

the address is Room 700, United States Department of State, 301 4th Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20547-0001.

Dated: December 16, 1999.

William B. Bader,

Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, United States Department of State.

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Generalized System of Preferences (GSP); Notice Regarding the 1999 Product Review

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the petitions that were accepted for the 1999 GSP Annual Review for modifications of GSP product eligibility; lists the schedule for the public hearing on these petitions, for requesting participation in the hearing, and for submitting pre-hearing and post-hearing briefs.

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: The GSP program grants duty-free treatment to designated eligible articles that are imported from designated beneficiary developing countries. The GSP program is authorized by Title V the Trade Act of 1974, as amended ("Trade Act") (19 U.S.C. 2461 *et seq.*), and administered in accordance with GSP regulations (15 CFR Part 2007) which provide for a GSP annual review.

In a notice dated April 23, 1999, USTR initiated the 1999 GSP Annual Review and announced a deadline of June 16, 1999 for the filing of petitions (63 FR 18963). The product petitions that we received requested changes in the eligibility of products by adding or

removing products, or the waiver of "competitive need limitations" (CNLs) for eligible articles. Authorization for granting CNL waivers is set forth in section 503(d) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2464(d)).

The GSP Subcommittee of the TPSC has reviewed the 28 product petitions that were received and has decided that 9 of these petitions involving 7 products should be accepted for consideration in the 1999 GSP Annual Review. The annex to this notice sets forth the case number, product identification, the change requested and the petitioner for each product included in the 1999 GSP Annual Review.

Opportunities for Public Comment and Inspection of Comments

The GSP Subcommittee of the TPSC invites comments in support of, or in opposition to, any petition which is the subject of this notice. Submissions should comply with 15 CFR Part 2007, including sections 2007.0, and 2007.1. All submissions should identify the subject article(s) in terms of the current Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States ("HTS") nomenclature.

Comments should be submitted in fourteen (14) copies, in English, to the Chairman of the GSP Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee, 600 17th Street, NW, Room 518, Washington, DC 20508. Information submitted will be subject to public inspection by appointment with the staff of the USTR public reading room, except for information granted "business confidential" status pursuant to 15 CFR 2003.6 and other qualifying information submitted in confidence pursuant to 15 CFR 2007.7. If the document contains 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, any document containing confidential information should be clearly marked "confidential" at the top and bottom of each page of the document. The version that does not contain confidential information (the

public version) should also be clearly marked at the top and bottom of every page (either "public version" or "nonconfidential"). Comments should be submitted no later than 5 p.m. on January 14, 2000.

Notice of Public Hearings

Hearings will be held on February 1, 2000 beginning at 10 a.m. at the Office of the United States Trade Representative, 1724 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20508. The hearings will be open to the public and a transcript of the hearings will be made available for public inspection or can be purchased from the reporting company. No electronic media coverage will be allowed.

All interested parties wishing to present oral testimony at the hearings must submit the name, address, and telephone number of the witnesses representing their organization to the Chairman of the GSP Subcommittee. Such requests to present oral testimony at the public hearings should be accompanied by fourteen (14) copies, in English, of a written brief or statement, and should be received by 5 p.m. on January 14, 2000. Oral testimony before the GSP Subcommittee will be limited to five minute presentations that summarize or supplement information contained in the briefs or statements submitted for the record. Post-hearing and rebuttal briefs or statements should conform to the regulations cited above and be submitted in fourteen (14) copies, in English, no later than 5 p.m. February 24, 2000. Interested persons not wishing to appear at the public hearings may also submit pre-hearing written briefs or statements by 5 p.m. on January 14, 2000, and post-hearing and rebuttal written briefs or statements by February 24, 2000. Comments by interested persons on the USITC Report prepared as part of the product review should be submitted in fourteen (14) copies, in English, by 5 p.m. April 14, 2000.

Frederick L. Montgomery,

Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.

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Annex

Case :	HTS :	Article :	Petitioner :
No. :	Subheading :		
:	:	:	:

[The bracketed language in this Annex has been included only to clarify the scope of the numbered subheadings which are being considered, and such language is not itself intended to describe articles which are under consideration.]

A. Petitions to add products to the list of eligible articles for the Generalized System of Preferences.

		Ferroalloys:	
		Other:	
		Other:	
99-1	7202.99.10 1/	Ferrozirconium	Victoria Alloys, Inc., Cleveland, OH; Italmagnesio Nordeste S/A, Brazil; Trablin-Trading Brasileira de Ligas e Inoculantes S/A, Brazil
		Magnesium and articles thereof, including waste and scrap:	
		Unwrought magnesium:	
		[Containing at least 99.8 percent by weight of magnesium]	
99-2	8104.19.00	Other	Polymet Alloys, Inc., Calera, AL; Rima Industrial S/A, Brazil
99-3	8104.30.00	Raspings, turnings and granules, graded according to size; powders	do.

