



United States
International Trade Commission

Generalized System of Preferences: Possible Modifications, 2014 Review

Publication Number: 4562
Investigation Number: 332-554
August 2015

United States International Trade Commission

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Address all communications to

Secretary to the Commission
United States International Trade Commission
Washington, DC 20436

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This report was prepared principally by

Project Leader

Cynthia B. Foreso

Cynthia.foreso@usitc.gov

Deputy Project Leader

Sabina Neumann

Sabina.neumann@usitc.gov

Principal Authors

Joanna Bonarriva, Laura Rodriguez, and Karl Tsuji

Special Assistance

Justino De La Cruz, *Office of Economics*

Phyllis Boone, *Office of Industries*

Johnita Glover, *Office of Industries*

Monica Sanders, *Office of Industries*

Wanda Tolson, *Office of Industries*

Under the Direction of

Robert Carr, *Chief*

Natural Resources and Environment

United States International Trade Commission

Notice

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Chapter 1

Introduction and Summary Advice

Introduction¹

This report by the U.S. International Trade Commission (Commission or USITC) provides advice relating to the probable economic effect of certain proposed modifications to the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), as requested by the United States Trade Representative (USTR).² Specifically, the report provides three types of advice: 1) whether any industry in the United States is likely to be adversely affected by a waiver of the competitive need limitation (CNL) for two Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) subheadings for products from Thailand; 2) advice with respect to whether like or directly competitive products were being produced in the United States on January 1, 1995; and 3) advice as to the probable economic effect on total U.S. imports and on consumers of the requested waivers. The HTS subheadings and articles for the proposed CNL waivers for Thailand are as follows: 2008.19.15 (coconuts, otherwise prepared or preserved) and 7408.29.10 (certain copper alloy wire).³

In addition, USTR requested that the Commission provide certain data (such as production and trade) for 2012–14 for five HTS subheadings to be considered for addition to the GSP for least developed beneficiary developing countries (LDBDCs) only. These HTS subheadings are 5201.00.18, 5201.00.28, and 5201.00.38 (certain un-carded and un-combed cotton) and 5202.99.30 and 5203.00.30 (certain cotton waste and carded or combed cotton fibers). The USTR noted that his office had previously notified the Commission that these five cotton articles were being considered for designation as eligible articles under the GSP program and that the Commission had provided its advice in May 2012 (in its report on investigation No. 332-529) as to the probable economic effect of the elimination of U.S. import duties on those articles for LDBDCs under the GSP program.

¹ The information in these chapters is for the purpose of this report only. Nothing in this report should be construed as indicating how the Commission would find in an investigation conducted under any other statutory authority.

² See appendix A for the USTR request letter. See appendix B for the Commission's Federal Register notice instituting the investigation.

³ With respect to the competitive need limitation, the 2014 dollar value limit for CNLs was \$165,000,000.

Analytical Approach

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Summary of Advice

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Chapter 2

Competitive Need Limitation (CNL) Waiver Advice for Prepared or Preserved Coconut (Thailand)

Table 2.1: Prepared or preserved coconut

HTS subheading	Short description	Col. 1 rate of duty as of January 1, 2015 (percent ad valorem equivalent)	Like or directly competitive article produced in the United States on Jan. 1, 1995?
2008.19.15 ^a	Prepared or preserved coconut	1.0	Yes

^aThailand exceeded the 50 percent CNL threshold for this HTS subheading in 2014 and is not eligible for a de minimis waiver.

Description and uses. The products covered here are prepared or preserved coconut, which is coconut meat that has been processed with or without added sugar or other sweeteners. Prepared or preserved coconut includes shredded coconut, coconut flakes, creamed coconut, and coconut paste.⁴ Some prepared or preserved coconut is used in the production of further-processed products for retail sale, food service, and institutional use, such as dried fruit and nut mixes, candies, coconut milk and cream, and frozen desserts.

Advice

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Profile of U.S. Industry and Market, 2010–14

Data on the U.S. industry producing prepared and preserved coconut are unavailable. In the United States, production of the primary input, coconuts, into such products is limited to tropical U.S. territories (including Guam, American Samoa, and Puerto Rico)⁵ and very small volumes in U.S. states such as Florida and Hawaii. There are likely to be some food

⁴ Coconut water is classified under HTS heading 2202, while coconut milk and coconut cream are classified under HTS heading 2106. Creamed coconut (classified under HTS subheading 2008.19.15) refers to a paste made from grinding fresh coconut meat, while coconut cream (classified under HTS heading 2106) refers to coconut milk thickened with additional ingredients.

⁵ (U) The United States reported coconut production in Guam (50,000 metric tons), American Samoa (7,500 metric tons), and Puerto Rico (4,150 metric tons) in 2013. UN, FAOstat database (accessed July 21, 2015).

manufacturing firms in the United States and the U.S. territories that produce preserved and prepared coconut from either U.S. coconuts or from imported fresh or dried coconut;⁶ however, Commission staff was unable to identify any such U.S. producers.

Demand for coconuts and coconut products in the United States is growing due to the perceived health benefits of coconut, particularly coconut oil, and the rising popularity of ethnic foods made with coconut products (e.g., coconut milk).⁷ U.S. imports of prepared and preserved coconuts rose 61 percent by volume and 140 percent by value over the period 2010–14, reflecting this rising demand (table 2.2).

Table 2.2: Prepared or preserved coconuts: U.S. producers, employment, shipments, trade, consumption, and capacity utilization, 2010–14

Item	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Producers (number)	(^a)	(^a)	(^a)	(^a)	(^a)
Employment (1,000 employees)	(^a)	(^a)	(^a)	(^a)	(^a)
Shipments or production (1,000 \$)	(^a)	(^a)	(^a)	(^a)	(^a)
Exports (1,000 \$)	(^b)	(^b)	(^b)	(^b)	(^b)
Imports (1,000 \$)	21,183	31,560	32,712	32,019	50,938
Consumption (1,000 \$)	(^c)	(^c)	(^c)	(^c)	(^c)
Import-to-consumption ratio (percent)	(^c)	(^c)	(^c)	(^c)	(^c)
Capacity utilization (percent)	(^c)	(^c)	(^c)	(^c)	(^c)

Source: Imports compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

^a Staff was unable to identify domestic producers of the subject product.

^b Export data comparable to U.S. import data for this HTS subheading are not available.

^c Not available.

GSP Import Situation, 2014

A growing share of U.S. imports of prepared and preserved coconut are from the GSP-eligible country of Thailand. At 1 million metric tons of fresh coconut production in 2013, Thailand was the ninth largest coconut producer in the world and an exporter of a variety of processed coconut products globally.⁸ Thailand accounted for 55 percent of total U.S. imports of prepared and preserved coconut and 71 percent of U.S. imports of these products from GSP-eligible countries in 2014 (table 2.3).⁹ Rising U.S. demand for coconuts and coconut products is reflected in rising unit values of total U.S. imports of prepared and preserved coconut in recent

⁶ (U) Imports of fresh or dried coconuts (HTS subheadings 0801.11, 0801.12, and 0801.19.01) and frozen coconut meat (HTS subheading 0811.90.30) reached \$166.9 million and \$5.8 million, respectively, in 2014.

