

areas due to damages caused by a severe winter ice storm beginning on December 12, 2000 and continuing through January 8, 2001.

In addition, applications for economic injury loans from small businesses located in the following contiguous counties may be filed until the specified date at the previously designated location: Clay and Randolph in the State of Arkansas, and Howell, Oregon and Taney County in the State of Missouri.

Any counties contiguous to the above-named primary counties and not listed herein have been previously declared.

All other information remains the same, i.e., the deadline for filing applications for physical damage is February 27, 2001 and for economic injury the deadline is October 1, 2001.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008)

Dated: January 25, 2001.

Herbert L. Mitchell,

Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster #3316]

State of Oklahoma; Amendment #2

In accordance with a notice from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, dated January 23, 2001, the above-numbered Declaration is hereby amended to include the following counties in the State of Oklahoma as disaster areas due to damages caused by a severe winter ice storm beginning on December 25, 2000 and continuing through January 10, 2001: Caddo, Comanche, Craig, Delaware, Mayes, Ottawa, Rogers, and Tillman.

In addition, applications for economic injury loans from small businesses located in the following contiguous counties may be filed until the specified date at the previously designated location: Blaine, Custer, Jackson, Kiowa and Washita in Oklahoma; Labette and Cherokee in Kansas; McDonald and Newton in Missouri; and Wilbarger in Texas. Any counties contiguous to the above named primary counties and not listed here have been previously declared.

The economic injury number for the State of Missouri is 9K43.

All other information remains the same, i.e., the deadline for filing applications for physical damage is March 6, 2001 and for economic injury the deadline is October 5, 2001.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008)

Dated: January 24, 2001.

James E. Rivera,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

[FR Doc. 01-2679 Filed 1-30-01; 8:45 am]

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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Region I Advisory Council; Public Meeting

The U.S. Small Business Administration Region I Advisory Council, located in the geographical area of Augusta, Maine will hold a public meeting at 10:00 a.m. on February 27, 2001 at the U.S. Federal Building, 40 Western Avenue, Room 510, Augusta, Maine to discuss such matters as may be presented by members, staff of the U.S. Small Business Administration, or others present.

For further information, write or call Mary McAleney, District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration, 40 Western Avenue, Augusta, Maine 04330; telephone 207-622-8378.

Nancyellen Gentile,

Committee Management Officer.

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Determination Under the African Growth and Opportunity Act

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The United States Trade Representative has determined that Mauritius has adopted an effective visa system and related procedures to prevent unlawful transshipment and the use of counterfeit documents in connection with shipments of textile and apparel articles and has implemented and follows, or is making substantial progress toward implementing and following, the customs procedures required by the African Growth and Opportunity Act. Therefore, imports of eligible products from Mauritius qualify for the enhanced trade benefits provided under the AGOA.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 19, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bethany Schwartz, Director for African

Affairs, Office of the United States Trade Representative, (202) 395-9514.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The African Growth and Opportunity Act (Title I of the Trade and Development Act of 2000, Public Law 106-200) (AGOA) provides preferential tariff treatment for imports of certain textile and apparel products of beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries. The textile and apparel trade benefits provided by the AGOA are available to imports of eligible products from countries that the President designates as "beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries," provided that these countries (1) have adopted an effective visa system and related procedures to prevent unlawful transshipment and the use of counterfeit documents, and (2) have implemented and follow, or are making substantial progress toward implementing and following, certain customs procedures that assist the Customs Service in verifying the origin of the products.

In Proclamation 7350 of October 2, 2000, the President designated 34 countries as "beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries." Proclamation 7350 delegated to the United States Trade Representative (USTR) the authority to determine whether these countries have met the two requirements described above. The President directed the USTR to announce any such determinations in the **Federal Register** and to implement them through modifications of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS). Based on actions that Mauritius has taken, I have determined that Mauritius has satisfied these two requirements.

The AGOA also directs the President to eliminate the existing quotas on textile and apparel articles imported into the United States from Mauritius within 30 days after Mauritius adopts an effective visa system to prevent unlawful transshipment of textile and apparel articles and the use of counterfeit documents relating to the importation of such articles into the United States. Proclamation 7350 delegated this responsibility to the USTR.

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority vested in the USTR by Proclamation 7350, the HTS is modified as provided in Proclamation 7350 and as specified in the Annex to this notice, effective with respect to articles entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after January 19, 2001. Importers claiming preferential tariff treatment under the AGOA for entries of textile and apparel articles should ensure that those entries meet the applicable visa requirements. (The

visa requirements are described in a separate notice that is being published in the **Federal Register**.) By this notice, I direct the Customs Service to eliminate the existing quotas on textile and apparel articles imported into the United States from Mauritius within 30 days of the effective date of this notice.

Charlene Barshefsky,
United States Trade Representative.

Annex

Pursuant to the authority provided in Proclamation 7350, the HTS is modified as follows:

1. The text of U.S. note 7 to subchapter II of chapter 98, as established by the annex to such Proclamation, is modified by inserting in alphabetical sequence "Mauritius" in the list of countries.

