

Background

Codex was established in 1963 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization. Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.

The CCFICS is responsible for:

(a) Developing principles and export inspection and certification systems, with a view to harmonizing methods and procedures that protect the health of consumers, ensure fair trading practices, and facilitate international trade in foodstuffs;

(b) Developing principles and guidelines for the application of measures by the competent authorities of exporting and importing countries to provide assurance, where necessary, that foodstuffs comply with requirements, especially statutory health requirements;

(c) Developing guidelines for the utilization, as and when appropriate, of quality assurance systems to ensure that foodstuffs conform with requirements and to promote the recognition of these systems in facilitating trade in food products under bilateral/multilateral arrangements by countries;

(d) Developing guidelines and criteria with respect to format, declarations and language of such official certificates as countries may require with a view towards international harmonization;

(e) Making recommendations for information exchange in relation to food import/export control;

(f) Consulting as necessary with other international groups working on matters related to food inspection and certification systems; and

(g) Considering other matters assigned to it by the Commission in relation to food inspection and certification systems.

The CCFICS is hosted by Australia. The U.S. attends CCFICS as a member country to the Codex.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The following items on the Agenda for the 23rd Session of the CCFICS will be discussed during the public meeting:

- Discussion paper on system comparability/equivalence;
- Discussion paper on the use of electronic certificates by competent authorities and migration to paperless certification;

- Discussion paper on third party certification (with broad parameters);
- Discussion paper on consideration of emerging issues and future directions for the work of CCFICS;
- Discussion paper on food integrity/food authenticity as emerging issues; and

- Other business and future work.

Each issue listed will be fully described in documents distributed, or to be distributed by the Secretariat before to the Committee Meeting. Members of the public may access or request copies of these documents (see **ADDRESSES**).

Public Meeting

At the April 6, 2017, public meeting, draft U.S. positions on the agenda items will be described and discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Written comments may be offered at the meeting or sent to Mary Stanley, U.S. Delegate for the 23rd Session of the CCFICS (see **ADDRESSES**). Written comments should state that they relate to activities of the 23rd Session of the CCFICS.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, FSIS will announce this **Federal Register** publication on-line through the FSIS Web page located at: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/federal-register>.

FSIS also will make copies of this publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents and stakeholders. The Update is available on the FSIS Web page. Through the Web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience. In addition, FSIS offers an email subscription service which provides automatic and customized access to selected food safety news and information. This service is available at: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/subscribe>. Options range from recalls to export information, regulations, directives, and notices. Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves, and have the option to password protect their accounts.

USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

No agency, officer, or employee of the USDA shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, religion, sex,

gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, or political beliefs, exclude from participation in, deny the benefits of, or subject to discrimination any person in the United States under any program or activity conducted by the USDA.

How To File a Complaint of Discrimination

To file a complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which may be accessed online at http://www.ocio.usda.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2012/Complain_combined_6_8_12.pdf, or write a letter signed by you or your authorized representative.

Send your completed complaint form or letter to USDA by mail, fax, or email.

Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410.

Fax: (202) 690-7442.

Email: program.intake@usda.gov.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

Done at Washington, DC on March 2, 2017.

Paulo Almeida,

Acting U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.

[FR Doc. 2017-04453 Filed 3-6-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Office of Policy and Strategic Planning

[Docket Number: 170302221-7221-01]

Impact of Federal Regulations on Domestic Manufacturing

AGENCY: Office of Policy and Strategic Planning, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; request for information (RFI).

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce is seeking information on the impact of Federal permitting requirements on the construction and expansion of domestic manufacturing facilities and on regulations that adversely impact domestic manufacturers. As directed by President Trump's Memorandum of January 24, 2017, "Streamlining Permitting and Reducing Regulatory Burdens for Domestic Manufacturing," the Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the Secretaries of Agriculture and Energy, the Administrator of the Environmental

Protection Agency, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, and other appropriate agency heads, is conducting outreach to stakeholders concerning the impact of Federal regulations on domestic manufacturing, and is soliciting comments from the public concerning Federal actions to streamline permitting for the construction and expansion of domestic manufacturing facilities and to reduce regulatory burdens for domestic manufacturers. Responses to this RFI—which will be posted at <http://www.regulations.gov>—will inform the report of the Secretary of Commerce to the President, required under the Presidential Memorandum, setting forth a plan to streamline Federal permitting processes for domestic manufacturing and to reduce regulatory burdens affecting domestic manufacturers.