⁷ Mahr, “Why the Coconut Craze Isn’t Helping Farmers,” December 5, 2012.

⁸ UN, FAOstat database (accessed July 21, 2015).

⁹ Other GSP-eligible country suppliers in 2014 included the Philippines, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and India, which together with Thailand accounted for nearly 100 percent of U.S. imports of prepared and preserved coconut from GSP-eligible countries.

years.¹⁰ In 2014 alone, U.S. imports from Thailand rose 44 percent by quantity and 75 percent by value over the previous year, despite the lapse in the GSP program in 2014.

Table 2.3: Prepared or preserved coconut (HTS subheading 2008.19.15): U.S. imports and share of U.S. consumption, 2014 (1,000 \$)

Item	Imports	% of total imports	% of GSP imports	% of U.S. consumption
Grand total	50,938	100	(^a)	(^b)
Imports from GSP-eligible countries:				
Total	39,263	77	100	(^b)
Thailand	27,837	55	71	(^b)

Source: Compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

^a Not applicable.

^b Not available.

U.S. Imports and Exports¹¹

The largest supplier of prepared and preserved coconut to the U.S. market is Thailand, with a 55 percent share in 2014. The Philippines, Canada, and the Dominican Republic accounted for another 34 percent of the total that year. The main non-GSP-eligible import sources of prepared and preserved coconut during the period were Canada and the Dominican Republic (table 2.4). While imports from GSP-eligible countries increased by 215 percent during 2010–14, imports from non-GSP countries increased by only 34 percent during the same period.

¹⁰ Average unit values rose 49 percent during 2010–14. GTIS, Global Trade Atlas database (accessed July 21, 2015).

¹¹ Export data comparable to U.S. import data for this HTS subheading are not available.

Table 2.4: Prepared or preserved coconut (HTS subheading 2008.19.15): U.S. imports for consumption by principal sources, 2010–14

Country	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
In actual \$					
Thailand	9,256,543	12,512,940	12,924,728	15,866,107	27,836,512
Philippines	2,635,602	5,668,690	6,522,265	5,205,680	6,627,931
Canada	2,888,216	4,579,752	4,019,879	3,952,242	6,593,152
Dominican Republic	4,769,283	5,183,083	5,098,473	3,983,066	4,197,791
Indonesia	88,156	928,491	1,866,415	1,016,887	2,520,658
Sri Lanka	318,302	1,273,953	1,009,636	622,001	1,687,956
India	91,250	255,849	311,623	339,009	586,941
Mexico	586,977	418,683	358,410	215,720	214,323
France	98,561	134,013	181,319	148,962	191,669
Vietnam	156,438	126,449	40,338	92,735	106,888
Malaysia	4,226	75,183	72,562	104,613	84,590
Italy	78,973	87,267	109,887	133,032	76,844
All other	210,512	315,598	196,605	338,474	212,691
Total	21,183,039	31,559,951	32,712,140	32,018,528	50,937,946
Imports from GSP-eligible countries:					
Thailand	9,256,543	12,512,940	12,924,728	15,866,107	27,836,512
Philippines	2,635,602	5,668,690	6,522,265	5,205,680	6,627,931
Indonesia	88,156	928,491	1,866,415	1,016,887	2,520,658
Sri Lanka	318,302	1,273,953	1,009,636	622,001	1,687,956
India	91,250	255,849	311,623	339,009	586,941
Pakistan	0	0	4,784	0	2,550
Brazil	63,432	2,028	4,302	6,300	0
Jamaica	12,587	18,308	7,327	13,040	0
Macedonia	0	0	0	2,706	0
Bosnia-Herzegovina	2,983	0	0	0	0
Total	12,468,855	20,660,259	22,651,080	23,071,730	39,262,548

Source: Compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Positions of Interested Parties¹²

The Royal Thai Government requests waivers from the 2014 CNL thresholds for U.S. imports from Thailand of coconuts (HTS 2008.19.15) and coated copper alloy wire (HTS 7408.29.10). The petitioner anticipates there will be only positive impact of the grant of both waivers on U.S. industry and U.S. consumers, and USTR received no comments in opposition.

The coconut supply for U.S. food manufacturers is imported because there are no U.S. coconut supplies of an adequate, commercially available quantity to meet demand. The petitioner

¹² This summary was prepared by Dr. Prayoth Benyasut, Minister, Office of Commercial Affairs, Royal Thai Embassy, Washington, DC, not the Commission. Commission staff did not attempt to confirm the accuracy of the information presented or to correct any errors in it. The full text of the submissions can be found by searching the record for this investigation, number 332-554, in the Commission's Electronic Docket Information System (<https://edis.usitc.gov/edis3-external/app>).

identified only a south Florida company that sells a small amount of coconuts from their 40-acre farm. Thus, no negative impact on U.S. coconut growers would be created by the proposed waiver. In fact, global coconut production has not kept up with demand, according to the FAO.

However, there would be a negative impact on the U.S. food industry, if U.S. imports of Thai coconut products under this tariff line became dutiable. For example, Belgium uses imported coconut to produce and export “frozen coconut mousse” to the U.S. market MFN duty-free under HTS 1905.90.10. That product competes directly with Goya’s “Tembleque,” a “delicious coconut cream based dessert with a sprinkle of cinnamon” that uses coconut cream imported from Thailand. Goya is the largest Hispanic owned food company in the United States and recently invested \$250 million to open four cutting-edge manufacturing, production, and distribution facilities in Texas, Georgia, California, and New Jersey.

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<http://business.time.com/2012/12/05/why-the-coconut-craze-isnt-helping-farmers/>
(accessed July 21, 2015).

United Nations (UN). FAOstat database (accessed July 21, 2015).

Chapter 3

Competitive Need Limitation (CNL)

Waiver Advice for Certain Copper Alloy Wire (Thailand)

Table 3.1: Certain copper alloy wire

HTS subheading	Short description	Col. 1 rate of duty as of January 1, 2015 (percent ad valorem equivalent)	Like or directly competitive article produced in the United States on Jan. 1, 1995?
7408.29.10 ^a	Wire of other copper alloys, coated or plated with metal	3.0	Yes

^aThailand exceeded the 50 percent CNL threshold for this HTS subheading in 2014 and is not eligible for a de minimis waiver.