2. U.S. note 1 to subchapter XIX of chapter 98 of the HTS, as established by the annex to such Proclamation, is modified by inserting in alphabetical sequence "Mauritius" in the list of countries.

[FR Doc. 01-2602 Filed 1-30-01; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Generalized System of Preferences; Imports Statistics Relating to Competitive Need Limitations; Invitation for Public Comment

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice; invitation for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) is informing the public of interim 1999 import statistics relating to Competitive Need Limitations (CNL) under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program. The TPSC also invites public comments by 5:00 p.m. March 31, regarding possible *de minimis* CNL waivers with respect to particular articles, and possible redesignations under the GSP program of articles currently subject to CNLs.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: GSP Subcommittee, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Room 518, Washington, DC 20508. The telephone number is (202) 395-6971.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Competitive Need Limitations

Section 503(c)(2)(A) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the "1974 Act") (19 U.S.C. 2463(c)(2)(A)), provides for Competitive Need Limitations on duty-free treatment under the GSP program. When the President determines that a

beneficiary developing country exported to the United States during a calendar year either (1) a quantity of a GSP-eligible article having a value in excess of the applicable amount for that year (\$90 million for 1999), or (2) a quantity of a GSP-eligible article having a value equal to or greater than 50 percent of the value of total U.S. imports of the article from all countries (the "50 percent" CNL), the President shall terminate GSP duty-free treatment for that article from that beneficiary developing country by no later than July 1 of the next calendar year.

II. Discretionary Decisions

A. *De Minimis* Waivers

Section 503 (c)(2)(F) of the 1974 Act provides the President with discretion to waive the 50 percent CNL with respect to an eligible article imported from a beneficiary developing country if the value of total imports of that article from all countries during the calendar year did not exceed the applicable amount for that year (\$14.5 million for 1999).

B. *Redesignation of Eligible Articles*

Where an eligible article from a beneficiary developing country ceased to receive duty-free treatment due to exceeding the CNL in a prior year, Section 503(c)(2)(C) of the 1974 Act provides the President with discretion to redesignate such an article for duty free treatment if imports in the most recently completed calendar year did not exceed the CNLs.

III. Implementation of Competitive Need Limitations, Waivers, and Redesignations

Exclusions from GSP duty-free treatment where CNLs have been exceeded, as well as the return of GSP duty-free treatment to products for which the President has used his discretionary authority to grant redesignations, will be effective July 1, 2000. Decisions on these matters, as well as decisions with respect to *de minimis* waivers, will be based on full 1999 calendar year import statistics.

IV. *Interim 1999 Import Statistics*

In order to provide advance indication of possible changes in the list of eligible articles pursuant to exceeding CNLs, and to afford an earlier opportunity for comment regarding possible *de minimis* waivers and redesignations, interim import statistics covering the first 10 months of 1999 are included with this notice.

The following lists contain the HTSUS numbers and beneficiary country of origin for GSP-eligible

articles, the value of imports of such articles for the first ten months of 1999, and their percentage of total imports of that product from all countries. The flags indicate the status of GSP eligibility.

Articles marked with an "*" are those that have been excluded from GSP eligibility for the entire past calendar year. Flags "1" or "2" indicate products that were not eligible for duty-free treatment under GSP for the first six months or last six months, respectively, of 1999.

The flag "D" identifies articles with total U.S. imports from all countries, based on interim 1999 data, less than the applicable amount (\$14.5 million in 1999) for eligibility for a *de minimis* waiver of the 50 percent CNL.

List I shows GSP-eligible articles from beneficiary developing countries that have exceeded the CNL of \$90 million in 1999. Those articles without a flag identify articles that were GSP eligible during 1999 but stand to lose GSP duty-free treatment on July 1, 2000. In addition, List I shows article (denoted with a flag "*" or "2") which did not have GSP duty-free treatment in all or the last half of 1999.

List II shows GSP-eligible articles from beneficiary developing countries that (1) have not yet exceeded, but are approaching, the \$90 million CNL during the period from January through October 1999, or (2) are close to or above the 50 percent CNL. Depending on final calendar year 1999 import data, these products also stand to lose GSP duty-free treatment on July 1, 2000.

List III is a subset of List II. List III identifies GSP-eligible articles from beneficiary developing countries that are near or above the 50 percent CNL, but that may be eligible for a *de minimis* waiver of the 50 percent CNL. Actual eligibility for *de minimis* waivers will depend on final calendar year 1999 import data.

List IV shows GSP articles from beneficiary developing countries which are currently not receiving GSP duty-free treatment, but which have import levels (based on interim 1999 data) below the CNLs and which thus may be eligible for redesignation pursuant to the President's discretionary authority. Articles with a "D" exceed the 50 percent CNL and would require both *de minimis* waivers and redesignation to receive GSP duty-free treatment. The list may contain articles that may not be redesignated until certain conditions are fulfilled, as for example, where GSP eligibility for articles was suspended because of deficiencies in beneficiary countries' protection of the rights of workers or owners of intellectual