

# Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Rural Business-Cooperative Service

#### Notice of Request for Collection of Public Information with Use of a Survey

**AGENCY:** Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comments request.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Rural Business-Cooperative Service's (RBS) intention to request clearance for a new information collection in order to render service to associations of producers of agricultural, forestry, and fisheries products and federations and subsidiaries thereof as authorized in the Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926.

**DATES:** Comments on this notice must be received by June 16, 1997 to be assured of consideration.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tracey L. Kennedy, Agricultural Economist, RBS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue S.W., Stop 3252, Washington, D.C. 20250-3252, Telephone (202) 690-1428.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

*Title:* Annual Survey of Cooperative Involvement in International Markets.

*Type of Request:* New information collection.

*Abstract:* The mission of the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), formerly Agricultural Cooperative Service (ACS), is to assist farmer-owned cooperatives in improving the economic well-being of their farmer-members. This is accomplished through a comprehensive program of research on structural, operational, and policy issues affecting cooperatives; technical advisory assistance to individual cooperatives and to groups of producers who wish to organize cooperatives; and

development of educational and informational material. The authority to carry out RBS's mission is defined in the Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926 (44 Stat. 802-1926).

**Authority and Duties of Division (7 U.S.C. 453)**

(a) The division shall render service to associations of producers of agricultural products, and federations and subsidiaries thereof, engaged in the cooperative marketing of agricultural products including processing, warehousing, manufacturing, storage, the cooperative purchasing of farm supplies, credit, financing, insurance, and other cooperative activities.

(b) The division is authorized to:

(1) acquire, analyze and disseminate economic, statistical, and historical information regarding the progress, organization, and business methods of cooperative associations in the United States and foreign countries.

(2) conduct studies of the economic, legal, financial, social and other phases of cooperation, and publish the results thereof. Such studies shall include the analyses of the organization, operation, financial and merchandising problems of cooperative organizations.

(3) make surveys and analyses if deemed advisable of the accounts and business practices of representative cooperative associations upon their request; to report to the association so surveyed the results thereof; and with the consent of the association so surveyed to publish summaries of the results of such surveys, together with similar facts, for the guidance of cooperative associations and for the purpose of assisting cooperative associations in developing methods of business and market analysis.

(4) acquire from all available sources, information concerning crop prospects, supply, demand, current receipts, exports, imports, and prices of agricultural products handled or marketed by cooperative associations, and to employ qualified commodity marketing specialists to summarize and analyze this information and disseminate the same among cooperative associations and others."

RBS also has a stated objective to "assist U.S. farmer cooperatives to expand their participation in international trade of agricultural products and supplies and to review their progress." As trade agreements are

implemented and domestic farm supports are reduced, a global presence is increasingly important to producers, their communities, and to job-creation and retention in agri- and food-related industries. Measurement and monitoring of cooperatives' global presence are stated objectives of RBS's International Trade Program. In order to carry out the agency's mission and objectives, RBS needs to collect information from the cooperative community. This information collection is designed to provide time-series data that will provide a better understanding of the opportunities and limitations of producer-owned cooperatives in global markets. The data provide the basis for research on trade-related issues affecting cooperatives, and background for trade-related policy analysis.

Beginning in 1980, RBS's predecessor agency Agricultural Cooperative Service (ACS) collected cooperative trade data at five year intervals. Value of cooperative exports by commodity and destination were measured, as well as information related to method of sale. Values of imports by cooperatives, by commodity and country of origin were collected in 1986 and 1991. However, data collected at five-year intervals do not provide for meaningful analysis. Further, previous collections have been strictly limited to exports and imports, neglecting other important international arrangements such as strategic alliances and foreign direct investment. A more comprehensive, annual information collection is required to accomplish RBS objectives and paint a more accurate picture of cooperative involvement in international markets. These data are generally not available to RBS unless provided by the cooperatives.

*Estimate of Burden:* Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average one (1) hour per response.

*Respondents:* Cooperatives involved in international activities.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 170.

*Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent:* one per year.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents:* 170 hours.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Sam Spencer, Regulations and Paperwork Management Division, at (202) 720-9725.