Description and uses. The subject wire is of copper-tin (bronze), beryllium-copper, or other copper alloys,¹³ but not of copper-zinc (brass), copper-nickel (cupro-nickel), or copper-nickel-zinc (nickel silver).¹⁴ It is produced from wire rod by drawing or rolling operations into round, square, rectangular, flat, or even custom-shaped cross-sections. The wire is then coated or plated with metals (in single or multiple layers of copper, nickel, silver, or tin, among others) for corrosion resistance to ensure reliable electrical connections.¹⁵ Metal-coated or plated wire of these copper alloys is selected by end users for its combinations of mechanical strength, electrical conductivity, and thermal stability for electronic connectors and relay springs, along with various other intermediate components¹⁶ for aerospace, automotive, consumer electronics, defense, medical equipment, telecommunications, and other industrial end-use applications.

¹³ Copper Development Association (CDA), "Standard Designation for Wrought and Cast Alloys," n.d. (accessed July 22, 2015). However, alloying metal content(s) must exceed the limits for classification as refined (unalloyed) copper, as specified in Note 1(a) to HTS chapter 74. USITC, "Chapter 74, Copper and Articles Thereof," *HTSUS* – Revision 1, July 1, 2015, 74-1.

¹⁴ Metal-coated or plated wire of copper-zinc (brass) is classified under HTS subheading 7408.21.00 and of copper-nickel (cupro-nickel) or copper-nickel-zinc (nickel silver) is classified under HTS subheading 7408.22.10.

¹⁵ James Michel, Manager of Technical Services, CDA, telephone interview by USITC staff, July 23, 2015.

¹⁶ CDA, "Properties of Wrought and Cast Copper Alloys: Copper Alloys Search - Basic," n.d. (accessed July 22, 2015)

Advice

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Profile of U.S. Industry and Market, 2010–14

Trends in U.S. shipments, consumption, and trade of certain copper alloy wire were driven by growth in shipments by downstream manufacturers of computers and electronic products and of transportation equipment over 2010–14 (table 3.2).¹⁷ Among U.S. copper wire producers, five were identified by the Copper Development Association as fabricators of wire of other copper alloys.¹⁸ These firms' Internet websites highlight production for end uses requiring wire that is coated or plated with metal. Two of the five firms (Fisk Alloy Inc. and Little Falls Alloys) produce wire of various refined-copper and copper-alloy compositions.¹⁹ By contrast, the other three (AMETEK Specialty Metal Products, Materion Performance Alloys, and Wieland Metals Inc.) produce other mill-product shapes (e.g., sheets, foils, bars, seamless tubing, etc.), including wire of various refined-copper and copper-alloy compositions.²⁰ With their modern production equipment and emphasis upon product-quality improvements, U.S. firms are capable of fabricating wire in a wide variety of copper alloy compositions, coating and plating metals, and cross-sectional shapes and sizes.²¹

¹⁷ Census, "Historical Time Series - NAICS, Shipments," *Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, & Orders (M3)*, (accessed July 28, 2015).

¹⁸ CDA, "Copper Alloy Supplier Database," n.d. (accessed July 28, 2015).

¹⁹ Fisk Alloy, "Who We Are and Where We've Come From," n.d.; and LFA, "Welcome to Little Falls Alloys," n.d.

²⁰ AMETEK, "AMETEK Specialty Metal Products at a Glance," n.d.; Materion, "About," n.d.; and Wieland, "Our Products," n.d. (accessed July 28, 2015).

²¹ Company Internet websites.

Table 3.2: Certain copper alloy wire (HTS subheading 7408.29.10): U.S. producers, employment, shipments, trade, consumption, and capacity utilization, 2010–14

Item	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Producers (number)	5	5	5	5	5
Employment (1,000 employees)	(^a)	(^a)	(^a)	(^a)	(^a)
Shipments ^b (1,000 \$)	**91,100	**72,438	**115,005	**138,721	**165,325
Exports ^c (1,000 \$)	**16,000	**11,600	**18,500	**22,500	**23,800
Imports (1,000 \$)	11,075	8,265	20,642	18,160	22,159
Consumption (1,000 \$)	**86,140	**69,076	**117,105	**134,364	**163,637
Import-to-consumption ratio (percent)	**12.9	**12.0	**17.6	**13.5	**13.5
Capacity utilization (percent)	**61.6	**62.7	**55.3	**54.8	**52.8

Source: Number of producers, shipments, exports, and capacity utilization estimated by Commission staff from various industry and government sources; exports and imports compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Note: **refers to staff estimates based on limited information; data are adequate for estimation with a moderate degree of confidence.

^a Data are not available.

^b The trend in shipments data is estimated by Commission staff based on industry information.

^c Export data directly comparable to U.S. import data for this HTS subheading are not available. The Schedule B classification that includes the subject product, includes other products as well. Therefore, export data presented in this table likely overstate the actual value of exports of the subject product.

GSP Import Situation, 2014

U.S. GSP imports of wire of other copper alloys, coated or plated with metal (HTS subheading 7408.29.10) from Thailand rose significantly in 2012, surpassing those from Turkey, to reach \$11.8 million by 2014 (table 3.3). Although imports from Turkey also rose since 2012, Thailand accounted for 72 percent of all imports of the subject wire entering the U.S. market from GSP-eligible beneficiaries in 2014. Thailand's share of all U.S. imports of the subject wire grew from none in 2010 and minimal (2 percent of the total) in 2011 to reach 45 percent by 2012, and exceeded the 50 percent threshold in 2013 (58 percent) and 2014 (53 percent).

According to a representative of the government of Thailand, over 3,000 workers are employed by the industry. They produce copper alloy wire and other wire products used in the automotive electronics, medical, telecommunications, and industrial robotic equipment industries.²² However, production costs have increased for Thai wire producers as they strive to implement government mandates for improving industrial worker health and safety, raising minimum wages, and funding employee benefits.²³

²² Ibid., 7.

²³ Ibid., 8.

Table 3.3: Certain copper alloy wire (HTS subheading 7408.29.10): U.S. imports and share of U.S. consumption, 2014 (1,000 \$)

Item	Imports	% of total imports	% of GSP imports	% of U.S. consumption
Grand total	22,159	100	(^a)	14
Imports from GSP-eligible countries:				
Total	16,486	74	100	10
Thailand	11,802	53	72	7

Source: Compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

^a Not applicable.

U.S. Imports and Exports

Since 2012, Thailand has been the largest source for U.S. imports of wire of other copper alloys, coated or plated with metal (table 3.4). In 2014, Turkey was the second-largest source for U.S. imports of this wire, followed by Germany and Peru.

U.S. exports of wire of other copper alloys, coated or plated with metal are included in a broader classification (Schedule B 7408.29.0000) that also includes wire of other copper alloys, not coated or plated with metal. The leading U.S. export destinations in 2014 (table 3.5) were Mexico (26 percent of the total), followed by China and the United Kingdom. By contrast, Thailand accounted for only 2 percent of such U.S. exports during that year.

