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Title 15 - Commerce and Foreign Trade
Subtitle C - Regulations Relating to Foreign Trade Agreements
Chapter XX - Office of the United States Trade Representative

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Chapter XX Office of the United States Trade Representative

Part 2007 Regulations of the U.S. Trade Representative Pertaining to Eligibility
of Articles and Countries for the Generalized System of Preference
Program (GSP (15 CFR Part 2007))

- § 2007.0 Requests for reviews.
- § 2007.1 Information required of interested parties in submitting requests for modifications in the last of eligible articles.
- § 2007.2 Action following receipt of requests for modifications in the list of eligible articles and for reviews of the GSP status of eligible beneficiary countries with respect to designation criteria.
- § 2007.3 Timetable for reviews.
- § 2007.4 Publication regarding requests.
- § 2007.5 Written briefs and oral testimony.
- § 2007.6 Information open to public inspection.
- § 2007.7 Information exempt from public inspection.
- § 2007.8 Other reviews of article eligibilities.

**PART 2007 - REGULATIONS OF THE U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
PERTAINING TO ELIGIBILITY OF ARTICLES AND COUNTRIES FOR
THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCE PROGRAM (GSP (15
CFR PART 2007))**

Authority: 19 U.S.C. 2461-65, 88 Stat. 2066-2071, as amended by Title V of the Trade and Tariff Act of 1984, Pub. L. No. 98-573, 98 Stat. 3018-3024; E.O. 11846 of March 27, 1975 (40 FR 14291), E.O. 12188 of January 2, 1980 (45 FR 989).

Source: 51 FR 5037, Feb. 11, 1986, unless otherwise noted.

§ 2007.0 Requests for reviews.

- (a) An interested party may submit a request

- (1) that additional articles be designated as eligible for GSP duty-free treatment, provided that the article has not been accepted for review within the three preceding calendar years; or
 - (2) that the duty-free treatment accorded to eligible articles under the GSP be withdrawn, suspended or limited; or
 - (3) for a determination of whether a like or directly competitive product was produced in the United States on January 3, 1985 for the purposes of section 504(d)(1) (19 U.S. 2464(d)(1)); or
 - (4) that the President exercise his waiver authority with respect to a specific article or articles pursuant to section 504(c)(3) (19 U.S.C. 2464(c)(3)); or
 - (5) that product coverage be otherwise modified.
- (b) During the annual reviews and general reviews conducted pursuant to the schedule set out in § 2007.3 any person may file a request to have the GSP status of any eligible beneficiary developing country reviewed with respect to any of the designation criteria listed in section 502(b) or 502(c) (19 U.S.C. 2642 (b) and (c)). Such requests must
- (1) specify the name of the person or the group requesting the review;
 - (2) identify the beneficiary country that would be subject to the review;
 - (3) indicate the specific section 502(b) or 502(c) criteria which the requestor believes warrants review;
 - (4) provide a statement of reasons why the beneficiary country's status should be reviewed along with all available supporting information;
 - (5) supply any other relevant information as requested by the GSP Subcommittee. If the subject matter of the request has been reviewed pursuant to a previous request, the request must include substantial new information warranting further consideration of the issue.
- (c) An interested party or any other person may make submissions supporting, opposing or otherwise commenting on a request submitted pursuant to either paragraph (a) or (b) of this section.
- (d) For the purposes of the regulations set out under § 2007.0 *et seq.*, an interested party is defined as a party who has significant economic interest in the subject matter of the request, or any other party representing a significant economic interest that would be materially affected by the action requested, such as a domestic producer of a like or directly competitive article, a commercial importer or retailer of an article which is eligible for the GSP or for which such eligibility is requested, or a foreign government.
- (e) All requests and other submissions should be submitted in 20 copies, and should be addressed to the Chairman, GSP Subcommittee, Trade Policy Staff Committee, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20506. Requests by foreign governments may be made in the form of diplomatic correspondence provided that such requests comply with the requirements of § 2007.1.
- (f) The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) may at any time, on its own motion, initiate any of the actions described in paragraph (a) or (b) of this section.

§ 2007.1 Information required of interested parties in submitting requests for modifications in the last of eligible articles.

