

examined the "essence" of the articles at issue. The court in *National Hand Tool, Aztec Milling, Murray, and Zuniga, supra*, did not even mention the *Midwood* decision. The only cases that really did not outright reject or diminish the application of the producers' to consumers' good shift are *Torrington* and *Madison Galleries, supra*, but the citation to *Midwood* in *Madison Galleries* does not even stand for the position that the article became a "product of" the GSP country.

Customs has provided notice in the Customs Bulletin (and **Federal Register**) as required by 19 U.S.C. 1625(d) of its intention not to rely on the producers' to consumers' good test. The opposing commenters have not cited a single decision (not even the favorable *Torrington* decision) where a court decided the substantial transformation test solely based on the producers' to consumers' good transition.

Furthermore, since the transition from producers' to consumers' good is not necessarily indicative of a substantial transformation, unlike a change in "essence", the purpose of the producers' to consumers' goods analysis does not aid in the determination of whether an article underwent a substantial transformation. Therefore, Customs will no longer rely on the distinction between producers' goods and consumers' goods in making country of origin determinations.

Inasmuch as the question of whether a good has been substantially transformed is based on specific facts, parties who have received rulings based on the producers' goods-consumers' goods analysis articulated in *Midwood* can continue to rely on those rulings unless and until Customs modifies or revokes them pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1625, or they are specifically overruled by a court.

Approved: February 11, 2000.

Raymond W. Kelly,
Commissioner of Customs.

John P. Simpson,
Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.
[FR Doc. 00-6115 Filed 3-13-00; 8:45 am]
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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Art Advisory Panel of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue; Availability of Report of 1999 Closed Meetings

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service, Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of availability of report on closed meetings of the Art Advisory Panel.

SUMMARY: The report is now available.

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. I section 10(d), of the Federal Advisory Committee Act; and 5 U.S.C. section 552b, the Government in the Sunshine Act: A report summarizing the closed meeting activities of the Art Advisory Panel during 1999, has been prepared. A copy of this report has been filed with the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Management and is now available for public inspection at: Internal Revenue Service, Freedom of Information Reading Room, Room 1621, 1111 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20224.

Requests for copies should be addressed to: Director, Disclosure Operations Division, Attn: FOI Reading Room, Box 388, Benjamin Franklin Station, Washington, DC 20224. Telephone (202) 622-5164 (Not a toll free telephone number).

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has determined that this document is not a major rule as defined in Executive Order 12291 and that a regulatory impact analysis therefore is not required. Neither does this document constitute a rule subject to the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. Chapter 6).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Carolan, C:AP:AS, Internal Revenue Service/Appeals, 1099 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005. Telephone (202) 694-1861 (Not a toll free telephone number).

Charles Rossotti,

Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

[FR Doc. 00-6259 Filed 3-13-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Art Advisory Panel—Notice of Closed Meeting

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service, Treasury.

ACTION: Notice of closed meeting of Art Advisory Panel.

SUMMARY: Closed meeting of the Art Advisory Panel will be held in Washington, DC.

DATES: The meeting will be held April 12 and 13, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The closed meeting of the Art Advisory Panel will be held on April 12 and 13, 2000 in Room 4600E beginning at 9:30 am, Franklin Court

Building, 1099 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Karen Carolan, C:AP:AS 1099 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005. Telephone (202) 694-1861, (not a toll free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. (1988), that a closed meeting of the Art Advisory Panel will be held on April 12 and 13, 2000 in Room 4600E beginning at 9:30 am, Franklin Court Building, 1099 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005.

The agenda will consist of the review and evaluation of the acceptability of fair market value appraisals of works of art involved in Federal income, estate, or gift tax returns. This will involve the discussion of material in individual tax returns made confidential by the provisions of section 6103 of Title 26 of the United States Code.

A determination as required by section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act has been made that this meeting is concerned with matters listed in section 552b(c)(3), (4), (6), and (7) of Title 5 of the United States Code, and that the meeting will not be open to the public.

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has determined that this document is not a significant regulatory action as defined in Executive Order 12866 and that a regulatory impact analysis therefore is not required. Neither does this document constitute a rule subject to the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. Chapter 6).

Bob Wenzel,

Acting Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

[FR Doc. 00-6262 Filed 3-13-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Open Meeting of Citizen Advocacy Panel, So. Fla District

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: An open meeting of the So. Fla Citizen Advocacy Panel will be held in Sunrise, Florida.

DATES: The meeting will be held Friday, March 24, 2000 and Saturday, March 25, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy Ferree at 1-888-912-1227, or 954-423-7973.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. (1988) that an open meeting of the Citizen Advocacy Panel will be held Friday, March 24, 2000 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday, March 25, 2000 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., in Room 225, CAP Office, 7771 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Sunrise, Florida 33351. The public is invited to make oral comments. Individual comments will be limited to 10 minutes. If you would like to have the CAP consider a written statement, please call 1-888-912-1227 or 954-423-7973, or write Nancy Ferree, CAP Office, 7771 W. Oakland Park Blvd. Rm. 225, Sunrise, FL 33351. Due to limited conference space, notification of intent to attend the meeting must be made with Nancy Ferree. Ms. Ferree can be reached at 1-888-912-1227 or 954-423-7973. The agenda will include the following: Various IRS issue updates and reports by the CAP sub-groups.

