

with an opportunity to share information concerning the federal regulatory enforcement and compliance environment.

Anyone wishing to attend or to make a presentation must contact Rose Garland in writing or by fax, in order to be put on the agenda. Rose Garland, U.S. Small Business Administration, St. Louis District Office, 815 Olive Street, Room 242, St. Louis, MO 63101, phone (314) 539-6600 ext. 232, fax (314) 539-3785, e-mail: rose.garland@sba.gov.

For more information, see our Web site at <http://www.sba.gov/ombudsman>.

Dated: October 23, 2002.

Michael L. Barrera,

National Ombudsman.

[FR Doc. 02-27795 Filed 10-31-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL

SES Performance Review Board

AGENCY: U.S. Office of Special Counsel

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the appointment of a member of the OSC Performance Review Board. The following person has been appointed to the SES Performance Review Board in the U.S. Office of Special Counsel: Bernestine Allen, Director, Office of International Transportation and Trade, Department of Transportation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: M. Marie Glover, Director of Human Resources, U.S. Office of Special Counsel, 1730 M Street, NW., Suite 218, Washington, D.C. 20036-4505, (202) 653-9485.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Section 4314(c)(1) through (5) of Title 5, U.S.C., requires each agency to establish, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Office of Personnel Management, one or more SES performance review boards. The board reviews and evaluates the initial appraisal of a senior executive's performance by the supervisor, and considers recommendations to the appointing authority regarding the performance of the senior executive.

Dated: October 25, 2002.

Elaine D. Kaplan,

Special Counsel.

[FR Doc. 02-27763 Filed 10-31-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7405-01-S

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Generalized System of Preferences (GSP); Deadline for Submission of Petitions for the 2002 Annual GSP Product and Country Eligibility Practices Review and Status of 2001 Annual GSP Review

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the initiation of the 2002 Annual GSP Product and Country Eligibility Practices Review and sets the deadline for the submission of petitions on December 2, 2002. The notification of which petitions have been accepted for the 2002 and 2001 Annual GSP Reviews and other relevant dates will be issued in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Contact the GSP Subcommittee, Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), 1724 F Street, NW., Room F-220, Washington, DC 20508. The telephone number is (202) 395-6971 and the facsimile number is (202) 395-9481.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The GSP provides for the duty-free importation of designated articles when imported from designated beneficiary developing countries. The GSP is authorized by title V of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2461, *et seq.*), as amended (the "Trade Act"), and is implemented in accordance with Executive Order 11888 of November 24, 1975, as modified by subsequent Executive Orders and Presidential Proclamations.

2002 Annual GSP Review

The GSP regulations (15 CFR Part 2007) provide the schedule of dates for conducting an annual review unless otherwise specified by a **Federal Register** notice. Notice is hereby given that, in order to be considered in the 2002 Annual GSP Product and Country Eligibility Practices Review, all petitions to modify the list of articles eligible for duty-free treatment under GSP or to review the GSP status of any beneficiary developing country must be received by the GSP Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee no later than 5 p.m., December 2, 2002. Petitions submitted after the deadline will not be considered for review.

Interested parties or foreign governments may submit petitions to: (1) Designate additional articles as eligible for GSP; (2) withdraw, suspend or limit GSP duty-free treatment accorded either to eligible articles under

the GSP or to individual beneficiary developing countries with respect to specific GSP eligible articles; (3) waive the "competitive need limits" for individual beneficiary developing countries with respect to specific GSP eligible articles; and (4) otherwise modify GSP coverage. As specified in 15 CFR 2007.1, all product petitions must include a detailed description of the product and the subheading of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) of the United States under which the product is classified.

Interested parties may also submit petitions to have the GSP status of any eligible beneficiary developing country reviewed with respect to any of the designation criteria listed in sections 502(b) or 502(c) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(b) and (c)). Such petitions must comply with the requirements of 15 CFR 2007.0(b).

Requirements for Submissions

All such submissions must conform to the GSP regulations set forth at 15 CFR part 2007, except as modified below. These regulations are also included in "A Guide to the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)" (August 1991) ("GSP Guidebook"), available at www.ustr.gov. Petitioners are strongly advised to review the GSP regulations. Submissions that do not provide all information required by sections 2007.0 and 2007.1 of the GSP regulations will not be accepted for review, except upon a detailed showing in the submission that the petitioner made a good faith effort to obtain the information required. Petitions with respect to waivers of the "competitive need limitations" must meet the information requirements for product addition requests in section 2007.1(c) of the GSP regulations. A model petition format is available from the GSP Subcommittee and is included in the GSP Guide. Petitioners are requested to use this model petition format so as to ensure that all information requirements are met. Furthermore, interested parties submitting petitions that request action with respect to specific products should list on the first page of the petition the following information: (1) The requested action; (2) the United States HTS subheading in which the product is classified; and (3) if applicable, the beneficiary country.

