

DATES: Submit comments and sources on or before March 10, 1998.

ADDRESSES: David Wm. Loines, Procurement Analyst, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street S.W., Washington, DC 20416, Tel: (202) 205-6475.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David Wm. Loines, Procurement Analyst, (202) 205-6475, FAX (202) 205-7324.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Public law 100-656, enacted on November 15, 1988, incorporated into the Small Business Act the previously existing regulation that recipients of Federal contracts set-aside for small businesses or SBA 8(a) Program procurements must provide the product of a small business manufacturer or processor if the recipient is other than the actual manufacturer or processor. This requirement is commonly referred to as the Nonmanufacturer Rule.

The SBA regulations imposing this requirement are found at 13 CFR 121.406(b). Section 303(h) of the law provides for waiver of this requirement by SBA for any "class of products" for which there are no small business manufacturers or processors in the Federal market. To be considered available to participate in the Federal market on these classes of products, a small business manufacturer must have submitted a proposal for a contract solicitation or received a contract from the Federal Government within the last 24 months. The SBA defines "class of products" based on two coding systems. The first is the Office of Management and Budget's *Standard Industrial Classification Manual (SIC)*. The second is the Product and Service Code (PSC) established by the Federal Procurement Data System.

The SBA has recently been advised of the existence of a small business manufacturer for pineapple juice. Thus, the waiver previously granted for pineapple juice under PSC 8915 and SIC 2033 is terminated.

Dated: February 13, 1998.

Judith A. Roussel,

Associate Administrator for Government Contracting.

[FR Doc. 98-5330 Filed 3-2-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Generalized System of Preferences (GSP); Initiation of a Review To Consider the Designation of State of Eritrea as a Beneficiary Developing Country Under the GSP; Solicitation of Public Comments Relating to the Designation Criteria

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice and solicitation of public comment with respect to the eligibility of the State of Eritrea for the GSP program.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the initiation of a review to consider the designation of the State of Eritrea as a beneficiary developing country under the GSP program and solicits public comment relating to the designation criteria by March 31, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: GSP Subcommittee, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, N.W., Room 518, Washington, D.C. 20508. The telephone number is (202) 395-6971.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The government of the State of Eritrea has requested that it be granted eligibility for beneficiary status under the GSP program. The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) has initiated a review to determine if Eritrea should be designated as a beneficiary developing country under the GSP program. A country may not be designated a beneficiary developing country, absent a finding that such designation would be in the economic interests of the United States, if any one of several elements are found, including: the participation by the country in a commodity cartel that causes serious disruption to the world economy; the provision by the country of preferential treatment to products of other developed countries which has a significant adverse effect on U.S. commerce; the expropriation by the country of U.S.-owned property without compensation; a failure by the country to enforce arbitral awards in favor of U.S. persons; the support by the country of international terrorism; or a failure by the country to take steps to protect internationally recognized worker rights. Other factors taken into account in determining whether a country will be designated a beneficiary developing country include: the extent to which the country has assured the United States that it will provide market access for U.S. goods; the extent to which the country has taken action to reduce trade-distorting investment practices

and policies; and the extent to which the country is providing adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights. The criteria for designation are set forth in full in section 502 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2461 *et. seq.*).

Interested parties are invited to submit comments regarding the eligibility of Eritrea for designation as a GSP beneficiary developing country. Submission of comments must be made in English in 14 copies to the Chairman of the GSP Subcommittee, Trade Policy Staff Committee, and be received in Room 518 at 600 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20508, no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, 1998. Except for submissions granted "business confidential" status pursuant to 15 CFR 2003.6, information and comments submitted regarding Eritrea will be subject to public inspection by appointment with the staff of the USTR Public Reading Room. For an appointment, please call Ms. Brenda Webb at 202/395-6186. If the document contains business confidential information, 14 copies of a nonconfidential version of the submission along with 14 copies of the confidential version must be submitted. In addition, the submission should be clearly marked "confidential" at the top and bottom of each page of the document. The version which does not contain business confidential information (the public version) should also be clearly marked at the top and bottom of each page (either "public version" or "non-confidential").

Frederick L. Montgomery,

Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.

[FR Doc. 98-5430 Filed 3-2-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

[USCG 1998 3559]

Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: The Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (MERPAC) will conduct two meetings to discuss various issues relating to the training and fitness of merchant marine personnel. MERPAC advises the Secretary of Transportation on matters relating to the training, qualifications, licensing, certification and fitness of seamen serving in the U.S. merchant