

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 127(b)(1) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (URAA) (19 U.S.C. 3537(b)(1)), the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) is providing notice that a dispute settlement panel convened under the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO) at the request of the United States will examine Canadian measures affecting periodicals, including an import ban on certain periodicals and discriminatory treatment of certain imported periodicals with respect to excise taxes and postal rates. USTR also invites written comments from the public concerning the issues raised in the dispute.

DATES: Although USTR will accept any comments received during the course of the dispute settlement proceedings, comments should be submitted on or before August 15, 1996 in order to be assured of timely consideration by USTR in preparing its first written submission to the panel.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted to Carolyn Frank, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, Room 501, Attn: Periodicals Dispute, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20508.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William Kane, Associate General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20508, (202) 395-6800.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: At the United States' request, a WTO dispute settlement panel will examine whether certain Canadian measures concerning periodicals are consistent with Canada's obligations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994.

Members of the panel are currently being selected, and the panel is expected to meet as necessary at the WTO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland to examine the dispute. Under normal circumstances, the panel would be expected to issue a report detailing its findings and recommendations in six to nine months.

Major Issues Raised by the United States and Legal Basis of Complaint

The Government of Canada maintains several measures concerning periodicals, including, but not limited to: (1) Tariff Code 9958, which prohibits the importation into Canada of certain periodicals; (2) Part V.1 of the Excise

Tax Act, as enacted by Bill C-103 of December 15, 1995, which imposed an excise tax on certain so-called "split-run" periodicals; and (3) application of favorable postal rates to certain Canadian periodicals, including through actions of the Canada Post Corporation and the Department of Canadian Heritage (formerly the Department of Communications).

These measures appear to prohibit or restrict imports of periodicals from the United States and other Members of the World Trade Organization in contravention of the Government of Canada's obligations under Article XI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994, and also appear to be inconsistent with the national treatment obligations of the Government of Canada under Article III of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994.

These measures also appear to nullify or impair the benefits accruing to the United States directly or indirectly under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994.

Public Comment: Requirements for Submissions

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning the issues raised in the dispute. Comments must be in English and provided in fifteen copies. A person requesting that information contained in a comment submitted by that person be treated as confidential business information must certify that such information is business confidential and would not customarily be released to the public by the commenter. Confidential business information must be clearly marked "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" in a contrasting color ink at the top of each page of each copy.

A person requesting that information or advice contained in a comment submitted by that person, other than business confidential information, be treated as confidential in accordance with section 135(g)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2155)—

(1) must so designate that information or advice;

(2) must clearly mark the material as "CONFIDENTIAL" in a contrasting color ink at the top of each page of each copy; and

(3) is encouraged to provide a non-confidential summary of the information or advice.

Pursuant to section 127(e) of the URAA, USTR will maintain a file on this dispute settlement proceeding, accessible to the public, in the USTR Reading Room: Room 101, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, N.W., Washington DC

20508. The public file will include a listing of any comments made to USTR from the public with respect to the proceeding; the U.S. submissions to the panel in the proceeding; the submissions, or non-confidential summaries of submissions, to the panel received from other participants in the dispute, as well as the report of the dispute settlement panel and, if applicable, the report of the Appellate Body. An appointment to review the public file (Docket [WTO/D-7, "U.S.-Canada: Periodicals"]), may be made by calling Brenda Webb, (202) 395-6186. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Jennifer Hillman,

General Counsel.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Noise Exposure Map Notice; Receipt of Noise Compatibility Program and Request for Review, Tallahassee Regional Airport, Tallahassee, Florida

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announces its determination that the updated noise exposure maps submitted by the City of Tallahassee, Florida for Tallahassee Regional Airport under the provisions of Title I of the Aviation Safety and Noise Abatement Act of 1979 (Pub. L. 96-193) and 14 CFR Part 150 are in compliance with applicable requirements. The FAA also announces that it is reviewing a proposed noise compatibility program update that was submitted for Tallahassee Regional Airport under Part 150 in conjunction with the noise exposure maps, and that this program update will be approved or disapproved on or before December 22, 1996.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The effective date of the FAA's determination on the updated noise exposure maps and of the start of its review of the associated noise compatibility program update is June 25, 1996. The public comment period ends August 24, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Tommy J. Pickering, P.E., Federal Aviation Administration, Orlando Airports District Office, 9677 Tradeport Drive, Suite 130, Orlando, Florida 32827-5397, (407) 648-6583, Extension 29. Comments on the proposed noise

compatibility program update should also be submitted to the above office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice announces that the FAA finds that the updated noise exposure maps submitted for Tallahassee Regional Airport are in compliance with applicable requirements of Part 150, effective June 25, 1996. Further, FAA is reviewing a proposed noise compatibility program update for that airport which will be approved or disapproved on or before December 22, 1996. This notice also announces the availability of this program update for public review and comment.

