

DATES: The Department will accept comments from the public up to September 18, 2023.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *Web:* Persons with access to the internet may comment on this notice by going to www.Regulations.gov. You can search for the document by entering “Docket Number: DOS–2023–0022” in the Search field. Then click the “Comment Now” button and complete the comment form.

- *Email:* OliphantCE@state.gov.
- *Regular Mail:* Send written

comments to: Send written comments to U.S. Department of State, CA/OCS/MSU, SA–17, 10th Floor, Washington, DC 20522–1710.

You must include the DS form number (if applicable), information collection title, and the OMB control number in any correspondence.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Direct requests for additional information regarding the collection listed in this notice, including requests for copies of the proposed collection instrument and supporting documents, to Clifton Oliphant at SA–17, 10th Floor, Washington, DC 20522–1710, who may be reached on 202–485–6040 or at OliphantCE@state.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- *Title of Information Collection:* Questionnaire—Loss of United States Nationality.
- *OMB Control Number:* 1405–0178.
- *Type of Request:* Revision of a currently approved collection.
- *Originating Office:* Bureau of Consular Affairs, Overseas Citizens Services (CA/OCS).
- *Form Number:* DS–4079.
- *Respondents:* United States citizens.
- *Estimated Number of Respondents:* 4,850.
- *Estimated Number of Responses:* 4,850.
- *Average Time per Response:* 43 minutes.
- *Total Estimated Burden Time:* 3,475 hours.

- *Frequency:* Variable by country.
- *Obligation to Respond:* Voluntary, but if not completed, will not be eligible to request a Certificate of Loss of Nationality of the United States.

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

The purpose of the information requested on the DS–4079, “Questionnaire—Loss of Nationality,” is to assist the Department of State in determining whether a U.S. citizen who requests a Certificate of Loss of Nationality of the United States under Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) section 349(a)(1)–(5) (8 U.S.C. 1481) has relinquished United States nationality by performing a potentially expatriating act voluntarily and with the intention of relinquishing United States nationality. INA section 104 (8 U.S.C. 1104) and INA section 358 (8 U.S.C. 1501) authorize the Department of State to collect this information.

Methodology

The Bureau of Consular Affairs will post this form on Department of State websites to give respondents the opportunity to complete the form online or print the form and fill it out manually and submit the form in person or by fax or mail.

Kevin E. Bryant,

Deputy Director, Office of Directives Management, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2023–15307 Filed 7–18–23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710–06–P

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket Number USTR–2023–0006]

Request for Comments on Operation of the Caribbean Basin Initiative

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR).

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Trade Representative has to submit a report to Congress regarding the operation of the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) on or before December 31, 2023. The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) invites

comments concerning the operation of the CBI, including the performance of each beneficiary country, to assist in preparing the report to Congress on the operation of the CBI program.

DATES: The deadline for the submission of written comments is 11:59 EDT on August 18, 2023.

ADDRESSES: You should submit written comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <https://www.regulations.gov> (*regulations.gov*), using docket number USTR–2023–0006. Follow the instructions for submissions in parts III and IV below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For procedural questions concerning written comments and for alternatives to online submissions, please contact Katherine Stubblefield, Office of the Western Hemisphere, at Katherine.E.Stubblefield@ustr.eop.gov or (202) 395–7528 in advance of the deadline and before transmitting a comment.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Together, the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA), and the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA) (19 U.S.C. 2701 *et seq.*) commonly are referred to as the Caribbean Basin Initiative or CBI. Section 212(f)(1) of the CBERA, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2702(f)(1)) requires the U.S. Trade Representative to report on the performance of each CBERA or CBTPA beneficiary country. Barbados, Belize, Curacao, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago receive benefits under both CBERA and CBTPA. Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, The Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines currently receive benefits only under CBERA. For the purposes of this report, the term ‘beneficiary country’ includes both the independent countries and dependent territories receiving benefits under CBTPA or CBERA.

As described in more detail below, the TPSC seeks comments on any aspect of the CBI program’s operation, including the performance of CBERA and CBTPA beneficiary countries under the criteria described in sections 212(b), 212(c), and 213(b)(5)(B) of the CBERA, as amended. You can access the criteria at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/USCODE-2011-title19/html/USCODE-2011-title19-chap15.htm>. The report also will examine the CBI’s effect on the volume and composition of trade and investment between the United States and the CBI beneficiary countries and

on advancing U.S. trade policy goals. You can access the most recent CBI report at <https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/files/reports/2021/2021CBIRreport.pdf>.

