

may be sent to Natalie Donahue, Chief of Evaluation, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, who may be reached at (202) 632-6193 or [DonahueNR@state.gov](mailto:DonahueNR@state.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

- *Title of Information Collection:* SAMS-Domestic Results Performance Module (SAMS-D RPM).
- *OMB Control Number:* None.
- *Type of Request:* New collection.
- *Originating Office:* Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA/P/V).
- *Form Number:* No form.
- *Respondents:* Implementing partners of ECA grants and cooperative agreements.
- *Estimated Number of Respondents:* 100.
- *Estimated Number of Responses:* 250 per year (most respondents report on a semi-annual basis; though there are some that will report more frequently, which has been factored into this figure).
- *Average Time per response:* 20 hours (regardless of frequency of reporting).
- *Total Estimated Burden Time:* 5,000 hours per year.

• *Obligation to Respond:* Voluntary. The State Assistance Management System Domestic (SAMS-D) database is the official system of record for grants reporting, this notice of proposed information collection pertains only to the SAMS-D RPM, which is an extension *module* within the larger SAMS-D database. The use of that module is voluntary.

We are soliciting public comments to permit the Department to:

- Evaluate whether the proposed information collection is necessary for the proper functions of the Department.
- Evaluate the accuracy of our estimate of the time and cost burden for this proposed collection, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.
- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected.
- Minimize the reporting burden on those who are to respond, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Please note that comments submitted in response to this Notice are public record. Before including any detailed personal information, you should be aware that your comments as submitted, including your personal information, will be available for public review.

**Abstract of Proposed Collection**

As a normal course of business and in compliance with OMB Guidelines

contained in Circular A-110, recipient organizations are required to provide, and the U.S. State Department required to collect, periodic program and financial performance reports. The responsibility of the State Department to track and monitor the programmatic and financial performance necessitates a database that can help facilitate this in a consistent and standardized manner. The larger SAMS-D database is already the Department of State's system of record; the database enables monitoring of grants and cooperative agreements through standardized collection and storage of performance monitoring award elements, such as progress reports, workplans, grant agreements, and other business information related to ECA awards. The SAMS-D RPM (which this notice of information collection pertains to, specifically) is an extension *module* within the larger SAMS-D platform, designed to collect performance monitoring data in a format that will make analysis of program performance and monitoring of the award more efficient.

**Methodology**

Information will be entered into SAMS-D RPM electronically. For organizations that are unable to submit their reports online, they will be able to submit a word document or PDF as the report, which will then be uploaded to the SAMS-D RPM. ECA will seek to limit such situations.

**Kristin Roberts,**

*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 2020-04843 Filed 3-9-20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4710-05-P**

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE**

**Notice of Product Exclusions: China's Acts, Policies, and Practices Related to Technology Transfer, Intellectual Property, and Innovation**

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States Trade Representative.

**ACTION:** Notice of product exclusions.

**SUMMARY:** On August 20, 2019, at the direction of the President, the U.S. Trade Representative determined to modify the action being taken in the investigation by imposing additional duties of 10 percent *ad valorem* on goods of China with an annual trade value of approximately \$300 billion as part of the action in the Section 301 investigation of China's acts, policies, and practices related to technology transfer, intellectual property, and

innovation. The additional duties on products in List 1, which is set out in Annex A of that action, became effective on September 1, 2019. On August 30, 2019, at the direction of the President, the U.S. Trade Representative determined to increase the rate of the additional duty applicable to the tariff subheadings covered by the action announced in the August 20 notice from 10 percent to 15 percent. On January 22, 2020, the U.S. Trade Representative determined to reduce the rate from 15 percent to 7.5 percent. The U.S. Trade Representative initiated a product exclusion process in October 2019, and interested persons have submitted requests for the exclusion of specific products. This notice announces the U.S. Trade Representative's determination to grant certain exclusion requests, as specified in the Annex to this notice. The U.S. Trade Representative will continue to issue decisions on pending requests on a periodic basis.

