Public comment is invited from interested parties. Submissions shall be addressed to the FTZ Board’s Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their receipt is December 28, 2015.

A copy of the notification will be available for public inspection at the Office of the Executive Secretary, Foreign-Trade Zones Board, Room 21013, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230–0002, and in the “Reading Room” section of the FTZ Board’s Web site, which is accessible via www.trade.gov/ftz.

For further information, contact Diane Finver at Diane.Finver@trade.gov or (202) 482–1367.

Dated: November 9, 2015.
Elizabeth Whiteman,
Acting Executive Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[B–45–2015]

Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ) 277—Western Maricopa County, Arizona; Authorization of Production Activity; The Cookson Company, Inc. (Rolling Steel Doors); Goodyear, Arizona


The notification was processed in accordance with the regulations of the FTZ Board (15 CFR part 400), including notice in the Federal Register inviting public comment (80 FR 42789, July 20, 2015). The FTZ Board has determined that no further review of the activity is warranted at this time. The production activity described in the notification is authorized, subject to the FTZ Act and the FTZ Board’s regulations, including Section 400.14.

Dated: November 10, 2015.
Elizabeth Whiteman,
Acting Executive Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[S–151–2015]

Foreign-Trade Zone 119—Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota; Application for Subzone; CNH Industrial America LLC; Benson, Minnesota

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZ) Board by the Greater Metropolitan Area Foreign Trade Zone Commission, grantee of FTZ 119, requesting subzone status for the facilities of CNH Industrial America LLC in Benson, Minnesota. The application was submitted pursuant to the provisions of the Foreign-Trade Zone Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a–81u), and the regulations of the FTZ Board (15 CFR part 400). It was formally docketed on November 9, 2015.

The proposed subzone would consist of the following sites: Site 1 (25.26 acres)—Benson Plant, 260 Highway 12 SE., Benson; Site 2 (4.01 acres)—Benson Plant Warehouse, 140 30th Avenue SE., Benson; and, Site 3 (1.47 acres)—Benson Northstar, 2200 Tatges Avenue, Benson. The proposed subzone would be subject to the existing activation limit of FTZ 119. A notification of proposed production activity has been submitted and is being processed under 15 CFR 400.37 (Doc. B–61–2015).

In accordance with the FTZ Board’s regulations, Camille Evans of the FTZ Staff is designated examiner to review the application and make recommendations to the Executive Secretary.

Public comment is invited from interested parties. Submissions shall be addressed to the FTZ Board’s Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their receipt is December 28, 2015. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period to January 11, 2016.

A copy of the application will be available for public inspection at the Office of the Executive Secretary, Foreign-Trade Zones Board, Room 21013, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230–0002, and in the “Reading Room” section of the FTZ Board’s Web site, which is accessible via www.trade.gov/ftz.

For further information, contact Camille Evans at Camille.Evans@trade.gov or (202) 482–2350.

Dated: November 9, 2015.
Elizabeth Whiteman,
Acting Executive Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Industry and Security

[Docket No. 151022984–5984–01]


AGENCY: Bureau of Industry and Security, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of inquiry.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) is seeking public comments on the impact that implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), through the Chemical Weapons Convention Implementation Act (CWCIA) and the Chemical Weapons Convention Regulations (CWCR), has had on commercial activities involving “Schedule 1” chemicals during calendar year 2015. The purpose of this notice of inquiry is to collect information to assist BIS in its preparation of the annual certification to the Congress on whether the legitimate commercial activities and interests of chemical, biotechnology, and pharmaceutical firms are being harmed by such implementation. This certification is required under Condition 9 of Senate Resolution 75, April 24, 1997, in which the Senate gave its advice and consent to the ratification of the CWC.

DATES: Comments must be received by December 16, 2015.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods (please refer to RIN 0694–XC028 in all comments and in the subject line of email comments):

• Federal rulemaking portal (http://www.regulations.gov)—you can find this notice by searching on its regulations.gov docket number, which is BIS–2015–0039;

• Email: willard.fisher@bis.doc.gov—include the phrase “Schedule 1 Notice of Inquiry” in the subject line;

• Fax: (202) 482–3355 (Attn: Willard Fisher);

• By mail or delivery to Regulatory Policy Division, Bureau of Industry and Security, William Jefferson Clinton Federal Building, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230–0002.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In providing its advice and consent to the ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and Their Destruction, commonly called the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC or “the Convention”), the Senate included, in Senate Resolution 75 (S. Res. 75, April 24, 1997), several conditions to its ratification. Condition 9, titled “Protection of Advanced Biotechnology,” calls for the President to certify to Congress on an annual basis that “the legitimate commercial activities and interests of chemical, biotechnology, and pharmaceutical firms in the United States are not being significantly harmed by the limitations of the Convention on access to, and production of, those chemicals and toxins listed in Schedule 1.” On July 8, 2004, President Bush, by Executive Order 13346, delegated his authority to make the annual certification to the Secretary of Commerce.

