

other FTAA countries and the economic benefits and costs of eliminating any such restrictions.

Persons who submitted comments pursuant to a previous request for public comments concerning the FTAA should not resubmit those comments in response to this notice.

A hearing will be held on September 9, 2002, in Rooms 1 and 2, 1724 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20508. If necessary, the hearing will continue on subsequent days.

Persons wishing to testify at the hearing must provide written notification of their intention by August 21, 2002. The notification should include: (1) The name, address, and telephone number of the person presenting the testimony; and (2) a short (one or two paragraph) summary of the presentation, including the subject matter and, as applicable, the product(s) (with HTSUS numbers), service sector(s), or other subjects (such as investment, intellectual property and/or government procurement) to be discussed. A copy of the testimony must accompany the notification. Remarks at the hearing should be limited to no more than five minutes to allow for possible questions from the TPSC. Persons with mobility impairments who will need special assistance in gaining access to the hearing should contact Gloria Blue.

Interested persons, including persons who participate in the hearing, may submit written comments by noon, September 23, 2002. Written comments may include rebuttal points demonstrating errors of fact or analysis not pointed out in the hearing. All written comments must state clearly the position taken, describe with particularity the supporting rationale, and be in English. The first page of written comments must specify the subject matter including, as applicable, the product(s) (with HTSUS numbers) or service sector(s).

3. Requirements for Submissions

In order to facilitate prompt processing of submissions, the Office of the United States Trade Representative strongly urges and prefers electronic (e-mail) submissions in response to this notice. In the event that an e-mail submission is impossible, submissions should be made by facsimile.

Persons making submissions by e-mail should use the following subject line: "Free Trade Area of the Americas" followed by (as appropriate) "Notice of Intent to Testify", "Testimony", or "Written Comments." Documents should be submitted as either WordPerfect, MSWord, or text (.TXT)

files. Supporting documentation submitted as spreadsheets are acceptable as Quattro Pro or Excel. For any document containing business confidential information submitted electronically, the file name of the business confidential version should begin with the characters "BC-", and the file name of the public version should begin with the characters "P-". The "P-" or "BC-" should be followed by the name of the submitter. Persons who make submissions by e-mail should not provide separate cover letters; information that might appear in a cover letter should be included in the submission itself. To the extent possible, any attachments to the submission should be included in the same file as the submission itself, and not as separate files.

Written comments, notice of testimony, and testimony will be placed in a file open to public inspection pursuant to 15 CFR 2003.5, except business confidential information exempt from public inspection in accordance with 15 CFR 2003.6. Business confidential information submitted in accordance with 15 CFR 2003.6 must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" at the top of each page, including any cover letter or cover page, and must be accompanied by a nonconfidential summary of the confidential information. All public documents and nonconfidential summaries shall be available for public inspection in the USTR Reading Room. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public, by appointment only, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. An appointment to review the file may be made by calling (202) 395-6186. Appointments must be scheduled at least 48 hours in advance.

General information concerning the Office of the United States Trade Representative may be obtained by accessing its Internet server (<http://www.ustr.gov>).

Carmen Suro-Bredie,

Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket No. WTO/DS-243]

WTO Dispute Settlement Proceeding Regarding United States—Rules of Origin for Textiles and Apparel Products

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the United States Trade Representative ("USTR") is providing notice that on June 24, 2002, a dispute settlement panel was established at the request of the Government of India under the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization ("WTO") to examine Section 334 of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act ("URAA"), its implementing legislation, and Section 405 of the Trade and Development Act of 2000. India alleges that these U.S. statutes are inconsistent with the obligations of the United States under the Agreement on Rules of Origin ("ARO"). USTR invites written comment from the public concerning the issues raised in this dispute. Bangladesh, China, the European Communities ("EC"), Pakistan and the Philippines have notified the WTO of their intention to participate as third parties.

DATES: Although the USTR will accept any comments received during the course of the dispute settlement proceedings, comments should be submitted on or before August 26, 2002, to be assured of timely consideration by USTR.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted (i) electronically, to FR0015@ustr.gov, Attn: "US-India Textile ROO Dispute" in the subject line, or (ii) by mail, to Sandy McKinzy, Monitoring and Enforcement Unit, Office of the General Counsel, Room 122, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508, Attn: India Textile ROO Dispute, with a confirmation copy sent electronically or by fax to 202-395-3640.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mélida N. Hodgson, Associate General Counsel, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC (202) 395-3582.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to Section 127(b) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA) (19 U.S.C. 3537(b)(1)), USTR is providing notice that on June 24, 2002, a WTO dispute settlement panel was established at the

request of India. The Panel, which would hold its meetings in Geneva, Switzerland, is expected to issue a report on its findings and recommendations within six to nine months after its establishment.