**DATES:** The product exclusions announced in this notice will apply as of September 1, 2019, the effective date of the \$300 billion action, and will extend to September 1, 2020.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For general questions about this notice, contact Assistant General Counsels Philip Butler or Megan Grimball, or Director of Industrial Goods Justin Hoffmann at (202) 395-5725. For specific questions on customs classification or implementation of the product exclusions identified in the Annex to this notice, contact [traderemedy@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:traderemedy@cbp.dhs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**A. Background**

For background on the proceedings in this investigation, please see the prior notices issued in the investigation, including 82 FR 40213 (August 24, 2017), 83 FR 14906 (April 6, 2018), 83 FR 28710 (June 20, 2018), 83 FR 33608 (July 17, 2018), 83 FR 38760 (August 7, 2018), 83 FR 40823 (August 16, 2018), 83 FR 47974 (September 21, 2018), 83 FR 49153 (September 28, 2018), 84 FR 20459 (May 9, 2019), 84 FR 43304 (August 20, 2019), 84 FR 45821 (August 30, 2019), 84 FR 57144 (October 24, 2019), 84 FR 69447 (December 18, 2019), and 85 FR 3741 (January 22, 2020).

In a notice published August 20, 2019, the U.S. Trade Representative, at the direction of the President, announced a determination to modify the action being taken in the Section 301 investigation by imposing an additional 10 percent *ad valorem* duty

on products of China with an annual aggregate trade value of approximately \$300 billion. 84 FR 43304 (August 20, 2019) (the August 20 notice). The August 20 notice contains two separate lists of tariff subheadings, with two different effective dates. List 1, which is set out in Annex A of the August 20 notice, was effective September 1, 2019. List 2, which is set out in Annex C of the August 20 notice, was scheduled to take effect on December 15, 2019.

On August 30, 2019, the U.S. Trade Representative, at the direction of the President, determined to modify the action being taken in the investigation by increasing the rate of additional duty from 10 to 15 percent *ad valorem* on the goods of China specified in Annex A and Annex C of the August 20 notice. See 84 FR 45821. On October 24, 2019, the U.S. Trade Representative established a process by which U.S. stakeholders could request exclusion of particular products classified within an 8-digit Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) subheading covered by List 1 of the \$300 billion action from the additional duties. See 84 FR 57144 (the October 24 notice). Subsequently, the U.S. Trade Representative announced a determination to suspend until further notice the additional duties on products set out in Annex C of the August 20 notice. See 84 FR 69447 (December 18, 2019). The U.S. Trade Representative later determined to further modify the action being taken by reducing the additional duties for the products covered in Annex A of the August 20 notice from 15 percent to 7.5 percent. See 85 FR 3741 (January 22, 2020).

Under the October 24 notice, requests for exclusion had to identify the product subject to the request in terms of the physical characteristics that distinguish the product from other products within the relevant 8-digit subheading covered

by the \$300 billion action. Requestors also had to provide the 10-digit subheading of the HTSUS most applicable to the particular product requested for exclusion, and could submit information on the ability of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to administer the requested exclusion. Requestors were asked to provide the quantity and value of the Chinese-origin product that the requestor purchased in the last three years, among other information. With regard to the rationale for the requested exclusion, requests had to address the following factors:

- Whether the particular product is available only from China and specifically whether the particular product and/or a comparable product is available from sources in the United States and/or third countries.
- Whether the imposition of additional duties on the particular product would cause severe economic harm to the requestor or other U.S. interests.
- Whether the particular product is strategically important or related to “Made in China 2025” or other Chinese industrial programs.

The October 24 notice stated that the U.S. Trade Representative would take into account whether an exclusion would undermine the objective of the Section 301 investigation.

The October 24 notice required submission of requests for exclusion from List 1 of the \$300 billion action no later than January 31, 2020, and noted that the U.S. Trade Representative periodically would announce decisions. This notice contains the first set of exclusion from List 1 of the \$300 billion action. The Office of the United States Trade Representative regularly updates the status of each pending request on the USTR Exclusions Portal at <https://exclusions.ustr.gov/s/docket?docketNumber=USTR-2019-0017>.

## B. Determination To Grant Certain Exclusions

Based on the evaluation of the factors set out in the October 24 notice, which are summarized above, pursuant to sections 301(b), 301(c), and 307(a) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended, and in accordance with the advice of the interagency Section 301 Committee, the U.S. Trade Representative has determined to grant the product exclusions set out in the Annex to this notice. The U.S. Trade Representative’s determination also takes into account advice from advisory committees and any public comments on the pertinent exclusion requests.

As set out in the Annex, the exclusions are reflected in 8 10-digit HTSUS subheadings, which cover 59 separate exclusion requests.

