

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**International Trade Administration****Exemption of Foreign Air Carriers From Customs Duties and Taxes; Request for Finding of Reciprocity (Indonesia)**

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Commerce is undertaking to determine, pursuant to sections 309 and 317 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1309 and 1317), whether the Government of Indonesia allows customs duties exemptions to aircraft of U.S. registry in connection with international commercial operations substantially reciprocal to those exemptions granted in the United States to aircraft of foreign registry.

At present, carriers of Indonesia are eligible to receive exemptions for aviation fuel and lubricants only (Treasury Decision 90-61). The Government of Indonesia has expressed its interest in expanding exemptions for its carriers to the full extent permitted by the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended.

The Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, provides exemptions for aircraft of foreign registry from payment of import duties on the import of certain supplies into the United States for such aircraft in connection with their international commercial operations. "Supplies" as used in this context cover a wide range of articles used by aircraft in international operations, including fuel and lubricants, spare parts, consumable supplies, and ground handling and support equipment. These exemptions are allowed upon a finding by the Secretary of Commerce, or his designee, and communicated to the Secretary of the Treasury, that such country allows, or will allow, "substantially reciprocal privileges" to aircraft of U.S. registry with respect to import of supplies into that country.

Interested parties are invited to submit their views and comments concerning this matter in writing to Mr. Everett James, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Service Industries and Finance, Room 1128, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230. All submissions should be made in five copies and should be received no later than thirty (30) days following the publication of this notice.

Copies of all written comments received will be available for public inspection between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday in the Freedom of Information Inspection Facility, International Trade Administration, Room 4001, U.S.

Department of Commerce, Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Eugene Alford, Office of Service Industries, International Trade Administration, Room 1124, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230, (202) 482-5071.

Dated June 10, 1998.

Everett James,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Service Industries and Finance.

[FR Doc. 98-15870 Filed 6-15-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**International Trade Administration****Secretary Daley's Commercial Development Mission to Africa**

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, Commerce.

ACTION: Secretary Daley's Commercial Development Mission to Africa.

SUMMARY: This notice serves to inform the public of a Secretarial Commercial Development Mission to Africa, September 12-20, 1998, and of the opportunity to apply for participation in the mission; sets forth objectives, procedures, and participation criteria for the mission; and requests applications.

DATES: Applications should be submitted to Lucie Naphin by July 15, 1998, in order to ensure sufficient time to obtain in-country appointments for applicants selected to participate in the mission. Applications received after that date will be considered only if space and scheduling constraints permit. The mission is scheduled to travel to South Africa, Kenya and Cote d'Ivoire, with other possible stops in the region.

ADDRESSES: Request for and submission of applications—Applications are available from Lucie Naphin, Director of the Office of Business Liaison, at (202) 482-1360 or via facsimile at (202) 482-4054. Numbers listed in this notice are not toll-free. An original and two copies of the required application materials should be sent to Ms. Naphin.

Applications sent by facsimile must be immediately followed by submission of the original application to Ms. Naphin at the following address: Office of Business Liaison, Room 5062, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lucie Naphin at (202) 482-1360.

Information is also available via the

International Trade Administration's (ITA) Internet home page at "http://www.ita.doc.gov".

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Trade Mission Description**

Secretary of Commerce William M. Daley will lead a Commercial Development Mission to Africa with program stops in several countries, including: South Africa, Kenya, and Cote d'Ivoire. The mission will build on the momentum of President Clinton's March 1998 visit to Africa in which Secretary Daley participated, strengthening commercial ties and expanding the dialogue between the public and private sectors of Africa and the United States.

The U.S. business delegation members on this mission will include U.S. companies whose interests are compatible with the developmental aspirations of the host countries, as well as those for whom advocacy will assist their efforts to win contract awards. The delegation will include business executives primarily representing companies in sectors which have been recommended by U.S. Embassies as having strong growth potential in the region, including: telecommunications, information technology, computers and software, agribusiness, power generation, health care, financial services, environmental technologies and general infrastructure.

The mission is scheduled to depart Washington, DC on Saturday, September 12, 1998 and return on Sunday, September 20. The precise schedule will depend on the availability of African government and private sector officials, the specific goals and interests of mission participants, and specific recommendations of the U.S. Embassies in the region.

The program for the mission will include: embassy briefings on the commercial/economic environment; meetings with potential buyers, agents/distributors and strategic alliance partners; meetings with African government ministers and business leaders; meetings with American business executives based in Africa; and legal seminars featuring African and U.S. government speakers as well as participation from the local private sector in each region.

The goals for the mission will include:

- Integrating Africa more fully into the global economy;
- Renewing African determination to build prosperity through free enterprise;
- Encouraging regional economic integration and cooperation;

- Working with African nations to transform the African-U.S. relationship from one of aid dependency to one of commercial partnership for mutual advantage;

- Achieving a more level playing field for U.S. firms in African markets;
- Increasing trade between Africa and the United States.