The CWC is an international arms control treaty that contains certain verification provisions. In order to implement these verification provisions, the CWC established the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The CWC imposes certain obligations on countries that have ratified the Convention (i.e., States Parties), among which are the enactment of legislation to prohibit the production, storage, and use of chemical weapons, and the establishment of a National Authority to serve as the national focal point for effective liaison with the OPCW and other States Parties in order to achieve the object and purpose of the Convention and the implementation of its provisions. The CWC also requires each State Party to implement a comprehensive data declaration and inspection regime to provide transparency and to verify that both the public and private sectors of the State Party are not engaged in activities prohibited under the CWC.

“Schedule 1” chemicals consist of those toxic chemicals and precursors set forth in the CWC “Annex on Chemicals” and in Supplement No. 1 to part 712 of the Chemical Weapons Convention Regulations (CWCR) (15 CFR parts 710–722). The CWC identified these toxic chemicals and precursors as posing a high risk to the object and purpose of the Convention. The CWC (Part VI of the “Verification Annex”) restricts the production of “Schedule 1” chemicals for protective purposes to two facilities per State Party: A single small-scale facility (SSSF) and a facility for production in quantities not exceeding 10 kg per year. The CWC Article-by-Article Analysis submitted to the Senate in Treaty Doc. 103–21 defined the term “protective purposes” to mean “used for determining the adequacy of defense equipment and measures.” Consistent with this definition and as authorized by Presidential Decision Directive (PDD) 70 (December 17, 1999), which specifies agency and departmental responsibilities as part of the U.S. implementation of the CWC, the Department of Defense (DOD) was assigned the responsibility to operate these two facilities. Although this assignment of responsibility to DOD under PDD–70 effectively precluded commercial production of “Schedule 1” chemicals for protective purposes in the United States, it did not establish any limitations on “Schedule 1” chemical activities that are not prohibited by the CWC. However, DOD does maintain strict controls on “Schedule 1” chemicals produced at its facilities in order to ensure accountability for such chemicals, as well as their proper use, consistent with the object and purpose of the Convention.

The provisions of the CWC that affect commercial activities involving “Schedule 1” chemicals are implemented in the CWCR (see 15 CFR 712) and in the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) (see 15 CFR 742.18 and 15 CFR 745), both of which are administered by the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS). Pursuant to CWC requirements, the CWCR restrict commercial production of “Schedule 1” chemicals for “protective purposes” because such production is effectively precluded per PDD–70, as described above—see 15 CFR 712.2(a)). The CWCR also contain other requirements and prohibitions that apply to “Schedule 1” chemicals and/or “Schedule 1” facilities. Specifically, the CWCR:

(1) Prohibit the import of “Schedule 1” chemicals from States not Party to the Convention (15 CFR 712.2(b));

(2) Require annual declarations by certain facilities engaged in the production of “Schedule 1” chemicals in excess of 100 grams aggregate per calendar year (i.e., declared “Schedule 1” facilities) for purposes not prohibited by the Convention (15 CFR 712.5(a)(1) and (a)(2));

(3) Provide for government approval of “declared Schedule 1” facilities (15 CFR 712.5(f));

(4) Provide that “declared Schedule 1” facilities are subject to initial and routine inspection by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (15 CFR 712.5(e) and 712.7(b)(1));

(5) Require 200 days advance notification of establishment of new “Schedule 1” production facilities producing greater than 100 grams aggregate of “Schedule 1” chemicals per calendar year (15 CFR 712.4);

(6) Require advance notification and annual reporting of all imports and exports of “Schedule 1” chemicals to, or from, other States Parties to the Convention (15 CFR 712.6, 742.18(a)(1) and 745.1); and

(7) Prohibit the export of “Schedule 1” chemicals to States not Party to the Convention (15 CFR 742.18(a)(1) and (b)(1)(i)(ii)).

For purposes of the CWCR (see 15 CFR 710.1), “production of a Schedule 1 chemical” means the formation of “Schedule 1” chemicals through chemical synthesis, as well as processing to extract and isolate “Schedule 1” chemicals produced biologically. Such production is understood, for CWCR declaration purposes, to include intermediates, by-products, or waste products that are produced and consumed within a defined chemical manufacturing sequence, where such intermediates, by-products, or waste products are chemically stable and therefore exist for a sufficient time to make isolation from the manufacturing stream possible, but where, under normal or design operating conditions, isolation does not occur.

