

described above exceeded its imports of those goods by 873,884 metric tons according to data published by the *Asociación de Azucareros de Guatemala*. Based on this data, USTR determines that Guatemala's trade surplus is 873,884 metric tons. The specific quantity set out in U.S. Note 25(b)(ii) to subchapter XXII of HTS chapter 98 for Guatemala for CY2010 is 37,740 metric tons. Therefore, in accordance with that note, the aggregate quantity of goods of Guatemala that may be entered duty-free under subheading 9822.05.20 in CY2010 is 37,740 metric tons (i.e., the amount that is the lesser of Guatemala's trade surplus and the specific quantity set out in that note for Guatemala for CY2010).

During CY2008, the most recent year for which data is available, Honduras' exports of the sugar and syrup goods and sugar-containing products described above exceeded its imports of those goods by 6,163 metric tons according to data published by the *Banco Central de Honduras*. Based on this data, USTR determines that Honduras' trade surplus is 6,163 metric tons. The specific quantity set out in U.S. Note 25(b)(ii) to subchapter XXII of HTS chapter 98 for Honduras for CY2010 is 8,640 metric tons. Therefore, in accordance with that note, the aggregate quantity of goods of Honduras that may be entered duty-free under subheading 9822.05.20 in CY2010 is 6,163 metric tons (i.e., the amount that is the lesser of Honduras' trade surplus and the specific quantity set out in that note for Honduras for CY2010).

During CY2008, the most recent year for which data is available, Nicaragua's exports of the sugar and syrup goods and sugar-containing products described above exceeded its imports of those goods by 51,877 metric tons according to data published by the *Ministerio de Fomento, Industria, y Comercio*. Based on this data, USTR determines that Nicaragua's trade surplus is 51,877 metric tons. The specific quantity set out in U.S. Note 25(b)(ii) to subchapter XXII of HTS chapter 98 for Nicaragua for CY2010 is 23,760 metric tons. Therefore, in accordance with that note, the aggregate quantity of goods of Nicaragua that may be entered duty-free under subheading 9822.05.20 in CY2010 is 23,760 metric tons (i.e., the amount that is the lesser of Nicaragua's trade surplus and the specific quantity set out in that note for Nicaragua for CY2010).

*Peru:* Pursuant to section 201 of the United States—Peru Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act (Pub. L. 110–138; 19 U.S.C. 3805 note), Presidential Proclamation No. 8341 of

January 16, 2009 (74 FR 4105) implemented the Peru TPA on behalf of the United States and modified the HTS to reflect the tariff treatment provided for in the Peru TPA.

U.S. Note 28(c) to subchapter XXII of HTS chapter 98 provides that USTR is required to publish annually in the **Federal Register** a determination of the amount of Peru's trade surplus, by volume, with all sources for goods in HS subheadings 1701.11, 1701.12, 1701.91, 1701.99, 1702.20, 1702.40, and 1702.60, except that Peru's imports of U.S. goods classified under HS subheadings 1702.40 and 1702.60 that are originating goods under the Peru TPA and Peru's exports to the United States of goods classified under HS subheadings 1701.11, 1701.12, 1701.91, and 1701.99 are not included in the calculation of Peru's trade surplus.

U.S. Note 28(d) to subchapter XXII of HTS chapter 98 provides duty-free treatment for certain sugar goods of Peru entered under subheading 9822.06.10 in an amount equal to the lesser of Peru's trade surplus or the specific quantity set out in that note for that calendar year.

During CY2008, the most recent year for which data is available, Peru's imports of the sugar goods described above exceeded its exports of those goods by 156,805 metric tons according to data published by its customs authority, the *Superintendencia Nacional de Administración Tributaria*. Based on this data, USTR determines that Peru's trade surplus is negative. Therefore, in accordance with U.S. Note 28(d) to subchapter XXII of HTS chapter 98, goods of Peru are not eligible to enter the United States duty-free under subheading 9822.06.10 in CY2010.

**James Murphy,**

*Assistant United States Trade Representative.*  
[FR Doc. E9–29858 Filed 12–15–09; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3190-WO-P**

## OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

### Request for Comments Concerning Proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Agreement

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR).