- (a) **General Information Required.** A request submitted pursuant to this part, hereinafter also referred to as a petition, except requests submitted pursuant to § 2007.0(b), shall state clearly on the first page that it is a request for action with respect to the provision of duty-free treatment for an article or articles under the

GSP, and must contain all information listed in this paragraph and in paragraphs (b) and (c). Petitions which do not contain the information required by this paragraph shall not be accepted for review except upon a showing that the petitioner made a good faith effort to obtain the information required. Petitions shall contain, in addition to any other information specifically requested, the following information:

- (1) The name of the petitioner, the person, firm or association represented by the petitioner, and a brief description of the interest of the petitioner claiming to be affected by the operation of the GSP;
 - (2) An identification of the product or products of interest to the petitioner, including a detailed description of products and their uses and the identification of the pertinent item number of the Tariff Schedules of the United States (TSUS). Where the product or products of interest are included with other products in a basket category of the TSUS, provide a detailed description of the product or products of interest;
 - (3) A description of the action requested, together with a statement of the reasons therefor and any supporting information;
 - (4) A statement of whether to the best of the Petitioner's knowledge, the reasoning and information has been presented to the TPSC previously either by the petitioner or another party. If the Petitioner has knowledge the request has been made previously, it must include either new information which indicates changed circumstances or a rebuttal of the factors supporting the denial of the previous request. If it is a request for a product addition, the previous request must not have been formally accepted for review within the preceding three calendar year period; and
 - (5) A statement of the benefits anticipated by the petitioner if the request is granted, along with supporting facts or arguments.
- (b) ***Requests to withdraw, limit or suspend eligibility with respect to designated articles.*** Petitions requesting withdrawal or limitation of duty-free treatment accorded under GSP to an eligible article or articles must include the following information with respect to the relevant United States industry for the most recent three year period:
- (1) The names, number and locations of the firms producing a like or directly competitive product;
 - (2) Actual production figures;
 - (3) Production capacity and capacity utilization;
 - (4) Employment figures, including number, type, wage rate, location, and changes in any of these elements;
 - (5) Sales figures in terms of quantity, value and price;
 - (6) Quantity and value of exports, as well as principal export markets;
 - (7) Profitability of firm on firms producing the like product, if possible show profit data by product line;
 - (8) Analysis of cost including materials, labor and overhead;
 - (9) A discussion of the competitive situation of the domestic industry;
 - (10) Identification of competitors; analysis of the effect imports receiving duty-free treatment under the GSP have on competition and the business of the interest on whose behalf the request is made;

- (11) Any relevant information relating to the factors listed in section 501 and 502(c) of Title V of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2501, 502(c)) such as identification of tariff and non-tariff barriers to sales in foreign markets;
- (12) Any other relevant information including any additional information that may be requested by the GSP Subcommittee.

This information should be submitted with the request for each article that is the subject of the request, both for the party making the request, and to the extent possible, for the industry to which the request pertains.

(c) **Requests to designate new articles.** Information to be provided in petitions requesting the designation of new articles submitted by interested parties must include for the most recent three year period the following information for the beneficiary country on whose behalf the request is being made and, to the extent possible, other principal beneficiary country suppliers:

- (1) Identification of the principal beneficiary country suppliers expected to benefit from proposed modification;
- (2) Name and location of firms;
- (3) Actual production figures (and estimated increase in GSP status is granted);
- (4) Actual production and capacity utilization (and estimated increase if GSP status is granted);
- (5) Employment figures, including numbers, type, wage rate, location and changes in any of these elements if GSP treatment is granted;
- (6) Sales figures in terms of quantity, value and prices;
- (7) Information on total exports including principal markets, the distribution of products, existing tariff preferences in such markets, total quantity, value and trends in exports;
- (8) Information on exports to the United States in terms of quantity, value and price, as well as considerations which affect the competitiveness of these exports relative to exports to the United States by other beneficiary countries of a like or directly competitive product. Where possible, petitioners should provide information on the development of the industry in beneficiary countries and trends in their production and promotional activities;
- (9) Analysis of cost including materials, labor and overhead;
- (10) Profitability of firms producing the product;
- (11) Information on unit prices and a statement of other considerations such as variations in quality or use that affect price competition;
- (12) If the petition is submitted by a foreign government or a government controlled entity, it should include a statement of the manner in which the requested action would further the economic development of the country submitting the petition;
- (13) If appropriate, an assessment of how the article would qualify under the GSP's 35 percent value-added requirements; and
- (14) Any other relevant information, including any information that may be requested by the GSP Subcommittee.

Submissions made by persons in support of or opposition to a request made under this part should conform to the requirements for requests contained in § 2007.1(a) (3) and (4), and should supply such other relevant information as is available.

§ 2007.2 Action following receipt of requests for modifications in the list of eligible articles and for reviews of the GSP status of eligible beneficiary countries with respect to designation criteria.

(a)

(1) If a request submitted pursuant to § 2007.0(a) does not conform to the requirements set forth above, or if it is clear from available information that the request does not warrant further consideration, the request shall not be accepted for review. Upon written request, requests which are not accepted for review will be returned together with a written statement of the reasons why the request was not accepted.

