Authorization Act of 2008 which became Public Law 110–181 on 28 January 2008. Section 1248(c) of this Act requires the Secretary of State to request from each Department of State prime contractor, grantee, or cooperative agreement partner that has performed work in Iraq since March 20, 2003, under a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement with the Department that is valued in excess of $25,000, information that can be used to verify the employment of Iraqi citizens and nationals by such contractor, grantee or cooperative agreement partner. To the extent possible, biographical information, to include employee name, date(s) of employment, biometric, and other data must be collected and used to verify employment for the processing and adjudication of refugee, asylum, special immigrant visa, and other immigration claims and applications.

Methodology

The Department of State will collect the information via electronic submission.

Additional Information

This information collection will be used to fulfill the requirements under Section 1248(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110–181).

Dated: July 1, 2009.

William H. Moser,

Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Logistics Management, Bureau of Administration, Department of State.

[FR Doc. E9–16284 Filed 7–13–09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710–24–P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the United States Trade Representative

[Public Notice 6693]

Notice of Public Meeting and Solicitation of Written Comments

Title: Written Comments Concerning the Administration's Review of the U.S. Model Bilateral Investment Treaty.

SUMMARY: The Department of State and the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), co-leads of the U.S. bilateral investment treaty (BIT) program, are soliciting written comments and will hold a public meeting concerning the Administration's review of the U.S. model BIT. The review is intended to ensure that the model BIT is consistent with the public interest and the overall U.S. economic agenda. The key question is whether the current model text, last updated in 2004, achieves these objectives or whether there are changes that should be made.

DATES: The public meeting will be held on July 29, 2009, from 9 a.m.–12 noon and 2 p.m.–5 p.m. (or until business is concluded) in the Loy Henderson Auditorium of the Harry S. Truman Building of the Department of State (Truman Building). Representatives from the Department of State and USTR will chair the meeting. To provide for efficient conduct of the meeting, persons wishing to speak at the meeting are requested to provide a written summary of their remarks in advance; however, failure to do so will not bar a person from speaking. Speakers will be asked to limit their remarks to five minutes. Written comments submitted under this notice are due by 5 p.m. on July 31.

ADDRESSES: To gain admission to the Department of State for the meeting, RSVP by 5 p.m. on July 23 with the following information, which will be used to expedite admission to the Truman Building:

- Full name.
- Date of birth.
- Driver's license state and number or passport number.

We request that RSVPs also include the organization, agency, or company affiliation of each individual (if any). RSVPs should also include any requests for reasonable accommodation, which should be made before July 23. Requests made after that date will be considered, but might not be possible to fulfill. To support full and effective participation of persons with disabilities, the Loy Henderson is equipped with wheelchair accessible podiums and ramps. RSVPs should be sent by e-mail to *Model_BIT_RSVP@state.gov* or by fax to (202) 647–0320. The Truman Building is located at 2201 C Street, NW., Washington, DC, 20520. PERSONS ATTENDING THE JULY 29 PUBLIC MEEING MUST ENTER THE STATE DEPARTMENT THROUGH THE 23rd STREET ENTRANCE OF THE TRUMAN BUILDING.

Written comments may be submitted by e-mail to *Model_BIT_Review@state.gov* and *jonathan_kallmer@ustr.eop.gov* or, for those with access to the Internet, may be submitted at the following address: http://www.regulations.gov/search/index.jsp. If needed, comments may be submitted by fax to (202) 647–0320 or (202) 395–3891. Please note that all comments submitted under this notice will be posted on regulations.gov and will be accessible to the general public.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael Tracton, State Department BIT Coordinator, at (202) 736–4060, or Jonathan (Josh) Kallmer, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Investment, at (202) 395–9451.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The United States negotiates BITs on the basis of a model text, last updated in 2004. The model may be viewed on the State Department Web site (*http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/117601.pdf*) or the USTR Web site (*http://www.ustr.gov/sites/default/files/U.S.%20model%20BIT.pdf*). The United States is presently a Party to BITs with 40 countries (list available at: *http://www.state.gov/e/eeb/ifd/bit/117402.htm*). In addition to the above-mentioned public meeting and the opportunity to submit written comments, the Administration is seeking advice from State Department's Advisory Committee on International Economic Policy and from statutory advisory committees that advise USTR and the Department of Commerce.

Dated: July 8, 2009.

Wesley S. Scholz,

Director, Office of Investment Affairs, Department of State.

Dated: July 8, 2009.

Jonathan S. Kallmer,

Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Investment, Office of the United States Trade Representative.

[FR Doc. E9–16639 Filed 7–13–09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710–07–P

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Determination Regarding Waiver of Discriminatory Purchasing Requirements With Respect to Goods and Services of Taiwan (Known in the World Trade Organization as "the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu" (Chinese Taipei))

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Determination regarding waiver of discriminatory purchasing requirements under the Trade Agreements Act of 1979.