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to enter into negotiations on a Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The United States intends to enter into negotiations on a TPP trade agreement with the objective of shaping a high-standard, broad-based regional agreement. USTR is seeking public

comments on all elements of the agreement in order to develop U.S. negotiating positions.

**DATES:** Written comments are due by January 25, 2010.

**ADDRESSES:** *Submissions via on-line:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. For alternatives to on-line submissions please contact Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC), at (202) 395–3475.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For procedural questions concerning written comments, please contact Gloria Blue at the above number. All other questions regarding the TPP trade agreement should be directed to David Bisbee, Deputy Assistant USTR for Southeast Asia and Pacific, at (202) 395–6813.

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### 1. Background

USTR is observing the relevant procedures of the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002 (19 U.S.C. 3804), which apply to agreements entered into before July 1, 2007, with respect to notifying and consulting with Congress regarding the TPP trade agreement negotiations. These procedures include providing Congress with 90 days advance written notice of the President's intent to enter into negotiations and consulting with appropriate Congressional committees regarding the negotiations. To that end, on December 14, 2009, after having consulted with relevant Congressional committees, the USTR notified Congress that the President intends to enter into negotiations of the agreement with the TPP countries with the objective of shaping a high-standard, 21st century agreement with a membership and coverage that provides economically significant market access opportunities for America's workers, farmers, ranchers, service providers, and small businesses. Our initial TPP negotiating partners include Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam. The U.S. objective is to expand on this initial group to include additional countries throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

In addition, under the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2151, 2153), in the case of an agreement such as the proposed TPP trade agreement, the President must (i) afford interested persons an opportunity to present their views regarding any matter relevant to the proposed agreement, (ii) designate an agency or inter-agency committee to hold a public hearing regarding the proposed agreement, and (iii) seek the advice of the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) regarding the

probable economic effects on U.S. industries and consumers of the removal of tariffs and non-tariff barriers on imports pursuant to the proposed agreement.

USTR held a public hearing regarding the proposed TPP trade agreement on March 4, 2009, and intends to hold additional public hearings on specific issues pertaining to the proposed negotiations in early 2010. In addition, USTR has requested the ITC to provide advice to USTR on the probable economic effects of an agreement.

## 2. Public Comments

The TPSC Chair invites interested parties to submit written comments to assist USTR as it develops its negotiating objectives for the proposed regional agreement. Comments may address the reduction or elimination of tariffs or non-tariff barriers on any articles provided for in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) that are products of a TPP country, any concession that should be sought by the United States, or any other matter relevant to the proposed agreement. The TPSC Chair invites comments on all of these matters and, in particular, seeks comments addressed to:

(a) General and product-specific negotiating objectives for the proposed regional agreement.

(b) Economic costs and benefits to U.S. producers and consumers of removal of tariffs and removal or reduction in non-tariff barriers on articles traded with the seven TPP countries.

(c) Treatment of specific goods (described by HTSUS numbers) under the proposed regional agreement, including comments on—

(1) Product-specific import or export interests or barriers,

(2) Experience with particular measures that should be addressed in the negotiations, and

(3) Approach to tariff negotiations, including recommended staging and ways to address export priorities and import sensitivities in the context of this regional agreement.

(d) Adequacy of existing customs measures to ensure that imported goods originate from the TPP countries, and appropriate rules of origin for goods entering the United States under the proposed regional agreement.

(e) Existing sanitary and phytosanitary measures and technical barriers to trade imposed by any of the TPP countries that should be addressed in the negotiations.

(f) Existing barriers to trade in services between the United States and

any of the TPP countries that should be addressed in the negotiations.

(g) Relevant electronic commerce issues that should be addressed in the negotiations.

(h) Relevant trade-related intellectual property rights issues that should be addressed in the negotiations.

(i) Relevant investment issues that should be addressed in the negotiations.

(j) Relevant competition-related matters that should be addressed in the negotiations.

(k) Relevant government procurement issues that should be addressed in the negotiations.

(l) Relevant environmental issues that should be addressed in the negotiations.