(2) If a request submitted pursuant to § 2007.0(b) does not conform to the requirements set forth above, or if the request does not provide sufficient information relevant to subsection 502(b) or 502(c) (19 U.S.C. 2642 (b) and (c)) to warrant review, or if it is clear from available information that the request does not fall within the criteria of subsection 502(b) or 502(c), the request shall not be accepted for review. Upon written request, requests which are not accepted for review will be returned together with a written statement of the reasons why the request was not accepted.

(b) Requests which conform to the requirements set forth above or for which petitioners have demonstrated a good faith effort to obtain information in order to meet the requirements set forth above, and for which further consideration is deemed warranted, shall be accepted for review.

(c) The TPSC shall announce in the FEDERAL REGISTER those requests which will be considered for full examination in the annual review and the deadlines for submissions made pursuant to the review, including the deadlines for submission of comments on the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) report in instances in which USITC advice is requested.

(d) In conducting annual reviews, the TPSC shall hold public hearings in order to provide the opportunity for public testimony on petitions and requests filed pursuant to paragraphs (a) and (b) of § 2007.0.

(e) As appropriate, the USTR on behalf of the President will request advice from the USITC.

(f) The GSP Subcommittee of the TPSC shall conduct the first level of interagency consideration under this part, and shall submit the results of its review to the TPSC.

(g) The TPSC shall review the work of the GSP Subcommittee and shall conduct, as necessary, further reviews of requests submitted and accepted under this part. Unless subject to additional review, the TPSC shall prepare recommendations for the President on any modifications to the GSP under this part. The Chairman of the TPSC shall report the results of the TPSC's review to the U.S. Trade Representative who may convene the Trade Policy Review Group (TPRG) or the Trade Policy Committee (TPC) for further review of recommendations and other decisions as necessary. The U.S. Trade Representative, after receiving the advice of the TPSC, TPRG or TPC, shall make recommendations to the President on any modifications to the GSP under this part, including recommendations that no modifications be made.

(h) In considering whether to recommend:

(1) That additional articles be designated as eligible for the GSP;

- (2) that the duty-free treatment accorded to eligible articles under the GSP be withdrawn, suspended or limited;
- (3) that product coverage be otherwise modified; or
- (4) that changes be made with respect to the GSP status of eligible beneficiary countries, the GSP Subcommittee on behalf of the TPSC, TPRG, or TPC shall review the relevant information submitted in connection with or concerning a request under this part together with any other information which may be available relevant to the statutory prerequisites for Presidential action contained in Title V of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2461-2465).

§ 2007.3 Timetable for reviews.

- (a) **Annual review.** Beginning in calendar year 1986, reviews of pending requests shall be conducted at least once each year, according to the following schedule, unless otherwise specified by FEDERAL REGISTER notice:
 - (1) June 1, deadline for acceptance of petitions for review;
 - (2) July 15, FEDERAL REGISTER announcement of petitions accepted for review;
 - (3) September/October - public hearings and submission of written briefs and rebuttal materials;
 - (4) December/January - opportunity for public comment on USITC public reports;
 - (5) Results announced on April 1 will be implemented on July 1, the statutory effective date of modifications to the program. If the date specified is on or immediately follows a weekend or holiday, the effective date will be on the second working day following such weekend or holiday.
- (b) Requests filed pursuant to paragraph (a) or (b) of § 2007.0 which indicate the existence of unusual circumstances warranting an immediate review may be considered separately. Requests for such urgent consideration should contain a statement of reasons indicating why an expedited review is warranted.
- (c) **General Review.** Section 504(c)(2) of Title V of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2464(c)(2)) requires that, not later than January 4, 1987 and periodically thereafter, the President conduct a general review of eligible articles based on the considerations in sections 501 and 502(c) of Title V. The initiation and scheduling of such reviews as well as the timetable for submission of comments and statements will be announced in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The first general review was initiated on February 14, 1985 and will be completed by January 3, 1987.

The initiation of the review and deadlines for submission of comments and statements were announced in the FEDERAL REGISTER on February 14, 1985 (50 FR 6294).

§ 2007.4 Publication regarding requests.

- (a) Whenever a request is received which conforms to these regulations or which is accepted pursuant to § 2007.2 a statement of the fact that the request has been received, the subject matter of the request (including if appropriate, the TSUS item number or numbers and description of the article or articles covered by the request), and a request for public comment on the petitions received shall be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.
- (b) Upon the completion of a review and publication of any Presidential action modifying the GSP, a summary of the decisions made will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER including:
 - (1) A list of actions taken in response to requests; and

- (2) A list of requests which are pending.
- (c) Whenever, following a review, there is to be no change in the status of an article with respect to the GSP in response to a request filed under § 2007.0(a), the party submitting a request with respect to such articles may request an explanation of factors considered.
- (d) Whenever, following a review, there is to be no change in the status of a beneficiary country with respect to the GSP in response to a request filed under § 2007.0(b), the GSP Subcommittee will notify the party submitting the request in writing of the reasons why the requested action was not taken.