Request for Comments

In order to assist in determining whether the legitimate commercial activities and interests of chemical, biotechnology, and pharmaceutical
firms in the United States are significantly harmed by the limitations of the Convention on access to, and production of, “Schedule 1” chemicals as described in this notice, BIS is seeking public comments on any effects that implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, through the Chemical Weapons Convention Implementation Act and the Chemical Weapons Convention Regulations, has had on commercial activities involving “Schedule 1” chemicals during calendar year 2015. To allow BIS to properly evaluate the significance of any harm to commercial activities involving “Schedule 1” chemicals, public comments submitted in response to this notice of inquiry should include both a quantitative and qualitative assessment of the impact of the CWC on such activities.

Submission of Comments

All comments must be submitted to one of the addresses indicated in this notice. The Department requires that all comments be submitted in written form.

The Department encourages interested persons who wish to comment to do so at the earliest possible time. The period for submission of comments will close on December 16, 2015. The Department will consider all comments received before the close of the comment period. Comments received after the end of the comment period will be considered if possible, but their consideration cannot be assured. The Department will not accept comments accompanied by a request that a part or all of the material be treated confidentially because of its business proprietary nature or for any other reason. The Department will return such comments and materials to the persons submitting the comments and will not consider them. All comments submitted in response to this notice will be a matter of public record and will be available for public inspection and copying.

The Office of Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, U.S. Department of Commerce, displays public comments on the BIS Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Web site at http://www.bis.doc.gov/foia. This office does not maintain a separate public inspection facility. If you have technical difficulties accessing this Web site, please call BIS’s Office of Administration, at (202) 482–1093, for assistance.

Dated: November 6, 2015.
Kevin J. Wolf,
Assistant Secretary for Export Administration.

Public Submissions: The public is invited to submit written statements to the President’s Export Council. Statements must be received by 5:00 p.m. ET on December 1, 2015 by either of the following methods:

a. Electronic Submissions

Submit statements electronically to Tricia Van Orden, Executive Secretary, President’s Export Council via email: tricia.vanorden@trade.gov.

b. Paper Submissions

Send paper statements to Tricia Van Orden, Executive Secretary, President’s Export Council, Room 4043, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230.

Statements will be posted on the President’s Export Council Web site (http://trade.gov/pec) without change, including any business or personal information provided such as names, addresses, email addresses, or telephone numbers. All statements received, including attachments and other supporting materials, are part of the public record and subject to public disclosure. You should submit only information that you wish to make publicly available.

Meeting minutes: Copies of the Council’s meeting minutes will be available within ninety (90) days of the meeting.

Dated: November 9, 2015.
Tricia Van Orden,
Executive Secretary, President’s Export Council.

Polyethylene Terephthalate Film, Sheet, and Strip From the People’s Republic of China: Final Results of Administrative Review; 2013–2014

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
International Trade Administration
President’s Export Council; Meeting of the President’s Export Council

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of an open meeting.

SUMMARY: The President’s Export Council (Council) will hold a meeting to deliberate on recommendations related to promoting the expansion of U.S. exports. Topics may include: The Administration’s trade agenda, Safe Harbor, infrastructure investment, workforce readiness, access to capital for microbusinesses and SMEs, and export control reform. The final agenda will be posted at least one week in advance of the meeting on the President’s Export Council Web site at http://trade.gov/pec.

DATES: December 3, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. (ET).

ADDRESSES: The President’s Export Council meeting will be broadcast via live webcast on the Internet at http://whitehouse.gov/live.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tricia Van Orden, Executive Secretary, President’s Export Council, Room 4043, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230, telephone: 202–482–5876, email: tricia.vanorden@trade.gov.

Press inquiries should be directed to the International Trade Administration’s Office of Public Affairs, telephone: 202–482–3809.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: The President’s Export Council was first established by Executive Order on December 20, 1973 to advise the President on matters relating to U.S. export trade and to report to the President on its activities and recommendations for expanding U.S. exports. The President’s Export Council was renewed most recently by Executive Order 13708 of September 30, 2015, for the two-year period ending September 30, 2017. This Committee is established in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. App.

Dated: November 9, 2015.
Tricia Van Orden,
Executive Secretary. President’s Export Council.

[FR Doc. 2015–29837 Filed 11–13–15; 8:45 am]