Determination Regarding Waiver of Discriminatory Purchasing Requirements With Respect to Goods and Services of Armenia

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.


DATES: Effective Date: September 15, 2011.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 7, 2010, the WTO Committee on Government Procurement approved the accession of Armenia to the World Trade Organization (“WTO”) Agreement on Government Procurement (“GPA”). Armenia submitted its instrument of accession to the Secretary-General of the WTO on August 16, 2011. The GPA will enter into force for Armenia on September 15, 2011. The United States, which is also a party to the GPA, has agreed to waive discriminatory purchasing requirements for eligible products and suppliers of Armenia beginning on September 15, 2011.

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. Armenia 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, Armenia is so designated for purposes of section 301(a) of the Trade Agreements Act.

2. Accordingly, beginning on September 15, 2011, with respect to eligible products (namely, those goods and services covered under the GPA for procurement by the United States) of Armenia 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.

Ronald Kirk,
United States Trade Representative.

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Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590, (202) 366–9721.

Dated: September 14, 2011.

Robert Letterey,
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Office of the Secretary

Privacy Act of 1974: System of Records

AGENCY: Department of Transportation (DOT), Office of the Secretary.

ACTION: Notice to establish a system of records and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, the Department of Transportation proposes to establish a new Department of Transportation system of records titled, “Department of Transportation/ALL–23 Information Sharing Environment Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative System of Records.” This system of records will allow DOT to compile suspicious activity report data that meet the Information Sharing Environment Suspicious Activity Reporting Functional Standard and share these data in the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative, including other DOT operating administrations, Federal departments and agencies, State, local and Tribal law enforcement agencies, and the private sector. Additionally, the Department of Transportation issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to exempt this system from certain provisions of the Privacy Act elsewhere in the Federal Register. This newly established system will be included in the Department of Transportation’s inventory of record systems.

DATES: Submit comments on or before October 24, 2011. This new system will be effective October 24, 2011.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by docket number Docket No. DOT–OST–2011–0178, by one of the following methods:

• Fax: 202–493–2251.
• Mail: Department of Transportation Docket Management, Room W12–140, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE., Washington, DC 20590.

• Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name and docket number for this rulemaking. All comments received will be posted without change to http://www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided.

• Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received go to http://www.regulations.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general questions, please contact: Lawrence V. Hopkins, (202–366–6285), Associate Director for Intelligence, Department of Transportation, Washington, DC 20590. For privacy issues, please contact: Claire W. Barrett (202–366–8135), Departmental Chief Privacy Officer, Department of Transportation, Washington, DC 20590.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

In accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a, the Department of Transportation (DOT) proposes to establish a new DOT system of records titled, “DOT/ALL–23 Information Sharing Environment (ISE) Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiative System of Records.”

This system of records will allow DOT operating administrations that produce, receive, and store suspicious activity reports (SARs) pursuant to their existing authorities, responsibilities, platforms, and programs to compile and share report data that also meet the ISE–SAR Functional Standard with authorized participants in the Nationwide SAR Initiative (NSI), including Federal departments and agencies, State, local and Tribal law enforcement agencies, and the private sector. The NSI is a number of government-wide efforts designed to implement guidelines first issued by the President on December 16, 2005, for the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (IRTPA), as amended. The NSI establishes a nationwide capability to gather, document, process, analyze, and share information about suspicious activity, incidents, or behavior reasonably indicative of terrorist activities (hereafter collectively referred to as suspicious activity or activities) to enable rapid identification and mitigation of potential terrorist threats.

There is a long history of documenting of suspicious activity, particularly in the law enforcement community. Departments are sometimes referred to as suspicious activity reports, tips and leads, or other similar terms. Federal, State, local and Tribal agencies and the private sector currently collect and document suspicious activities in support of their responsibilities to investigate and prevent potential crimes, protect citizens, and apprehend and prosecute criminals. Since some of these documented activities may bear a nexus to terrorism, the Program Manager for the Information Sharing Environment (PM–ISE) developed a standardized process for identifying, documenting, and sharing terrorism-related SAR data (hereinafter referred to as an “ISE–SAR”), which meet the definition and criteria set forth in the ISE Functional Standard Suspicious Activity Reporting (Version 1.5, May 2009) to the maximum extent possible consistent with the protection of individual privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties. The Functional Standard defines an ISE–SAR as official documentation of observed behavior determined to have a potential nexus to terrorism (i.e., to be reasonably indicative of criminal activity associated with terrorism). Several operating administrations within DOT regularly observe or otherwise encounter suspicious activities while executing their authorized missions and performing operational duties. Operating administrations document those observations or encounters in SARs. Across the Department, the operational setting or context for activities reported in SARs are as varied as the Department’s regulatory responsibilities. Engagement with these NSI will alter neither those underlying mission functions nor upset the current methodologies employed by DOT operating administrations collecting information on suspicious activities and issuing SARs. Rather, the NSI will facilitate the more effective sharing and discovery—both internally and between DOT and external NSI participants—by incorporating a standardized technological and functional approach for recording and storing ISE–SARs throughout DOT. Once trained in the NSI program and the implication of these technical and functional standards, DOT personnel will review operating administration SARs and submit the data only from those that meet the ISE–SAR Functional Standard into the NSI Shared Space.

In keeping with NSI standards, whenever suspicious activity is determined to have a potential nexus to terrorism, DOT personnel will extract data from the operating administration level SARs and input that data in a standardized format to the NSI Shared Space. All ISE–SAR data introduced