

Public Reading Room, except for information granted "business confidential" status pursuant to 15 CFR 2003.6. If the submission contains business confidential information, a non-confidential version of the submission must also be submitted that indicates where confidential information was redacted by inserting asterisks where material was deleted. In addition, the confidential submission must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" at the top and bottom of each and every page of the document. The public version which does not contain business confidential information must also be clearly marked at the top and bottom of each and every page (either "PUBLIC VERSION" or "NON-CONFIDENTIAL").

In order to facilitate prompt consideration of submissions, USTR strongly urges and prefers electronic e-mail submissions in response to this notice. In the event that an e-mail submission is impossible, submissions should be made by facsimile. These submissions should be single copy transmissions in English with the total submission not to exceed 50 single-spaced pages and 3 megabytes as a digital file attached to an e-mail transmission. Persons making submissions by e-mail should use the following subject line: "2002 Annual GSP Review—Petition." Documents must be submitted as either WordPerfect ("*.WPD"), MSWord ("*.DOC"), or text ("*.TXT") files. Documents should not be submitted as electronic image files or contain imbedded images (for example, "*.JPG", "*.PDF", "*.BMP", or "*.GIF") as these type files are generally excessively large. E-mail submissions containing such files may not be accepted. Supporting documentation submitted as spreadsheets are acceptable as Quattro Pro or Excel, pre-formatted for printing on 8½ x 11 inch paper. To the extent possible, any data attachments to the submission should be included in the same file as the submission itself, and not as separate files. Facsimile submissions should include, among other identifying information specified in the regulations, the following information at the top of the first page: "2002 Annual GSP Review."

For any document containing business confidential information submitted as an electronic attached file to an e-mail transmission, the file name of the business confidential version should begin with the characters "BC-", and the file name of the public version should begin with the characters "P-". The "P-" or "BC-" should be followed by the name of the party (government, company, union, association, etc.)

which is submitting the petition. Parties who make submissions by e-mail should not provide separate cover letters or messages in the message area of the e-mail; information that might appear in any cover letter should be included directly in the attached file containing the submission itself. The e-mail address for these submissions is FR0052@USTR.GOV. Documents not submitted in accordance with these instructions might not be considered in this review.

Public versions of all documents relating to this review will be available for review approximately three weeks after the due date by appointment in the USTR Public Reading Room, 1724 F Street NW., Washington, DC. Availability of documents may be ascertained, and appointments may be made from 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, by calling (202) 395-6186.

Status of 2001 Annual GSP Review

The GSP program expired on September 30, 2001, and was not reauthorized until August 6, 2002. Consequently, the announcement of which petitions were to be accepted for the 2001 Annual GSP Review was not made, except for the announcement in the August 28, 2002 **Federal Register** of those petitions accepted for the Special Three Country Review for Argentina, the Philippines and Turkey. Because of this delay, the schedule for completing the 2002 and 2001 Annual GSP Reviews will be merged to the extent practicable. The notification of which petitions have been accepted for the 2002 and 2001 Annual GSP Reviews and other relevant dates, including the review schedule, will be issued in the **Federal Register**.

Steven Falken,

Executive Director for GSP, Chairman, GSP Subcommittee.

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Request for Public Comment With Respect to the Annual National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 303 of the Trade and Tariff Act of 1984, as amended, USTR is required to publish annually the National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers (NTE).

With this notice, the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) is requesting interested parties to assist it in identifying significant barriers to U.S. exports of goods, services and overseas direct investment for inclusion in the NTE. Particularly important are impediments materially affecting the actual and potential financial performance of an industry sector. The TPSC invites written comments that provide views relevant to the issues to be examined in preparing the NTE. In order to ensure the most timely processing of submissions, the Department of Commerce will receive comments in response to this Notice. Commenters should review carefully the written comments section of this Notice for special procedures for filing comments this year.

DATES: Public comments are due not later than Friday, December 13, 2002. This deadline is firm. No submissions will be accepted after December 13.

ADDRESSES: *Paper submissions:* NTE Comments, Office of Trade and Economic Analysis, Room H-2815, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230.

Submissions by electronic mail:
ntecomments@ita.doc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Procedural questions about transmitting comments or viewing public submissions should be directed to Ms. Marva Thompson (202-482-2185) or Mr. Howard Schreier (202-482-4180), U.S. Department of Commerce. Questions regarding the report or its subject matter should be directed to Ms. Gloria Blue, Office of Policy Coordination, Office of the United States Trade Representative (202-395-3475).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Last year's report may be found on USTR's Internet Home Page (www.ustr.gov) under the section on Reports. In order to ensure compliance with the statutory mandate for reporting foreign trade barriers that are significant, we will focus particularly on those restrictions where there has been active private sector interest.