(m) Relevant labor issues that should be addressed in the negotiations.

In commenting on these matters, USTR invites interested parties to take into account the objective of expanding the TPP trade agreement to include other countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

In addition to the matters described above, USTR is considering addressing new and emerging issues in this regional agreement. Accordingly, the TPSC Chair invites comments on approaches that would promote innovation and competitiveness, encourage new technologies and emerging economic sectors, increase the participation of small- and medium-sized businesses in trade, and support the development of efficient production and supply chains that include U.S. firms in order to encourage firms to invest and produce in the United States. The TPSC Chair also invites comments on ways to address other trade-related priorities in this regional agreement, including environmental protection and conservation, transparency, workers rights and protections, development, and other issues. Finally, because the TPP trade agreement will be a regional agreement, the TPSC Chair also invites comments on ways to use the agreement to facilitate trade and promote regulatory coherence and cooperation within the region.

At a later date, USTR, through the TPSC, will publish notice of reviews regarding (a) the possible environmental effects of the proposed agreement and the scope of the U.S. environmental review of the proposed agreement, and (b) the impact of the proposed agreement on U.S. employment and labor markets.

## 3. Requirements for Submissions

Persons submitting comments must do so in English and must identify (on the first page of the submission) the “United States—Trans-Pacific

Partnership Trade Agreement.” In order to be assured of consideration, comments should be submitted by January 25, 2010.

In order to ensure the timely receipt and consideration of comments, USTR strongly encourages commenters to make on-line submissions, using the <http://www.regulations.gov> Web site. Comments should be submitted under the following docket: USTR–2009–0041. To find the docket, enter the docket number in the “Enter Keyword or ID” window at the <http://www.regulations.gov> home page and click “Search.” The site will provide a search-results page listing all documents associated with this docket. Find a reference to this notice by selecting “Notices” under “Document Type” on the search-results page, and click on the link entitled “Submit a Comment.” (For further information on using the [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) Web site, please consult the resources provided on the Web site by clicking on the “Help” tab.)

The <http://www.regulations.gov> Web site provides the option of making submissions by filling in a comments field, or by attaching a document. USTR prefers submissions to be provided in an attached document. If a document is attached, it is sufficient to type “See attached” in the “Type comment & Upload File” field. USTR prefers submissions in Microsoft Word (.doc) or Adobe Acrobat (.pdf). If the submission is in an application other than those two, please indicate the name of the application in the “Comments” field.

For any comments submitted electronically containing business confidential information, the file name of the business confidential version should begin with the characters “BC”. Any page containing business confidential information must be clearly marked “BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL” on the top of that page. Filers of submissions containing business confidential information must also submit a public version of their comments. The file name of the public version should begin with the character “P”. The “BC” and “P” should be followed by the name of the person or entity submitting the comments or reply comments. Filers submitting comments containing no business confidential information should name their file using the character “P”, followed by the name of the person or entity submitting the comments.

Please do not attach separate cover letters to electronic submissions; rather, include any information that might appear in a cover letter in the comments themselves. Similarly, to the extent possible, please include any exhibits,

annexes, or other attachments in the same file as the submission itself, not as separate files.

USTR strongly urges submitters to file comments through regulations.gov, if at all possible. Any alternative arrangements must be made with Ms. Blue in advance of transmitting a comment. Ms. Blue should be contacted at (202) 395-3475. General information concerning USTR is available at <http://www.ustr.gov>.

**Carmen Suro-Bredie,**

*Chair, Trade Policy Staff Committee.*

[FR Doc. E9-29841 Filed 12-15-09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-W0-P

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA-2009-001-N-28]

#### Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Notice and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and its implementing regulations, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) hereby announces that it is seeking renewal of the following currently approved information collection activities. Before submitting these information collection requirements for clearance by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), FRA is soliciting public comment on specific aspects of the activities identified below.