**Comments**

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the function of the Agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to Sam Spencer, Regulations and Paperwork Management Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, 1400 Independence Avenue S.W., Stop 0743, Washington, D.C. 20250. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of a public record.

Dated: April 7, 1997.

**Dayton J. Watkins,**

*Administrator, Rural Business-Cooperative Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-9637 Filed 4-14-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XY-U

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Foreign-Trade Zones Board**

[Docket 26-97]

**Foreign-Trade Zone 50—Long Beach, CA; Application for Subzone; L.A. Gear, Inc. (Casual and Athletic Footwear) Long Beach, CA**

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) by the Board of Harbor Commissioners of the City of Long Beach, grantee of FTZ 50, requesting subzone status for the footwear distribution facility of L.A. Gear, Inc., located in Ontario, California, some 40 miles northeast of Long Beach. The application was submitted pursuant to the provisions of the Foreign-Trade Zones Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a-81u), and the regulations of the Board (15 CFR part 400). It was formally filed on April 7, 1997.

The L.A. Gear facility (412,358 sq. ft. on 19.08 acres; 149 employees) is located at 1661 & 1777 South Vintage Avenue in Ontario. It is used to distribute a wide range of casual and

athletic shoes, most of which are sourced from abroad. The products are distributed throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Zone procedures would exempt L.A. Gear from Customs duty payments on the foreign products that are reexported. On its domestic sales, it would be able to defer Customs duty payments on merchandise that is sourced from abroad. The application indicates that zone savings would help improve the international competitiveness of the facility.

In accordance with the Board's regulations, a member of the FTZ staff has been appointed examiner to investigate the application and report to the Board.

Public comment is invited from interested parties. Submissions (original and 3 copies) shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their receipt is June 16, 1997. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period July 1, 1997.

A copy of the application and accompanying exhibits will be available for public inspection at each of the following locations:

U.S. Department of Commerce Export Assistance Center, Joe Sachs, Director, One World Trade Center, Ste. 1670, Long Beach, California 90831

Office of the Executive Secretary, Foreign-Trade Zones Board, Room 3716, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th & Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230

Dated: April 8, 1997.

**John J. Da Ponte, Jr.,**

*Executive Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 97-9657 Filed 4-14-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-M

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****International Trade Administration**

[A-301-602]

**Certain Fresh Cut Flowers From Colombia: Initiation of Administrative Review and Request for Revocation in Part of the Antidumping Duty Order**

**AGENCY:** Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of initiation of antidumping administrative review and request for revocation in part of the antidumping duty order.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce (the Department) has received requests

to conduct an administrative review of the antidumping duty order on certain fresh cut flowers from Colombia. A request for revocation from the antidumping duty order was also received from HOSA, Ltda. In accordance with the Department's regulations, we are initiating this administrative review for the period March 1, 1996 through February 28, 1997, for those named exporters/growers for whom a request for review was received. The Department is also noting HOSA's request for revocation from the antidumping duty order.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 15, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Elizabeth A. Graham, Office of AD/CVD Enforcement, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230, telephone: (202) 482-4105.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background**

The Department has received timely requests, in accordance with 19 C.F.R. 353.22(a), for an administrative review of the antidumping duty order on certain fresh cut flowers from Colombia. The Department has also received a request for revocation from HOSA, Ltda.

**Initiation of Reviews**

In accordance with section 19 C.F.R. 353.22(c), we are initiating an administrative review of the antidumping duty order on certain fresh cut flowers from Colombia. We intend to issue the final results of this review not later than March 31, 1998.

We received requests for review of the following specifically-named exporters/growers who shipped subject merchandise during the period:

Abaco Tulipanex de Colombia  
Achalay  
Aga Group

Agricola la Celestina  
Agricola la Maria  
Agricola Benilda Ltda.

Agrex de Oriente  
Agricola Acevedo Ltda.  
Agricola Altiplano  
Agricola Arenales Ltda.  
Agricola Bonanza Ltda.  
Agricola Circasia Ltda.

Agricola de Occident  
Agricola del Monte  
Agricola el Cactus S.A.  
Agricola el Redil  
Agricola Guali S.A.

Agricola la Corsaria Ltda.  
Agricola la Siberia  
Agricola Las Cuadras Group  
Agricola las Cuadras Ltda.