Under Section 103 of Title I of the Aviation Safety and Noise Abatement Act of 1979 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act"), an airport operator may submit to the FAA noise exposure maps which meet applicable regulations and which depict noncompatible land uses as of the date of submission of such maps, a description of projected aircraft operations, and the ways in which such operations will affect such maps. The Act requires such maps to be developed in consultation with interested and affected parties to the local community, government agencies, and persons using the airport.

An airport operator who has submitted noise exposure maps that are found by FAA to be in compliance with the requirements of Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) Part 150, promulgated pursuant to Title I of the Act, may submit a noise compatibility program for FAA approval which sets forth the measures the operator has taken or proposes for the reduction of existing noncompatible uses and for the prevention of the introduction of additional noncompatible uses.

The City of Tallahassee, Florida, submitted to the FAA on June 4, 1996, updated noise exposure maps, descriptions and other documentation which were produced during the Tallahassee Regional Airport FAR Part 150 Program Update conducted between January 3, 1994 and May 30, 1996. It was requested that the FAA review this material as the noise exposure maps, as described in Section 103(a)(1) of the Act, and that the noise mitigation measures, to be implemented jointly by the airport and surrounding communities, be approved as a noise compatibility program under Section 104(b) of the Act.

The FAA has completed its review of the updated noise exposure maps and related descriptions submitted by the City of Tallahassee, Florida. The specific maps under consideration are "CURRENT DNL NOISE CONTOURS

MAP A" and "FUTURE FIVE-YEAR DNL NOISE CONTOURS WITH MODIFICATIONS MAP B" in the submission. The FAA has determined that these maps for Tallahassee Regional Airport are in compliance with applicable requirements. This determination is effective on June 25, 1996. FAA's determination on an airport operator's noise exposure maps is limited to a finding that the maps were developed in accordance with the procedures contained in Appendix A of FAR Part 150. Such determination does not constitute approval of the applicant's data, information or plans, or a commitment to approve a noise compatibility program or to fund the implementation of that program.

If questions arise concerning the precise relationship of specific properties to noise exposure contours depicted on a noise exposure map submitted under Section 103 of the Act, it should be noted that the FAA is not involved in any way in determining the relative locations of specific properties with regard to the depicted noise contours, or in interpreting the noise exposure maps to resolve questions concerning, for example, which properties should be covered by the provisions of Section 107 of the Act. These functions are inseparable from the ultimate land use control and planning responsibilities of local government. These local responsibilities are not changed in any way under Part 150 or through FAA's review of noise exposure maps. Therefore, the responsibility for the detailed overlaying of noise exposure contours onto the map depicting properties on the surface rests exclusively with the airport operator which submitted those maps, or with those public agencies and planning agencies with which consultation is required under Section 103 of the Act. The FAA has relied on the certification by the airport operator, under Section 150.21 of FAR Part 150, that the statutorily required consultation has been accomplished.

The FAA has formally received the noise compatibility program update for Tallahassee Regional Airport, also effective on June 25, 1996. Preliminary review of the submitted material indicates that it conforms to the requirements for the submittal of noise compatibility programs, but that further review will be necessary prior to approval or disapproval of the program update. The formal review period, limited by law to a maximum of 180 days, will be completed on or before December 22, 1996.

The FAA's detailed evaluation will be conducted under the provisions of 14

CFR Part 150, Section 150.33. The primary considerations in the evaluation process are whether the proposed measures may reduce the level of aviation safety, create an undue burden on interstate or foreign commerce, or be reasonably consistent with obtaining the goal of reducing existing noncompatible land uses and preventing the introduction of additional noncompatible land uses.

Interested persons are invited to comment on the proposed program update with specific reference to these factors. All comments, other than those properly addressed to local land use authorities, will be considered by the FAA to the extent practicable. Copies of the updated noise exposure maps, the FAA's evaluation of the maps, and the proposed noise compatibility program update are available for examination at the following locations:

Federal Aviation Administration,
Orlando Airports District Office, 9677
Tradeport Drive, Suite 130, Orlando,
Florida 32827-5397

Airport Director's Office, Tallahassee
Regional Airport, 1400 Lee Wagener
Boulevard, Tallahassee, FL 32304

Questions may be directed to the
individual named above under the
heading, **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
CONTACT.**

Issued in Orlando, Florida on June 25,
1996.
Charles E. Blair,
Manager, Orlando Airport District Office.
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[Docket No. 28567]

**A Call for the Development of
Prototype(s) for a Global Analysis and
Information Network (GAIN)**

AGENCY: Federal Aviation
Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of On-line Question and
Answer Session About GAIN on
CompuServe.

SUMMARY: On May 10, 1996, the FAA published a request for comments about the Global Analysis and Information Network (GAIN) concept and implementation strategy for collecting and analyzing aviation safety data. That request for comments also invited participation in the development of proof-of-concept prototypes. The GAIN concept involves the international sharing and analyzing of data, technologies, and systems that would provide an early warning capability to signal increased risks in aviation safety. The comment period closed on July 19,