

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

Determination of Total Amounts and Quota Period for Tariff-Rate Quotas for Raw Cane Sugar and Certain Imported Sugars, Syrups, and Molasses

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice establishes the aggregate quantity of 1,800,000 metric tons, raw value, or raw cane sugar that may be entered under subheading 1701.11.10 during fiscal year (FY) 1998, with 600,000 metric tons subject to possible cancellation. This notice in addition establishes the aggregate quantity of 50,000 metric tons (raw value basis) for certain sugars, syrups and molasses that may be entered under subheadings 1701.12.10, 1701.91.10, 1701.99.10, 1702.90.10, and 2106.90.44 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) during FY 1998.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 17, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Inquiries may be mailed or delivered to the Import Policy and Programs Division Director, Foreign Agricultural Service, Room 5531, South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250-1000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephen Hammond (Division Director, Import Policy and Programs Division), 202-720-2916.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Paragraph (a)(i) of additional U.S. note 5 to chapter 17 of the HTS provides in pertinent part as follows:

The aggregate quantity of raw cane sugar entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, under subheading 1701.11.10, during any fiscal year, shall not exceed in the aggregate an amount (expressed in terms of raw value), not less than, 1,117,195 metric tons, as shall be established by the Secretary of Agriculture * * *, and the aggregate quantity of sugars, syrups and molasses

entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, under subheadings 1701.12.10, 1701.91.10, 1701.99.10, 1702.90.10 and 2106.90.44, during any fiscal year, shall not exceed in the aggregate an amount (expressed in terms of raw value), less than 22,000 metric tons, as shall be established by the Secretary. With either the aggregate quantity for raw cane sugar or the aggregate quantity for syrups, sugars and molasses other than raw cane sugar, the Secretary may reserve a quota quantity for the importation of specialty sugars as defined by the United States Trade Representative.

These provisions of paragraph (a)(i) of additional U.S. note 5 to chapter 17 of the HTS authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to establish the total amounts (expressed in terms of raw value) for imports of raw cane sugar and certain other sugars, syrups, and molasses that may be entered under the subheadings of the HTS subject to the lower tier of duties of the tariff-rate quotas for entry during the fiscal year beginning October 1.

USDA issued a press release on July 9, 1997, soliciting comment regarding the FY 1998 TRQ administrative approach. Approximately 40 comments were received. All but three of the comments were either neutral or supportive of the current administrative approach, although many suggested changes that would lead to higher or lower prices in the U.S. domestic market. Some suggested a change in the trigger level. Those suggestions ranged from a level of 13.5 percent to 17 percent, with the producers supporting a lower trigger level and the refiners and manufacturers supporting the higher end of the trigger level suggestions. One of the comments suggested abolishment of the TRQ, and two other comments suggested that USDA return to an ad hoc method of determining the TRQ.

After carefully considering those comments, USDA will use a 15.5 percent trigger for the allocation or cancellation of 600,000 metric tons, 200,000 tons in January, March, and May.

Allocations of the quota amounts among supplying countries and areas will be made by the United States Trade Representative.

Notice

Notice is hereby given that I have determined, in accordance with paragraph (a) of additional U.S. note 5 to chapter 17 of the HTS, that an aggregate quantity of up to 1,800,000

metric tons, raw value, of raw cane sugar described in subheading 1701.11.10 of the HTS may be entered or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption during the period from October 1, 1997, through September 30, 1998. Of this quantity, 1,200,000 metric tons will be immediately available, to be allocated by the United States Trade Representative, and the remaining 600,000 metric tons will be held in reserve.

If the stocks-to-use ratio published in the January 1998 World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) is equal to, or less than, 15.5 percent (rounded to the nearest tenth), an additional 200,000 metric tons of the reserved quantity for raw cane sugar will be available for allocation. If the stocks-to-use ratio published in the January 1998 WASDE is greater than 15.5 percent, 200,000 metric tons of the reserved quantity for raw cane sugar will be automatically canceled without further notice.

If the stocks-to-use ratio published in the March 1998 WASDE is equal to, or less than, 15.5 percent, an additional 200,000 metric tons of the reserved quantity for raw cane sugar will be available for allocation. If the stocks-to-use ratio published in the March 1998 WASDE is greater than 15.5 percent, 200,000 metric tons of the reserved quantity for raw cane sugar will be automatically canceled without further notice.

If the stocks-to-use ratio published in the May 1998 WASDE is equal to, or less than, 15.5 percent, an additional 200,000 metric tons of the reserved quantity for raw cane sugar will be available for allocation. If the stocks-to-use ratio published in the May 1998 WASDE is greater than 15.5 percent, 200,000 metric tons of the reserved quantity for raw cane sugar will be automatically canceled without further notice.

