

VII. Agency Contacts

For questions about this announcement, contact: Rhonda E. Boris, Program Officer, Office of Academic Exchange Programs, ECA/A/E, Room 234, ECA/A/E 05-01-MEPI, U.S. Department of State, SA-44, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547, 202-619-4360 (phone), 202-401-5914 (fax) or borisre@state.gov.

All correspondence with the Bureau concerning this RFGP should reference the above title and number ECA/A/E 05-01-MEPI.

Please read the complete **Federal Register** announcement before sending inquiries or submitting proposals. Once the RFGP deadline has passed, Bureau staff may not discuss this competition with applicants until the proposal review process has been completed.

VIII. Other Information

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFGP are binding and may not be modified by any Bureau representative. Explanatory information provided by the Bureau that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFGP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The Bureau reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program and the availability of funds. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements per section VI.3 above.

Notification

Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal Bureau procedures.

Dated: February 18, 2005.

C. Miller Crouch,

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Generalized System of Preferences (GSP): Notice Regarding Products in the 2004 Annual Review

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR)

received petitions in 2004 to modify the list of products that are eligible for duty-free treatment under the GSP program and to modify the GSP status of certain GSP beneficiary developing countries because of country practices. The list of country practice petitions accepted for review will be announced in the **Federal Register** at a later date. This notice announces the product petitions that are accepted for further review in the 2004 GSP Annual Review, and sets forth the schedule for comment and public hearing on these petitions, for requesting participation in the hearing, and for submitting pre-hearing and post-hearing briefs.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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

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 "1974 Act"), and is implemented in accordance with Executive Order 11888 of November 24, 1975, as modified by subsequent Executive Orders and Presidential Proclamations.

In a **Federal Register** notice dated November 15, 2004, USTR extended the due date for the filing of product and country practice petitions for the 2004 GSP Annual Review to December 13, 2004 (69 FR 65674). The product petitions received requested changes in the list of eligible products by adding or removing products, or by waiving the "competitive need limitations" (CNLs) for a country for an eligible article. The President's authority to grant CNL waivers is set forth in section 503(d) of the 1974 Act (19 U.S.C. 2463(d)).

The interagency GSP Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) has reviewed the product petitions, and the TPSC has decided to initiate a full review of the product petitions listed in Annex II. Annex II to this notice sets forth, for each type of change requested: the case number, the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) subheading number, a brief description of the product (*see* the HTS for an authoritative description available on the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) Web site (<http://www.usitc.gov/taffairs>)), and the petitioner for each petition included in this review. Acceptance of a petition for

review does not indicate any opinion with respect to the disposition on the merits of the petition. Acceptance indicates only that the listed petitions have been found eligible for review by the TPSC and that such review will take place. Modifications to the list of articles eligible for duty-free treatment under the GSP resulting from the 2004 Annual Review will be announced on or about June 30, 2005, in the **Federal Register**, and any changes will take effect on the effective date announced.

Opportunities for Public Comment and Inspection of Comments

The GSP Subcommittee of the TPSC invites comments in support of or in opposition to any petition which is included in this Annual Review (Annex II). Submissions should comply with 15 CFR part 2007, except as modified below. All submissions should identify the subject article(s) in terms of the case number and HTS subheading number as shown in Annexes II. The GSP regulations (15 CFR part 2007) provide the schedule of dates for conducting an annual review unless otherwise specified in a **Federal Register** notice. This notice specifies the revised schedule for public comment and hearings, set out in Annex I.

Requirements for Submissions

In order to facilitate prompt processing of submissions, USTR strongly urges and prefers electronic e-mail submissions in response to this notice. Hand-delivered submissions will not be accepted. These submissions should be single copy transmissions in English with the total submission not to exceed 50 single-spaced standard letter-size pages. E-mail submissions should use the following subject line: "2004 GSP Annual Review" followed by the Case Number and HTS subheading number found in the Annex II (for example, 2004-07 5702.91.30) and, as appropriate "Written Comments", "Notice of Intent to Testify", "Pre-hearing brief", "Post-hearing brief" or "Comments on USITC Advice". (For example, an e-mail subject line might read "2004-07 5702.91.30 Written Comments".) Documents must be submitted in English in one of the following formats: WordPerfect (.WPD), MSWord (.DOC), or text (.TXT) files. Documents may not be submitted as electronic image files or contain imbedded images (for example, ".JPG", ".PDF", ".BMP", or ".GIF"). E-mail submissions containing such files will not be accepted. Supporting documentation submitted as spreadsheets are acceptable as Quattro Pro or Excel files, formatted for printing

on 8½ × 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.

