

ACTION: Program announcement No. OWBO-95-007, as amended by OWBO-98-011.

SUMMARY: The Small Business Administration (SBA) plans to issue program announcement No. OWBO-95-007, as amended by OWBO-98-011, to invite applications of private, not-for-profit organizations to conduct Women's Business Center projects in the Mid-Delta Region of Mississippi. The authorizing legislation is the Small Business Act, Section 29, 15 U.S.C., Section 656, as amended by Pub. L. 105-277, 111 Stat. 2592. SBA Headquarters must receive applications/proposals by May 31, 1999. SBA will select successful applicants competitively. The successful applicant(s) will receive an award to provide long-term training, counseling and technical assistance to women who want to start or expand businesses. The women's business center project of the successful applicant(s) will replace a previous project in the 4th year and complete the 5th year of the previous project's 5-year term. Service and assistance areas must include financial, management, marketing and government procurement/certification assistance. The applicant must also target women who are socially and economically disadvantaged. The applicant must plan to provide services locally and on the Internet via the SBA-funded Online Women's Business Center, www.onlinewbc.org.

The applicant must submit a two-year plan that describes proposed fund-raising, training and technical assistance activities. A twelve-month award will be issued for each project year, without re-competition. Award recipients must provide non-Federal matching funds as follows: one non-Federal dollar for each Federal dollar for both project years. Up to one-half of the non-Federal matching funds may be in the form of in-kind contributions.

DATES: SBA will mail program announcements to interested parties immediately, upon request. The opening date will be May 3, 1999 and the closing date will be May 31, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sally Murrell, (202) 205-6673 or Mina Wales (202) 205-6621.

Sherrye P. Henry,

Assistant Administrator, SBA/Office of Women's Business Ownership.

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice No. 3009]

Advisory Committee on International Communications and Information Policy Meeting Notice

The Department of State is holding the next meeting of its Advisory Committee on International Communications and Information Policy. The Committee provides a formal channel for regular consultation and coordination on major economic, social and legal issues and problems in international communications and information policy, especially as these issues and problems involve users of information and communication services, providers of such services, technology research and development, foreign industrial and regulatory policy, the activities of international organizations with regard to communications and information, and developing country interests.

The purpose of this quarterly meeting will be for the members to look at the substantive issues on which the committee should focus, as well as specific countries and regions of interest to the committee.

This meeting will be held on Thursday, May 20, 1999, from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in Room 1105 of the Main Building of the U.S. Department of State, located at 2201 "C" Street, NW, Washington, DC 20520. Members of the public may attend these meetings up to the seating capacity of the room. While the meeting is open to the public, admittance to the State Department Building is only by means of a pre-arranged clearance list. In order to be placed on the pre-clearance list, please provide your name, title, company, social security number, date of birth, and citizenship to Shirlett Thornton at (202) 647-8345 or by fax at (202) 647-0158. All attendees must use the "C" Street entrance. One of the following valid ID's will be required for admittance: any U.S. driver's license with photo, a passport, or a U.S. Government agency ID.

For further information, contact Timothy C. Finton, Executive Secretary of the Committee, at (202) 647-5385 or tfintontc@state.gov.

Dated: April 19, 1999.

Timothy C. Finton,
Executive Secretary.

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Generalized System of Preferences (GSP); Deadline for Submission of Petitions for the 1999 Annual GSP Product and Country Eligibility Practices Review

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice of the 1999 Annual GSP Product and Country Eligibility Practices Review.

SUMMARY: The deadline for the submission of petitions for the 1999 Annual GSP Product and Country Eligibility Practices Review is 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 16, 1999.

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. Announcement of 1999 Annual GSP Product and Country Eligibility Practices Review

The GSP regulations (15 CFR Part 2007) provide the schedule of dates for conducting an annual review unless otherwise specified by a **Federal Register** notice. Notice is hereby given that, in order to be considered in the 1999 Annual GSP Product and Country Eligibility Practices Review, all petitions to modify the list of articles eligible for duty-free treatment under GSP or to review the GSP status of any beneficiary developing country must be received by the GSP Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee no later than 5 p.m., Wednesday, June 16, 1999. Petitions submitted after the deadline will not be considered for review and will be returned to the petitioner.

The GSP provides for the duty-free importation of designated articles when imported from designated beneficiary developing countries. The GSP is authorized by title V of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2461 *et seq.*), as amended (the "Trade Act"), and is implemented in accordance with Executive Order 11888 of November 24, 1975, as modified by subsequent Executive Orders and Presidential Proclamations. Section 505 of the Trade Act states that duty-free treatment provided under the GSP shall not remain in effect after June 30, 1999. If the program expires without reauthorization on that date, the 1999 Annual GSP review will be conducted according to a schedule to be issued in the **Federal Register** if and when the

program is reauthorized. The review will be based on those petitions that are submitted prior to the June 16 deadline and accepted for review by the GSP Subcommittee.