II. Reporting Requirements on the Eligibility Criteria for All CBI Beneficiary Countries

The TPSC seeks comments on any aspect of the CBI program's operation, including the performance of CBERA and CBTPA beneficiary countries using the following criteria:

A. CBERA "Mandatory" Criteria

Under section 212(b) (19 U.S.C. 2702(b)), unless the President determines that it is in the national economic or security interest of the United States, they may not designate as a CBI beneficiary country any country that:

1. Is a Communist country.
2. Has expropriated or nationalized property of U.S. citizens, unless the President determines that the country is taking steps to resolve the citizen's claim.
3. Fails to act in good faith in recognizing as binding or in enforcing arbitral awards in favor of U.S. citizens or corporations owned by U.S. citizens.
4. Affords preferential treatment to the products of a developed country other than the United States that has, or is likely to have, a significant adverse effect on U.S. commerce, unless the President has received satisfactory assurances that the country will eliminate the preferential treatment or acts to assure that there will be no significant adverse effect.
5. Allows the broadcast of copyrighted material, including films or television material belonging to United States copyright owners without their express consent.
6. Is not a signatory to a treaty, convention, protocol, or other agreement regarding the extradition of U.S. citizens.
7. Has not or is not taking steps to afford internationally recognized worker rights as defined in section 507(4) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2467(4)) to workers in the country (including any designated zone in that country).

8. The extent to which a country has assured the United States that it will provide equitable and reasonable access to the markets and basic commodity resources of the country.

9. The degree to which a country follows the international trade rules of the World Trade Organization and multilateral trade agreements.

10. The degree to which a country uses export subsidies or imposes export performance requirements or local content requirements that distort international trade.

11. The degree to which the trade policies of a country as they relate to other beneficiary countries are contributing to the revitalization of the region.

12. The degree to which a country is undertaking self-help measures to promote its own economic development.

13. Whether or not a country has taken or is taking steps to afford to workers in that country (including any designated zone in that country) internationally recognized worker rights.

14. The extent to which a country provides under its law adequate and effective means for foreign nationals to secure, exercise, and enforce exclusive intellectual property rights.

15. The extent to which a country prohibits its nationals from broadcasting U.S. copyrighted materials, including film and television material, without their express consent.

16. The extent to which a country cooperates with the United States in the administration of CBI preferences.

C. CBTPA Eligibility Criteria

Under section 213(b)(5)(B) (19 U.S.C. 2703(b)(5)(B)), in considering the eligibility of the CBI countries and dependent territories that have expressed an interest in receiving the enhanced preferences of the CBTPA, the President must take into account the existing eligibility criteria of the CBERA, as well as several additional revised criteria elaborated in the CBTPA. These additional criteria are:

1. Whether the beneficiary country has demonstrated a commitment to undertake its obligations under the World Trade Organization on or ahead of schedule and participate in negotiations toward the completion of the Free Trade Area of the Americas or another free trade agreement.

2. The extent to which the country provides protection of intellectual property rights consistent with or greater than the protection afforded under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

3. The extent to which the country provides internationally recognized worker rights, including: the right of association; the right to organize and bargain collectively; a prohibition on the use of any form of forced or compulsory labor; a minimum age for the employment of children; and acceptable conditions of work with respect to minimum wages, hours of work, and occupational safety and health.

4. Whether the country has implemented its commitments to eliminate the worst forms of child labor, as defined in section 507(6) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2467(6)).

5. The extent to which the country has met U.S. counter-narcotics certification criteria under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

6. The extent to which the country has taken steps to become a party to and implement the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption.

7. The extent to which the country applies transparent, nondiscriminatory and competitive procedures in government procurement, and contributes to efforts in international fora to develop and implement rules on transparency in government procurement.

III. Requirements for Submissions

To be assured of consideration, submit your written comments by the August 18, 2023 11:59 p.m. EDT deadline. All submissions must be in English. TPSC strongly encourages submissions via [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov), using Docket Number USTR-2023-0006. The TPSC will not accept hand-delivered submissions.

To make a submission via [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov), enter Docket Number USTR-2023-0006 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 'refine documents results' section on the left side of the screen and click on the link entitled 'comment.' [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) allows users to make submissions by filling in a 'type comment' field or by attaching a document using the 'upload file' field. The TPSC prefers that you provide submissions in an attached document and note 'see attached' in the 'comment' field on the online submission form.

The TPSC prefers submissions in Microsoft Word (.doc) or Adobe Acrobat (.pdf). If you use an application other than those two, please indicate the

name of the application in the ‘type comment’ field.

You must identify on the first page of the submission the subject matter of the comment as the “CBI Report to Congress.” File names should reflect the name of the person or entity submitting the comments. Please do not attach separate cover letters, exhibits, annexes, or other attachments to electronic submissions. Instead, to the extent possible, please include these in the same file as the comment itself, rather than submitting them as separate files. Submissions should not exceed 30 single-spaced, standard letter-size pages in 12-point type, including attachments.