B. Petitions to remove duty-free status from beneficiary developing country/countries for a product on the list of eligible articles for Generalized System of Preferences. 2/

		Acyclic alcohols and their halogenated, sulfonated, nitrated or nitrosated derivatives:	
		Other polyhydric alcohols:	
99-4	2905.42.00 (Brazil)	Pentaerythritol	Hercules Incorporated, Wilmington, DE

C. Petition to determine whether products like or directly competitive with an eligible article were being produced in the United States on January 1, 1995.

		Mixed alkylbenzenes and mixed alkyl-naphthalenes, other than those of heading 2707 or 2902:	
		Mixed alkylbenzenes:	
		[Mixed linear alkylbenzenes]	
99-5	3817.10.50	Other	Shrieve Chemical Products, Inc., Houston, TX

1/ The petitioner also requests a waiver of the competitive need limits specified in section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act for Brazil on the articles provided for in subheading 7202.99.10.

2/ The country named is the beneficiary developing country specified by the petitioner. While the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) review will focus on that country, the TPSC reserves the right to address removal of GSP status for countries other than those specified by the petitioner as well the GSP status of the entire article.

Annex
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Case	:	HTS	:	Article	:	Petitioner
No.	:	Subheading	:		:	
	:		:		:	

D. Petitions for waiver of competitive need limits for a product on the list of eligible products for the Generalized System of Preferences.

Acyclic alcohols and their halogenated, sulfonated,
nitrated or nitrosated derivatives:
Saturated monohydric alcohols:
Methanol (Methyl alcohol):
[Imported only for use in producing
synthetic natural gas (SNG) or for direct
use as a fuel]

99-6	2905.11.20 (Chile)	Other	Government of Chile; Methanex Methanol Company, Dallas, TX
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99-7	7202.50.00 (Russia)	Ferroalloys: Ferrosilicon chromium	PMI Alloys, Inc., Charleston, SC; Chelyabinsk Electrometallurgical Plant, Russia
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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Implementation of Preferential Tariff Treatment Under the Generalized System of Preferences for Certain Articles From South Africa

AGENCY: Office of the United States
Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Implementation of
preferential tariff treatment under the
Generalized System of Preferences
(GSP) for three articles from South
Africa.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jon
Rosenbaum, Assistant United States
Trade Representative for Trade and
Development, Office of the United
States Trade Representative, 600 17th
Street, NW., Room 517, Washington,
D.C. 20508. The telephone number is
(202) 395-6971.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant
to section 503(c)(2) of the Trade Act of
1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2463
(c)(2)), beneficiary developing countries
are subject to competitive need
limitations on the preferential tariff
treatment afforded under the GSP.
Presidential Proclamation 7107 of June
30, 1998 (63 FR 36531; July 6, 1998), in
relevant part, proclaimed the waiver of

competitive need limitations and the
granting of GSP preferential tariff
treatment with respect to certain articles
from South Africa, with an effective
date to be determined and announced
by the United States Trade
Representative by publication of a
notice in the Federal Register. These
included four articles in Harmonized
Tariff Schedule of the United States
("HTS") subheadings 7108.12.50
(unwrought gold, for electronics,
dental), HTS 7108.13.70 (semi-
manufactured gold), HTS 8704.10.50
(articulated dump trucks), and HTS
2849.90.50 (carbides). Since that time,
the normal tariff for one of these items,
articles in subheading HTS 8704.10.50
(articulated dump trucks) has been
reduced to zero in accordance with the
Annex to Presidential Proclamation
6763 of December 23, 1994 (60 FR 1007,
1614; January 4, 1995), implementing
U.S. commitments under the Uruguay
Round agreements.

Granting GSP preferential tariff
treatment for the articles listed above
was held in abeyance because of
concerns regarding South Africa's
Medicines Act and its protection of
patent rights for pharmaceuticals.
Section 503 of the Trade Act of 1974
requires the President to consider the
program's eligibility requirements,
including a country's protection of
intellectual property rights, before
granting waivers or extending GSP
benefits (19 U.S.C. 2463). On September

17, 1999, the Governments of the United
States and South Africa came to an
understanding with respect to South
Africa's urgent need to provide better,
more affordable health care while
ensuring that intellectual property rights
are protected. Both Governments
reaffirmed their shared objective of fully
protecting intellectual property rights,
including their commitment to comply
with the WTO Agreement on Trade-
Related Aspects of Intellectual Property
Rights (the TRIPS Agreement).

Pursuant to authority vested in the
United States Trade Representative by
the laws of the United States, including
but not limited to sections 503 and 604
of the Trade Act of 1974 and
Proclamation 7107 of June 30, 1998, and
in order to (1) grant GSP preferential
tariff treatment to articles in HTS
subheadings 7108.12.50 (unwrought
gold, for electronics, dental) and
7108.13.70 (semi-manufactured gold),
and (2) provide GSP preferential tariff
treatment to articles from South Africa
in HTS subheading 2849.90.50
(carbides), the HTS is modified as
specified in the Annex to this notice,
effective with respect to articles entered,
or withdrawn from warehouse, on or