

(NPS) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess the impacts of alternative management strategies for the General Management Plan (GMP) for Manassas National Battlefield Park in Manassas, Virginia.

The GMP/EIS will evaluate a range of alternatives which address cultural and natural resources protection, socioeconomic concerns, traffic circulation, visitor use and facility development.

The NPS will be holding public scoping meetings on the following dates and times:

March 18, 1996, 7–9 p.m.

Park Visitor Center, Route 234 north of Manassas, VA

March 20, 1996, 7–9 p.m.

Park Visitor Center, Route 234 north of Manassas, VA

The purpose of these meetings is to determine the content that should be addressed in the GMP/EIS. Individuals unable to attend the scoping meetings may request information from the Superintendent of Manassas National Battlefield Park at the address listed below. Written comments must be submitted by April 12, 1996.

The draft GMP/EIS are expected to be completed and available for public review by fall, 1997. After public and interagency review of the draft document, comments will be considered and a final EIS will be prepared for release by summer, 1998, which will be followed by a record-of-decision. The responsible official is Robert G. Stanton, Field Director, National Capital Area, NPS. Written comments should be submitted to the Superintendent of Manassas National Battlefield Park, 12521 Lee Highway, Manassas, Virginia, 22110.

Terry R. Carlstrom,

Acting Deputy Field Director.

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 332–360]

International Harmonization of Customs Rules of Origin

AGENCY: International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Request for public comment on draft proposals for chapters 64–70.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 28, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eugene A. Rosengarden, Director, Office of Tariff Affairs and Trade Agreements

(O/TA&TA) (202–205–2595), or Lawrence A. DiRicco (202–205–2606).

Parties having an interest in particular products or HTS chapters and desiring to be included on a mailing list to receive available documents pertaining thereto should advise Diane Whitfield by phone (202–205–2610) or by mail at the Commission, 500 E Street SW., Room 404, Washington, DC 20436. Hearing impaired persons are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal on 202–205–1810. The media should contact Margaret O'Laughlin, Director, Office of Public Affairs (202–205–1819).

BACKGROUND: Following receipt of a letter from the United States Trade Representative (USTR) on January 25, 1995, the Commission instituted Investigation No. 332–360, International Harmonization of Customs Rules of Origin, under section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (60 FR 19605, April 19, 1995).

The investigation is intended to provide the basis for Commission participation in work pertaining to the Uruguay Round Agreement on Rules of Origin (ARO), under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 and adopted along with the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The ARO is designed to harmonize and clarify nonpreferential rules of origin for goods in trade on the basis of the substantial transformation test; achieve discipline in the rules' administration; and provide a framework for notification, review, consultation, and dispute settlement. These harmonized rules are intended to make country-of-origin determinations impartial, predictable, transparent, consistent, and neutral, and to avoid restrictive or distortive effects on international trade. The ARO provides that technical work to those ends will be undertaken by the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) (now informally known as the World Customs Organization or WCO), which must report on specified matters relating to such rules for further action by parties to the ARO.

Eventually, the WTO Ministerial Conference is to "establish the results of the harmonization work program in an annex as an integral part" of the ARO.

In order to carry out the work, the ARO calls for the establishment of a Committee on Rules of Origin of the WTO and a Technical Committee on Rules of Origin (TCRO) of the CCC. These Committees bear the primary responsibility for developing rules that achieve the objectives of the ARO.

A major component of the work program is the harmonization of origin rules for the purpose of providing more certainty in the conduct of world trade. To this end, the agreement contemplates a 3-year CCC program, to be initiated as soon as possible after the entry into force of the Agreement Establishing the WTO. Under the ARO, the TCRO is to undertake (1) to develop harmonized definitions of goods considered wholly obtained in one country, and of minimal processes or operations deemed not to confer origin, (2) to consider the use of change in Harmonized System classification as a means of reflecting substantial transformation, and (3) for those products or sectors where a change of tariff classification does not allow for the reflection of substantial transformation, to develop supplementary or exclusive origin criteria based on value, manufacturing or processing operations or on other standards.

To assist in the Commission's participation in work under the Agreement on Rules of Origin (ARO), the Commission is making available for public comment draft proposed rules for goods of:

Chapter 64—Footwear, Gaiters and the Like; Parts of Such Articles

Chapter 65—Headgear and Parts Thereof

Chapter 66—Umbrellas, Sun Umbrellas, Walking-Sticks, Seat-Sticks, Whips, Riding-Crops, and Parts Thereof

Chapter 67—Prepared Feathers and Down and Articles Made of Feathers or of Down; Artificial Flowers; Articles of Human Hair

Chapter 68—Articles of Stone, Plaster, Cement, Asbestos, Mica or Similar Materials

Chapter 69—Ceramic Products

Chapter 70—Glass and Glassware

of the Harmonized System that are not considered to be wholly made in a single country. The rules rely largely on the change of heading as a basis for ascribing origin.