A full description of the mission is set forth in the Mission Statement, which is available from Lucie Naphin, Director of the Office of Business Liaison, at the address listed above or at the web site listed above.

Trade Mission Participation Criteria

The recruitment and selection of private sector participants in this mission will be conducted according to the Statement of Policy Governing Department of Commerce Overseas Trade Missions announced by Secretary Daley on March 3, 1997. Individuals must be at a level of executive seniority appropriate to the goals of the mission. Company participation will be determined on the basis of:

- Consistency of the company's goals with the scope and desired outcome of the mission as described herein;
- Relevance of a company's business line to the plan for the mission;
- Past, present and prospective business activity in Africa; and
- Diversity of company size, type, location, demographics and traditional under-representation in business.

An applicant's partisan political activities (including political contributions) are irrelevant to the selection process. An interested party must fill out an application to be considered for participation in the mission.

Endorsements/Referrals

Third parties may nominate or endorse potential applicants, but companies that are nominated or endorsed must themselves submit an application to be eligible for consideration. Referrals from political organizations will not be considered.

Costs

The fees to participate in the mission have not yet been determined and will be based on the number of participants. The fees will not cover travel or lodging expenses.

Authority: 15 U.S.C. 1512.

Dated: June 12, 1998.

Robert Marro,

Regional Director, Office of Africa, Near East and South Asia, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Minority Business Development Agency

[Docket No. 980608150-8150-01]

RIN 0640-ZA03

Revision of the Cost-Share Requirement and Applicability of the Ten Bonus Points to All Future Solicitations To Operate Minority Business Development Centers (MBDC)

AGENCY: Minority Business Development Agency, Commerce.

ACTION: Interim final policy request for comments.

SUMMARY: In order to attract and retain a greater number of qualified firms to operate its MBDC program, MBDA is revising its cost-share requirement for financial award recipients from forty percent (40%) to fifteen percent (15%) to be applied to all future competitions for MBDCs, as well as to all prospective renewals and/or extensions of awards originally competed at the 40% cost-share level. MBDA is also extending its policy to give an additional ten (10) bonus points to the applications of community-based organizations in all future MBDC solicitations. Previously, the 40% cost-share requirement and the 10 bonus points were applied to awards in certain designated geographic service areas only. The initial policies regarding these requirements were published in the **Federal Register** Notice of May 31, 1996, Vol. 51, page 27336 and continued on page 27337.

DATES: This interim policy is effective June 16, 1998. Comments on this interim policy must be submitted on or before July 16, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be sent to Mr. Paul R. Webber IV, Assistant Director, Minority Business Development Agency, U.S. Department of Commerce, Room 5073, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Paul R. Webber IV at (202) 482-5061.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under Executive Order 11625, MBDA provides business development assistance to persons who are members of groups determined by MBDA to be socially or economically disadvantaged, and to business concerns owned and controlled by such individuals. To deliver this assistance, MBDA funds MBDCs that offer a full range of management and technical assistance services, coordinate public and private

resources on behalf of clients, and serve as a conduit for information concerning business development.

MBDA selects applicants to operate its MBDCs through a competitive solicitation process. The guidelines for operation of an MBDC are set forth in a detailed Competitive Application Package (CAP). The funding instrument for the MBDCs is a cooperative agreement, which, in addition to the CAP and the competitive solicitation published in the **Federal Register**, sets forth the applicable requirements which must be met by an MBDC operator (collectively, the "program guidelines").

Under the program guidelines, selected geographic service areas were designated in the May 31, 1996, **Federal Register**, in which the Department of Commerce currently funds up to 60% of the total budgeted cost of operating an MBDC on an annual basis. The MBDC operator has been required to contribute at least 40% of the total project cost (the "cost-share requirement"). Prior to the Notice, MBDC operators were required to contribute only 15% of the total project costs. Contributions, which may be utilized in satisfying the cost-share requirement, include cash contributions, non-cash application contributions, third party in-kind contribution and client fees. In addition, the applications from those designated service areas were given an additional ten (10) bonus points for being community-based organizations that had received a programmatically acceptable and responsive score. In order to attract a greater number of qualified firms to compete in the MBDC program, all future MBDC solicitations, regardless of geographic service area, will be competed, with the Department of Commerce funding up to 85% of the total project cost. The operator will be required to contribute at least 15% of the total project cost in order to satisfy the cost-share requirement.

In addition, under existing program guidelines, continued funding of an award is at the total discretion of MBDA based on such factors as the MBDC's performance, changes in availability of funds, and shifts in agency priorities. MBDA has determined that it is an agency priority to retain existing MBDC operators by easing the burden caused by a 40% cost-share requirement. It is also an agency priority to establish consistency and equity with regard to the cost-share requirement between existing MBDC operators and future operators. Accordingly, the cost-share requirement of existing MBDC operators will be decreased from 40% and will revert to MBDA's prior policy of 15% at the time of renewal and/or extension of