Major Issues Raised and Legal Basis of the Complaint

India alleges that Section 334 (1996), and its modification Section 405 (2000), are inconsistent with certain obligations of the United States under the ARO. Section 334 established certain rules of origin applicable to textile and apparel products to harmonize U.S. practice with that of our trading partners. Section 405 amended Section 334 to resolve certain claims raised by the EC in dispute settlement proceedings challenging our textile rules of origin implementing the URAA.

Specifically, India alleges that Section 334 and Section 405 wrongly differentiated between textile and apparel products and industrial products in order to protect the US industry. India further alleges that Sections 334 and 405 are inconsistent with Article 2(b)–(e) of ARO, because, inter alia: their rules are complex and disrupt and restrict trade; they impose prerequisite conditions not related to manufacturing or processing; discriminate between domestic and WTO Member goods, as well between Member goods; and are not administered in a consistent, impartial manner.

Public Comment: Requirements for Submissions

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning the issues raised in the dispute. Persons submitting comments may either send one copy by U.S. mail, first class, postage prepaid, to Sandy McKinzy at the address listed above or transmit a copy electronically to FR0015@ustr.gov, with "India Textile ROO Dispute" in the subject line. For documents sent by U.S. mail, USTR requests that the submitter provide a confirmation copy, either electronically or by fax to 202–395–3640. USTR encourages the submission of documents in Adobe PDF format, as attachments to an electronic mail. Interested persons who make submissions by electronic mail should not provide separate cover letters; information that might appear in a cover letter should be included in the submission itself. Similarly, to the extent possible, any attachments to the submission should be included in the same file as the submission itself, and not as separate files. A person requesting that information contained in

a comment submitted by that person be treated as confidential business information must certify that such information is business confidential and would not customarily be released to the public by the submitter. Confidential business information must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" in a contrasting color ink at the top of each page of each copy.

Information or advice contained in a comment submitted, other than business confidential information, may be determined by USTR to be confidential in accordance with section 135(g)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2155(g)(2)). If the submitter believes that information or advice may qualify as such, the submitter—

- (1) Must so designate the information or advice;
- (2) Must clearly mark the material as "SUBMITTED IN CONFIDENCE" in a contrasting color ink at the top of each page of each copy; and
- (3) Is encouraged to provide a non-confidential summary of the information or advice.

Pursuant to section 127(e) of the URAA (19 U.S.C. 3537(e)), USTR will maintain a file on this dispute settlement proceeding, accessible to the public, in the USTR Reading Room: Room 3, First Floor, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 1724 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508. The public file will include a listing of any comments received by USTR from the public with respect to the proceeding; the U.S. submissions to the panel in the proceeding, the submissions, or non-confidential summaries of submissions, to the panel received from other participants in the dispute, as well as the report of the dispute settlement panel, and, if applicable, the report of the Appellate Body. An appointment to review the public file (Docket WTO/DS–243, US-India Textile ROO Dispute) may be made by calling the Reading Room at (202) 395–6186. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Bruce R. Hirsh,

Acting Assistant United States Trade Representative for Monitoring and Enforcement.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

[USCG 2002–12690]

Collection of Information Under Review by Office of Management and Budget (OMB): OMB Control Numbers 2115–0139, 2115–0035, 2115–0598, 2115–0556, and 2115–0111

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Coast Guard intends to seek the approval of OMB for the renewal of five Information Collection Requests (ICRs). The ICRs comprise (1) Ships' Stores Certification for Hazardous Materials Aboard Ships; (2) Report of Defect or Noncompliance and Report of Campaign Update; (3) Ballast Water Management for Vessels with Ballast Tanks Entering U.S. Waters; (4) (a) Reports of MARPOL 73/78 Oil, Noxious Liquid Substances (NLSs) and Garbage Discharge, (b) Application for Equivalents, Exemptions, and Alternatives, and (c) Voluntary Reports of Pollution Sightings; and (5) Course Approvals for Merchant Marine Training Schools. Before submitting the ICRs to OMB, the Coast Guard is inviting comments on them as described below.

DATES: Comments must reach the Coast Guard on or before September 30, 2002.

ADDRESSES: To make sure that your comments and related material do not enter the docket [USCG 2002–12690] more than once, please submit them by only one of the following means:

(1) By mail to the Docket Management Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), room PL–401, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590–0001. Caution: Because of recent delays in the delivery of mail, your comments may reach the Facility more quickly if you choose one of the other means described below.

(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 material received from the public, as well as documents