DATES: Comments must be received by 5 p.m. Eastern time on March 31, 2017.

ADDRESSES: The preferred method for submission of comments is via <http://www.regulations.gov> (at the home page, enter DOC-2017-0001 in the “Search” box, click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments). Alternatively, comments may be sent: Via mail carrier to The Office of Policy and Strategic Planning, Department of Commerce, H.C. Hoover Building Rm. 5863, 1401 Constitution Ave. NW., Washington, DC. 20230. All submissions, including attachments and other supporting materials, will become part of the public record and subject to public disclosure. Sensitive personal information, such as account numbers or Social Security numbers, or names of other individuals, should not be included. Submissions will not be edited to remove any identifying or contact information. *Do not submit confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive or protected information.* Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word or Excel, or Adobe PDF formats only. Please do not submit additional materials. Comments containing references, studies, research, and other empirical data that are not widely published should include electronic copies of the referenced materials. All comments received in response to this RFI will be made available publicly at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions about this notice, contact: Carter Halfman, U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Policy and Strategic Planning, at 202-482-7466. Please direct media inquiries to the

Department of Commerce Office of Public Affairs at 202-482-4883, or publicaffairs@doc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: President Trump’s Memorandum of January 24, 2017, “Streamlining Permitting and Reducing Regulatory Burdens for Domestic Manufacturing” (82 FR 8667) directs the Secretary of Commerce to conduct outreach to stakeholders concerning the impact of Federal regulations on domestic manufacturing. The Department of Commerce is soliciting comments from the public concerning Federal actions to streamline permitting and reduce regulatory burdens for domestic manufacturers. For the purposes of this effort, “domestic manufacturers” refers to private businesses located in the United States (and its territories) engaged in the mechanical, physical, or chemical transformation of materials, substances, or components into new products, consistent with the 2017 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) definition of Sector 31-33: Manufacturing.

Responses to this RFI will inform the Secretary’s report to the President which will set forth guidelines for Federal permitting and regulatory agencies to streamline Federal permitting processes for domestic manufacturing and reduce regulatory burdens affecting domestic manufacturers. The plan will be coordinated with related activities under existing laws (e.g., FAST-41¹) and executive actions (e.g., Executive Order 13771 on “Reducing Regulation and Controlling Regulatory Costs,” (82 FR 9339, Jan. 30, 2017)).

Request for Information

Given the nature and importance of the Presidential Memorandum, the Secretary requests information from stakeholders about how the construction, operation, and expansion of domestic manufacturing facilities are affected by (1) the process of acquiring Federal permits required for the construction, expansion, or operation of such facilities and (2) the burdens of complying with Federal regulations for manufacturing facility construction, expansion, or operation.

Through this RFI, the Department is seeking information from stakeholders (such as manufacturers, trade associations, and other interested parties) about the Federal permitting process and regulatory burdens affecting domestic manufacturing. The Secretary seeks information that will assist the Department in developing a proposal to

reduce regulatory burdens and streamline or otherwise improve the permitting process by understanding the cumulative burden of federal regulations and permits and by improving efficiency, transparency, and certainty in the process.

You may respond to any, all or none of the following questions/requests for information, and may address related topics. Please identify the questions or topic areas each of your comments addresses. These questions are directed towards domestic manufacturers and their stakeholders. Responses may include estimates. Please indicate where the response is an estimate. Respondents may organize their submissions in response to this RFI in any manner, and all responses that comply with the requirements listed in the **DATES** and **ADDRESSES** sections of this notice will be considered.

General Information:

- a. NAICS code(s)
- b. What do you manufacture?
- c. Where are your facilities located?
- d. How many employees?
- e. Approximate sales revenue?

Manufacturing Permitting Process

1. How many permits from a Federal agency are required to build, expand or operate your manufacturing facilities? Which Federal agencies require permits and how long does it take to obtain them?

2. Do any of the Federal permits overlap with (or duplicate) other federal permits or those required by State or local agencies? If the answer is yes, how many permits? From which Federal agencies?

3. Briefly describe the most onerous part of your permitting process.

4. If you could make one change to the Federal permitting process applicable to your manufacturing business or facilities, what would it be? How could the permitting process be modified to better suit your needs?

5. Are there Federal, State, or local agencies that you have worked with on permitting whose practices should be widely implemented? What is it you like about those practices?

