

36°31'00" N, long. 108°35'00" W; thence to point of beginning.

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Issued in Seattle, Washington, on May 21, 1998.

**Joe E. Gingles,**

Acting Assistant Manager, Air Traffic Division, Northwest Mountain Region.

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Office of the Secretary

#### 15 CFR Part 2

[Docket No. 980515130-8130-01]

RIN 0690-AA29

#### Procedures for Handling and Settlement of Claims Under the Federal Tort Claims Act

**AGENCY:** Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce is amending its procedures for handling and settlement of claims under the Federal Tort Claims Act. The amendments will bring the regulations into conformity with present practice and statutory and organizational changes that have taken place since the regulations were previously amended in 1983.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** June 2, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Donald Reed or M. Timothy Conner at 202-482-1067.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On March 7, 1967, the Department of Commerce (DOC) published procedures in accordance with the Attorney General's regulations at 28 CFR Part 14 which apply to claims asserted under the Federal Tort Claims Act. The DOC regulations delegated authority to settle or deny claims to the General Counsel and established procedures for the administrative adjudication of such claims. When the DOC regulations were issued, the Assistant General Counsel for Administration was responsible for all procedures concerning such claims. The Assistant General Counsel for Finance and Litigation now has this responsibility. In addition, paragraph (d) of section 2.2 is removed to make the regulations consistent with amendments made by Pub. L. 100-694 to the Federal Tort Claims Act. These amendments, at Section 2679, provided that employees acting within the scope of their employment have full personal immunity from all common law torts, not just motor vehicle accidents.

Paragraph (f) of section 2.2 is removed because it is outdated and no longer necessary, and Section 2.7 is removed because an annual report is no longer a Departmental requirement.

#### Rulemaking Requirements

This rule has been determined to be not significant for purposes of Executive Order 12866. This rule of agency organization, procedure and practice is exempt from all requirements of section 553 of the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553), including the requirements of notice and comment and delayed effective date. Because a notice of proposed rulemaking is not required by 5 U.S.C. 553 or any other law, the analytical requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) are not applicable.

This rule does not contain information collection requirements subject to the procedures of the Paperwork Reduction Act.

#### List of Subjects in 15 CFR Part 2

Administrative practice and procedure, Claims, Law.

For the reasons set forth in the preamble, 15 CFR Part 2 is amended as follows:

#### PART 2—PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING AND SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS UNDER THE FEDERAL TORT CLAIMS ACT

1. The authority for 15 CFR part 2 is revised to read as follows:

**Authority:** 28 U.S.C. 2672.

##### § 2.2 [Amended]

2. In § 2.2, remove paragraphs (d) and (f) and redesignate paragraph (e) as (d) and (g) as (e), respectively.

##### § 2.4 [Amended]

3. In § 2.4, in paragraphs (b) and (c) remove the word "Administration" and add in its place "Finance and Litigation".

##### § 2.5 [Amended]

4. In § 2.5, in paragraphs (a) and (b) remove the word "Administration" and add in its place "Finance and Litigation".

##### § 2.7 [Amended]

5. Remove § 2.7 and redesignate § 2.8 as § 2.7.

6. In the newly redesignated § 2.7, in paragraphs (a) and (b) remove the word "Administration" and add in its place "Finance and Litigation".

7. In addition to the amendments set forth above, in the newly redesignated § 2.7, in paragraph (a) remove the word "he" and add in its place "he/she".

8. In addition to the amendments set forth above, in the newly redesignated § 2.7, in paragraph (b) remove the word "his" and add in its place "his/her".

Dated: May 22, 1998.

**Alden Abbott,**

Assistant General Counsel for Finance and Litigation.

[FR Doc. 98-14505 Filed 6-1-98; 8:45 am]

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## OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

### 15 CFR Part 2013

#### Developing and Least-Developed Country Designations under the Countervailing Duty Law

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States Trade Representative.

**ACTION:** Interim Final Rule and Request for Comments.

**SUMMARY:** This rule designates a list of members of the World Trade Organization ("WTO") that are eligible for special *de minimis* countervailable subsidy and negligible import volume standards under the countervailing duty law.

**DATES:** This rule is effective June 2, 1998. Comments on the Interim Final Rule should be submitted by July 31, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be submitted to William D. Hunter, Office of General Counsel, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20508. Attn: Eligible Country List.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** William D. Hunter, (202) 395-3582, whunter@ustr.gov.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### General Background

In the Uruguay Round Agreements Act ("URAA"), Pub. L. No. 103-465, Congress amended the countervailing duty ("CVD") law to conform to U.S. obligations under the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures ("SCM Agreement") administered by the WTO. Under the SCM Agreement, WTO members that have not yet reached the status of a developed country are entitled to special treatment for purposes of countervailing measures. Specifically, imports from such Members are subject to different standards for purposes of determining whether countervailable subsidies are *de minimis* and whether import volumes are negligible.

Under section 771(36) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended ("the Act"), 19