

opportunities and operational activities related to SGM health.

The FY 2021–2025 strategic plan includes the following four scientific themes and research opportunities:

1. Clinical research
2. Social and behavioral research
3. Research in chronic diseases and comorbidities
4. Methods and measurement research

Overarching considerations for SGM research extend to all scientific research goal areas to help foster a deeper understanding of SGM health disparities. Key examples of these overarching considerations for SGM research include intersectionality, life situations, aging, SGM subpopulations, and relevant research frameworks.

The FY 2021–2025 strategic plan includes the following four operational goals:

1. Advance rigorous research on the health of SGM populations in both the extramural and intramural research communities;
2. Expand SGM health research by fostering partnerships and collaborations with a strategic array of internal and external stakeholders;
3. Foster a highly skilled and diverse workforce in SGM health research; and
4. Encourage data collection related to SGM populations in research and the biomedical research workforce.

The populations considered under the SGM umbrella term are inclusive and capture all individuals and populations who do not self-identify with binary constructs of sexual orientation, gender, and/or sex. Examples of such populations may include intersex individuals or individuals with differences or disorders of sex development (DSD), Two-Spirit people, transgender and gender-expansive people, bisexual people, and individuals whose gender identity falls within the full spectrum of gender.

To advance NIH priorities in SGM health research, SGMRO requests input from SGM health researchers and related communities on potential research opportunities related to the goals of the FY 2021–2025 strategic plan.

Responses to this RFI are voluntary. Do not include any proprietary, classified, confidential, trade secret, or sensitive information in your response. The responses will be reviewed by NIH staff, and individual feedback will not be provided to any responder. The Government will use the information submitted in response to this RFI at its discretion. The Government reserves the right to use any submitted information on public NIH websites; in reports; in summaries of the state of the science; in any possible resultant solicitation(s),

grant(s), or cooperative agreement(s); or in the development of future funding opportunity announcements.

This RFI is for information and planning purposes only and should not be construed as a solicitation for applications or proposals, or as an obligation in any way on the part of the United States Federal Government, NIH, or individual NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices to provide support for any ideas identified in response to it. The federal government will not pay for the preparation of any information submitted or for the Government's use of such information.

No basis for claims against the U.S. Government shall arise as a result of a response to this RFI or from the Government's use of such information. Additionally, the Government cannot guarantee the confidentiality of the information provided.

Dated: September 24, 2021.

**Lawrence A. Tabak,**

*Principal Deputy Director, National Institutes of Health.*

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**BILLING CODE 4140–01–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

### National Institutes of Health

#### Clinical Center; Notice of Closed Meeting

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, notice is hereby given of a meeting of the Board of Scientific Counselors of the NIH Clinical Center. The meeting will be closed to the public as indicated below in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended for the review, discussion, and evaluation of individual grant applications conducted by the CLINICAL CENTER, including consideration of personnel qualifications and performance, and the competence of individual investigators, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

*Name of Committee:* Board of Scientific Counselors of the NIH Clinical Center.

*Date:* October 18, 2021.

*Time:* 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate Department of Laboratory Medicine and interviews.

*Place:* Clinical Center, 10 Center Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Virtual Meeting).

*Date:* October 19, 2021.

*Time:* 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

*Agenda:* To review and evaluate Department of Laboratory Medicine and interviews.

*Place:* Clinical Center, 10 Center Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Virtual Meeting).

*Contact Person:* Ronald Neumann, MD, Senior Investigation, Clinical Center, National Institutes of Health, 10 Center Drive, Bethesda, MD 20892, 301–496–6455, [rneumann@cc.nih.gov](mailto:rneumann@cc.nih.gov).

Any interested person may file written comments with the committee by forwarding the statement to the Contact Person listed on this notice. The statement should include the name, address, telephone number and when applicable, the business or professional affiliation of the interested person.

In the interest of security, NIH has instituted stringent procedures for entrance onto the NIH campus. All visitor vehicles, including taxicabs, hotel, and airport shuttles will be inspected before being allowed on campus. Visitors will be asked to show one form of identification (for example, a government-issued photo ID, driver's license, or passport) and to state the purpose of their visit.

Dated: September 24, 2021.

**Patricia B. Hansberger,**

*Supervisory Program Analyst, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### U.S. Customs and Border Protection

#### Mexico Textile and Apparel Imports Approved for the Electronic Certification System (eCERT)

**AGENCY:** U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security.

**ACTION:** General notice.

**SUMMARY:** This document announces that the certification requirement for certain imports of textile and apparel goods from the United Mexican States (Mexico) that are eligible for preferential tariff treatment under a tariff preference level (TPL) will be accomplished through the Electronic Certification System (eCERT). Specified quantities of certain textile and apparel imports from Mexico that are eligible for preferential tariff treatment under a TPL must have a valid certificate of eligibility with a corresponding eCERT transmission in order for an importer to claim the preferential duty rate. As the Agreement Between the United States of America, the United Mexican States and Canada

(USMCA) requires the use of an electronic system for the transmission of a certificate of eligibility and other documentation related to TPLs for goods imported into the United States, Mexico has coordinated with the United States Government (USG) to implement the eCERT process. Mexico is now ready to participate in this process and transition from the way the USG currently receives certificates of eligibility from Mexico to eCERT. This transition will not change the TPL filing process or requirements applicable to importers of record, who will continue to provide the certificate numbers from Mexico in the same manner as when currently filing entry summaries with U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The format of the certificate of eligibility numbers will remain the same for the corresponding eCERT transmissions.