Petitions and requests must be submitted, in English, to the Chairman of the GSP Subcommittee, Trade Policy Staff Committee and must be received no later than December 2, 2002. Submissions in response to this notice will be subject to public inspection by appointment with the staff of the USTR

Public Reading Room, except for information granted "business confidential" status pursuant to 15 CFR 2003.6. If the submission contains business confidential information, a non-confidential version of the submission must also be submitted that indicates where confidential information was redacted by inserting asterisks where material was deleted. In addition, the confidential submission must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" at the top and bottom of each and every page of the document. The public version which does not contain business confidential information must also be clearly marked at the top and bottom of each and every page (either "PUBLIC VERSION" or "NON-CONFIDENTIAL").

In order to facilitate prompt consideration of submissions, USTR 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. These submissions should be single copy transmissions in English with the total submission not to exceed 50 single-spaced pages and 3 megabytes as a digital file attached to an e-mail transmission. Persons making submissions by e-mail should use the following subject line: "2002 Annual GSP Review—Petition." Documents must be submitted as either WordPerfect ("*.WPD"), MSWord ("*.DOC"), or text ("*.TXT") files. Documents should not be submitted as electronic image files or contain imbedded images (for example, "*.JPG", "*.PDF", "*.BMP", or "*.GIF") as these type files are generally excessively large. E-mail submissions containing such files may not be accepted. Supporting documentation submitted as spreadsheets are acceptable as Quattro Pro or Excel, pre-formatted for printing on 8½ x 11 inch paper. To the extent possible, any data attachments to the submission should be included in the same file as the submission itself, and not as separate files. Facsimile submissions should include, among other identifying information specified in the regulations, the following information at the top of the first page: "2002 Annual GSP Review."

For any document containing business confidential information submitted as an electronic attached file to an e-mail transmission, 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 party (government, company, union, association, etc.)

which is submitting the petition. Parties who make submissions by e-mail should not provide separate cover letters or messages in the message area of the e-mail; information that might appear in any cover letter should be included directly in the attached file containing the submission itself. The e-mail address for these submissions is FR0052@USTR.GOV. Documents not submitted in accordance with these instructions might not be considered in this review.

Public versions of all documents relating to this review will be available for review approximately three weeks after the due date by appointment in the USTR Public Reading Room, 1724 F Street NW., Washington, DC. Availability of documents may be ascertained, and appointments may be made from 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, by calling (202) 395-6186.

Status of 2001 Annual GSP Review

The GSP program expired on September 30, 2001, and was not reauthorized until August 6, 2002. Consequently, the announcement of which petitions were to be accepted for the 2001 Annual GSP Review was not made, except for the announcement in the August 28, 2002 **Federal Register** of those petitions accepted for the Special Three Country Review for Argentina, the Philippines and Turkey. Because of this delay, the schedule for completing the 2002 and 2001 Annual GSP Reviews will be merged to the extent practicable. The notification of which petitions have been accepted for the 2002 and 2001 Annual GSP Reviews and other relevant dates, including the review schedule, will be issued in the **Federal Register**.

Steven Falken,

Executive Director for GSP, Chairman, GSP Subcommittee.

[FR Doc. 02-27773 Filed 10-31-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3901-01-P

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Request for Public Comment With Respect to the Annual National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 303 of the Trade and Tariff Act of 1984, as amended, USTR is required to publish annually the National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers (NTE).

With this notice, the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) is requesting interested parties to assist it in identifying significant barriers to U.S. exports of goods, services and overseas direct investment for inclusion in the NTE. Particularly important are impediments materially affecting the actual and potential financial performance of an industry sector. The TPSC invites written comments that provide views relevant to the issues to be examined in preparing the NTE. In order to ensure the most timely processing of submissions, the Department of Commerce will receive comments in response to this Notice. Commenters should review carefully the written comments section of this Notice for special procedures for filing comments this year.

DATES: Public comments are due not later than Friday, December 13, 2002. This deadline is firm. No submissions will be accepted after December 13.

ADDRESSES: *Paper submissions:* NTE Comments, Office of Trade and Economic Analysis, Room H-2815, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230.

Submissions by electronic mail:
ntecomments@ita.doc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Procedural questions about transmitting comments or viewing public submissions should be directed to Ms. Marva Thompson (202-482-2185) or Mr. Howard Schreier (202-482-4180), U.S. Department of Commerce. Questions regarding the report or its subject matter should be directed to Ms. Gloria Blue, Office of Policy Coordination, Office of the United States Trade Representative (202-395-3475).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Last year's report may be found on USTR's Internet Home Page (www.ustr.gov) under the section on Reports. In order to ensure compliance with the statutory mandate for reporting foreign trade barriers that are significant, we will focus particularly on those restrictions where there has been active private sector interest.

The information submitted should relate to one or more of the following ten categories of foreign trade barriers:

(1) Import policies (e.g., tariffs and other import charges, quantitative restrictions, import licensing, and customs barriers);

(2) Standards, testing, labeling, and certification (including unnecessarily restrictive application of phytosanitary standards, refusal to accept U.S. manufacturers' self-certification of