A. 1999 Annual Product Review

Interested parties or foreign governments may submit petitions: (1) To designate additional articles as eligible for GSP; (2) to withdraw, suspend or limit GSP duty-free treatment accorded either to eligible articles under the GSP or to individual beneficiary developing countries with respect to specific GSP eligible articles; (3) to waive the competitive need limits for individual beneficiary developing countries with respect to specific GSP eligible articles; and (4) to otherwise modify GSP coverage. As specified in 15 CFR 2007.1, all product petitions must include a detailed description of the product and the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) subheading in which the product is classified.

B. 1999 GSP Annual Country Eligibility Practices Review

Interested parties may submit petitions to have the GSP status of any eligible beneficiary developing country reviewed with respect to any of the designation criteria listed in sections 502(b) or 502(c) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(b) and (c)). Such petitions must comply with the requirements of 15 CFR 2007.01(b).

C. Submission of Petitions and Requests

Petitions to modify GSP treatment should be addressed to GSP Subcommittee, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW, Room 518, Washington, DC 20508. An original and fourteen (14) copies of each petition must be submitted in English. If the petition contains business confidential information, an original and fourteen (14) copies of a nonconfidential version of the submission along with an original and fourteen (14) copies of the confidential version must be submitted. In addition, the submission containing confidential information should be clearly marked "confidential" at the top and bottom of each and every page of the submission. Petitions submitted as "business confidential" must conform to 15 CFR 2003.6 and other qualifying information submitted in confidence must conform to 15 CFR 2007.7. The version that does not contain business confidential information (the public version) should also be clearly marked at the top and bottom of each page (either "public version" or "nonconfidential"). Furthermore, interested parties

submitting petitions that request action with respect to specific products should list on the first page of the petition the following information: (1) The requested action; (2) the HTS subheading in which the product is classified; and (3) if applicable, the beneficiary country.

All such submissions must conform to the GSP regulations which are set forth in 15 CFR Part 2007. The regulations are also included in "A Guide to the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)" (August 1991) ("GS Guide"). Petitioners are strongly advised to review the GSP regulations. Submissions that do not provide all information required by sections 2007.0 and 2007.1 of the GSP regulations will not be accepted for review, except upon a detailed showing in the submission that the petitioner made a good faith effort to obtain the information required. These requirements will be strictly enforced. Petitions with respect to waivers of the competitive need limitations must meet the information requirements for product addition requests in section 2007.1(c) of the GSP regulations. A model petition format is available from the GSP Subcommittee and is included in the GSP Guide. Petitioners are requested to use this model petition format so as to ensure that all information requirements are met.

Only the public versions of the submissions will be available for public inspection and only by appointment. Appointments to review petitions may be made by contacting Ms. Brenda Webb (Tel. 202/395-6186) of the USTR Public Reading Room. The hours of the Reading Room are 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Frederick L. Montgomery,
Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.
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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

[Docket OST-99-5051]

Passenger, Third-Party, and Property Liability Insurance Coverage for U.S. and Foreign Air Carriers—Non-Approval of Exclusions Related to the Year 2000 Problem

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DOT.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department issues this notice to remind all carriers of its requirements with regard to passenger,

third-party, and property liability insurance under 49 U.S.C. 41112(a) and 14 CFR part 205. The notice informs carriers that certain aviation insurers wish to write into airline insurance policies required by Title 49 and Department regulations an exclusionary clause that would exclude liability for damages related to the Year 2000 problem and other computer-related time, date, and year changes. The notice further informs carriers that no such exclusion has been approved by the Department and reminds carriers that any carrier operating with such an exclusion in place would not be in compliance with Title 49 of the United States Code and 14 CFR part 205 and would be subject to enforcement action.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Dayton Lehman, Deputy Assistant General Counsel, Office of Aviation Enforcement and Proceedings, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 7th Street SW., Washington, DC 20590. Tel. No. (202) 366-9342.

Notice

We face a challenge in the Year 2000 (Y2K) computer problem that, if unmet, could pose risks to the public and disrupt the flow of commerce. Addressing the Y2K problem is a top priority for the U.S. Department of Transportation.

While transportation operations are typically the responsibility of the private sector, ensuring their safe, smooth functioning is a matter of national concern and the Department is taking steps to assist our partners.

Department officials have met with industry associations and businesses in every sector, and have held industry-wide forums to address the issue. We will continue to work with carriers to address Y2K problems; however, we wish to make clear that carriers must continue to comply with existing requirements while addressing Y2K problems.

Department regulations require airlines to provide a minimum level of insurance coverage for passenger, third-party, and property liability resulting from an accident. 14 CFR Part 205. It has come to our attention that some aviation insurers wish to write into airline insurance policies an exclusionary clause that would exclude all liability for damages related to the Y2K problem. No Y2K insurance exclusion has been approved by the Department.¹

¹ The same endorsements that contain the Y2K exclusionary clauses of which we are aware also propose to eliminate coverage for claims arising