 20 days after the notification is filed unless the Department indicates otherwise. The Department may also consider such action on its own initiative.

(2) Issuance of modification or revocation. If the Department modifies or revokes a protective order pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section, the Department shall transmit the original and four copies of the modification or Notice of Revocation to the United States section of the Secretariat which, in turn, shall transmit the original to the person to whom the protective order was issued and serve one copy on each participant, other than the investigating authority, in accordance with paragraphs (b)(4) (ii) and (iii) of this section.
original and five copies of an application for a Protective Order for Privileged Information with the United States section of the Secretariat which, in turn, shall submit the original and one copy of the application to the Department.

(4) Members of an extraordinary challenge committee. Where an extraordinary challenge record contains privileged information and a Protective Order for Privileged Information was issued to counsel or professionals representing participants in the panel review at issue, each member of the extraordinary challenge committee shall submit an application for a Protective Order for Privileged Information to the United States section of the Secretariat for filing with the Department.

(5) Counsel or a professional under the direction or control of counsel. If the panel decides, in accordance with the Article 1904 Rules, that disclosure of a document containing privileged information is appropriate, a counsel or a professional under the direction or control of counsel identified in such a decision as entitled to release of information under a Protective Order for Privileged Information shall submit an application for a Protective Order for Privileged Information. Any such person shall:

(i) File the completed original and five copies of an application with the United States section of the Secretariat which, in turn, shall submit the original and one copy of the application to the Department; and

(ii) As soon as the deadline fixed under the Article 1904 Panel Rules for filing a Notice of Appearance in the panel review has passed, shall serve a copy of the application on each participant, other than the investigating authority, in accordance with paragraphs (b)(4) (ii) and (iii) of this section.

(6) Other designated persons. If the panel decides, in accordance with the Article 1904 Panel Rules, that disclosure of a document containing privileged information is appropriate, any person identified in such a decision as entitled to release of information under a Protective Order for Privileged Information, e.g., a Secretary, Secretariat staff, court reporters, interpreters and translators, or a member of the staff of a panelist or extraordinary challenge committee member, shall submit an application for release under Protective Order for Privileged Information to the United States section of the Secretariat for filing with the Department.

(b) Contents of applications for release under protective order for privileged information. (1) The Department has adopted application forms for disclosure of privileged information which are available from the United States section of the Secretariat and the Central Records Unit, room B–099, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230. These forms may be amended from time to time.

(2) Such forms require the applicant for release of privileged information under Protective Order for Privileged Information to submit a personal sworn statement stating, in addition to such other conditions as the Department may require, that the applicant shall:

(i) Not disclose any privileged information obtained under protective order to any person other than:

(A) An official of the Department involved in the particular panel review in which the privileged information is part of the record;

(B) A person who has furnished a similar application and who has been issued a Protective Order for Privileged Information concerning the privileged information at issue; and

(C) A person retained or employed by counsel, a professional, a panelist or extraordinary challenge committee member who has been issued a Protective Order for Privileged Information concerning the privileged information at issue; and

(ii) Use such information solely for purposes of the proceedings under Article 1904 of the Agreement;

(iii) Upon completion of the panel review, or at such earlier date as may be
determined by the Department, return to the Department or certify to the Department the destruction of all documents released under the Protective Order for Privileged Information and all other documents containing the privileged information (such as briefs, notes, or charts based on any such information received under the Protective Order for Privileged Information); and

(iv) Acknowledge that breach thereof may subject the signatory to sanctions under §§356.12 and 356.30.

(c) Issuance of protective orders for privileged information—(1) Panelists, designated government officials and members of an extraordinary challenge committee.

(i) Upon receipt of an application for protective order under this section from a panelist, designated government official or member of an extraordinary challenge committee, the Department shall issue a Protective Order for Privileged Information. The Department shall transmit the original and four copies of the protective order to the United States section of the Secretariat which, in turn, shall transmit the original to the applicant and serve one copy of the order on each participant, other than the investigating authority, in accordance with §§356.10(b)(4) (ii) and (iii).

(ii) If the Department issues a Protective Order for Privileged Information to a member of a binational panel or extraordinary challenge proceeding initiated under the United States-Canada Free Trade Agreement, that person must countersign the protective order and return one copy of the countersigned protective order to the United States section of the Secretariat.

(2) Counsel or a professional under the direction or control of counsel. Upon receipt of an application for protective order under this section from a counsel or a professional under the direction or control of counsel, the Department shall issue a Protective Order for Privileged Information. If the Department issues a protective order to such person, that person shall immediately file four copies of the protective order with the United States section of the Secretariat and shall serve one copy of the order on each participant, other than the investigating authority, in accordance with §§356.10(b)(4) (ii) and (iii).

(3) Other designated persons described paragraph (a)(6) of this section. Upon receipt of an application for protective order under this section from a designated person described in paragraph (a)(6) of this section, the Department shall issue a Protective Order for Privileged Information. The Department shall transmit the original and four copies of the protective order to the United States section of the Secretariat.

(d) Modification or revocation of protective order for privileged information—(1) Notification. If any person believes that changed conditions of fact or law, or the public interest, may require that a Protective Order for Privileged Information be modified or revoked, in whole or in part, such person may notify the Department in writing. The notification shall state the changes desired and the changed circumstances warranting such action and shall include materials and argument in support thereof. Such notification shall be served by the person submitting it upon the person to whom the Protective Order for Privileged Information was issued. Responses to the notification may be filed within 20 days after the notification is filed unless the Department indicates otherwise. The Department may also consider such action on its own initiative.

(2) Issuance of modification or revocation. If the Department modifies or revokes a Protective Order for Privileged Information pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section, the Department shall transmit the original and four copies of the modification or Notice of Revocation to the United States section of the Secretariat which, in turn, shall transmit the original to the person to whom the protective order was issued and serve one copy on each participant, other than the investigating authority, in accordance with §§356.10(b)(4) (ii) and (iii).