The information submitted should relate to one or more of the following ten categories of foreign trade barriers:

(1) Import policies (e.g., tariffs and other import charges, quantitative restrictions, import licensing, and customs barriers);

(2) Standards, testing, labeling, and certification (including unnecessarily restrictive application of phytosanitary standards, refusal to accept U.S. manufacturers' self-certification of

conformance to foreign product standards, and environmental restrictions);

(3) Government procurement (*e.g.*, “buy national” policies and closed bidding);

(4) Export subsidies (*e.g.*, export financing on preferential terms and agricultural export subsidies that displace U.S. exports in third country markets);

(5) Lack of intellectual property protection (*e.g.*, inadequate patent, copyright, and trademark regimes);

(6) Services barriers (*e.g.*, limits on the range of financial services offered by foreign financial institutions, regulation of international data flows, restrictions on the use of data processing, quotas on imports of foreign films, and barriers to the provision of services by professionals (*e.g.*, lawyers, doctors, accountants, engineers, nurses, etc.);

(7) Investment barriers (*e.g.*, limitations on foreign equity participation and on access to foreign government-funded R&D consortia, local content, technology transfer and export performance requirements, and restrictions on repatriation of earnings, capital, fees and royalties);

(8) Anticompetitive practices with trade effects tolerated by foreign governments (including anticompetitive activities of both state-owned and private firms that apply to services or to goods and that restrict the sale of U.S. products to any firm, not just to foreign firms that perpetuate the practices);

(9) Trade restrictions affecting electronic commerce (*e.g.*, tariff and non-tariff measures, burdensome and discriminatory regulations and standards, and discriminatory taxation); and

(10) Other barriers (*i.e.*, barriers that encompass more than one category, *e.g.* bribery and corruption, or that affect a single sector).

As in the case of last year’s NTE, we are asking that particular emphasis be placed on any practices that may violate U.S. trade agreements. We are also interested in receiving any new or updated information pertinent to the barriers covered in last year’s report as well as new information. Please note that the information not used in the NTE will be maintained for use in future negotiations.

It is most important that your submission contain estimates of the potential increase in exports that would result from the removal of the barrier, as well as a clear discussion of the method(s) by which the estimates were computed. Estimates should fall within the following value ranges: Less than \$5 million; \$5 to \$25 million; \$25 million

to \$50 million; \$50 million to \$100 million; \$100 million to \$500 million; or over \$500 million. Such assessments enhance USTR’s ability to conduct meaningful comparative analyses of a barrier’s effect over a range of industries.

Please note that interested parties discussing barriers in more than one country should provide a separate submission (*i.e.*, one that is self-contained) for each country.

Written Comments: In order to ensure the most timely receipt and consideration of comments submitted in response to this Notice, the following guidelines and special procedures have been established:

(1) All comments will be received at the U.S. Department of Commerce rather than the Office of the United States Trade Representative;

(2) The Department of Commerce has arranged to accept non-confidential, public submissions by electronic mail (e-mail). An automatic reply confirming receipt of e-mail submissions will be sent. E-mail submissions in Microsoft Word or Corel WordPerfect are preferred. If a word processing application other than those two is used, please advise us in your submission of the specific application used;

(3) In order to facilitate prompt processing of submissions, the Department of Commerce strongly urges and prefers e-mail submission of non-confidential, public comments;

(4) To ensure security, submissions containing business confidential information should not be sent by e-mail, but via the U.S. Postal Service or commercial express delivery (see paragraph 6 and 7 below for special requirements applying to such submissions). If a submission contains business confidential information, a non-confidential public version must also be submitted along with the business confidential version.

(5) Business-confidential submissions must be accompanied by a justification as to why the information contained in the submission should be treated confidentially. In addition, any submissions containing business confidential information must be clearly marked “Confidential” at the top and bottom of the cover page (or letter) and of each succeeding page of the submission. The version that does not contain confidential information should also be clearly marked, at the top and bottom of each page, “public version” or “non-confidential”.

(6) When comments are submitted using the U.S. Postal Service or commercial couriers, it is strongly

recommended that submitters notify the Department of Commerce by e-mail as to the date of transmittal and method of delivery (U.S. Postal Service or name of courier company).

(7) All submissions must be in English and should conform to the information requirements of 15 CFR 2003. If submissions are made via U.S. Postal Service or commercial express delivery, a party must provide five copies of its submission and the submission should be accompanied by a computer disk containing a machine-readable version. The disk should have a label identifying the software used, the submitter and the title of the submission. In addition, business confidential and public or non-confidential submissions should be submitted on separate disks which are clearly marked “business confidential” or “non-confidential”, as appropriate.

Submissions must be received at the Department of Commerce no later than Friday, December 13, 2002.

Written comments submitted in connection with this request, except for information granted “business confidential” status pursuant to 15 CFR 2003.6, will be available for public inspection shortly after the filing deadline in the Foreign Trade Reference Room (Room 2233) in the U.S. Department of Commerce. The Department of Commerce is located at 14th St. and Constitution Ave., NW., in Washington, DC. Customary hours of operation for the Foreign Trade Reference Room are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Call (202) 482-2185 to confirm. Questions regarding the operation of the Reference Room should be directed to Ms. Marva Thompson at 202-482-2185. Non-proprietary public comments will also be available for review on the web at: <http://web.ita.doc.gov/otea/ntecomments.nsf>.

Carmen Suro-Bredie,

Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Privacy Act of 1974: System of Records

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DOT.

ACTION: Notice to establish a system of records.

SUMMARY: DOT intends to establish a system of records under the Privacy Act of 1974.