

force with 22 other countries. This agreement is authorized by section 233 of the Social Security Act. 42 U.S.C. 433.

The U.S.-Czech agreement eliminates dual social security coverage—a situation that exists when a worker from one country works in the other country and is covered under the social security systems of both countries for the same work. Without such agreements in force, when dual coverage occurs, the worker or the worker's employer or both may be required to pay social security contributions to the two countries simultaneously. Under the U.S.-Czech agreement, a worker who is sent by an employer in one country to work in the other country for 5 years or less remains covered only by the sending country.

The agreement includes additional rules that eliminate dual U.S. and Czech coverage in other work situations. The agreement also helps eliminate situations where workers suffer a loss of benefit rights because they have divided their careers between the two countries. Under the agreement, workers may qualify for partial U.S. benefits or partial Czech benefits based on combined (totalized) work credits from both countries.

If you want copies of the agreement or want more information about its provisions you may write to the Social Security Administration, Office of International Programs, Post Office Box 17741, Baltimore, MD 21235-7741 or visit the Social Security Web site at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/international>.

Dated: December 23, 2008.

Michael J. Astrue,

Commissioner of Social Security.

[FR Doc. E8-31136 Filed 12-30-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4191-02-P

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

[Docket No. SSA-2008-0067]

Rate for Assessment on Direct Payment Fees to Representatives in 2009

AGENCY: Social Security Administration (SSA).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are announcing that the assessment percentage rate under sections 206(d) and 1631(d)(2)(C) of the Social Security Act (the Act), 42 U.S.C. 406 (d), and 1383(d)(2)(C) is 6.3 percent for 2009.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gwen Jones Kelley, Acting Associate General Counsel for Program Law,

Office of the General Counsel, Social Security Administration, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235-6401. *Phone:* (410) 965-0495, *e-mail:* Gwen.Jones.Kelley@ssa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 406 of Public Law No. 106-170, the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999, established an assessment for the services required to determine and certify payments to attorneys from the benefits due claimants under Title II of the Act. This provision is codified in section 206 of the Act (42 U.S.C. 406). That legislation set the assessment for the calendar year 2000 at 6.3 percent of the amount that would be required to be certified for direct payment to the attorney under sections 206(a)(4) or (b)(1) of the Act before the application of the assessment. For subsequent years, the legislation requires us to determine the percentage rate necessary to achieve full recovery of the costs of determining and certifying fees to attorneys, but not in excess of 6.3 percent. Beginning in 2005, sections 302 and 303 of Public Law No. 108-203, the Social Security Protection Act of 2004 (SSPA), extended the direct payment of fees to attorneys in cases under Title XVI of the Act and to eligible non-attorney representatives in cases under Title II or Title XVI of the Act. Fees directly paid under these provisions are subject to the same assessment. In addition, sections 301 and 302 of the SSPA imposed a dollar cap (i.e., currently \$83.00) on the amount of the assessment so that the assessment may not exceed the lesser of that dollar cap or the amount determined using the assessment percentage rate.

Based on the best available data, we have determined that the current rate of 6.3 percent will continue for 2009. We will continue to review our costs for these services on a yearly basis.

Dated: December 19, 2008.

Mary Glenn-Croft,

Deputy Commissioner for Budget, Finance and Management.

[FR Doc. E8-31129 Filed 12-30-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4191-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 6471]

List of December 31, 2008 of Participating Countries and Entities (Hereinafter Known as "Participants") Under the Clean Diamond Trade Act of 2003 (Pub. L. 108-19) and Section 2 of Executive Order 13312 of July 29, 2003

AGENCY: Department of State.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Sections 3 and 6 of the Clean Diamond Trade Act of 2003 (Pub. L. 108-19) and Section 2 of Executive Order 13312 of July 29, 2003, the Department of State is identifying all the Participants eligible for trade in rough diamonds under the Act, and their respective Importing and Exporting Authorities, and revising the previously published list of September 8, 2008 (73 FR 52073) to add Mexico and delete Cote d'Ivoire.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sue Saarnio, Special Advisor for Conflict Diamonds, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, Department of State (202) 647-4108.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 4 of the Clean Diamond Trade Act (the "Act") requires the President to prohibit the importation into, or the exportation from, the United States of any rough diamond, from whatever source, that has not been controlled through the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS). Under Section 3(2) of the Act, "controlled through the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme" means an importation from the territory of a Participant or exportation to the territory of a Participant of rough diamonds that is either (i) carried out in accordance with the KPCS, as set forth in regulations promulgated by the President, or (ii) controlled under a system determined by the President to meet substantially the standards, practices, and procedures of the KPCS. The referenced regulations are contained at 31 CFR Part 592 ("Rough Diamonds Control Regulations") (69 FR 56936, Sept. 23, 2004). Section 6(b) of the Act requires the President to publish in the **Federal Register** a list of all Participants, and all Importing and Exporting Authorities of Participants, and to update the list as necessary. Section 2 of Executive Order 13312 delegates this function to the Secretary of State. Section 3(7) of the Act defines "Participant" as a state, customs territory, or regional economic integration organization identified by the Secretary of State. Section 3(3) of the Act defines "Exporting Authority" as one or more entities designated by a Participant from whose territory a shipment of rough diamonds is being exported as having the authority to validate a Kimberley Process Certificate. Section 3(4) of the Act defines "Importing Authority" as one or more entities designated by a Participant into whose territory a shipment of rough diamonds is imported as having the authority to enforce the laws and

regulations of the Participant regarding imports, including the verification of the Kimberley Process Certificate accompanying the shipment.

