

III. Date of Effectiveness of the Proposed Rule Change and Timing for Commission Action

Within 35 days of the date of publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** or within such longer period (i) as the Commission may designate up to 90 days of such date if it finds such longer period to be appropriate and publishes its reasons for so finding or (ii) as to which the Exchange consents, the Commission will:

(A) By order approve such proposed rule change, or

(B) Institute proceedings to determine whether the proposed rule change should be disapproved.

IV. Solicitation of Comments

Interested persons are invited to submit written data, views, and arguments concerning the foregoing, including whether the proposed rule change, as amended, is consistent with the Act. Persons making written submissions should file six copies thereof with the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW., Washington, DC 20549-0609. Copies of the submission, all subsequent amendments, all written statements with respect to the proposed rule change that are filed with the Commission, and all written communications relating to the proposed rule change between the Commission and any person, other than those that may be withheld from the public in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552, will be available for inspection and copying at the Commission's Public Reference Room.

Copies of such filing will also be available for inspection and copying at the principal office of the Exchange. All submissions should refer to File No. SR-Amex-00-23 and should be submitted by November 21, 2000.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority.¹⁶

Margaret H. McFarland,
Deputy Secretary.

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Notice of Meeting of the Industry Functional Advisory Committee for Customs Matters (IFAC-1)

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Industry Functional Advisory Committee for Customs Matters will hold a meeting on November 9, 2000, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The meeting will be closed to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon, and opened to the public from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

DATES: The meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2000, unless otherwise notified.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Department of Commerce, Room B841B, located at 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC, unless otherwise notified.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan Gardner, (202) 482-3681 and Katherine Wiehagen (202) 482-0357, Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230, or Dominic Bianchi, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, 1724 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508, (202) 395-6120.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: During the opened portion of the meeting the U.S. Customs Entry Revision Project (ERP) will be discussed by representatives from the U.S. Customs Service and the Bureau of the Census. The ERP was introduced by the Customs Service in 1999 as a proposal to change U.S. customs laws and make them more consistent with current business practices and promote effective compliance. This discussion is an opportunity for the Industry Functional Advisory Committee for Customs Matters to be briefed and invite comments on ERP progress to date.

Dominic Bianchi,

Acting Assistant United States Trade Representative for Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Liaison.

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OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Request for Public Comment With Respect to the Annual National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 303 of the Trade and Tariff Act of 1984, as amended, USTR is required to publish annually the National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers (NTE).

With this notice, the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) is requesting interested parties to assist it in identifying significant barriers to U.S. exports of goods, services and overseas direct investment for inclusion in the NTE. Particularly important are impediments materially affecting the actual and potential financial performance of an industry sector. The TPSC invites written comments that provide views relevant to the issues to be examined in preparing the NTE.

DATES: Public comments are due not later than November 27, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street NW., Room 122, Washington, DC 20508.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gloria Blue, Office of Policy Coordination, Office of the United States Trade Representative, (202) 395-3475.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Last year's report may be found on USTR's Internet Home Page (www.ustr.gov) under the section on Reports. In order to ensure compliance with the statutory mandate for reporting foreign trade barriers that are significant, we will focus particularly on those restrictions where there has been active private sector interest.

The information submitted should relate to one or more of the following ten categories of foreign trade barriers:

(1) import policies (e.g., tariffs and other import changes, quantitative restrictions, import licensing, and customs barriers);

(2) standards, testing, labeling, and certification (including unnecessarily restrictive application of phytosanitary standards, refusal to accept U.S. manufacturers' self-certification of conformance to foreign product standards, and environmental restrictions);

(3) government procurement (e.g., "but national" policies and closed bidding);

(4) export subsidies e.g., export financing on preferential terms and agricultural export subsidies that displace U.S. exports in third country markets);

(5) lack of intellectual property protection e.g., inadequate patent, copyright, and trademark regimes);

(6) services barriers e.g., limits on the range of financial services offered by foreign financial institutions, regulation of international data flows, restrictions on the use of data processing, quotas on imports of foreign films, and barriers to the provision of services by

¹⁶ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).