Table 3.4: Certain copper alloy wire (HTS subheading 7408.29.10): U.S. imports for consumption by principal sources, 2010–14

Country	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<i>In actual \$</i>					
Thailand	0	6,064	9,306,434	10,570,676	11,802,102
Turkey	6,651	61,455	2,911,380	2,771,949	4,446,072
Germany	4,963,444	3,717,659	3,151,371	1,395,354	1,740,839
Peru	0	128,247	210,073	878,160	1,625,733
France	965,801	1,377,407	1,947,833	1,215,045	995,074
Finland	4,408,596	1,596,079	1,058,201	160,226	425,494
Taiwan	245,167	219,099	353,028	154,159	313,416
China	86,820	286,612	410,575	409,922	283,961
South Korea	66,116	228,789	224,307	146,807	138,724
Brazil	0	0	0	68,901	123,712
India	160,233	262,166	276,260	108,490	114,190
Japan	56,451	15,480	0	99,570	108,540
All other	116,207	365,732	792,870	180,650	40,767
Total	11,075,486	8,264,789	20,642,332	18,159,909	22,158,624
Imports from GSP-eligible countries:					
Thailand	0	6,064	9,306,434	10,570,676	11,802,102
Turkey	6,651	61,455	2,911,380	2,771,949	4,446,072
Brazil	0	0	0	68,901	123,712
India	160,233	262,166	276,260	108,490	114,190
Pakistan	6,350	7,962	0	0	0
Total	173,234	337,647	12,494,074	13,520,016	16,486,076

Source: Compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Table 3.5: Certain copper alloy wire (Schedule B 7408.29.0000): U.S. exports of domestic merchandise, by market, 2010–14

Country	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<i>In actual \$</i>					
Mexico	5,608,123	5,799,305	6,866,810	9,760,955	16,521,437
China	14,858,869	12,119,883	11,397,127	11,631,501	12,037,785
United Kingdom	13,689,591	15,370,836	17,940,807	15,992,770	11,392,769
Hong Kong	4,437,965	4,140,019	4,041,327	4,126,228	4,304,503
Japan	5,351,043	7,105,070	6,367,598	3,613,331	3,519,688
Canada	1,292,850	1,351,217	2,387,496	2,143,263	1,943,339
India	774,227	748,183	1,058,880	1,218,396	1,908,819
Thailand	167,420	661,476	1,410,599	1,372,483	1,305,635
Spain	283,951	2,734,211	2,874,614	2,496,248	1,037,581
France	1,331,436	8,771,005	5,037,872	3,352,792	840,361
Germany	2,324,905	1,450,412	1,623,438	1,479,115	734,900
South Korea	1,020,368	943,146	1,238,051	1,156,663	715,213
All other	10,459,626	10,899,748	9,409,193	8,827,643	7,509,626
Total	61,600,374	72,094,511	71,653,812	67,171,388	63,771,656

Source: Compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Positions of Interested Parties²⁴

The Royal Thai Government requests waivers from the 2014 CNL thresholds for U.S. imports from Thailand of coconuts (HTS 2008.19.15) and coated copper alloy wire (HTS 7408.29.10). The petitioner anticipates there will be only positive impact of the grant of both waivers on U.S. industry and U.S. consumers, and USTR received no comments in opposition.

U.S. import data clearly illustrates that: 1) there is significant and growing U.S. demand for imports of the tariff line – and the source of those imports is not as important as their duty-free entry into the U.S. market; and 2) U.S. produced coated copper alloy wire, if available, is not meeting U.S. importers and consumers' demand and is not adversely affecting U.S. producers.

The GSP lapse's reinstatement of the 3 percent duty on U.S. imports from Thailand hit hardest in 2014 and in the first six months of 2015. Specifically, it has caused Thailand's decline in U.S. market competitiveness, while facilitating the uncontested explosion of duty-free imports from Peru, a U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partner. In 2014, total U.S. imports of coated copper alloy wire increased by 22 percent over 2013. Those from Thailand, dutiable at 3 percent without GSP, increased by just less than half that rate, at 11.6 percent. At the same time, U.S. imports from Peru—all duty-free—increased by more than 85 percent. That game-changing situation has continued January through June, 2015. U.S. imports increased by 23.4 percent in 2015 YTD (June) as compared to a year earlier, but that increase is not due to imports from Thailand. U.S. imports from Peru have grown by more than 1,072 percent, capturing a 47 percent import share into the U.S. market thus far in 2015. Thailand's imports have decreased by 10.4 percent to a 36.1 percent import share, well under the CNL threshold.

²⁴ This summary was prepared by Dr. Prayoth Benyasut, Minister, Office of Commercial Affairs, Royal Thai Embassy, Washington, DC, not the Commission. Commission staff did not attempt to confirm the accuracy of the information presented or to correct any errors in it. The full text of the submissions can be found by searching the record for this investigation, number 332-554, in the Commission's Electronic Docket Information System (<https://edis.usitc.gov/edis3-external/app>).

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Chapter 4

Data Relating To Certain Cotton Articles

This chapter provides production, export, import, consumption, and other data for the period 2012–14 for five HTS subheadings to be considered for addition to the GSP for LDBDCs only.

Certain Un-carded and Un-combed Cotton

Table 4.1: Cotton with a staple length of less than 1 1/8 inches (HTS subheading 5201.00.18): U.S. producers, employment, shipments, trade, consumption, and capacity utilization, 2012–14

Item	2012	2013	2014
Producers ^a (number)	17,630	17,630	17,630
Employment (1,000 employees)	53	53	53
Production ^b (1,000 \$)	2,330,834	1,867,292	1,850,336
Exports ^c (1,000 \$)	3,544,574	2,700,793	2,154,987
Imports ^d (1,000 \$)	2,481	3,550	3,390
Consumption ^e (1,000 \$)	489,475	373,458	499,591
Import-to-consumption ratio (percent)	0.5	1.0	0.7
Capacity utilization (percent)	(^f)	(^f)	(^f)

Source: Number of producers, employment, shipments, and capacity utilization estimated by Commission staff from various industry sources; exports and imports compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

^a Number of producers corresponds to the number of farm operations producing cotton. Farmers of upland cotton can produce both types of subject cotton; therefore, the same producer and employment data are presented in tables 4.1 and 4.2.

^b Production value is based on farm gate crop value. It is therefore less than the export value, which is calculated differently.

^c Export data reflect cotton classified under Schedule B numbers 5201.00.1025 and 5201.00.1090. Export value is based on the value at the U.S. port, based on the transaction price, including inland freight, insurance, and other charges incurred.

^d Import data reflect cotton classified under HTS subheadings 5201.00.12, 5201.00.14, and 5201.00.18. Together, these three HTS numbers capture all cotton imports with a staple length of less than 1 1/8 inches and are comparable to the data for production and consumption. HTS subheading 5201.00.18 is the out-of-quota import line.

^e Consumption has been estimated using data based on the cotton marketing year. U.S. domestic consumption is approximately one-quarter of U.S. production.