I have further determined that an aggregate quantity of up to 50,000 metric tons, raw value, of certain sugars, syrups, and molasses described in subheadings 1701.12.10, 1701.91.10, 1701.99.10, 1702.90.10, and 2106.90.44 of the HTS may be entered or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption during the period from October 1, 1997 through September 30, 1998. I have further determined that out of this quantity of 50,000 metric tons,

the quantity of 4,656 metric tons, raw value, is reserved for the importation of specialty sugars. These quota amounts may be allocated among supplying countries and areas by the United States Trade Representative.

I will issue Certificates of Quota Eligibility (CQEs) to allow the Philippines, Brazil, and the Dominican Republic to ship up to 25 percent of each country's allocation at the low-tier tariff during each quarter of FY 1998. Australia, Guatemala, Argentina, Peru, Panama, El Salvador, Columbia, South Africa, and Nicaragua will be allowed to ship up to 50 percent of their initial allocations in the first six months of FY 1998. Unentered allocations, during any quarter or six month period, may be entered in any subsequent period. For all other countries, CQEs corresponding to each country's allocation may be entered at the low-tier tariff at any time during the fiscal year. Should country allocations result from the January, March, and May blocks, they may be entered subsequent to their allocation by USTR.

Mexico's North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) access to the U.S. market is established at 25,000 metric tons raw value (27,558 short tons raw value). That access will be for either raw or refined sugar, but total access under the refined sugar allocation and the raw-sugar allocation is not to exceed 25,000 metric tons. Mexico's NAFTA access for either raw or refined sugar is established in Annex 703.2.

Signed at Washington, DC on September 16, 1997.

Dan Glickman,

Secretary of Agriculture.

[FR Doc. 97-25071 Filed 9-17-97; 12:46 pm]

BILLING CODE 3410-10-M

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List Additions and Deletions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Additions to and deletions from the Procurement List.

SUMMARY: This action adds to the Procurement List a commodity and services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities, and deletes from the Procurement List commodities previously furnished by such agencies.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 20, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Square 3, Suite 403, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3461.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 6, July 18, 25 and August 1, 1997, the Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled published notices (62 FR 31065, 38518, 40049 and 41339) of proposed additions to and deletions from the Procurement List:

Additions

After consideration of the material presented to it concerning capability of qualified nonprofit agencies to provide the commodity and services and impact of the additions on the current or most recent contractors, the Committee has determined that the commodity and services listed below are suitable for procurement by the Federal Government under 41 U.S.C. 46-48c and 41 CFR 51-2.4.

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities other than the small organizations that will furnish the commodity and services to the Government.

2. The action will not have a severe economic impact on current contractors for the commodity and services.

3. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the commodity and services to the Government.

4. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the commodity and services proposed for addition to the Procurement List.

Accordingly, the following commodity and services are hereby added to the Procurement List:

Commodity

Bottle, Oil Sample
8125-01-082-9697

Services

Food Service Attendant, U.S. Coast Guard Activities New York, Fort Wadsworth, Staten Island, New York
Janitorial/Grounds Maintenance, Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego

Aviation Branch Facility, Building 1480, San Diego, California
Laundry Service, Transient Personnel Unit, Bachelor Enlisted Quarters & Bachelor Officer Quarters Naval Station, San Diego, California
Order Processing Service, McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey

This action does not affect current contracts awarded prior to the effective date of this addition or options that may be exercised under those contracts.

Deletions

I certify that the following action will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities. The major factors considered for this certification were:

1. The action will not result in any additional reporting, recordkeeping or other compliance requirements for small entities.

2. The action will not have a severe economic impact on future contractors for the commodities.

3. The action will result in authorizing small entities to furnish the commodities to the Government.

4. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46-48c) in connection with the commodities deleted from the Procurement List.

After consideration of the relevant matter presented, the Committee has determined that the commodities listed below are no longer suitable for procurement by the Federal Government under 41 U.S.C. 46-48c and 41 CFR 51-2.4.

Accordingly, the following commodities are hereby deleted from the Procurement List:

Wrench, Pipe
5120-00-277-1461
5120-00-277-1486
5120-00-277-1485

Beverly L. Milkman,

Executive Director.

[FR Doc. 97-24987 Filed 9-18-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6353-01-P

COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Proposed Additions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Proposed additions to Procurement List.

SUMMARY: The Committee has received a proposal to add to the Procurement List