Departmental Offices; Debt Management Advisory Committee; Meeting

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. App. section 10(a)(2), that a meeting will be held at the U.S. Treasury Department, 15th and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC, on July 30 and 31, 1996, of the following debt management advisory committee:

Public Securities Association Treasury Borrowing Advisory Committee

The agenda for the meeting provides for a technical background briefing by Treasury staff on July 30, followed by a charge by the Secretary of the Treasury or his designate that the committee discuss particular issues, and a working session. On July 31, the committee will present a written report of its recommendations.

The background briefing by Treasury staff will be held at 11:30 a.m. Eastern time on July 30 and will be open to the public. The remaining sessions on July 30 and the committee's reporting session on July 31 will be closed to the public, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. App. section 10(d).

This notice shall constitute my determination, pursuant to the authority placed in heads of departments by 5 U.S.C. App. section 10(d) and vested in me by Treasury Department Order No. 101-05, that the closed portions of the meeting are concerned with information that is exempt from disclosure under 5 U.S.C. section 552b(c)(9)(A). The public interest requires that such meetings be closed to the public because the Treasury Department requires frank and full advice from representatives of the financial community prior to making its final decision on major financing operations. Historically, this advice has been offered by debt management advisory committees established by the several major segments of the financial community. When so utilized, such a committee is recognized to be an advisory committee under 5 U.S.C. App. section 3.

Although the Treasury's final announcement of financing plans may not reflect the recommendations provided in reports of the advisory committee, premature disclosure of the committee's deliberations and reports would be likely to lead to significant financial speculation in the securities market. Thus, these meetings fall within the exemption covered by 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(A).

The Office of Domestic Finance is responsible for maintaining records of debt management advisory committee meetings and for providing annual reports setting forth a summary of committee activities and such other matters as may be informative to the public consistent with the policy of 5 U.S.C. 552b.

Dated: July 8, 1996.

John D. Hawke, Jr.,
Under Secretary of the Treasury for Domestic Finance.

Customs Service
Entry of Certain Goods Assembled Abroad From Components Cut to Shape in the U.S. From Foreign Fabric

AGENCY: U.S. Customs Service, Treasury.

ACTION: General notice.

SUMMARY: This document sets forth instructions for the proper entry under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States of certain goods assembled abroad from components cut to shape in the U.S. from foreign fabric.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Craig Walker, Special Classification and Marking Branch, Office of Regulations and Rulings (202-482-6980).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

1. Entry of Section 334(b)(4)(A) Goods Under 9802.00.8065

Section 10.25, Customs Regulations (19 CFR 10.25) implements section 334(b)(4)(A) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act ("the Act") (codified at 19 U.S.C. 3592), which provides that where components are cut to shape in the U.S. from foreign fabric and exported to another country for assembly into an article that is returned to the U.S. and entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after July 1, 1996, the dutiable value of the article shall not include the value of such components. In the final rule implementing the provisions of section 334 of the Act, published in the Federal Register on September 5, 1995 (60 FR 46188), Customs stated the following regarding 19 CFR 10.25:

Under section 334(b)(4), where goods are assembled abroad from components cut in the United States from foreign fabric (even though under section 334 the cut components are not products of the United States and the assembling country is the country of origin), the assembled goods, when imported into the United States, will continue to receive the same duty treatment presently accorded to such goods under subheading 9802.00.80. HTSUS * * * section 334(b)(4) serves to preserve a tariff treatment that otherwise would no longer be available under the section 334 origin rules * * *

Section 10.25 incorporates by reference the same operational, valuation, and documentation requirements applicable to goods entered under subheading 9802.00.80, HTSUS. Accordingly, in promulgating 19 CFR 10.25, Customs expressed its intent to continue to allow entry of these goods under subheading 9802.00.80, and after July 1, 1996. Thus, imported goods entitled to a duty allowance under 19 CFR 10.25 are to be entered under subheading 9802.00.80, HTSUS, and, solely for purposes of calculating the duty allowance under this subheading, Customs will treat these textile components as if they were "U.S. fabricated components".

It is important to note, however, that permitting the entry of section 10.25 goods under subheading 9802.00.8065, in order to implement the duty allowance provided under section 334(b)(4)(A) of the Act, should not be interpreted as a determination of the country of origin of these cut components. The determination of the country of origin of textile components cut in the U.S. from foreign fabric will be made under a general application of the section 334 rules of origin, as implemented by section 102.21, Customs Regulations (19 CFR 102.21).

Thus, it is possible that a shipment of assembled goods will be eligible for a partial duty allowance under subheading 9802.00.8065 pursuant to 10.25, but the country of origin of those goods, for quota, marking and other general origin purposes, will be neither the country of assembly nor the U.S.
because the origin of the assembled goods is determined by the origin of the fabric comprising the goods. For example, if Indian-origin fabric is dyed, printed and cut to shape in the U.S. into components for a tent, and those components are assembled in Mexico into a tent, the country of origin of that tent, pursuant to section 334(b)(1) or (2) of the Act, is the origin of the fabric—India. Upon importation into the U.S., the tent may receive a duty allowance under 19 CFR 10.25 for the value of the fabric components, but it will be a product of India for purposes of marking (and quota if applicable).

2. Entry of Section 334(b)(4)(B) Goods Under 9802.00.8040

U.S. Note 2(b), subchapter II, Chapter 98, HTSUS (“Note 2(b)”) (commonly referred to as “CBI II”), provides for the duty-free treatment of articles (except textile and apparel products, petroleum and petroleum products) assembled or processed in a designated CBI beneficiary country in whole of U.S.-origin components or ingredients (other than water).

Headquarters telex No. 9264071 to Customs field offices dated September 28, 1990, set forth instructions regarding the proper entry of goods entitled to duty-free treatment under Note 2(b). Specifically, the telex advised that two statistical breakouts had been created for Note 2(b) articles: subheading 9802.00.5010, HTSUS— for articles processed in whole of U.S. ingredients (other than water); and subheading 9802.00.8040, HTSUS—for articles assembled in whole of U.S. fabricated components.

Section 10.26(b), Customs Regulations (19 CFR 10.26(b)), implements section 334(b)(4)(B) of the Act, which provides that, effective for goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after July 1, 1996, no article (except a textile or apparel product) assembled or processed in a designated CBI beneficiary country in whole of U.S.-origin, in a designated CBI beneficiary country shall be treated as a foreign article or as subject to duty. Thus, through the promulgation of 19 CFR 10.26(b), Customs has fulfilled Congressional intent to continue the duty-free treatment accorded such articles under Note 2(b) prior to July 1, 1996.

In keeping with the overall statutory intent, as expressed in 19 CFR 10.26(b), Customs has determined that imported goods entitled to duty-free treatment under 19 CFR 10.26(b) should continue to be entered under subheading 9802.00.8040, HTSUS. All other instructions and documentation requirements set forth in telex No. 9264071 shall also continue to apply to such articles.

Dated: July 8, 1996.

Stuart P. Seidel,
Assistant Commissioner, Office of Regulations and Rulings.

[FR Doc. 96–17689 Filed 7–11–96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4820–02–P