DATES: *Effective Date:* July 15, 2009.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jean Heilman Grier, Senior Procurement Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, (202) 395–9476.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 9, 2008, the WTO Committee

on Government Procurement approved the accession of ''the Separate Customs Territory of Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu'' (Chinese Taipei) to the World Trade Organization (''WTO'') Agreement on Government Procurement (''GPA''). Chinese Taipei submitted its instrument of accession to the Secretary-General of the WTO on June 15, 2009. The GPA will enter into force for Chinese Taipei on July 15, 2009. The United States, which is also a party to the GPA, has agreed to waive discriminatory purchasing requirements for eligible products and suppliers of Taiwan (known in the WTO as Chinese Taipei) beginning on July 15, 2009.

Section 1–201 of Executive Order 12260 of December 31, 1980 delegated the functions of the President under sections 301 and 302 of the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (''the Trade Agreements Act'') (19 U.S.C. 2511, 2512) to the United States Trade Representative.

Determination: In conformity with sections 301 and 302 of the Trade Agreements Act, and in order to carry out U.S. obligations under the GPA, I hereby determine that:

1. Taiwan (known in the WTO as Chinese Taipei) has become a party to the GPA and will provide appropriate reciprocal competitive government procurement opportunities to United States products and services and suppliers of such products and services. In accordance with section 301(b)(1) of the Trade Agreements Act, Taiwan (known in the WTO as Chinese Taipei) is so designated for purposes of section 301(a) of the Trade Agreements Act.

2. Accordingly, beginning on July 15, 2009, with respect to eligible products (namely, those goods and services covered under the GPA for procurement by the United States) of Taiwan (known in the WTO as Chinese Taipei) and suppliers of such products, the application of any law, regulation, procedure, or practice regarding government procurement that would, if applied to such products and suppliers, result in treatment less favorable than that accorded—

(A) To United States products and suppliers of such products, or

(B) To eligible products of another foreign country or instrumentality which is a party to the GPA and suppliers of such products, shall be waived. This waiver shall be applied by all entities listed in United States Annexes 1 and 3 of GPA Appendix 1.

3. The Trade Representative may modify or withdraw the designation in paragraph 1 and the waiver in paragraph 2.

Ron Kirk,

United States Trade Representative.

[FR Doc. E9–16543 Filed 7–13–09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190–W9–P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

Office of Hazardous Materials Safety; Notice of Application for Special Permits

AGENCY: Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), DOT.

ACTION: List of Applications for Special Permits.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the procedures governing the application for, and the processing of, special permits from the Department of Transportation's Hazardous Material Regulations (49 CFR Part 107, Subpart B), notice is hereby given that the Office of Hazardous Materials Safety has received the application described herein. Each mode of transportation for which a particular special permit is requested is indicated by a number in the ''Nature of Application'' portion of the table below as follows: 1—Motor vehicle, 2—Rail freight, 3—Cargo vessel, 4—Cargo aircraft only, 5—Passenger-carrying aircraft.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before August 13, 2009.

Address Comments to: Record Center, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, Washington, DC 20590.

Comments should refer to the application number and be submitted in triplicate. If confirmation of receipt of comments is desired, include a self-addressed stamped postcard showing the special permit number.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Copies of the applications are available for inspection in the Records Center, East Building, PHH–30, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC or at *http://fdms.gov*.

This notice of receipt of applications for special permit is published in accordance with Part 107 of the Federal hazardous materials transportation law (49 U.S.C. 5117(b); 49 CFR 1.53(b)).

Issued in Washington, DC, on July 7, 2009.

Delmer F. Billings,

Director, Office of Hazardous Materials Special Permits and Approvals.

NEW SPECIAL PERMITS

Application No.	Docket No.	Applicant	Regulation(s) affected	Nature of special permits thereof
14871–N		Calico Brands, Inc., Ontario, CA.	49 CFR 172.302(c) and 173.308(c)(2).	To authorize the transportation in commerce of lighters containing flammable gas in non-DOT specification containers that are capable of meeting UN performance standards at the PG II performance level that are further overpacked in a corrugated container. (mode 1)
14872–N		Arkema, Inc., Philadelphia, PA.	49 CFR 173.31(e)(2)(ii) and 173.314(c).	To authorize the transportation in commerce of methyl mercaptan in certain DOT I 05J300W tank cars. (mode 2)
14873–N		Matson Navigation Company, Inc., Oakland, CA.	49 CFR 176.116(e)(3)	To authorize the transportation in commerce of certain Class I (explosive) hazardous materials in an alternative stowage configuration. (mode 3)
14875–N		Canton Railroad Company, Baltimore, MD.	49 CFR 174.85	To authorize transportation of hazardous materials by rail without the use of a buffer car between the rail car containing the hazardous materials and the locomotive. (mode 2)
14877–N		Halon Banking Systems, New Hope, MN.	49 CFR 173.304a	To authorize the one-time, one-way transportation in commerce of non-DOT specification cylinders containing a refrigerant gas. (modes 1, 2)