You will receive a tracking number upon completion of the submission procedure at *Regulations.gov*. The tracking number is confirmation that *Regulations.gov* received your submission. Keep the confirmation for your records.

The TPSC is not able to provide technical assistance for *Regulations.gov*. For further information on using *Regulations.gov*, please consult the resources provided on the website by clicking on ‘How to Use *Regulations.gov*’ on the bottom of the home page. The TPSC may not consider submissions that you do not make in accordance with these instructions.

If you are unable to provide submissions as requested, please contact Katherine Stubblefield, Office of the Western Hemisphere, at Katherine.E.Stubblefield@ustr.eop.gov or (202) 395-7528, to arrange for an alternative method of transmission.

General information concerning USTR is available at www.ustr.gov.

IV. Business Confidential Information (BCI) Submissions

If you ask the TPSC to treat information you submit as BCI, you must certify that the information is business confidential and you would not customarily release it to the public. For any comments submitted electronically containing BCI, the file name of the business confidential version should begin with the characters ‘BCI.’ You must clearly mark any page containing BCI with ‘BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL’ at the top of that page. Additionally, you must include ‘Business Confidential’ in the ‘type comment’ field. Filers of submissions containing BCI also must submit a public version of their submission that will be placed in the docket for public inspection. The file name of the public version should begin with the character ‘P.’ The TPSC will post the non-confidential version in the docket and it will be open to public inspection.

V. Public Viewing of Review Submissions

The TPSC will post written submissions in the docket for public inspection, except properly designated BCI. You can view submissions at *regulations.gov* by entering Docket Number USTR-2023-0006 in the search field on the home page.

William Shpiece,

*Chair of the Trade Policy Staff Committee,
Office of the United States Trade Representative.*

[FR Doc. 2023-15222 Filed 7-18-23; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Notice of Conforming Amendments to Previously Reinstated Exclusions: China’s Acts, Policies, and Practices Related to Technology Transfer, Intellectual Property, and Innovation

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Effective July 1, 2023, the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) implemented certain changes to statistical reporting categories in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS). As a result of these changes, USTR is making conforming amendments to two previously reinstated exclusions associated with the Section 301 investigation of China Acts, Policies, and Practices Related to Technology Transfer, Intellectual Property, and Innovation.

DATES: The conforming amendments in the Annex to this notice are effective on July 1, 2023. CBP will issue instructions on entry guidance and implementation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general questions about this notice, contact Associate General Counsel Philip Butler or Assistant General Counsel Rachel Hasandras at (202) 395-5725. For specific questions on customs classification or implementation of the product exclusion identified in the Annex to this notice, contact traderemedy@cbp.dhs.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

Effective July 1, 2023, the USITC implemented certain changes to ten-digit statistical reporting categories of the HTSUS in accordance with its responsibility under section 484(f) of the Tariff Act of 1930, 19 U.S.C. 1484(f). Two of the previously reinstated

exclusions in the Section 301 investigation of China’s Acts, Policies, and Practices Related to Technology Transfer, Intellectual Property, and Innovation, as set out at 87 FR 17380 (March 28, 2022), are affected by the amended statistical reporting categories.

B. Conforming Amendments to Exclusions

To maintain the pre-existing product coverage of the China 301 actions, conforming amendments to the corresponding note provisions in the HTSUS are required. The Annex to this notice conforms two existing product exclusions with the July 1, 2023 changes to ten-digit statistical reporting categories in the HTSUS. In particular, the Annex makes conforming amendments to U.S. notes 20(tt)(iii)(73) and 20(ttt)(iii)(74) to subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTSUS, as set out in the Annexes of the notice published at 87 FR 17380 (March 28, 2022).

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 July 1, 2023 and before 11:59 p.m. eastern daylight time on September 30, 2023, note 20(ttt)(iii)(73) to subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTSUS is amended by deleting “(described in statistical reporting number 6802.99.0060) and by inserting “(described in statistical reporting number 6802.99.0060 prior to July 1, 2023; described in statistical reporting number 6802.99.0090 effective July 1, 2023)” in lieu thereof.

B. 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 July 1, 2023 and before 11:59 p.m. eastern daylight time on September 30, 2023, note 20(ttt)(iii)(74) to subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTSUS is amended by deleting “(described in statistical reporting number 6802.99.0060) and by inserting “(described in statistical reporting number 6802.99.0060 prior to July 1, 2023; described in statistical reporting number 6802.99.0090 effective July 1, 2023)” in lieu thereof.

Greta Peisch,

General Counsel, Office of the United States Trade Representative.

[FR Doc. 2023-15309 Filed 7-18-23; 8:45 am]

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