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 page of the document. The non-confidential version must also be clearly marked at the top and bottom of each page (either "PUBLIC VERSION" or "NON-CONFIDENTIAL"). Documents that are submitted without any marking might not be accepted or will be considered public documents.

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 making the submission.

E-mail submissions should not include 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, including the sender's e-mail address and other identifying information. The e-mail address for these submissions is

FR0441@USTR.GOV. Documents not submitted in accordance with these instructions might not be considered in this review. If unable to provide submissions by e-mail, please contact the GSP Subcommittee to arrange for an alternative method of transmission.

Public versions of all documents relating to this review will be available for review Tuesday, March 15, by appointment in the USTR public reading room, 1724 F Street, NW., Washington, DC. 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.

Notice of Public Hearings

Hearings will be held by the GSP Subcommittee of the TPSC on March 24, 2005, beginning at 10 a.m. at the U.S. International Trade Commission, Main Hearing Room, 500 E Street, SW., Washington, DC 20436. The hearings will be open to the public and a transcript of the hearings will be made available for public inspection or can be purchased from the reporting company. No electronic media coverage will be allowed.

All interested parties wishing to make an oral presentation at the hearings must submit, following the above "Requirements for Submissions", the name, address, telephone number, and facsimile number and email address, if available, of the witness(es) representing their organization to the Chairman of the GSP Subcommittee by 5 p.m., March 10, 2005. Requests to present oral testimony in connection with the public hearings must be accompanied by a written brief or statement, in English, and also must be received by 5 p.m., March 10, 2005. Oral testimony before

the GSP Subcommittee will be limited to five-minute presentations that summarize or supplement information contained in briefs or statements submitted for the record. Post-hearing briefs or statements will be accepted if they conform with the regulations cited above and are submitted, in English, by 5 p.m., April 15, 2005. Parties not wishing to appear at the public hearings may submit post-hearing written briefs or statements, in English, by 5 p.m., April 15, 2005.

In accordance with sections 503(a)(1)(A) and 503(e) of the 1974 Act and the authority delegated by the President, pursuant to section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930, the U.S. Trade Representative has requested that the USITC provide its advice on the probable economic effect of the following actions on U.S. industries producing like or directly competitive articles and on consumers, as appropriate: (1) The elimination of U.S. import duties for all beneficiary developing countries, (2) the removal of a country from eligibility for duty-free treatment under the GSP for such article, and (3) whether any industry in the United States is likely to be adversely affected by a waiver of the competitive need limits specified in section 503(d)(1) of the 1974 Act for the country specified. Comments by interested persons on the USITC Report prepared as part of the product review should be submitted by 5 p.m., 10 days after the date of USITC publication of its report.

Stephen Wanser,

Deputy Director, GSP, GSP Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee.

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Annex I**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE****GSP – 2004 ANNUAL REVIEW
PUBLIC COMMENT AND HEARING SCHEDULE**

March 10, 2005 Due Date for Requests to Appear at Public Hearings and Submission of Pre-hearing Briefs.
March 10, 2005 Due Date for Providing the Name, Address, Telephone, Fax, Email Address and Organization of Witnesses.
(March 23, 2005 U.S. International Trade Commission scheduled hearings on economic effect on U.S. industries.)
March 24, 2005 USTR's TPSC GSP Subcommittee Public Hearings to Be Held at U.S. International Trade Commission,
Main Hearing Room, 500 E Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20436.
April 15, 2005 Due Date for Submission of Post-hearing and Rebuttal Briefs.
May 2005 USITC Scheduled to Publish Report to the President.
Comments on the USITC Report to the President due 10 days after USITC date of publication.
June 30, 2005 Annual Review Decisions Scheduled to Be Announced on or about this Date.

For Further Information Contact GSP Information Center, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, 1724 F Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20508 Telephone: 202-395-6971

For Public Documents Related to this Review: USTR Public Reading Room, 1724 F Street N.W., Washington, D.C.
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.

Notification of Any Changes Will Be Given in the *Federal Register*.

Annex II

The Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) subheadings listed below have been accepted as product petitions for the 2004 Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) Annual Review for modification of the (GSP). The tariff nomenclature in the HTS for the subheadings listed below are definitive; the product descriptions in this list are for informational purposes only (except in those cases where only part of a subheading is the subject of a petition). The descriptions below are not intended to delimit in any way the scope of the subheading. The HTS may be viewed on <http://www.usitc.gov/tata/index.htm>.

