

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

North American Free-Trade Agreement, Article 1904 Binational Panel Reviews; Request for Panel Review

AGENCY: NAFTA Secretariat, United States Section, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of first request for panel review.

SUMMARY: On February 20, 1998, Cerestar, USA, Inc., filed a First Request for Panel Review with the Mexican Section of the NAFTA Secretariat pursuant to Article 1904 of the North American Free Trade Agreement. Several other Requests for Panel Review were also filed in this matter. Panel review was requested of the final antidumping duty determination made by the Secretaria de Comercio y Fomento Industrial with respect to Imports of High Fructose Corn Syrup originating in the United States of America. This determination was published in the *Diario Oficial* on January 23, 1998. The NAFTA Secretariat has assigned Case Number MEX-98-1904-01 to this request.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James R. Holbein, United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat, Suite 2061, 14th and Constitution Avenue, Washington, DC 20230 (202) 482-5438.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Chapter 19 of the North American Free-Trade Agreement ("Agreement") establishes a mechanism to replace domestic judicial review of final determinations in antidumping and countervailing duty cases involving imports from a NAFTA country with review by independent binational panels. When a Request for Panel Review is filed, a panel is established to act in place of national courts to review expeditiously the final determination to determine whether it conforms with the antidumping or countervailing duty law of the country that made the determination.

Under Article 1904 of the Agreement, which came into force on January 1, 1994, the Government of the United States, the Government of Canada and the Government of Mexico established Rules of Procedure for Article 1904 Binational Panel Reviews ("Rules"). These Rules were published in the **Federal Register** on February 23, 1994 (59 FR 8686).

A first Request for Panel Review was filed with the Mexican Section of the

NAFTA Secretariat, pursuant to Article 1904 of the Agreement, on February 20, 1998, requesting panel review of the final antidumping determination described above.

The Rules provide that:

(a) A Party or interested person may challenge the final determination in whole or in part by filing a Complaint in accordance with Rule 39 within 30 days after the filing of the first Request for Panel Review (the deadline for filing a Complaint is March 23, 1998);

(b) A Party, investigating authority or interested person that does not file a Complaint but that intends to appear in support of any reviewable portion of the final determination may participate in the panel review by filing a Notice of Appearance in accordance with Rule 40 within 45 days after the filing of the first Request for Panel Review (the deadline for filing a Notice of Appearance is April 6, 1998); and

(c) The panel review shall be limited to the allegations of error of fact or law, including the jurisdiction of the investigating authority, that are set out in the Complaints filed in the panel review and the procedural and substantive defenses raised in the panel review.

Dated: March 10, 1998.

James R. Holbein,

United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat.
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

[Docket No. 971021249-8006-02]

RIN 0625-AA50

Allocation of Duty-Exemptions for Calendar Year 1998 Among Watch Producers Located in the Virgin Islands

AGENCY: Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce; Office of Insular Affairs, Department of the Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This action allocates 1998 duty-exemptions for watch producers located in the Virgin Islands pursuant to Public Law 97-446, as amended by Public Law 103-465 ("the Act").

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Faye Robinson, (202) 482-3526.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Act the Departments of the Interior and Commerce (the Departments) share responsibility for the allocation of duty exemptions among watch assembly firms in the United States insular possessions and the Northern Mariana Islands. In accordance with Section 303.3(a) of the regulations (15 CFR Part 303), this action establishes the total quantity of duty-free insular watches and watch movements for 1998 at 4,140,000 units and divides this amount among the three insular possessions of the United States and the Northern Mariana Islands. If this amount, 2,640,000 units may be allocated to Virgin Islands producers, 500,000 to Guam producers, 500,000 to American Samoa producers and 500,000 to Northern Mariana Islands producers (63 FR 5887).

The criteria for the calculation of the 1998 duty-exemption allocations among insular producers are set forth in Section 303.14 of the regulations.

The Departments have verified the data submitted on application form ITA-334P by Virgin Islands producers and inspected their current operations in accordance with Section 303.5 of the regulations.

In calendar year 1997 the Virgin Islands watch assembly firms shipped 922,229 watches and watch movements into the customs territory of the United States under the Act. The dollar amount of creditable corporate income taxes paid by Virgin Islands producers during calendar year 1997 plus the creditable wages paid by the industry during calendar year 1997 to residents of the territory was \$3,458,360.

There are no producers in Guam, American Samoa or the Northern Mariana Islands.

The calendar year 1998 Virginia Islands annual allocations set forth below are based on the data verified by the Departments in the Virgin Islands. The allocations reflect adjustments made in data supplied on the producers' annual application forms (ITA-334P) as a result of the Departments' verification.

The duty-exemption allocations for calendar year 1998 in the Virgin Islands are as follows:

Name of firm	Annual allocation
Belair Quartz, Inc.	500,000
Hampden Watch Co., Inc.	200,000
Progress Watch Co., Inc.	350,000
Unitime Industries, Inc.	500,000
Tropex, Inc. Inc.	300,000