Copies of the proposed revised rules will be available from the Office of the Secretary at the Commission, from the Commission's Internet web server (<http://www.usitc.gov>), or by submitting a request on the Office of Tariff Affairs and Trade Agreements voice messaging system, 202–205–2592 or by FAX at 202–205–2616.

These proposals, which have been reviewed by interested government agencies, are intended to serve as the basis for the U.S. proposal to the Technical Committee on Rules of Origin (TCRO) of the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) (now known as the World Customs Organization or WCO).

The proposals do not necessarily reflect or restate existing Customs treatment with respect to country of origin applications for all current non-preferential purposes. Based upon a decision of the Trade Policy Staff Committee, the proposals are intended for future harmonization for the nonpreferential purposes indicated in the ARO for application on a global basis. They seek to take into account not only U.S. Customs current positions on substantial transformation but additionally seek to consider the views of the business community and practices of our major trading partners as well. As such they represent an attempt at reaching a basis for agreement among the contracting parties. The proposals may undergo change as proposals from other government administrations and the private sector are received and considered. Under the circumstances, the proposals should not be cited as authority for the application of current domestic law.

If eventually adopted by the TCRO for submission to the Committee on Rules of Origin of the World Trade Organization, these proposals would comprise an important element of the ARO work program to develop harmonized, non-preferential country of origin rules, as discussed in the Commission's earlier notice. Thus, in view of the importance of these rules, the Commission seeks to ascertain the views of interested parties concerning the extent to which the proposed rules reflect the standard of substantial transformation provided in the Agreement. In addition, comments are also invited on the format of the proposed rules and whether it is preferable to another presentation, such as the format for the presentation of the NAFTA origin or marking rules. Forthcoming Commission notices will advise the public on the progress of the TCRO's work and will contain any harmonized definitions or rules that have been provisionally or finally adopted.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS: Interested persons are invited to submit written statements concerning this phase of the Commission's investigation. Written statements should be submitted as quickly as possible, and follow-up statements are permitted; but all statements must be received at the Commission by the close of business on April 12, 1996, in order to be considered. Information supplied to the Customs Service in statements filed pursuant to notices of that agency has been given to us and need not be

separately provided to the Commission. Again, the Commission notes that it is particularly interested in receiving input from the private sector on the effects of the various proposed rules and definitions on U.S. exports. Commercial or financial information which a submitter desires the Commission to treat as confidential must be submitted on separate sheets of paper, each marked "Confidential Business Information" at the top. All submissions requesting confidential treatment must conform with the requirements of section 201.6 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR 201.6). All written submissions, except for confidential business information, will be available for inspection by interested persons. All submissions should be addressed to the Office of the Secretary, U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20436.

Issued: March 1, 1996.
By order of the Commission.
Donna R. Koehnke,
Secretary.
[FR Doc. 96-5327 Filed 3-6-96; 8:45 am]
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JUDICIAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES

Long Range Plan for the Federal Courts

AGENCY: Judicial Conference of the United States.
ACTION: Notice of Conference approval and publication of the Long Range Plan for the Federal Courts (December 1995).

The Judicial Conference of the United States has approved the first Long Range Plan for the Federal Courts and published it for general information. This plan is derived from a proposal that the Conference received from its Committee on Long Range Planning in March 1995. As explained in an earlier notice (60 FR 30317), the Conference members reviewed at length the 101 recommendations and 77 implementation strategies in the proposed long range plan and, as a result, 64 recommendations and 48 strategies were approved without substantive change in April and May 1995. All other items in the proposed plan were referred to other committees of the Conference for additional study.

Based on reports from the other committees, Conference review of the proposed long range plan was completed in September 1995. At that time, the following recommendations

and implementation strategies were approved without change:

Recommendations	Implementation strategies
8	4a-4c
13	12b
17-18	
20	
22	
24	
28	28a-28b
33	
42	42a-42b
49	49a-49b
52	52a(2)-(3), 52b(1)-(4), 52c(2)
90	92b-92c, 92e-92f

The following items were approved with substantive revisions or technical corrections:

Recommendations	Implementation strategies
4	
7	
10	
12	12a, 12c
14	
23	
25	
27	
44	39c
48	52c(5)
65	
66-68	
69	69a-69d
89	
92	92a, 92d, 92g 94d
96	

And the following items were deleted in their entirety:

Recommendations	Implementation strategies
15	
29	
70	70a-70c
71-75	

At the direction of the Executive Committee of the Conference, the entire plan document was republished in light of the Conference actions. This included renumbering of the approved items and conforming revisions and updates to commentary and other supplementary text. In addition, the Executive Committee authorized on the Conference's behalf a number of minor,