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Authority: 15 U.S.C. 636(a)(25) and 13 CFR 120.3.

Dated: December 17, 2015.

Maria Contreras-Sweet,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 2015-32583 Filed 12-24-15; 8:45 am]

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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

[Docket No. SSA-2015-0069]

Finding Regarding Foreign Social Insurance or Pension System—Australia

AGENCY: Social Security Administration (SSA).

ACTION: Notice of Finding Regarding Foreign Social Insurance or Pension System—Australia.

Finding: Section 202(t)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402(t)(1)) prohibits payment of monthly benefits to any individual who is not a United States citizen or national for any month after he or she has been outside the United States for 6 consecutive months. This prohibition does not apply to such an individual where one of the exceptions described in section 202(t)(2) through 202(t)(5) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402(t)(2) through 402(t)(5)) affects his or her case. Section 202(t)(2) of the Social Security Act provides that, subject to certain residency requirements of Section 202(t)(11), the prohibition against payment shall not apply to any individual who is a citizen of a country which the Commissioner of Social Security finds has in effect a social insurance or pension system which is of general application in such country and which:

(a) Pays periodic benefits, or the actuarial equivalent thereof, on account of old age, retirement, or death; and

(b) permits individuals who are United States citizens but not citizens of that country and who qualify for such benefits to receive those benefits, or the actuarial equivalent thereof, while outside the foreign country regardless of the duration of the absence.

The Commissioner of Social Security has delegated the authority to make such a finding to the Associate Commissioner of the Office of International Programs. Under that

authority, the Associate Commissioner of the Office of International Programs has approved a finding that Australia, beginning September 27, 2001, has a social insurance system of general application which:

(a) Pays periodic benefits, or the actuarial equivalent thereof, on account of old age, retirement, or death; and

(b) permits United States citizens who are not citizens of Australia to receive such benefits, or their actuarial equivalent, at the full rate without qualification or restriction while outside Australia.

Accordingly, it is hereby determined and found that Australia has in effect, beginning September 27, 2001, a social insurance system which meets the requirements of section 202(t)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402(t)(2)).

In 1968, we determined that Australia's national pensions system did not meet the requirements of 202(t)(2)(A) of the Social Security Act (Act). However, under the provisions of section 202(t)(4) of the Act, citizens of Australia were afforded the limited exceptions to the alien nonpayment provision under section 202(t)(1) if the worker had 10 years of U.S. residence or 40 quarters of U.S. coverage. We published notice of our determination in the **Federal Register** December 20, 1968 (33 FR 19054).

In 1992, Australia enacted a new national coverage scheme called the Superannuation Guarantee (SG). The SG is a contribution system of mandatory individual accounts intended to supplement Australia's national residence based pension system as a second tier. The SG provides benefits at retirement age based on the accumulated value of invested contributions in the worker's account. Upon review, the SG was found to meet all of the requirements of the section 202(t)(2) provision. This review required a new determination under section 202(t)(2) for Australian citizens.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Donna L. Powers, 3700 Robert Ball Building, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235-6401, (410) 965-3558.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: Program Nos. 96.001 Social Security—Disability Insurance; 96.002 Social Security—Retirement Insurance; 96.004 Social Security—Survivors Insurance)

Dated: December 16, 2015.

Vance Teel,
Associate Commissioner, Office of
International Programs.

[FR Doc. 2015-32586 Filed 12-24-15; 8:45 am]

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Request for Public Comments on Review of Employment Impact of the Trans-Pacific Partnership

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice of intent to conduct an employment impact review of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) and the Department of Labor (DOL), through the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC), are initiating an employment impact review of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement. USTR is seeking public comments on the impact of the TPP Agreement on U.S. employment, including labor markets.

DATES: Written comments are due by Wednesday, January 13, 2016.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be submitted electronically via the Internet at www.regulations.gov. If you are unable to provide submissions at www.regulations.gov, please contact Yvonne Jamison, TPSC, at (202) 395-3475, to arrange for an alternative method of transmission.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For procedural questions concerning written comments, contact Yvonne Jamison at (202) 395-3475. All other questions should be directed to Greg Schoepfle, Director, Office of Economic and Labor Research, Bureau of International Labor Affairs, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20210, telephone (202) 693-4887 or Lewis Karesh, Assistant United States Trade Representative for Labor, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street NW., Washington, DC 20508, telephone (202) 395-3330.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Background

On November 5, 2015, consistent with Trade Promotion Authority (Title I of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015, Pub. L. 114-26) (19 U.S.C. 4201 *et seq.*) ("the Act"), the President notified Congress of his intent to enter into the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement. Also on November 5, 2015, USTR requested that the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) prepare a report as specified in section 105(c)(2)–(3) of the Act assessing the likely impact of the TPP Agreement on the U.S. economy as a whole and on specific industry sectors and the interests of U.S. consumers. On