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We strongly urge submitters to avail themselves of the electronic filing, if at all possible. If an on-line submission is impossible, alternative arrangements must be made with Ms. Blue prior to delivery for the receipt of such submissions. Ms. Blue should be contacted at (202) 395-3475. General information concerning the Office of the United States Trade Representative may be obtained by accessing its Internet Web site (<http://www.ustr.gov>).

Carmen Suro-Bredie,

Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.

[FR Doc. E9-1515 Filed 1-23-09; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

United States-Israel Free Trade Area Implementation Act; Designation of Qualifying Industrial Zones

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Under the United States-Israel Free Trade Area Implementation Act (IFTA Act), articles of qualifying industrial zones encompassing portions of Israel and Jordan or Israel and Egypt are eligible to receive duty-free treatment. Effective upon publication of this notice, the United States Trade Representative, pursuant to authority delegated by the President, is designating the Beni Suief zone and the Al Minya zone as qualifying industrial zones under the IFTA Act.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sonia Franceski, Director for Middle East Affairs, (202) 395-4987, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to authority granted under section 9 of the United States-Israel Free Trade Area Implementation Act of 1985 (IFTA Act), as amended (19 U.S.C. 2112 note), Presidential Proclamation 6955 of November 13, 1996 (61 FR 58761) proclaimed certain tariff treatment for articles of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and qualifying industrial zones. In particular, the Presidential Proclamation modified general notes 3 and 8 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the

United States: (a) To provide duty-free treatment to qualifying articles that are the product of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip or a qualifying industrial zone and are entered in accordance with the provisions of section 9 of the IFTA Act; (b) to provide that articles of Israel may be treated as though they were articles directly shipped from Israel for purposes of the United States-Israel Free Trade Area Agreement (“the Agreement”) even if shipped to the United States from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, or a qualifying industrial zone, if the articles otherwise meet the requirements of the Agreement; and (c) to provide that the cost or value of materials produced in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, or a qualifying industrial zone may be included in the cost or value of materials produced in Israel under section 1(c)(i) of Annex 3 of the Agreement and that the direct costs of processing operations performed in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, or a qualifying industrial zone may be included in the direct costs of processing operations performed in Israel under section 1(c)(ii) of Annex 3 of the Agreement.

Section 9(e) of the IFTA Act defines a “qualifying industrial zone” as an area that “(1) Encompasses portions of the territory of Israel and Jordan or Israel and Egypt; (2) has been designated by local authorities as an enclave where merchandise may enter without payment of duty or excise taxes; and (3) has been specified by the President as a qualifying industrial zone.”

Presidential Proclamation 6955 delegated to the United States Trade Representative the authority to designate qualifying industrial zones.

The United States Trade Representative has previously designated qualifying industrial zones under Section 9 of the IFTA Act on March 13, 1998 (63 FR 12572), March 19, 1999 (64 FR 13623), October 15, 1999 (64 FR 56015), October 24, 2000 (65 FR 64472), and December 12, 2000 (65 FR 77688), June 15, 2001 (66 FR 32660), January 28, 2004 (69 FR 4199), December 29, 2004 (69 FR 78094), and November 16, 2005 (70 FR 69622).

The governments of Israel and Egypt jointly requested in a letter submitted to the United States Trade Representative on January 5, 2009 the designation as a qualifying industrial zone of the areas comprising the Beni Suief and Al Minya zones. The names and locations of the currently producing factories comprising the Beni Suief zone and the Al Minya zone are specified on maps and materials submitted by Egypt and Israel and are on file with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. Israel

and Egypt have agreed that merchandise may enter, without payment of duty or excise taxes, areas under their respective customs control that comprise the Beni Suief zone and the Al Minya zone. Further, the operation and administration of these zones are provided for in the previously agreed “Protocol between the Government of the State of Israel and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt On Qualifying Industrial Zones.” Accordingly, the Beni Suief zone and the Al Minya zone meet the criteria under sections 9(e)(1) and (2) of the IFTA Act.

Therefore, pursuant to the authority delegated to me by Presidential Proclamation 6955, I hereby designate the areas occupied by the currently producing factories that comprise the Beni Suief zone and the Al Minya zone as specified on maps and materials received from Egypt and Israel, as qualifying industrial zones under section 9 of the IFTA Act, effective upon the date of publication of this notice, applicable to articles shipped from these qualifying industrial zones after such date.

Susan C. Schwab,

United States Trade Representative.

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

United States-Israel Free Trade Area Implementation Act; Designation of Qualifying Industrial Zones

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Under the United States-Israel Free Trade Area Implementation Act (IFTA Act), articles of qualifying industrial zones encompassing portions of Israel and Jordan or Israel and Egypt are eligible to receive duty-free treatment. Effective upon publication of this notice, the United States Trade Representative, pursuant to authority delegated by the President, is designating Shoubak, Shouneh Wistah, Madaba/Dalilet, Irbid/Al-Westieyn, and Al-Tafileh as qualifying industrial zones under the IFTA Act.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sonia Franceski, Director for Middle East Affairs, (202) 395-4987, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to authority granted under section 9 of the United States-Israel Free Trade Area Implementation Act of 1985 (IFTA Act), as amended (19 U.S.C. 2112 note), Presidential Proclamation 6955 of November 13, 1996 (61 FR 58761) proclaimed certain tariff treatment for articles of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and qualifying industrial zones. In particular, the Presidential Proclamation modified general notes 3 and 8 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States: (a) To provide duty-free treatment to qualifying articles that are the product of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip or a qualifying industrial zone and are entered in accordance with the provisions of section 9 of the IFTA Act; (b) to provide that articles of Israel may be treated as though they were articles directly shipped from Israel for the purposes of the United States-Israel Free Trade Area Agreement (“the Agreement”) even if shipped to the United States from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, or a qualifying industrial zone, if the articles otherwise meet the requirements of the Agreement; and (c) to provide that the cost or value of materials produced in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, or a qualifying industrial zone may be included in the cost or value of materials produced in Israel under section 1(c)(i) of Annex 3 of the Agreement and that the direct costs of processing operations performed in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, or a qualifying industrial zone may be included in the direct costs of processing operations performed in Israel under section 1(c)(ii) of Annex 3 of the Agreement.

