

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Caratina L. Alston, United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat, Suite 2061, 14th and Constitution Avenue, Washington, DC 20230, (202) 482-5438.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Chapter 19 of the North American Free-Trade Agreement ("Agreement") establishes a mechanism to replace domestic judicial review of final determinations in antidumping and countervailing duty cases involving imports from a NAFTA country with review by independent binational panels. When a Request for Panel Review is filed, a panel is established to act in place of national courts to review expeditiously the final determination to determine whether it conforms with the antidumping or countervailing duty law of the country that made the determination.

Under Article 1904 of the Agreement, which came into force on January 1, 1994, the Government of the United States, the Government of Canada and the Government of Mexico established *Rules of Procedure for Article 1904 Binational Panel Reviews* ("Rules"). These Rules were published in the **Federal Register** on February 23, 1994 (59 FR 8686).

A first Request for Panel Review was filed with the United States Section of the NAFTA Secretariat, pursuant to Article 1904 of the Agreement, on November 21, 2000, requesting panel review of the five-year sunset review of the antidumping duty order described above.

The Rules provide that:

(a) a Party or interested person may challenge the final determination in whole or in part by filing a Complaint in accordance with Rule 39 within 30 days after the filing of the first Request for Panel Review (the deadline for filing a Complaint is December 21, 2000);

(b) a Party, investigating authority or interested person that does not file a Complaint but that intends to appear in support of any reviewable portion of the final determination may participate in the panel review by filing a Notice of Appearance in accordance with Rule 40 within 45 days after the filing of the first Request for Panel Review (the deadline for filing a Notice of Appearance is January 5, 2001); and

(c) the panel review shall be limited to the allegations of error of fact or law, including the jurisdiction of the investigating authority, that are set out in the Complaints filed in the panel review and the procedural and substantive defenses raised in the panel review.

Dated: December 5, 2000.

Caratina L. Alston,

United States Secretary, NAFTA Secretariat.

[FR Doc. 00-33242 Filed 12-27-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-GT-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

Manufacturing Extension Partnership National Advisory Board

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of partially closed meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, notice is hereby given that the Manufacturing Extension Partnership National Advisory Board (MEPNAB), National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), will meet Thursday, January 18, 2001 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The MEPNAB is composed of eight members appointed by the Director of NIST who were selected for their expertise in the area of industrial extension and their work on behalf of smaller manufacturers. The Board was established to fill a need for outside input on MEP. MEP is a unique program consisting of centers in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. The centers have been created by state, federal, and local partnerships. The Board works closely with MEP to provide input and advice on MEP's programs, plans, and policies. The agenda will include a review by program managers of their programs for 2000 with updates and accomplishments in the areas of center management, tool and product development and national marketing activities, and a discussion of program goals and strategies for 2001. The portion of the meeting which involves personnel and proprietary budget information will be closed to the general public. All other portions of the meeting will be open to the public.

DATES: The meeting will convene January 18, 2001 at 8 a.m. and will adjourn at 3:30 p.m. on January 18, 2001.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held in the Tenth Floor Conference Room, Administration Building, at NIST, Gaithersburg, Maryland.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Linda Acierio, Senior Policy Advisor, Manufacturing Extension Partnership, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-

4800, telephone number (301) 975-5033.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Assistant Secretary for Administration with the concurrence of the General Counsel formally determined on December 18, 2000, that portions of the meeting which involve discussion of proposed funding of the MEP may be closed in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(9)(B), because that portion will divulge matters the premature disclosure of which would be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of proposed agency actions; and that portions of the meeting which involve discussion of the staffing of positions in MEP may be closed in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(6), because divulging information discussed in that portion of the meeting is likely to reveal information of a personal nature, where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Dated: December 21, 2000.

Raymond G. Kammer,

Director.