Case No.	HTS Subheading	Brief Description	Petitioner
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A. Petitions to add products to the list of eligible articles for the Generalized System of Preferences.

2004-01	0804.10.20	Dates, fresh or dried, whole, with or without pits, packed in units weighing (with immediate container, if any) not over 4.6 kg	USTR <u>1/</u>
2004-02	0804.10.40	Dates, fresh or dried, whole, with pits, packed in units weighing over 4.6 kg	do.
2004-03	0804.10.60	Dates, fresh or dried, whole, without pits, packed in units weighing over 4.6 kg	do.
2004-04	0804.10.80	Dates, fresh or dried, other than whole	do.
2004-05	2008.99.25	Dates, otherwise prepared or preserved, not elsewhere specified or included	do.
2004-06	5702.51.20	Carpets and other textile floor coverings, of pile construction, not made up, woven but not on a power-driven loom, of wool or fine animal hair	USTR <u>2/</u>
2004-07	5702.91.30	Carpets and other textile floor coverings, not of pile construction, made up, woven but not on a power-driven loom, of wool or fine animal hair	do.
2004-08	5702.92.0010	Carpets and other textile floor coverings, not of pile construction, made up, woven but not on a power-driven loom, of man-made textile materials	do.
2004-09	5702.99.1010	Carpets and other textile floor coverings, not of pile construction, made up, woven but not on a power-driven loom, of cotton	do.
2004-10	5703.10.0020	Carpets and other textile floor coverings, tufted, hand-hooked, that is, in which the tufts were inserted by hand or by means of a hand tool, of wool or fine animal hair	do. Government of Nepal
2004-11	5703.20.10	Carpets and other textile floor coverings, tufted, hand-hooked, that is, in which the tufts were inserted by hand or by means of a hand tool, of nylon or other polyamides	USTR <u>2/</u>

1/ USTR is self-initiating a petition for this HTS.

2/ Section 1555 of Public Law 108-429 authorizes the President to designate certain carpets and rugs as eligible articles under the Generalized System of Preferences. USTR is self-initiating a petition for this HTS.

Annex II

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Case No.	HTS Subheading	Brief Description	Petitioner
A. <u>Petitions to add products to the list of eligible articles for the Generalized System of Preferences.</u> (continued)			
2004-12	5703.30.0020	Carpets and other textile floor coverings, tufted, hand-hooked, that is, in which the tufts were inserted by hand or by means of a hand tool, of other man-made textile materials	USTR <u>1/</u>
2004-13	7320.10.60	Leaf springs and leaves therefore, suitable for motor vehicle suspension, to be used in motor vehicles having G.V.W. of 4 metric tons or over	Rassini-NHK Autopecas Ltda., Brazil
B. <u>Petitions to remove duty-free status from beneficiary developing country/countries for a product on the list of eligible articles for Generalized System of Preferences.</u> <u>2/</u>			
2004-14	3904.61.00 (Russia)	Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), in primary forms	Asahi Glass Chemicals, Inc., Bayonne, NJ; Dalkin America, Inc., Orangeburg, NY; E. I. Dupont de Nemours & Co. Inc., Wilmington, DE
C. <u>Petitions for waiver of competitive need limits for a product on the list of eligible products for the Generalized System of Preferences.</u>			
2004-15	3823.19.20 (Philippines)	Industrial monocarboxylic fatty acids or acid oils from refining derived from coconut, palm-kernel, or palm oil	Government of the Philippines
2004-16	4107.19.50 (Argentina)	Other whole upholstery leather of bovines (not buffalo) and equines, without hair on, prepared after tanning or crusting, not of heading 4114	Camara de la Curtidora Argentina, Argentina
2004-17	4107.92.80 (Argentina)	Other grain splits bovine (not buffalo) and equine leather, not whole, without hair on, fancy, prepared after tanning or crusting, not of heading 4114	do.
2004-18	6802.91.25 (Turkey)	Other monumental or building stone and articles thereof, of travertine, further worked than simply cut or sawn or dressed or polished	Istanbul Minerals and Metals Exporters Association, Turkey

1/ Section 1555 of Public Law 108-429 authorizes the President to designate certain carpets and rugs as eligible articles under the Generalized System of Preferences. USTR is self-initiating a petition for this HTS.

2/ The country named is the beneficiary developing country specified by the petitioner. While the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) review will focus on that country, the TPSC reserves the right to address removal of GSP status for countries other than those specified by the petitioner as well as the GSP status of the entire article.