Regulatory Burden/Compliance:

1. Please list the top four regulations that you believe are most burdensome for your manufacturing business. Please identify the agency that issues each one. Specific citation of codes from the Code of Federal Regulations would be appreciated.

2. How could regulatory compliance be simplified within your industry or sector?

¹42 U.S.C. 4370m *et seq.*

3. Please provide any other specific recommendations, not addressed by the questions above, that you believe would help reduce unnecessary Federal agency regulation of your business.

Dated: March 2, 2017.

Earl Comstock,

Director of Policy and Strategic Planning.

[FR Doc. 2017-04516 Filed 3-3-17; 11:15 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-17-P

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: March 2, 2017.

Andrew McGilvray,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2017-04443 Filed 3-6-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

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: March 2, 2017.

Andrew McGilvray,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2017-04437 Filed 3-6-17; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[S-28-2017]

Foreign-Trade Zone 163—Ponce, Puerto Rico; Application for Subzone; Caribe Rx Services, Inc.; Caguas, Puerto Rico

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) by CODEZOL, C.D., grantee of FTZ 163, requesting subzone status for the facility of Caribe Rx Services, Inc., located in Caguas, Puerto Rico. The application was submitted pursuant to the provisions of the Foreign-Trade Zones Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a-81u), and the regulations of the Board (15 CFR part 400). It was formally docketed on March 1, 2017.

The proposed subzone (2.1 acres) is located at Road #1 Km. 39.9, Bo. Turabo, Caguas, Puerto Rico. The proposed subzone would be subject to the existing activation limit of FTZ 163. No authorization for production activity has been requested at this time. The proposed subzone encompasses the boundaries of FTZ 163—Site 14 which expires May 31, 2017.

In accordance with the 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 Board's Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their receipt is April 17, 2017. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period to May 1, 2017.

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 Board's

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[S-29-2017]

Foreign-Trade Zone 163—Ponce, Puerto Rico; Application for Subzone; R.Ortiz Auto Distributors, Inc.; Caguas, Puerto Rico

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) by CODEZOL, C.D., grantee of FTZ 163, requesting subzone status for the facility of R.Ortiz Auto Distributors, Inc., located in Caguas, Puerto Rico. The application was submitted pursuant to the provisions of the Foreign-Trade Zones Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a-81u), and the regulations of the Board (15 CFR 400). It was formally docketed on March 1, 2017.

The proposed subzone (1.8 acres) is located at Road #189 Km. 2.0, Caguax Industrial Park, Caguas, Puerto Rico. The proposed subzone would be subject to the existing activation limit of FTZ 163. No authorization for production activity has been requested at this time. The proposed subzone encompasses the boundaries of FTZ 163—Site 15 which expires May 31, 2017.

In accordance with the 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 Board's Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their receipt is April 17, 2017. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period to May 1, 2017.

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 Board's

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[B-15-2017]

Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ) 265—Conroe, Texas; Notification of Proposed Production Activity; Bauer Manufacturing LLC dba NEORig (Stationary Oil/Gas Drilling Rigs); Conroe, Texas

The City of Conroe, Texas, grantee of FTZ 265, submitted a notification of proposed production activity to the FTZ Board on behalf of Bauer Manufacturing LLC dba NEORig (Bauer), located in Conroe, Texas. The notification conforming to the requirements of the regulations of the FTZ Board (15 CFR 400.22) was received on February 24, 2017.

Bauer already has authority to produce pile drivers and leads, boring machinery, foundation construction equipment, foundation casings and related parts and sub-assemblies, tools and accessories for pile drivers, and stationary oil/gas drilling rigs and related subassemblies within Site 1 of FTZ 265. The current request would add foreign status materials/components to the scope of authority. Pursuant to 15 CFR 400.14(b), additional FTZ authority would be limited to the specific foreign-status materials/components described in the submitted notification (as described below) and subsequently authorized by the FTZ Board.

Production under FTZ procedures could exempt Bauer from customs duty payments on the foreign-status materials/components used in export production. On its domestic sales, Bauer would be able to choose the duty rates during customs entry procedures that apply to the company's finished products previously approved by the FTZ Board (duty rate ranges from duty-free to 5%) for the foreign-status materials/components noted below and in the existing scope of authority. Customs duties also could possibly be deferred or reduced on foreign-status production equipment.

The materials/components sourced from abroad include: V-belts (without