Note: Last minute changes to the agenda are possible and could prevent effective advance notice.

Dated: March 7, 2000.

Nancy Ferree, Citizen Advocacy Panel Manager.

[FR Doc. 00-6260 Filed 3-13-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Open Meeting of Citizen Advocacy Panel, Brooklyn District

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: An open meeting of the Brooklyn District Citizen Advocacy Panel will be held in Brooklyn, New York.

DATES: The meeting will be held Friday April 14, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eileen Cain at 1-888-912-1227 or 718-488-3555.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. (1988) that an operational meeting of the Citizen Advocacy Panel will be held Friday April 14, 2000, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Internal Revenue Service Brooklyn Building located at 625 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201. For more information or to confirm attendance, notification of intent to attend the

meeting must be made with Eileen Cain. Mrs. Cain can be reached at 1-888-912-1227 or 718-488-3555. The public is invited to make oral comments from 8:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Friday April 14, 2000. Individual comments will be limited to 5 minutes. If you would like to have the CAP consider a written statement, please call 1-888-912-1227 or 718-488-3555, or write Eileen Cain, CAP Office, P.O. Box R, Brooklyn, NY, 11201. The Agenda will include the following: various IRS issues.

Note: Last minute changes to the agenda are possible and could prevent effective advance notice.

Dated: March 1, 2000.

Eileen Cain,

Citizen Advocacy Panel Manager.

[FR Doc. 00-6261 Filed 3-13-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4830-01-U

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Tax on Certain Imported Substances (Polyether Polyols); Filing of Petitions

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the acceptance, under Notice 89-61, of petitions requesting that nine polyether polyol substances be added to the list of taxable substances in section 4672(a)(3). Publication of this notice is in compliance with Notice 89-61. This is not a determination that the list of taxable substances should be modified.

DATES: Submissions must be received by May 15, 2000. Any modification of the list of taxable substances based upon these petitions would be effective October 1, 1992.

ADDRESSES: Send submissions to: CC:DOM:CORP:R (Petition), room 5226, Internal Revenue Service, POB 7604, Ben Franklin Station, Washington, DC 20044. Submissions may be hand delivered Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to: CC:DOM:CORP:R (Petition), Courier's Desk, Internal Revenue Service, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC. Alternatively, taxpayers may send submissions electronically to the IRS at Sharon.Y.Horn@m1.irs.counsel.treas.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ruth Hoffman, Office of Assistant Chief Counsel (Passthroughs and Special Industries), (202) 622-3130 (not a toll-free number).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The petitions were received on November 21, 1991. The petitioner is Dow Chemical Company, a manufacturer and exporter of these substances. The following is a summary of the information contained in the petitions. The complete petitions are available in the Internal Revenue Service Freedom of Information Reading Room.

The nine polyether polyol substances are liquids. They are produced predominantly by the base-catalyzed reaction of cyclic ethers, usually ethylene oxide and propylene oxide, with active hydrogen-containing compounds (initiators) such as water, glycols, polyols, and amines. The reaction is carried out by a discontinuous batch process at elevated temperatures and pressures and under an inert atmosphere. The particular substance produced depends upon the oxides, initiators, reaction conditions, and catalysts used. The stoichiometric amounts of oxide reacted on the initiator determine the chain lengths and thus the molecular weights. HTS number: 3907.20.00

Poly(propylene)glycol

CAS number: 025322-69-4.

Poly(propylene)glycol is derived from the taxable chemicals propylene, chlorine, and sodium hydroxide.

The stoichiometric material consumption formula for this substance is: $n+1(C_3H_6 \text{ (propylene)} + Cl_2 \text{ (chlorine)} + 2 NaOH \text{ (sodium hydroxide)}) + H_2O \text{ (water)} \rightarrow C_3H_8O_2(C_3H_6O)_n$ (poly(propylene)glycol) + $n+1(2 NaCl \text{ (sodium chloride)} + H_2O \text{ (water)})$

According to the petition, taxable chemicals constitute at least 90 percent by weight of the materials used to produce this substance. The rate of tax for this substance would be \$7.74 per ton. This is based upon a conversion factor for propylene of 0.781, a conversion factor for chlorine of 1.31, and a conversion factor for sodium hydroxide of 1.43.

Poly(propylene/ethylene)glycol

CAS number: 053637-25-5.

Poly(propylene/ethylene)glycol is derived from the taxable chemicals propylene, chlorine, sodium hydroxide, and ethylene.

The stoichiometric material consumption formula for this substance is: $n+1(C_3H_6 \text{ (propylene)} + Cl_2 \text{ (chlorine)} + 2 NaOH \text{ (sodium hydroxide)}) + H_2O \text{ (water)} + m/2(2 C_2H_4 \text{ (ethylene)} + O_2 \text{ (oxygen)}) \rightarrow C_3H_8O_2(C_3H_6O)_n(C_2H_4O)_m$ (poly(propylene/ethylene)glycol) + $n+1(2 NaCl \text{ (sodium chloride)} + H_2O \text{ (water)})$