List of Participants

Pursuant to Section 3 of the Act, Section 2 of Executive Order 13312, and Delegation of Authority No. 294 (July 6, 2006), I hereby identify the following entities as of November 6, 2008, as Participants under section 6(b) of the Act. Included in this List are the Importing and Exporting Authorities for Participants, as required by Section 6(b) of the Act. This list revises the previously published list of September 8, 2008, to add Mexico to the list of participants in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme. This list also deletes Cote d'Ivoire, as shipments of rough diamonds from Cote d'Ivoire are not being controlled through the Kimberley Process.

Angola—Ministry of Geology and Mines.

Armenia—Ministry of Trade and Economic Development.

Australia—Exporting Authority—Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources; Importing Authority—Australian Customs Service.

Bangladesh—Ministry of Commerce.

Belarus—Department of Finance.

Botswana—Ministry of Minerals, Energy and Water Resources.

Brazil—Ministry of Mines and Energy.

Canada—Natural Resources Canada.

Central African Republic—Ministry of Energy and Mining.

China—General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine.

Democratic Republic of the Congo—Ministry of Mines. Republic of Congo—Ministry of Mines.

Croatia—Ministry of Economy. European Community—DG/External Relations/A.2.

Ghana—Precious Minerals and Marketing Company Ltd.

Guinea—Ministry of Mines and Geology.

Guyana—Geology and Mines Commission.

India—The Gem and Jewelry Export Promotion Council.

Indonesia—Directorate General of Foreign Trade of the Ministry of Trade.

Israel—The Diamond Controller.

Japan—Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

Republic of Korea—Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy.

Laos—Ministry of Finance.

Lebanon—Ministry of Economy and Trade.

Lesotho—Commissioner of Mines and Geology.

Liberia—Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy.

Malaysia—Ministry of International Trade and Industry.

Mauritius—Ministry of Commerce.

Namibia—Ministry of Mines and Energy.

Mexico—Ministry of the Economy.

New Zealand—Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Norway—The Norwegian Goldsmiths' Association.

Russia—Gokhran, Ministry of Finance.

Sierra Leone—Government Gold and Diamond Office.

Singapore—Singapore Customs.

South Africa—South African Diamond Board.

Sri Lanka—National Gem and Jewellery Authority.

Switzerland—State Secretariat for Economic Affairs.

Chinese Taipei—Bureau of Foreign Trade.

Tanzania—Commissioner for Minerals.

Thailand—Ministry of Commerce.

Togo—Ministry of Mines and Geology.

Turkey—Istanbul Gold Exchange.

Ukraine—State Gemological Centre of Ukraine.

United Arab Emirates—Dubai Metals and Commodities Center.

United States of America—Importing Authority—United States Bureau of Customs and Border Protection; Exporting Authority—Bureau of the Census.

Vietnam—Ministry of Trade.

Zimbabwe—Ministry of Mines and Mining Development.

This notice shall be published in the **Federal Register**.

John D. Negroponte,

Deputy Secretary of State, Department of State.

[FR Doc. E8-31151 Filed 12-30-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-07-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Applications of Baltia Airlines, Inc. for Certificate Authority

AGENCY: Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice of Order to Show Cause (Order 2008-12-12) Docket DOT-OST-2007-0007.

SUMMARY: The Department of Transportation is directing all interested persons to show cause why it should not issue an order finding Baltia Airlines, Inc., fit, willing, and able, and awarding it a certificate of public

convenience and necessity to engage in foreign scheduled air transportation of persons, property and mail.

DATES: Persons wishing to file objections should do so no later than January 2, 2009.

ADDRESSES: Objections and answers to objections should be filed in Docket DOT-OST-2007-0007 and addressed to U.S. Department of Transportation, Docket Operations, (M-30, Room W12-140), 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., West Building Ground Floor, Washington, DC 20590, and should be served upon the parties listed in Attachment A to the order.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Damon D. Walker, Air Carrier Fitness Division (X-56, Room W86-465), U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590, (202) 366-7785.

Michael W. Reynolds,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs.

[FR Doc. E8-31113 Filed 12-30-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-9X-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Notice of Applications for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and Foreign Air Carrier Permits Filed Under Subpart B (Formerly Subpart Q) During the Week Ending November 14, 2008

The following Applications for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and Foreign Air Carrier Permits were filed under Subpart B (formerly Subpart Q) of the Department of Transportation's Procedural Regulations (See 14 CFR 301.201 *et seq.*). The due date for Answers, Conforming Applications, or Motions to Modify Scope are set forth below for each application. Following the Answer period DOT may process the application by expedited procedures. Such procedures may consist of the adoption of a show-cause order, a tentative order, or in appropriate cases a final order without further proceedings.

Docket Number: DOT-OST-2008-0340.

Date Filed: November 10, 2008.

Due Date for Answers, Conforming Applications, or Motion to Modify Scope: December 1, 2008.

Description: Application of Solid aiR B.V. ("Solid aiR") requesting a foreign air carrier permit to the full extent authority by the Air Transport Agreement Between the United States