

Small Business Administration

Special Assistant to the Associate Deputy Administrator for Economic Development. Effective January 26, 1995.

U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency

Secretary (Office Automation) to the Assistant Director, Intelligence, Verification and Information Support Bureau. Effective December 23, 1994.

United States Information Agency

Director, Office of Thematic Programs to the Associate Director, Bureau of Information. Effective December 19, 1994.

Senior Assistant to the Director, United States Information Agency. Effective December 19, 1994.

Senior Advisor to the Associate Director, Bureau of Information. Effective January 10, 1995.

Special Assistant to the Director, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs. Effective January 12, 1995.

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 3301 and 3302; E.O. 10577, 3 CFR 1954-1958 Comp., P.218
Office of Personnel Management.

Lorraine A. Green,

Deputy Director.

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Federal Employees Health Benefits Program; Invitation for Applications and Benefits Change Proposals

AGENCY: Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Notice of the acceptance of applications from new comprehensive medical plans (HMO's) for participation in the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program, and benefits change proposals from plans currently participating in the FEHB Program, for contract year 1996.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) will consider new applications from HMO's for the FEHB Program contract year beginning January 1, 1996. OPM will also consider benefits change proposals from plans currently in the FEHB Program.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 890.203 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, authorizes OPM to invite applications from HMO's to participate in the FEHB Program, and to consider changes in rates and benefits for health benefits plans currently participating in the Program, when it determines that it

is in the best interests of enrollees and the Program to do so. By this notice, OPM is officially announcing its decision to consider applications from new HMO's, and benefits change proposals from participating plans, for contract year 1996.

OPM is extending the deadline for the submission of the completed application from January 31 to March 31, 1995. Plans must submit evidence demonstrating they meet all requirements for approval by March 31, 1995. However, that date would be extended, if OPM requests additional information, to 30 days from the date of OPM's request. All rate and benefits submissions are due by May 31, 1995.

Office of Personnel Management.

James B. King,

Director.

[FR Doc. 95-6116 Filed 3-10-95; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE**Public Hearings on Establishment of a Tariff-Rate Quota on Imported Tobacco**

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice of public hearings.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 125(f) of the Trade Act of 1974, the Office of the United States Trade Representative has scheduled a public hearing on the potential establishment of a tariff-rate quota on certain imported tobaccos.

DATES: The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 4, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For procedural questions concerning public hearings and/or public comments, contact Carolyn Frank, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) (202-395-9557). All other questions should be directed to Thomas Hushek, Senior Economist for Agricultural Affairs (202-395-6127).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 28, 1994, the United States notified the Secretariat of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1947 (GATT 1947) of its proposal to modify certain concessions with respect to tobacco, in accordance with the provisions and procedures of Article XXVIII, paragraph 5 of the GATT 1947. (This notification was provided again on February 27, 1995 to the Secretariat of the World Trade Organization, in accordance with Article XXVIII of the GATT 1994). In July 1994, the United States entered into negotiations and consultations pursuant to Article XXVIII with qualifying GATT

contracting parties (initial negotiating rights holders and principal and substantial suppliers).

Pursuant to Article XXVIII, the United States proposes to establish a tariff-rate quota on nine current tariff categories of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) (2401.10.60, 2401.20.30, 2401.20.80, 2401.30.30, 2401.30.60, 2401.30.90, 2403.10.00, 2403.91.40, and 2403.99.00) to cover flue-cured, burley and other light air-cured tobaccos that are imported to be used in the manufacture of cigarettes for domestic consumption. The in-quota tariff rates would be equal to the Uruguay Round concession rates. The over-quota tariff rates would be as high as 350 percent *ad valorem*.

Other tobaccos, including oriental and cigar type tobaccos, would not be subject to the quantitative limitations of the tariff-rate quota. Imported flue-cured, burley and other light air-cured tobaccos used to manufacture products other than cigarettes would also not be subject to the tariff-rate quota.

Imported flue-cured, burley and other light air-cured tobaccos used to manufacture exported cigarettes would be eligible for manufacturing duty-drawback on an identity-preserved basis. Under section 422 of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act, upon proclamation of the tariff-rate quota, section 1106(a) of the Omnibus Budget and Reconciliation Act of 1993 (7 U.S.C. 1314i), which concerns domestic marketing assessments for imported tobacco, would not be in effect for any calendar year other than 1994.

Section 125(c) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2135) provides that whenever the United States, acting in pursuance of any of its rights or obligations under any trade agreement entered into pursuant to that Act, section 350 of the Tariff Act 1930 or section 201 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, withdraws or modifies any obligation with respect to the trade of any foreign country or instrumentality, the President is authorized to proclaim increased duties or other import restrictions, for such periods as he deems necessary or appropriate, in order to exercise the rights or fulfill the obligations of the United States. As amended by section 421 of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act, section 125(c) authorizes the President to proclaim increased duties on the nine tariff categories of tobacco of up to 350% above the rates existing on January 1, 1975.

Before taking any action under section 125 to increase duties, the President is required by section 125(f) to provide for public hearings at which time interested