

DATES: *Effective Date:* 12/21/2005.

Physical Loan Application Deadline Date: 02/21/2006.

Economic Injury (Eidl) Loan Application Deadline Date: 09/21/2006.

ADDRESSES: Submit completed loan applications to: Small Business Administration, National Processing And Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: A. Escobar, Office of Disaster Assistance, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street, SW., Suite 6050, Washington, DC 20416.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is hereby given that as a result of the Administrator's disaster declaration applications for disaster loans may be filed at the address listed above or other locally announced locations.

The following areas have been determined to be adversely affected by the disaster:

Primary Counties:

Hartford, Litchfield, Tolland

Contiguous Counties: Connecticut

Fairfield, Middlesex, New Haven, New London, Windham

Massachusetts

Berkshire, Hampden, Worcester

New York

Dutchess

The Interest Rates are:

	Percent
Homeowners With Credit Available Elsewhere	5.375
Homeowners Without Credit Available Elsewhere	2.687
Businesses With Credit Available Elsewhere	6.557
Businesses & Small Agricultural Cooperatives Without Credit Available Elsewhere	4.000
Other (Including Non-Profit Organizations) With Credit Available Elsewhere	4.750
Businesses And Non-Profit Organizations Without Credit Available Elsewhere	4.000

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 10299 6 and for economic injury is 10300 0.

The States which received an EIDL Declaration # are Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers 59002 and 59008)

Dated: December 21, 2005.

Hector V. Barreto,
Administrator.

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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Interest Rates

The Small Business Administration publishes an interest rate called the optional "peg" rate (13 CFR 120.214) on a quarterly basis. This rate is a weighted average cost of money to the government for maturities similar to the average SBA direct loan. This rate may be used as a base rate for guaranteed fluctuating interest rate SBA loans. This rate will be 4.625 (4⁵/₈) percent for the January-March quarter of FY 2006.

Luz A. Hopewell,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Financial Assistance.

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Generalized System of Preferences (GSP): Initiation of a Review To Consider the Designation of Liberia as a Least Developed Beneficiary Developing Country Under the GSP

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice and solicitation of public comment.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the initiation of a review to consider the designation of Liberia as a least developed beneficiary developing country under the GSP program and solicits public comment relating to the designation criteria. Comments are due January 13, 2006, in accordance with the requirements for submissions, explained below.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments by electronic mail (e-mail) to: FR0441@ustr.gov. For assistance or if unable to submit comments by e-mail, contact the GSP Subcommittee, Office of the United States Trade Representative; USTR Annex, Room F-220; 1724 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508 (Tel. 202-395-6971).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact the GSP Subcommittee, Office of the United States Trade Representative; USTR Annex, Room F-220; 1724 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508 (Telephone: 202-395-6971, Facsimile: 202-395-9481).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Liberia's GSP eligibility was suspended, effective May 1, 1990, because, following a review and recommendation by the Trade Policy Staff Committee in 1989, it was determined that it had not taken

and was not taking steps to afford internationally recognized worker rights to workers in Liberia. The review was initiated in response to a petition filed by the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights in 1988. The GSP Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) has initiated a review in order to make a recommendation to the President as to whether Liberia meets the eligibility criteria of the GSP statute, as set out below. After considering the eligibility criteria, the President is authorized to designate Liberia as a least developed beneficiary developing country for purposes of the GSP.

Interested parties are invited to submit comments regarding the eligibility of Liberia for designation as a least developed beneficiary developing country. Documents should be submitted in accordance with the below instructions to be considered in this review.

Eligibility Criteria

The trade benefits of the GSP program are available to any country that the President designates as a GSP "beneficiary developing country." Additional trade benefits under the GSP are available to any country that the President designates as a GSP "least-developed beneficiary developing country." In designating countries as GSP beneficiary developing countries, the President must consider the criteria in sections 502(b)(2) and 502(c) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2462(b)(2), 2462(c)) ("the Act"). Section 502(b)(2) provides that a country is ineligible for designation if:

1. Such country is a Communist country, unless—
 - (a) The products of such country receive nondiscriminatory treatment, (b) Such country is a WTO Member (as such term is defined in section 2(10) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act) (19 U.S.C. 3501(10)) and a member of the International Monetary Fund, and (c) Such country is not dominated or controlled by international communism.
2. Such country is a party to an arrangement of countries and participates in any action pursuant to such arrangement, the effect of which is—
 - (a) To withhold supplies of vital commodity resources from international trade or to raise the price of such commodities to an unreasonable level, and (b) To cause serious disruption of the world economy.
3. Such country affords preferential treatment to the products of a developed country, other than the United States, which has, or is likely to have, a