In accordance with the October 24 notice, the exclusions are available for any product that meets the description in the Annex, regardless of whether the importer filed an exclusion request. Further, the scope of each exclusion is governed by the scope of the 10-digit HTSUS subheading as described in the Annex, and not by the product descriptions set out in any particular request for exclusion.

As stated in the October 24 notice, the exclusions will apply from September 1, 2019, the effective date of the \$300 billion action, and will extend for one year to September 1, 2020. U.S. Customs and Border Protection will issue instructions on entry guidance and implementation.

The U.S. Trade Representative will continue to issue determinations on pending requests on a periodic basis.

### Joseph Barloon,

General Counsel, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

BILLING CODE 3290-F0-P

ANNEX

A. Effective with respect to goods entered for consumption, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on September 1, 2019, subchapter III of chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) is modified:

1. by inserting the following new heading 9903.88.39 in numerical sequence, with the material in the new heading inserted in the columns of the HTSUS labeled “Heading/Subheading”, “Article Description”, and “Rates of Duty 1-General”, respectively:

Heading/ Subheading	Article Description	Rates of Duty		
		1		2
		General	Special	
“9903.88.39	Articles the product of China, as provided for in U.S. note 20(rr) to this subchapter, each covered by an exclusion granted by the U.S. Trade Representative .....	The duty provided in the applicable subheading”		

2. by inserting the following new U.S. note 20(rr) to subchapter III of chapter 99 in numerical sequence:

“(rr) The U.S. Trade Representative determined to establish a process by which particular products classified in heading 9903.88.15 and provided for in U.S. notes 20(r) and (s) to this subchapter could be excluded from the additional duties imposed by heading 9903.88.15. See 84 Fed. Reg. 43304 (August 20, 2019), 84 Fed. Reg. 45821 (August 30, 2019), 84 Fed. Reg. 57144 (October 24, 2019) and 85 Fed. Reg. 3741 (January 22, 2020). Pursuant to the product exclusion process, the U.S. Trade Representative has determined that the additional duties provided for in heading 9903.88.15 shall not apply to the following particular products, which are provided for in the following enumerated statistical reporting numbers:

- 1) 3401.19.0000
- 2) 3926.90.9910
- 3) 4015.19.0510
- 4) 4015.19.0550
- 5) 4818.90.0000
- 6) 6210.10.5000
- 7) 6307.90.6090
- 8) 6307.90.6800”

3. by amending the last sentence of the first paragraph of U.S. note 20(r) to insert “, except as provided in heading 9903.88.39 and U.S. note 20(rr) to subchapter III of chapter 99” after “heading 9903.88.15”.
4. by amending the article description of heading 9903.88.15 by deleting the word “Articles” and inserting “Except as provided in heading 9903.88.39, articles” in lieu thereof.

[FR Doc. 2020-05000 Filed 3-6-20; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 3290-F0-C

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES  
TRADE REPRESENTATIVE**

[Docket Number USTR-2020-0010]

**Field Hearings Regarding Trade  
Distorting Policies That May Be  
Affecting Seasonal and Perishable  
Products in U.S. Commerce**

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States  
Trade Representative.

**ACTION:** Notice of public hearing and  
request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of the United  
States Trade Representative (USTR) and  
the Departments of Commerce and  
Agriculture will convene public  
hearings in Florida and Georgia to hear  
firsthand from interested persons on  
trade distorting policies that may be  
causing harm to U.S. seasonal and  
perishable producers (namely, of fresh  
fruits and vegetables) and contributing  
to unfair pricing in the U.S. market, and  
to solicit feedback on how the  
Administration can better support these  
producers and redress any unfair harm.

**DATES:**

*Field Hearing Dates and Locations*

April 7, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. EST: Grimes  
Family Agricultural Center, 2508 W Oak  
Avenue, Plant City, Florida 33563.

April 9, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. EST:  
Rainwater Conference Center, 1 Meeting  
Place, Valdosta, Georgia 31601.

*Submission Deadlines*

March 19, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. EST:  
Deadline for submission of requests to  
appear at either of the field hearings.

March 26, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. EST:  
Deadline for submission of hearing  
statements and written comments.