^f "Capacity" is not meaningful category for field crops like cotton because production levels depend on planted area and yields, both of which change yearly.

Table 4.2: Cotton with a staple length of 1 1/8 inches or more but less than 1 3/8 inches (HTS subheadings 5201.00.28 and 5201.00.38): U.S. producers, employment, shipments, trade, consumption, and capacity utilization, 2012–14

Item	2012	2013	2014
Producers ^a (number)	17,630	17,630	17,630
Employment (1,000 employees)	53	53	53
Production ^b (1,000 \$)	3,496,250	2,800,937	2,775,505
Exports ^c (1,000 \$)	2,385,635	2,515,100	1,996,039
Imports ^d (1,000 \$)	254	0	148
Consumption ^e (1,000 \$)	734,213	560,187	749,386
Import-to-consumption ratio (percent)	0	0	0
Capacity utilization (percent)	(^f)	(^f)	(^f)

Source: Number of producers, employment, shipments, and capacity utilization estimated by Commission staff from various industry sources; exports and imports compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

^a Number of producers corresponds to the number of farm operations producing cotton. Farmers of upland cotton can produce both types of subject cotton; therefore, the same producer and employment data are presented in tables 4.1 and 4.2.

^b Production value is based on farm gate crop value.

^c Export data reflect cotton classified under Schedule B number 5201.00.9000. Export value is based on the value at the U.S. port, based on the transaction price, including inland freight, insurance, and other charges incurred.

^d Import data reflect cotton classified under HTS subheadings 5201.00.22, 5201.00.24, 5201.00.28, 5201.00.34, and 5201.00.38. Together, these five HTS numbers capture all cotton imports with a staple length of 1 1/8 inches or more but less than 1 3/8 and are comparable to the data for production and consumption. HTS subheadings 5201.00.28 and 5201.00.38 are the out-of-quota import lines.

^e Consumption has been estimated using data based on the cotton marketing year. U.S. domestic consumption is approximately one-quarter of U.S. production.

^f "Capacity" is not meaningful category for field crops like cotton because production levels depend on planted area and yields, both of which change yearly.

Table 4.3: Cotton with a staple length of less than 1 1/8 inches (HTS subheading 5201.00.18): U.S. imports for consumption, by principal sources, 2012–14

Country	2012	2013	2014
<i>In actual \$</i>			
India	0	0	328
Total	0	0	328

Source: Compiled from official statistics from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Note: HTS 5201.00.18 is an out-of-quota subheading. There were no U.S. imports from any LDBDC GSP-eligible countries during 2012–14 under this out-of-quota subheading. Please see table 4.1 for within-quota import data.

Table 4.4: Cotton with a staple length of 1 1/8 inches or more but less than 1 3/8 inches (HTS subheadings 5201.00.28 and 5201.00.38): U.S. imports for consumption, by principal sources, 2012–14

Country	2012	2013	2014
<i>In actual \$</i>			
Italy	0	0	390
Total	0	0	390

Source: Compiled from official statistics from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Note: HTS 5201.00.28 and 5201.00.38 are out-of-quota subheadings. There were no U.S. imports from any LDBDC GSP-eligible countries during 2012–14 under these out-of-quota subheadings. Please see table 4.2 for within-quota import data.

Table 4.5: Cotton with a staple length of less than 1 1/8 inches (Schedule B 5201.00.1025 and 5201.00.1090): U.S. exports of domestic merchandise, by market, 2012–14

Country	2012	2013	2014
	<i>In actual \$</i>		
Turkey	384,656,266	442,227,115	383,463,236
Mexico	332,760,330	393,511,257	370,725,022
China	1,921,037,443	795,987,722	360,208,829
Vietnam	161,840,790	222,001,848	284,332,318
Indonesia	57,589,302	156,902,802	186,327,948
Thailand	85,629,062	74,872,735	74,090,223
Taiwan	101,985,416	69,169,019	67,879,115
South Korea	56,478,633	63,196,539	62,580,163
Guatemala	36,548,734	41,462,581	52,271,481
Pakistan	44,988,706	121,089,942	48,275,027
Bangladesh	46,887,704	54,032,789	44,968,921
El Salvador	65,908,531	47,774,477	37,608,816
All other:	248,263,495	218,564,589	182,255,452
Total	3,544,574,412	2,700,793,415	2,154,986,551

Source: Compiled from official statistics from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Note: These are the export data presented in table 4.1.

Table 4.6: Cotton with a staple length of 1 1/8 inches or more but less than 1 3/8 inches (Schedule B 5201.00.9000): U.S. exports of domestic merchandise, by market, 2012–14

Country	2012	2013	2014
	<i>In actual \$</i>		
China	1,354,861,709	1,171,638,179	655,681,912
Turkey	186,120,238	329,590,736	415,375,745
Korea	82,643,006	100,295,385	125,507,675
Indonesia	129,153,319	124,694,587	121,072,642
Thailand	78,455,633	99,559,730	106,158,395
Vietnam	85,196,867	177,298,048	103,081,201
Peru	78,227,553	86,369,480	98,182,172
India	27,705,060	44,881,754	57,734,593
Taiwan	48,257,382	54,250,791	56,149,757
Bangladesh	36,188,447	48,563,864	46,853,875
Mexico	62,953,141	24,600,660	38,649,912
Pakistan	56,053,667	41,547,262	24,240,553
All other	159,819,270	211,809,609	147,351,064
Total	2,385,635,292	2,515,100,085	1,996,039,496

Source: Compiled from official statistics from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Note: These are the export data presented in table 4.2.

Certain Cotton Waste and Carded or Combed Cotton Fibers

Table 4.7: Cotton card strips made from cotton waste having staple length under 30.1625 mm and lap, sliver and roving waste (HTS subheading 5202.99.30): U.S. producers, employment, shipments, trade, consumption, and capacity utilization, 2012–14

Item	2012	2013	2014
Producers ^a (number)	***	***	***
Employment ^a (1,000 employees)	***	***	***
Shipments or production ^b (1,000 \$)	***	***	***
Exports ^c (1,000 \$)	11,762	14,372	13,918
Imports (1,000 \$)	0	0	0
Consumption (1,000 \$)	(^d)	(^d)	(^d)
Import-to-consumption ratio (percent)	(^d)	(^d)	(^d)
Capacity utilization (percent)	(^d)	(^d)	(^d)

Source: Number of producers and employment estimated by Commission staff from various industry sources; exports and imports compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

^a The data for the number of producers and employment are for carded and combed cotton yarn manufacturers, as these firms are the primary producers of the subject products.

^b Shipment data reflect staff estimates for cotton waste entering under HTS subheadings 5202.91.00 and 5202.99.30 based on limited information; data are adequate for estimation with a low degree of confidence.

^c Export data comparable to U.S. import data for this HTS subheading are not available. The export data shown are comparable to U.S. import data entering under HTS subheadings 5202.91.00 and 5202.99.30.