§ 2007.5 Written briefs and oral testimony.

Sections 2003.2 and 2003.4 of this chapter shall be applicable to the submission of any written briefs or requests to present oral testimony in connection with a review under this part. For the purposes of this section, the term "interested party" as used in §§ 2003.2 and 2003.4 shall be interpreted as including parties submitting petitions and requests pursuant to § 2007.0(a) or (b) as well as any other person wishing to file written briefs or present oral testimony.

§ 2007.6 Information open to public inspection.

With exception of information subject to § 2007.7 any person may, upon request inspect at the Office of the United States Trade Representative:

- (a) Any written request, brief, or similar submission of information made pursuant to this part; and
- (b) Any stenographic record of any public hearings which may be held pursuant to this part.

§ 2007.7 Information exempt from public inspection.

- (a) Information submitted in confidence shall be exempt from public inspection if it is determined that the disclosure of such information is not required by law.
- (b) A party requesting an exemption from public inspection for information submitted in writing shall clearly mark each page "Submitted in Confidence" at the top, and shall submit a nonconfidential summary of the confidential information. Such person shall also provide a written explanation of why the material should be so protected.
- (c) A request for exemption of any particular information may be denied if it is determined that such information is not entitled to exemption under law. In the event of such a denial, the information will be returned to the person who submitted it, with a statement of the reasons for the denial.

§ 2007.8 Other reviews of article eligibilities.

- (a) As soon after the beginning of each calendar year as relevant trade data for the preceding year are available, modifications of the GSP in accordance with section 504(c) of the Trade Act of 1974 as amended (19 U.S.C. 2464) will be considered.
- (b) **General review.** Section 504(c)(2) of Title V of the Trade Act of 1974 as amended (19 U.S.C. 2464(c)(2)) requires that not later than January 4, 1987 and periodically thereafter, the President conduct a general review of eligible articles based on the considerations in sections 501 and 502 of Title V. The purpose of these reviews is to determine which articles from which beneficiary countries are "sufficiently competitive" to warrant a reduced competitive need limit. Those articles determined to be "sufficiently competitive" will be subject to a new lower competitive need limit set at 25 percent of the value of total U.S imports of the article, or \$25 million (this figure will be adjusted annually in accordance with nominal

changes in U.S. gross national product (GNP), using 1984 as the base year). All other articles will continue to be subject to the original competitive need limits of 50 percent or \$25 million (this figure is adjusted annually using 1974 as the base year).

- (1) **Scope of general reviews.** In addition to an examination the competitiveness of specific articles from particular beneficiary countries, the general review will also include consideration of requests for competitive need limit waivers pursuant to section 504(c)(3)(A) of Title V of the Trade Act of 1974 as amended (19 U.S.C. 2464(c)) and requests for a determination of no domestic production under section 504(d)(1) of Title V of the Trade Act of 1974 as amended (19 U.S.C. 2464(d)(1)).
- (2) **Factors to be considered.** In determining whether a beneficiary country should be subjected to the lower competitive need limits with respect to a particular article, the President shall consider the following factors contained in sections 501 and 502(c) of Title V:
 - (i) The effect such action will have on furthering the economic development of developing countries through expansion of their exports;
 - (ii) The extent to which other major developed countries are undertaking a comparable effort to assist developing countries by granting generalized preferences with respect to imports of products of such countries;
 - (iii) The anticipated impact of such action on the United States producers of like or directly competitive products;
 - (iv) The extent of the beneficiary developing country's competitiveness with respect to eligible articles;
 - (v) The level of economic development of such country, including its per capita GNP, the living standard of its inhabitants and any other economic factors the President deems appropriate;
 - (vi) Whether or not the other major developed countries are extending generalized preferential tariff treatment to such country;
 - (vii) The extent to which such country has assured the United States it will provide equitable and reasonable access to the markets and basic commodity resources of such country and the extent to which such country has assured the United States that it will refrain from engaging in unreasonable export practices;
 - (viii) The extent to which such country is providing adequate and effective means under its laws for foreign nationals to secure, to exercise and to enforce exclusive rights in intellectual property, including patents, trademarks and copyrights;
 - (ix) The extent to which such country has taken action to -
 - (A) Reduce trade distorting investment practices and policies (including export performance requirements); and
 - (B) Reduce or eliminate barriers to trade in services; and
 - (x) Whether or not such country has taken or is taking steps to afford workers in that country (including any designated zone in that country) internationally recognized worker rights.