**ADDRESSES:** USTR strongly prefers  
electronic submissions made through  
the Federal eRulemaking portal: <http://www.regulations.gov> (*Regulations.gov*).  
Follow the instructions for submission  
in section II below. The docket number  
is USTR-2020-0010. For alternatives to  
online submissions, please contact Trey  
Forsyth in advance of the submission  
deadline at (202) 395-8583.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For  
procedural questions, questions  
regarding the field hearings, or to  
request special accommodations, please  
contact Trey Forsyth at (202) 395-8583.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Background**

USTR and the Departments of  
Commerce and Agriculture will convene

public hearings in Florida and Georgia  
to hear firsthand from interested  
persons regarding trade distorting  
policies that may be affecting seasonal  
and perishable products in U.S.  
commerce. The hearings are open to the  
public, but space may be limited.  
Accordingly, attendees will be  
accommodated on a first come, first  
served basis.

USTR invites comments and  
supporting documentation from  
interested persons on the following  
issues:

- Trade distorting policies that may  
be contributing to unfair pricing in the  
U.S. market and causing harm to U.S.  
seasonal and perishable producers in  
U.S. commerce.
- How the Administration can better  
support these producers and redress  
unfair harm.

**II. Hearing Participation—Submission  
Requirements**

To appear and provide testimony at  
either of the field hearings, you must  
submit a request to do so by the March  
19, 2020, 11:59 p.m. EST deadline.

All parties who wish to testify also  
must submit the statement they intend  
to present at the hearing by the March  
26, 2020, 11:59 p.m. EST deadline.  
Remarks at the hearing will be limited  
to five minutes, and might be further  
limited if circumstances warrant, to  
allow adequate time for questions from  
the panel.

Interested parties who do not want to  
appear at the hearing may submit  
comments by the March 26 deadline.

To submit a request to appear and  
provide testimony, go to  
[www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). To make a  
submission via *Regulations.gov*, enter  
docket number USTR-2020-0010 in the  
'search for' field on the home page and  
click 'search.' The site will provide a  
search-results page listing all documents  
associated with this docket. Find a  
reference to this notice by selecting  
'notice' under 'document type' in the  
'filter results by' section on the left side  
of the screen and click on the link  
entitled 'comment now.' In the  
'comment' field on the next page,  
identify the hearing at which you would  
like to testify and provide the full name,  
address, email address, and telephone  
number of the person who wishes to  
present the testimony.

To submit a written statement, the  
*Regulations.gov* website allows users to  
provide comments by filling in a 'type  
comment' field or by attaching a  
document using the 'upload file(s)'  
field. USTR prefers that you provide  
submissions in an attached document.  
The file name should include the name

of the person who will be presenting the  
testimony, or if not testifying, the name  
of the person submitting the statement.  
The name of the presenter also should  
be clear in the content of the file itself.  
All submissions must be in English and  
be prepared in (or be compatible with)  
Microsoft Word (.doc) or Adobe Acrobat  
(.pdf) formats. Include any data  
attachments to the submission in the  
same file as the submission itself, and  
not as separate files.

For additional information on using  
the *Regulations.gov* website, please  
consult the resources provided on the  
website by clicking on 'how to use this  
site' on the left side of the home page.

You must clearly designate business  
confidential information (BCI) by  
marking the submission 'BUSINESS  
CONFIDENTIAL' at the top and bottom  
of the cover page and each succeeding  
page, and indicating, via brackets, the  
specific information that is confidential.

A submitter requesting that USTR  
treat information in a submission as BCI  
must certify that the information is  
business confidential and would not  
customarily be released to the public by  
the submitter.

You must include 'business  
confidential' in the 'type comment'  
field, and must add 'business  
confidential' to the end of your file  
name for any attachments.

For any submission containing BCI,  
you also must attach a separate non-  
confidential version (*i.e.*, not as part of  
the same submission with the BCI  
version), indicating where confidential  
information has been redacted. USTR  
will place the non-confidential version  
in the docket and it will be available for  
public inspection.

USTR may not accept BCI  
submissions that do not have the  
required markings, or are not  
accompanied by a properly marked non-  
confidential version, and may consider  
the submission to be a public document.

Submissions responding to this  
notice, except for information granted  
BCI status, will be available for public  
viewing at *Regulations.gov* upon  
completion of processing. You can view  
submissions by entering docket number  
USTR-2020-0010 in the search field at  
*Regulations.gov*.

**Joseph Barloon,**

*General Counsel, Office of the U.S. Trade  
Representative.*

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