^d Data are unavailable.

Table 4.8: Cotton fibers, carded or combed, of cotton fiber processed, but not spun, nesoi (HTS subheading 5203.00.30): U.S. producers, employment, shipments, trade, consumption, and capacity utilization, 2012–14

Item	2012	2013	2014
Producers ^a (number)	***	***	***
Employment ^a (1,000 employees)	***	***	***
Shipments or production (1,000 \$)	(^b)	(^b)	(^b)
Exports ^c (1,000 \$)	64,997	83,678	83,582
Imports (1,000 \$)	0	0	2
Consumption (1,000 \$)	(^b)	(^b)	(^b)
Import-to-consumption ratio (percent)	(^b)	(^b)	(^b)
Capacity utilization (percent)	(^b)	(^b)	(^b)

Source: Number of producers, employment, shipments, and capacity utilization estimated by Commission staff from various industry sources; exports and imports compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

^a The data for the number of producers and employment are for carded and combed cotton yarn manufacturers, as these firms are the primary producers of the subject products.

^b Data are unavailable.

^c Export data comparable to U.S. import data for this HTS subheading are not available. The export data shown are comparable to U.S. imports entering under HTS subheadings 5203.00.05; 5203.00.10; 5203.00.30; and 5203.00.50

Table 4.9: Cotton waste (HTS subheading 5202.99.30): U.S. imports for consumption, by principal sources, 2012–14

Country	2012	2013	2014
<i>In actual \$</i>			
Total	0	0	0

Source: Compiled from official statistics from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Note: There were no U.S. imports from any country during 2012–14 under this out-of-quota subheading.

Table 4.10: Cotton carded or combed (HTS subheading 5203.00.30): U.S. imports for consumption, by principal sources, 2012–14

Country	2012	2013	2014
<i>In actual \$</i>			
Canada	0	0	1,842
Total	0	0	1,842

Source: Compiled from official statistics from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Note: There were no U.S. imports from any LDBDC GSP-eligible countries during 2012–14 under this out-of-quota subheading.

Table 4.11 Cotton waste (Schedule B 5202.99.0000): U.S. exports of domestic merchandise, by market, 2012–14

Country	2012	2013	2014
<i>In actual \$</i>			
Canada	4,213,348	6,100,705	5,915,445
Mexico	2,437,604	1,514,963	2,530,725
Brazil	1,731,270	1,203,663	1,111,482
Turkey	420,829	667,930	1,008,329
Italy	905,419	735,314	990,246
Hong Kong	1,019,023	746,953	583,626
El Salvador	3,800	0	378,130
Vietnam	0	0	231,983
Spain	29,312	166,204	223,199
Venezuela	0	316,000	203,903
Japan	109,491	107,220	149,640
Colombia	192,689	221,518	142,936
All other	698,933	2,591,963	448,168
Total	11,761,718	14,372,433	13,917,812

Source: Compiled from official statistics from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Note: These are the export data presented in table 4.7.

Table 4.12 Cotton carded or combed (Schedule B 5203.00.0000): U.S. exports of domestic merchandise, by market, 2012–14

Country	2012	2013	2014
		<i>In actual \$</i>	
Guatemala	44,063,009	58,627,688	49,805,158
Honduras	5,415,254	14,317,349	10,567,967
China	130,328	590,760	7,670,795
Turkey	0	435,594	3,467,284
Morocco	0	0	1,679,561
France	1,422,070	1,166,775	1,334,340
Hungary	2,933,008	504,729	1,120,860
Germany	275,226	132,381	1,041,197
Italy	860,780	418,775	884,850
Brazil	44,856	182,081	815,521
Israel	2,551,821	1,603,788	766,885
Dominican Republic	491,496	1,288,204	717,502
All other	6,809,412	4,410,218	3,710,312
Total	64,997,260	83,678,342	83,582,232

Source: Compiled from official statistics from the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Note: These are the export data presented in table 4.8.

Positions of Interested Parties

No statements were received by the Commission in support of, or in opposition to, the proposed modifications to the GSP considered for these HTS subheadings.

Appendix A

Request Letter

DOCKET NUMBER
3074
Office of the Secretary Int'l Trade Comm'n

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

JUN 30 2015

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RECEIVED
OFC OF THE SECRETARY
US INTL TRADE COMM

Office of the Honorable Meredith Broadbent
Secretary
International Trade Commission
500 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20436

Dear Chairman Broadbent:

In light of the reauthorization of the Generalized System of Preferences ("GSP") on June 29, 2015 via the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015, the GSP Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee ("TPSC") plans to (1) accept certain petitions for waivers of competitive need limitations ("CNLs") based on full-year 2014 import data, and (2) consider possible designation of certain cotton products as eligible articles for GSP benefits for least-developed beneficiary developing countries. Modifications to the GSP program that may result are expected to be announced on or before September 30, 2015, and to become effective on or before October 1, 2015. For these reasons, I am making the requests set out below.

In February 2012, my predecessor notified the Commission in accordance with sections 503(a)(1)(A), 503(e), and 131(a) of the Trade Act of 1974, that the five cotton articles identified in Table A of the enclosed Annex were being considered for designation as eligible articles under the GSP program for least-developed beneficiary developing countries only. In its report issued in investigation No. 332-529 (May 2012), the Commission, in accordance with section 503(e) of the Trade Act of 1974, provided its advice as to the probable economic effect on U.S. industries producing like or directly competitive articles, on U.S. imports, and on U.S. consumers of the elimination of U.S. import duties on those articles for least-developed beneficiary developing countries under the GSP program.

Pursuant to section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930, (19 U.S.C. 1332(g)), I request that the Commission provide data on U.S. production, imports, exports, and consumption for these five cotton articles for the period 2012-2014.

Further, under authority delegated by the President, pursuant to section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930, and in accordance with section 503(d)(1)(A) of the 1974 Act, I request that the Commission provide advice on whether any industry in the United States is likely to be adversely affected by a waiver of the CNLs specified in section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act for the country and articles specified in Table B of the enclosed Annex. Pursuant to section 332(g) and in accordance with section 503(c)(2)(E) of the 1974 Act, I also request that the Commission provide its advice with respect to whether like or directly competitive products were being produced in the United States on January 1, 1995. I request that the Commission provide its advice as to the probable economic effect on total U.S. imports, as well as on consumers, of the requested waivers.

To the extent practicable, I request that the Commission provide the requested data separately and individually for each U.S. Harmonized Tariff Schedule subheading subject to this request.