Section 9(e) of the IFTA Act defines a “qualifying industrial zone” as an area that “(1) encompasses portions of the territory of Israel and Jordan or Israel and Egypt; (2) has been designated by local authorities as an enclave where merchandise may enter without payment of duty or excise taxes; and (3) has been specified by the President as a qualifying industrial zone.”

Presidential Proclamation 6955 delegated to the United States Trade Representative the authority to designate qualifying industrial zones.

The United States Trade Representative has previously designated qualifying industrial zones under Section 9 of the IFTA Act on March 13, 1998 (63 FR 12572), March 19, 1999 (64 FR 13623), October 15, 1999 (64 FR 56015), October 24, 2000 (65 FR 64472), and December 12, 2000 (65 FR 77688), June 15, 2001 (66 FR 32660), January 28, 2004 (69 FR 4199), December 29, 2004 (69 FR 78094), and November 16, 2005 (70 FR 69622).

The Government of Israel and the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan agreed in protocols submitted in June 2008 to the designation of Shoubak, Shouneh Wistah, Madaba/Dalilet, Irbid/Al-Westieyn, and Al-Tafileh as qualifying industrial zones. The Government of Israel and the Government of Jordan further agreed that merchandise may enter, without payment of duty or excise taxes, areas under their respective customs control in association with the Shoubak zone, Shouneh Wistah zone, Madaba/Dalilet zone, Irbid/Al-Westieyn zone, and Al-Tafileh zone. Accordingly, the Shoubak, Shouneh Wistah, Madaba/Dalilet, Irbid/Al-Westieyn, and Al-Tafileh qualifying industrial zones meet the criteria under paragraphs 9(e)(1) and (2) of the IFTA Act.

Therefore, pursuant to the authority delegated to me by Presidential Proclamation 6955, I hereby designate the Shoubak, Shouneh Wistah, Madaba/Dalilet, Irbid/Al-Westieyn, and Al-Tafileh, as established by the 2003 Amending Protocols to the Agreement Between the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Government of the State of Israel on Irbid Qualifying Industrial Zone, as qualifying industrial zones under section 9 of the IFTA Act, effective upon the date of publication of this notice, applicable to articles shipped from these qualifying industrial zones after such date.

Susan C. Schwab,

United States Trade Representative.

[FR Doc. E9-1591 Filed 1-23-09; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

January 2009 Pay Adjustments

AGENCY: U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The President adjusted the rates of basic pay and locality payments for certain categories of Federal employees effective in January 2009. This notice documents those pay adjustments for the public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tameka Gillis, Center for Pay and Leave Administration, Division for Strategic Human Resources Policy, U.S. Office of Personnel Management; (202) 606-2858; FAX (202) 606-0824; or e-mail to pay-performance-policy@opm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 18, 2008, the President signed

Executive Order 13483 (73 FR 78587), which implemented the January 2009 pay adjustments. The President made these adjustments consistent with Public Law 110-329, September 30, 2008, which authorized an overall average pay increase of 3.9 percent for the “statutory pay systems,” including the General Schedule (GS).

Schedule 1 of Executive Order 13483 provides the rates for the 2009 General Schedule and reflects a 2.9 percent across-the-board increase. Executive Order 13483 also includes the percentage amounts of the 2009 locality payments. (See Section 5 and Schedule 9 of Executive Order 13483.)

The publication of this notice satisfies the requirement in section 5(b) of Executive Order 13483 that the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) publish appropriate notice of the 2009 locality payments in the **Federal Register**.

GS employees receive locality payments under 5 U.S.C. 5304. Locality payments apply in the continental United States (as defined in 5 CFR 531.602 to include the several States and the District of Columbia, but not Alaska or Hawaii). In 2009, locality payments ranging from 13.86 percent to 34.35 percent apply to GS employees in 32 locality pay areas. (The 2009 locality pay area definitions can be found at <http://www.opm.gov/oca/09tables/locdef.asp>.) These 2009 locality pay percentages, which replaced the 2008 locality pay percentages, became effective on the first day of the first pay period beginning on or after January 1, 2009 (January 4, 2009). An employee’s locality rate of pay is computed by increasing his or her scheduled annual rate of pay (as defined in 5 CFR 531.602) by the applicable locality pay percentage. (See 5 CFR 531.604 and 531.609.)

Executive Order 13483 establishes the new Executive Schedule, which incorporates a 2.8 percent increase required under 5 U.S.C. 5318 (rounded to the nearest \$100). By law, Executive Schedule officials are not authorized to receive locality payments.

Executive Order 13483 establishes the range of rates of basic pay for senior executives in the Senior Executive Service (SES), as established pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5382. The minimum rate of basic pay for the SES may not be less than the minimum rate payable under 5 U.S.C. 5376 for senior-level positions (\$117,787 in 2009). The maximum rate of the SES rate range is level II of the Executive Schedule (\$177,000 in 2009) for SES members covered by a certified SES performance appraisal system and level III of the Executive Schedule