[FR Doc. 00-33092 Filed 12-29-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Technology Administration

National Medal of Technology

ACTION: Proposed collection; Comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (DOC), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on the continuing and proposed information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before February 26, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Madeleine Clayton, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6086, 1401 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230 or via the Internet (MCclayton@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information should be directed to the attention of Mildred Porter, Director, National Medal of Technology Program, Technology Administration, 1401

Constitution Avenue, NW., Room 4226, Washington, DC 20230. In addition, written comments may be sent via fax, (202) 501-8153, and e-mail to mporter@ta.doc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This information collection is critical for the Nomination Evaluation Committee to determine nomination eligibility and merit according to specified criteria or the annual selection of the Nation's leading technological innovators honored by the President of the United States. The information is needed in order to comply with P.L. 96-480 and P.L. 105.309. Comparable information is not available on a standardized basis.

II. Method of Collection

By mail, but the nomination forms and instructions are electronically posted on the National Medal of Technology web site so interested parties can review criteria and informational requirements at their convenience.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0692-0001.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Revision of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Individuals or households; business or other for-profit organizations; not-for-profit institutions; and, Federal Government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 102.

Estimated Time Per Response: 25 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours: 2550.

Estimated Total Annual Respondent Cost Burden: None.

IV. Requests for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, *e.g.*, the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarize or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection;

it will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 21, 2000.

Madeleine Clayton,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-33240 Filed 12-27-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-18-P

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Extension of Temporary Amendment to the Requirements for Participating in the Special Access Program for Caribbean Basin Countries

December 21, 2000.

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs extending amendments of requirements for participation in the Special Access Program for a temporary period.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lori E. Mennitt, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-3400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended.

A notice published in the **Federal Register** on December 18, 1998 (63 FR 70112), amended on December 24, 1998 (64 FR 149, published on January 4, 1999), extended the exemption period for women's and girls' and men's and boys' chest type plate, "hymo" piece or "sleeve header" of woven or weft-inserted warp knit construction of coarse animal hair or man-made filaments used in the manufacture of tailored suit jackets and suit-type jackets in Categories 433, 435, 443, 444, 633, 635, 643 and 644, which are entered under the Special Access Program, for the periods December 23, 1998 through December 31, 2000 for women's and girls'; and September 23, 1998 through December 31, 2000 for men's and boys'. See also 61 FR 49439, published on September 20, 1996, as amended. On December 9, 1999, that directive was amended to include goods covered under the Outward Processing Program (see 64 FR 69746, published on December 14, 1999.).

Effective on January 1, 2001, these directives are being amended to extend

this exemption period from January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2002.

A description of the textile and apparel categories in terms of HTS numbers is available in the CORRELATION: Textile and Apparel Categories with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (see **Federal Register** notice 64 FR 71982, published on December 22, 1999).

Richard B. Steinkamp,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

December 21, 2000.

Commissioner of Customs,
Department of the Treasury,
Washington, DC 20229.

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directives issued to you on December 14, 1998, December 24, 1998, and December 9, 1999 by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. Those directives concern the foreign origin exception for findings and trimmings in Categories 433, 435, 443, 444, 633, 635, 643 and 644 under the Special Access Program and extended the amendment for the periods December 23, 1998 through December 31, 2000 for women's and girls' "hymo" type interlinings and September 23, 1998 through December 31, 2000 for men's and boys' "hymo" type interlinings. See also directive dated September 16, 1996 (61 FR 49439), as amended.

Effective on January 1, 2001, by date of export, you are directed to extend through December 31, 2002, the amendment to treat non-U.S. formed, U.S.-cut interlinings for chest type plate, "hymo" piece or "sleeve header" of woven or weft-inserted warp knit construction of coarse animal hair or man-made filaments used in the manufacture of tailored suit jackets and suit-type jackets in Categories 433, 443, 633 and 643 as qualifying for exception for findings and trimmings, including elastic strips less than one inch in width, created under the Special Access Program effective September 1, 1986 (see 51 FR 21208). In the aggregate, such interlinings, findings and trimmings must not exceed 25 percent of the cost of the components of the assembled article. Non-U.S. formed, U.S.-cut interlinings may be used in imports of women's and girls' and men's and boys' suit jackets and suit-type jackets entered under the Special Access Program (9802.00.8015) provided they are cut in the United States and of a type described above.