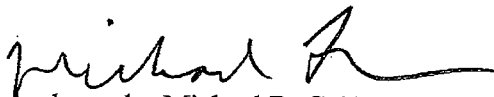
In accordance with USTR policy on implementing Executive Order 13526, as amended, I direct you to mark or identify as “confidential,” for a period of ten years, such portions of the Commission’s report and working papers that contain the Commission’s advice and assessment of probable economic effects on domestic industries producing like or directly competitive articles, on U.S. imports, and on U.S. consumers. Consistent with the Executive Order, this information is being classified on the basis that it concerns economic matters relating to the national security. In addition, USTR considers the Commission’s report to be an inter-agency memorandum that will contain pre-decisional advice and be subject to the deliberative process privilege.

I request that you submit an outline of this report as soon as possible to enable USTR officials to provide you with further guidance on its classification, including the extent to which portions of the report will require classification and for how long. Based on this outline, an appropriate USTR official will provide you with written instructions. All confidential business information contained in the report should also be clearly identified.

I would greatly appreciate it if the Commission would provide its report no later than sixty (60) days from receipt of this letter, and earlier if possible. I appreciate that this is a shorter period than in past requests, but seek your assistance in meeting this exceptional request given the October 1, 2015 deadline for CNL-related actions set out in the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015. Once the Commission’s confidential report is provided to my office, and we review and approve the classification marking, the Commission should issue, as soon as possible thereafter, a public version of the report containing only the unclassified information, with any confidential business information deleted.

The Commission’s assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


Ambassador Michael B. G. Froman

ANNEX

Products are listed by Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) subheadings. The product descriptions in this list are for informational purposes only; the definitive tariff nomenclature for the products listed below can be found in the HTS. The descriptions below are not intended to delimit in any way the scope of the relevant subheadings. The HTS may be viewed at <http://www.usitc.gov/tata/hts/bychapter/index.htm>

Table A: Products being considered for addition to the list of GSP-eligible products for least-developed beneficiary developing countries only

<u>HTS Subheading</u>	<u>Brief Description</u>
5201.00.18	Cotton, not carded or combed, having a staple length under 28.575 mm (1-1/8 inches), n/harsh or rough, nesoi
5201.00.28	Cotton, not carded or combed, harsh or rough, staple length of 29.36875 mm or more but under 34.925 mm & white in color, nesoi
5201.00.38	Cotton, not carded or combed, staple length of 28.575 mm or more but under 34.925 mm, nesoi
5202.99.30	Cotton card strips made from cotton waste having staple length under 30.1625 mm & lap, sliver & roving waste, nesoi
5203.00.30	Cotton fibers, carded or combed, of cotton fiber processed, but not spun, nesoi

Table B: Products for which CNL waiver petitions are anticipated

<u>HTS Subheading</u>	<u>Brief Description</u>	<u>Anticipated Petitioner</u>
2008.19.15 (Thailand)	Coconuts, otherwise prepared or preserved, nesi	Government of Thailand
7408.29.10 (Thailand)	Copper alloys (o/than brass, cupro-nickel or nickel-silver), wire, coated or plated with metal	Government of Thailand

Appendix B

Federal Register Notice

(2) For the purpose of the investigation so instituted, the following are hereby named as parties upon which this notice of investigation shall be served:

(a) The complainants are:

Canon Inc., 30–2, Shimomaruko 3-chome, Ohta-ku, Tokyo 146–8501, Japan
 Canon U.S.A., Inc., One Canon Park, Melville, NY 11747
 Canon Virginia, Inc., 12000 Canon Boulevard, Newport News, VA 23606

(b) The respondents are the following entities alleged to be in violation of section 337, and are the parties upon which the complaint is to be served:

General Plastic Industrial Co., Ltd., 50 Tzu-Chiang Road, Wu-Chi Town, Taichung County, Taiwan
 Color Imaging, Inc., 4350 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Suite 100, Norcross, GA 30071

(3) For the investigation so instituted, the Chief Administrative Law Judge, U.S. International Trade Commission, shall designate the presiding Administrative Law Judge.

The Office of Unfair Import Investigations will not participate as a party in this investigation.

Responses to the complaint and the notice of investigation must be submitted by the named respondents in accordance with section 210.13 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 19 CFR 210.13. Pursuant to 19 CFR 201.16(e) and 210.13(a), such responses will be considered by the Commission if received not later than 20 days after the date of service by the Commission of the complaint and the notice of investigation. Extensions of time for submitting responses to the complaint and the notice of investigation will not be granted unless good cause therefor is shown.

Failure of a respondent to file a timely response to each allegation in the complaint and in this notice may be deemed to constitute a waiver of the right to appear and contest the allegations of the complaint and this notice, and to authorize the administrative law judge and the Commission, without further notice to the respondent, to find the facts to be as alleged in the complaint and this notice and to enter an initial determination and a final determination containing such findings, and may result in the issuance of an exclusion order or a cease and desist order or both directed against the respondent.

By order of the Commission.

Issued: July 10, 2015.

Lisa R. Barton,

Secretary to the Commission.

[FR Doc. 2015–17370 Filed 7–15–15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7020–02–P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[Investigation No. 332–554]

Generalized System of Preferences: Possible Modifications, 2014 Review

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Notice of institution of investigation and opportunity to furnish information.

SUMMARY: Following receipt of a request on June 30, 2015, from the United States Trade Representative (USTR), the U.S. International Trade Commission (Commission) instituted investigation No. 332–554, *Generalized System of Preferences: Possible Modifications, 2014 Review*, for the purpose of providing such advice and information.

DATES: July 30, 2015: Deadline for filing all written submissions.

August 28, 2015: Transmittal of Commission report to the United States Trade Representative.

ADDRESSES: All Commission offices, including the Commission's hearing rooms, are located in the United States International Trade Commission Building, 500 E Street SW., Washington, DC. All written submissions should be addressed to the Secretary, United States International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20436. The public record for this investigation may be viewed on the Commission's electronic docket (EDIS) at <http://www.usitc.gov/secretary/edis.htm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Information specific to this investigation may be obtained from Cynthia B. Foreso, Project Leader, Office of Industries (202–205–3348 or cynthia.foreso@usitc.gov) or Sabina Neumann, Deputy Project Leader, Office of Industries (202–205–3000 or sabina.neumann@usitc.gov). For information on the legal aspects of this investigation, contact William Gearhart of the Commission's Office of the General Counsel (202–205–3091 or william.gearhart@usitc.gov). The media should contact Margaret O'Laughlin, Office of External Relations (202–205–1819 or margaret.olaughlin@usitc.gov). Hearing-impaired individuals may obtain information on this matter by contacting the Commission's TDD

terminal at 202–205–1810. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its Web site (<http://www.usitc.gov>). Persons with mobility impairments who will need special assistance in gaining access to the Commission should contact the Office of the Secretary at 202–205–2000.

Background: Advice concerning waiver of competitive need limitations. In his letter the USTR requested, under authority delegated by the President, pursuant to section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1332(g)), and in accordance with section 503(d)(1)(A) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2463(d)(1)(A)), that the Commission provide advice on whether any industry in the United States is likely to be adversely affected by a waiver of the competitive need limitations specified in section 503(c)(2)(A) of the Trade Act of 1974 for two articles from Thailand: HTS 2008.19.15 (Coconuts, otherwise prepared or preserved, nesoi) and HTS 7408.29.10 (Copper alloys (o/than brass, cupro-nickel or nickel-silver), wire, coated or plated with metal).