**DATES:** The use of the eCERT process for certain Mexican textile and apparel importations eligible for preferential tariff treatment under a TPL will be effective for certain textile and apparel goods entered, or withdrawn from a warehouse, for consumption on or after October 5, 2021.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For quota-related questions, contact Julia Peterson, Chief, Quota and Agriculture Branch, Trade Policy and Programs, Office of Trade, (202) 384-8905, or [HQQQUOTA@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:HQQQUOTA@cbp.dhs.gov). For questions related to the TPL provisions, contact Anita Harris, Chief, Textile Policy Branch, Trade Policy and Programs, Office of Trade, (202) 604-2151, or [OTTEXTILE\\_POLICY\\_ENF@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:OTTEXTILE_POLICY_ENF@cbp.dhs.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

Pursuant to the Agreement Between the United States of America, the United Mexican States and Canada (USMCA), Section C (Preferential Tariff Treatment for Non-Originating Goods of another Party) of Annex 6-A of Chapter 6 (Textile and Apparel Goods) allows for preferential tariff treatment under a tariff-preference level (TPL) of specified annual quantities of certain textile and apparel goods from the United Mexican States (Mexico) for import into the United States. The TPLs for textile and apparel goods from Mexico set forth in U.S. Note 11 of subchapter XXIII of Chapter 98 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) are derived from Annex 6-A of Chapter 6 of the USMCA. Pursuant to Section C of Annex 6-A of the USMCA, the USMCA country where the good is being imported may require a document issued by the competent authority of a

USMCA country, such as a certificate of eligibility, to provide information demonstrating that the good qualifies for duty-free treatment under a TPL, to track allocation and use of a TPL, or as a condition to grant duty-free treatment to the good under a TPL. Each USMCA country must notify the other USMCA countries if it requires a certificate of eligibility or other documentation. CBP has determined that TPLs under the USMCA will be administered using a certificate of eligibility. A TPL is a quantitative limit for certain non-originating textile or apparel goods that may be entitled to preferential tariff treatment based on the goods meeting certain requirements, as specified by the USMCA and CBP. A USMCA country will manage each TPL on a first-come, first-served basis, and will calculate the quantity of goods that enter under a TPL on the basis of its imports.

The Electronic Certification System (eCERT) is a system developed by CBP that uses electronic data transmissions of information normally associated with a required export document, such as a license or certificate, to facilitate the administration of TPLs and ensure that the proper restraint levels are charged without being exceeded. Mexico currently submits certificates of eligibility to CBP via email, and in the administration of the TPL, CBP validates these certificates with the certificate numbers provided by importers of record (importers) on their entry summaries. Paragraph 14 of Section C of Annex 6-A of the USMCA requires that the parties to the agreement establish a secure system for electronic transmission of certificates of eligibility or other documentation related to TPL utilization, as well as for sharing information in real time related to allocation and utilization of TPLs. CBP has coordinated with Mexico to implement the eCERT process, and now Mexico is ready to participate in this process by transmitting its certificates of eligibility to CBP via eCERT.

Foreign countries participating in eCERT transmit information via a global network service provider, which allows connectivity to CBP's automated electronic system for commercial trade processing, the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE). Specific data elements are transmitted to CBP by the importer (or an authorized customs broker) when filing an entry summary with CBP, and those data elements must match eCERT data from the foreign country before an importer may claim the preferential duty rate under a TPL. An importer may claim a preferential duty rate when merchandise is entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for

consumption, only if the information transmitted by the importer matches the information transmitted by the foreign government. If there is no transmission by the foreign government upon entry summary, an importer must claim the most-favored nation (MFN) rate of duty.<sup>1</sup> An importer may subsequently claim the preferential duty rate under certain limited conditions.<sup>2</sup>

This document announces that Mexico will be implementing the eCERT process for transmitting certificates of eligibility for certain textile and apparel entries that are eligible for preferential tariff treatment under a TPL. Imported merchandise that is entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after October 5, 2021, must match the eCERT transmission of a certificate of eligibility from Mexico in order for an importer to claim the preferential duty rate. The transition to eCERT will not change the TPL filing process or requirements. Under this process, importers will continue to provide the certificate of eligibility numbers from Mexico in the same manner as when currently filing entry summaries with CBP. The format of the numbers of certificates of eligibility will not change as a result of the transition to eCERT. CBP will reject entry summaries that claim a preferential duty rate under a TPL when filed without a valid certificate of eligibility in eCERT.

Dated: September 24, 2021.

**AnnMarie R. Highsmith,**

*Executive Assistant Commissioner, Office of Trade.*

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<sup>1</sup> If there is no associated foreign government eCERT transmission available upon the filing of the entry summary, an importer may enter the merchandise for consumption subject to the MFN rate of duty or opt not to enter the merchandise for consumption at that time (e.g., transfer the merchandise to a customs bonded warehouse or foreign trade zone or export or destroy the merchandise).

<sup>2</sup> An importer has the opportunity to make a post-importation claim for a TPL by requesting a refund of any excess customs duties at any time within one year after the date of importation of the goods. However, the preferential duty rate is allowable only if there are still amounts available within the original TPL period.