

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES
TRADE REPRESENTATIVE**
**Notice of Request for Public Comment
on the Andean Trade Preferences Act:
Report to Congress**

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice and solicitation of public comment.

SUMMARY: The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) is seeking the views of interested parties on the operation of the Andean Trade Preference Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 3201 *et seq.*) ("the ATPA"). Section 203(f) as amended requires the President to submit a report to the Congress regarding the operation of the ATPA on or before January 31, 2001, following the ninth anniversary of the enactment of the ATPA. The TPSC invites written comments concerning the issues to be examined in preparing such a report, including the considerations described in subsections 203(c) and (d) of the ATPA.

DATES: Public comments are due at USTR by September 11, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, 600 17th Street NW., Room 523, Washington, DC 20508.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bennett Harman, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Latin America, Office of the Western Hemisphere, Office of the United States Trade Representative, (202) 395-5190.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This report is the last one required of the Administration before the program's expiration on December 4, 2001. Renewal of the program will be considered in 2001. Interested parties are invited to submit comments on any aspect of the program's operation, including the status of beneficiary countries—Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru—under the criteria described in subsections 203(c) and (d) of the ATPA, 19 U.S.C. 3202(c) and (d). Issues to be examined in this report include: The program's effect on the volume and composition of trade and investment between the United States and the Andean beneficiary countries; its effect on the economic growth and development of the beneficiary countries; the extent to which the program has advanced narcotics eradication through sustainable alternative development efforts in coca-growing areas; and the degree to which the program has encouraged the trade and investment policies cited in the ATPA.

Written Notice

Persons submitting written comments should provide a statement in twenty copies, no later than 5 p.m., September 8, 2000, to Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, TPSC, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Room 122, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508. Non-confidential information received will be available for public inspection by appointment, in the USTR Reading Room, Room 101, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For an appointment call Brenda Webb on 202-395-6186. All submissions must be in English and should conform to the information requirements of 15 CFR part 2003. Any business confidential material must be clearly marked as such on the cover letter or page and each succeeding page, and must be accompanied by a non-confidential summary thereof.

Peter F. Allgeier,

Associate U.S. Trade Representative for the Western Hemisphere.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Coast Guard

[USCG 2000-7694]

Guidelines for Proficiency in Advanced Fire-Fighting

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of Availability and Request for Comments.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard announces the availability of, and seeks public comments on, the national performance measures proposed here for use as guidelines when mariners demonstrate their proficiency in Advanced Fire-Fighting. A working group of the Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (MERPAC) developed and recommended national performance measures for this proficiency. The Coast Guard has adapted the measures recommended by MERPAC.

DATES: Comments and related material must reach the Docket Management Facility on or before October 3, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Please identify your comments and related material by the docket number of this rulemaking [USCG 2000-7694]. Then, to make sure they enter the docket only once, submit them by just one of the following means:

(1) By mail to the Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001.

(2) By delivery to room PL-401 on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. The telephone number is 202-366-9329.

(3) By fax to the Docket Management Facility at 202-493-2251.

(4) Electronically through the Web Site for the Docket Management System at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

The Docket Management Facility maintains the public docket for this Notice. Comments and related material received from the public, as well as documents mentioned in this Notice, will become part of this docket and will be available for inspection or copying at room PL-401 on the Plaza level of the Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You may also find this docket on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

The measures proposed here are also available from Mr. Mark Gould or Mr. Gerald Miente, Maritime Personnel Qualifications Division, Office of Operating and Environmental Standards, Commandant (G-MSO-1), U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, telephone 202-267-0229.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions on this Notice or on the national performance measures proposed here, write or call Mr. Gould or Mr. Miente where indicated under **ADDRESSES**. For questions on viewing or submitting material to the docket, call Ms. Dorothy Beard, Chief of Dockets, Department of Transportation, telephone 202-366-9329.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
What Action Is the Coast Guard taking?

Table A-VI/3 of the Code accompanying the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, as amended in 1995, articulates qualifications for ensuring merchant mariners' attaining the minimum standard of competence through demonstrations of their proficiency in Advanced Fire-Fighting. The Coast Guard tasked MERPAC with referring to the Table, modifying and specifying it as it deemed necessary, and recommending national performance measures. The Coast Guard has adapted the measures recommended by MERPAC and is proposing them here for use as guidelines for assessing that proficiency. Next we set forth the Four Skills by which a mariner must demonstrate that proficiency and we give an example of a Performance Condition, a Performance Behavior, and