Pursuant to section 332(g) and in accordance with section 503(c)(2)(E) of the 1974 Act the USTR also requested that the Commission provide its advice with respect to whether like or directly competitive products were being produced in the United States on January 1, 1995. The USTR also requested that the Commission provide its advice as to the probable economic effect on total U.S. imports, as well as on consumers, of the requested waivers.

Data relating to certain cotton articles. Pursuant to section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930, the USTR requested that the Commission provide data on U.S. production, imports, exports, and consumption for the period 2012–2014 for the following articles: HTS 5201.00.18 (Cotton, not carded or combed, having a staple length under 28.575 mm (1¹/₈ inches), n/harsh or rough, nesoi), HTS 5201.00.28 (Cotton not carded or combed, harsh or rough, staple length of 29.36875 mm or more but under 34.925 mm & white in color, nesoi), HTS 5201.00.38 (Cotton, not carded or combed, staple length of 28.575 mm or more but under 34.925 mm, nesoi), HTS 5202.99.30 (Cotton card strips made from cotton waste having staple length under 30.1625 mm & lap, sliver & roving waste, nesoi), and HTS 5203.00.30 (Cotton fibers, carded or combed, of cotton fiber processed, but not spun, nesoi). The USTR requested that the Commission, to the extent practicable, provide the requested data separately and individually for each U.S. Harmonized

Tariff Schedule subheading subject to this request.

The USTR noted that his office had previously notified the Commission that these five cotton articles were being considered for designation as eligible articles under the GSP program for least-developed beneficiary developing countries only, and that the Commission had provided its advice in May 2012 (in its report on investigation No. 332-529) as to the probable economic effect of the elimination of U.S. import duties on those articles for least-developed beneficiary developing countries under the GSP program.

Time for reporting, possible classification of report. As requested by USTR, the Commission will provide its advice by August 28, 2015. The USTR indicated that those sections of the Commission's report and related working papers that contain the Commission's advice will be classified as "confidential," and that USTR considers the Commission's report to be an inter-agency memorandum that will contain pre-decisional advice and be subject to the deliberative process privilege.

Written Submissions: Interested parties are invited to file written submissions concerning this investigation. All written submissions should be addressed to the Secretary, and should be received not later than 5:15 p.m., July 30, 2015. All written submissions must conform with the provisions of section 201.8 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR 201.8). Section 201.8 and the Commission's Handbook on Filing Procedures require that interested parties file documents electronically on or before the filing deadline and submit eight (8) true paper copies by 12:00 p.m. eastern time on the next business day. In the event that confidential treatment of a document is requested, interested parties must file, at the same time as the eight paper copies, at least four (4) additional true paper copies in which the confidential information must be deleted (see the following paragraph for further information regarding confidential business information). Persons with questions regarding electronic filing should contact the Secretary (202-205-2000).

Any submissions that contain confidential business information must also conform with the requirements of section 201.6 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (19 CFR 201.6). Section 201.6 of the rules requires that the cover of the document and the individual pages be clearly marked as to whether they are the "confidential" or "non-confidential"

version, and that the confidential business information is clearly identified by means of brackets. All written submissions, except for confidential business information, will be made available for inspection by interested parties.

The Commission may include in the report it sends to the President and the USTR some or all of the confidential business information it receives in this investigation. The USTR has asked that the Commission make available a public version of its report shortly after it sends its report to the President and the USTR, with any classified or privileged information deleted. Any confidential business information received in this investigation and used in the preparation of the report will not be published in the public version of the report in such a manner as would reveal the operations of the firm supplying the information.

Summaries of Written Submissions: The Commission intends to publish summaries of the positions of interested persons. Persons wishing to have a summary of their position included in the report should include a summary with their written submission. The summary may not exceed 500 words, should be in MSWord format or a format that can be easily converted to MSWord, and should not include any confidential business information. The summary will be published as provided if it meets these requirements and is germane to the subject matter of the investigation. The Commission will identify the name of the organization furnishing the summary and will include a link to the Commission's Electronic Document Information System (EDIS) where the full written submission can be found.

By order of the Commission.

Issued: July 13, 2015.

Lisa R. Barton,

Secretary to the Commission.

[FR Doc. 2015-17418 Filed 7-15-15; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7020-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employee Benefits Security Administration

177th Meeting of the Advisory Council on Employee Welfare and Pension Benefit Plans; Notice of Meeting

Pursuant to the authority contained in Section 512 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), 29 U.S.C. 1142, the 177th meeting of the Advisory Council on Employee Welfare and Pension Benefit Plans (also known

as the ERISA Advisory Council) will be held on August 18-20, 2015.

The three-day meeting will take place at the Liaison Capitol Hill Hotel at 415 New Jersey Avenue NW., Washington, DC. The meeting will run from 9 a.m. to approximately 5:30 p.m. on August 18-19, with a one hour break for lunch each day, and from 8:30 a.m. to approximately 12 p.m. on May 29. The purpose of the open meeting is for Advisory Council members to hear testimony from invited witnesses and to receive an update from the Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA). The EBSA update is scheduled for the morning of May 29 (subject to change).

The Advisory Council will study the following issues: (1) Model Notices and Disclosures for Pension Risk Transfers and (2) Model Notices and Plan Sponsor Education on Lifetime Plan Participation. Descriptions of these issues are available on the Advisory Council page of the EBSA Web site, at www.dol.gov/ebsa/aboutebsa/erisa_advisory_council.html. Witnesses may testify on one or both issues on either August 18 or 19. The third day of the meeting will be devoted to drafting reports on both issues.

Organizations or members of the public wishing to submit a written statement may do so by submitting 40 copies on or before August 11, 2015 to Larry Good, Executive Secretary, ERISA Advisory Council, U.S. Department of Labor, Suite N-5623, 200 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20210. Statements also may be submitted as email attachments in word processing or pdf format transmitted to good.larry@dol.gov. It is requested that statements not be included in the body of the email. Statements deemed relevant by the Advisory Council and received on or before August 11 will be included in the record of the meeting and made available through the EBSA Public Disclosure Room, along with witness statements. Do not include any personally identifiable information (such as name, address, or other contact information) or confidential business information that you do not want publicly disclosed. Written statements submitted by invited witnesses will be posted on the Advisory Council page of the EBSA Web site, without change, and can be retrieved by most Internet search engines.

Individuals or representatives of organizations wishing to address the Advisory Council should forward their requests to the Executive Secretary or telephone (202) 693-8668. Oral presentations will be limited to 10 minutes, time permitting, but an

Appendix C

Description of the Model Used For Evaluating Probable Economic Effects

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