

This biodegradable filter may suit patients with temporary needs for protection (patients with prolonged immobility, hip replacement, trauma, intensive care patients).

### Triplex Hairpin Ribozyme

Joseph A. DiPaolo (NCI), Luis Alvarez-Salas (EM).

U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/500,000 filed 23 Sep 2002 (DHHS Reference No. E-326-2002/0-US-01); PCT Application No. PCT/US03/29893 filed 23 Sep 2003 (DHHS Reference No. E-326-2002/0-PCT-02).

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Much work has focused on understanding and utilizing nucleic acids as biological catalysts. Indeed, progress has been made in determining the mechanism, kinetics and conformational requirements in harnessing these potential biological catalysts. This technology has value in its potential for gene therapy applications such as gene silencing.

The technology described is a recombinant plasmid or expression vector in which a DNA-encoded trans-acting hairpin ribozyme of interest is ligated to DNA-encoded cis-acting hairpin ribozyme. In this configuration, the cis-acting ribozyme serves to cleave the 5' and 3' ends of the trans-acting ribozyme of interest. The trans-acting ribozymes can be replaced with any user-defined sequence such as antisense RNA or RNAs of viruses. This unit provides several trans-acting hairpin ribozymes that are trimmed at the ends are further generated. Thus several independent ribozymes can be produced from a single transcribed RNA.

Dated: March 30, 2004.

**Steven M. Ferguson,**

*Director, Division of Technology Development and Transfer, Office of Technology Transfer, National Institutes of Health.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### Bureau of Customs and Border Protection

#### Agency Information Collection Activities: United-State-Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security.

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comments requested.

**SUMMARY:** The Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) of the Department of Homeland Security has submitted the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and approval in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995: United States-Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act. This is a proposed extension of an information collection that was previously approved. CBP is proposing that this information collection be extended without a change to the burden hours. This document is published to obtain comments from the public and affected agencies. This proposed information collection was previously published in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 70281) on December 17, 2003, allowing for a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments. This process is conducted in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.10.

**DATES:** Written comments should be received on or before May 6, 2004.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and/or suggestions regarding the items contained in this notice, especially the estimated public burden and associated response time should be directed to the Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Department of Treasury Desk Officer, Washington, DC 20503. Additionally comments may be submitted to OMB via facsimile to (202) 395-6974.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) encourages the general public and affected Federal agencies to submit written comments and suggestions on proposed and/or continuing information collection requests pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13). Your comments should address one of the following four points:

- (1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the Proper performance of the functions of the agency/component, including whether the information will have practical utility;
- (2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agencies/components estimate of the burden of The proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- (3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- (4) Minimize the burden of the collections of information on those who

are to respond, including the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

*Title:* United States-Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act.

*OMB Number:* 1651-0083.

*Form Number:* CBP-450.

*Abstract:* The collection of information is required to implement the duty preference provisions of the United States-Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act.

*Current Actions:* This submission is being submitted to extend the expiration date without a change in the burden hours.

*Type of Review:* Extension (without change).

*Affected Public:* Business or other for-profit institutions, Not for profit institutions, Individuals.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 440.

*Estimated Time Per Respondent:* 42.5 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 18,720.

*Estimated Total Annualized Cost on the Public:* \$430,560.

If additional information is required contact: Daryl Joyner, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Room 3.2.C, Washington, DC 20229, at 202-927-1429.

Dated: March 29, 2004.

**Daryl Joyner,**

*Agency Clearance Officer, Information Services Branch.*

[FR Doc. 04-7737 Filed 4-5-04; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### Customs and Border Protection

#### Quarterly IRS Interest Rates Used in Calculating Interest on Overdue Accounts and Refunds on Customs Duties

**AGENCY:** Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security.

**ACTION:** General notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public of the quarterly Internal Revenue Service interest rates used to calculate interest on overdue accounts (underpayments) and refunds (overpayments) of Customs duties. For the calendar quarter beginning April 1, 2004, the interest rates for overpayments will be 4 percent for corporations and 5