**DATES:** Comments must be received no later than February 16, 2010.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit written comments on any or all of the following proposed activities by mail to either: Mr. Robert Brogan, Office of Safety, Planning and Evaluation Division, RRS-21, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE., Mail Stop 25, Washington, DC 20590, or Ms. Kimberly Toone, Office of Information Technology, RAD-20, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE., Mail Stop 35, Washington, DC 20590. Commenters requesting FRA to acknowledge receipt of their respective comments must include a self-addressed stamped postcard stating, "Comments on OMB control number 2130-0511." Alternatively, comments may be transmitted via facsimile to (202) 493-6216 or (202) 493-6497, or via E-mail to

Mr. Brogan at [robert.brogan@dot.gov](mailto:robert.brogan@dot.gov), or to Ms. Toone at [kimberly.toone@dot.gov](mailto:kimberly.toone@dot.gov). Please refer to the assigned OMB control number in any correspondence submitted. FRA will summarize comments received in response to this notice in a subsequent notice and include them in its information collection submission to OMB for approval.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Robert Brogan, Office of Planning and Evaluation Division, RRS-21, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE., Mail Stop 25, Washington, DC 20590 (telephone: (202) 493-6292) or Ms. Kimberly Toone, Office of Information Technology, RAD-20, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE., Mail Stop 35, Washington, DC 20590 (telephone: (202) 493-6132). (These telephone numbers are not toll-free.)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), Public Law No. 104-13, sec. 2, 109 Stat. 163 (1995) (codified as revised at 44 U.S.C. 3501-3520), and its implementing regulations, 5 CFR Part 1320, require Federal agencies to provide 60-days notice to the public for comment on information collection activities before seeking approval for reinstatement or renewal by OMB. 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A); 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), 1320.10(e)(1), 1320.12(a). Specifically, FRA invites interested respondents to comment on the following summary of proposed information collection activities regarding (i) Whether the information collection activities are necessary for FRA to properly execute its functions, including whether the activities will have practical utility; (ii) the accuracy of FRA's estimates of the burden of the information collection activities, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used to determine the estimates; (iii) ways for FRA to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information being collected; and (iv) ways for FRA to minimize the burden of information collection activities on the public by automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology (e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses). See 44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)(i)-(iv); 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1)(i)-(iv). FRA believes that soliciting public comment will promote its efforts to reduce the administrative and paperwork burdens associated with the collection of information mandated by Federal regulations. In summary, FRA reasons that comments received will advance three objectives: (i) Reduce

reporting burdens; (ii) ensure that it organizes information collection requirements in a "user friendly" format to improve the use of such information; and (iii) accurately assess the resources expended to retrieve and produce information requested. See 44 U.S.C. 3501.

Below is a brief summary of currently approved information collection activities that FRA will submit for clearance by OMB as required under the PRA:

*OMB Control Number:* 2130-0511.

*Title:* Designation of Qualified Persons.

*Abstract:* The collection of information is used to prevent the unsafe movement of defective freight cars. Railroads are required to inspect freight cars for compliance and to determine restrictions on the movements of defective cars. The collection of information is used by FRA to ensure that all freight cars inspections are conducted by qualified persons who have demonstrated to their employing railroads a knowledge and ability to inspect freight cars for compliance with this Part, 49 CFR Part 215.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Affected Public:* Businesses.

*Respondent Universe:* 728 railroads.

*Frequency of Submission:* On occasion.

*Total Estimated Annual Burden:* 40 hours.

*Total Responses:* 1,200.

*Type of Request:* Extension of a Currently Approved Collection.

*Title:* Passenger Train Emergency Preparedness.

*OMB Control Number:* 2130-0545.

*Abstract:* The collection of information is due to the passenger train emergency preparedness regulations set forth in 49 CFR Parts 223 and 239 which require railroads to meet minimum Federal standards for the preparation, adoption, and implementation of emergency preparedness plans connected with the operation of passenger trains, including freight railroads hosting operations of rail passenger service. The regulations require luminescent or lighted emergency markings so that passengers and emergency responders can readily determine where the closest and most accessible exit routes are located and how the emergency exit mechanisms are operated. Windows and doors intended for emergency access by responders for extrication of passengers must be marked with retro-reflective material so that emergency responders, particularly in conditions of poor visibility, can easily distinguish them from the less accessible doors and windows. Records