

Pakistan 1993, 1994, 1995

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Linda Barnes, 650 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20226, (202) 927-7768.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the form(s) and instructions should be directed to Mary A. Wood, Wine, Beer and Spirits Regulations Branch, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, 650 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20226, (202) 927-8210.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Consent of Surety. OMB Number: 1512-0078. Form Number: ATF F 1533 (5000.18).

Abstract: The Consent of Surety form is executed by both the bonding company and proprietor and acts as a binding legal agreement between the two parties to extend the terms of a bond. A bond is necessary to cover specific liabilities on the revenue produced from untaxed commodities. The Consent of Surety is filed with ATF and a copy is retained by ATF as long as it remains current and in force.

Current Actions: There are no changes to this information collection and it is being submitted for extension purposes only.

Type of Review: Extension. Affected Public: Business or other for-profit.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,000.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 1 hour.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 2,000.

Request for Comments: Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record. Written comments should address the accuracy of the burden estimates and ways to minimize burden including the use of automated collection techniques or the use of other forms of information technology, as well as other relevant aspects of the information collection request.

Dated: October 31, 1995. Daniel R. Black, Acting Director. [FR Doc. 95-27360 Filed 11-3-95; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 4810-31-P

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Generalized System of Preferences; Pakistan; Internationally Recognized Worker Rights

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative. ACTION: Notice and opportunity for public comment.

SUMMARY: The Administration has decided to suspend some of Pakistan's GSP benefits because of insufficient progress on internationally recognized worker rights. This notice invites public comments on whether the Administration should suspend GSP benefits for sporting goods, surgical instruments and/or certain hand-knotted and woven carpets.

DATES: Comments are due Wednesday, December 6, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: GSP Subcommittee, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, N.W., Room 518, Washington, D.C. 20508. The telephone number is (202) 395-6971.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. The GSP Program

The GSP program grants duty-free treatment to designated eligible articles that are imported from designated beneficiary developing countries. The program is authorized by Title V of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended ("Trade Act") (19 U.S.C. 2461 et seq.). The GSP program expired on July 31, 1995. A bill to renew the program is pending in Congress. This notice solicits public comments, but the Administration cannot take any action unless and until the GSP program is reauthorized.

To qualify for GSP privileges, each beneficiary country must comply with a number of eligibility requirements. One such requirement is that the beneficiary country must be "taking steps" (i.e., making progress) to provide "internationally recognized worker rights" (19 U.S.C. 2462(b)(7) and (c)(7)).

The GSP statute defines "internationally recognized worker rights" as: (1) The right of association; (2) the right to organize and bargain collectively; (3) a prohibition against any form of forced or compulsory labor; (4) a minimum age for the employment of children; and (5) acceptable conditions of work with respect to minimum wages, hours of work and occupational safety and health (19 U.S.C. 2462(a)(4)).

Each year, the Administration conducts a public review process in which a beneficiary's compliance with

the eligibility requirements can be reviewed.

II. Worker Rights in Pakistan

In June 1993, the Administration received three petitions that requested review of labor law and practice in Pakistan under the auspices of the GSP program. In October 1993, the Administration announced that the petitions were being accepted for review (see USTR Press Release 93-63). Since that time, the United States Government and the Government of Pakistan have been working cooperatively to seek improved labor law and practice in Pakistan. The principal issues have concerned the exemption of the Karachi export processing zone from the labor law of Pakistan, the application of the Essential Services Act and child and bonded labor.

In July 1994, the Administration acknowledged the commitment of the Government of Pakistan, and the review was continued (see USTR Press Release 94-39 and Pakistan Worker Rights Review Summary (July 1994), available from USTR). Since that time, consultations have continued and the Government of Pakistan has considered a number of actions to bring its labor rights regime into closer compliance with international labor norms.

In July 1995, the Administration announced that the review would be continued until October to give the Government of Pakistan time to fulfill our expectations and understanding that they would take actions that would improve labor law and practice in Pakistan (see USTR Press Release 95-54).

Notwithstanding our constructive dialogue with the Government of Pakistan and their evident commitment to improve labor law and practice in Pakistan, the Administration has now decided to suspend some of Pakistan's GSP benefits because of insufficient progress on internationally recognized worker rights. Specifically, the Administration is considering whether to suspend GSP benefits for sporting goods, surgical instruments and/or certain hand-knotted and woven carpets, sectors in which child labor reportedly used.

III. Public Comments

This notice solicits public comments on which benefits should be suspended because Pakistan has made insufficient progress on improving labor law and practice. All written comments should be addressed to: GSP Subcommittee, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, 600 17th Street, N.W., Room 518, Washington, D.C. 20508. All

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Pakistan 1993-1995

Submissions must be in English and should conform to the information requirements of 15 CFR 2007. Each submission should indicate the relevant subheading of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, if any. A party must provide fourteen copies of its statement which must be received by the Chairman of the GSP Subcommittee no later than 5 p.m., Wednesday, December 6, 1995. Comments received after the deadline will not be accepted.

If the comments contain business confidential information, fourteen copies of a non-confidential version

must also be submitted. A justification as to why the information contained in the submission should be treated confidentially must be included in the submission. In addition, the submissions containing confidential information should be clearly marked "confidential" at the top and bottom of each page of the submission. The version that does not contain confidential information should also be clearly marked, at the top and bottom of each page, "public version" or "non-confidential".

Written comments submitted in connection with these decisions, except for information granted "business confidential" status pursuant to 15 CFR 2007.7, will be available for public inspection shortly after the filing deadline by appointment only with the staff of the USTR Public Reading Room. Other requests and questions should be directed to the GSP Information Center at USTR by calling (202) 395-6971.

Frederick L. Montgomery,
Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.
[FR Doc. 95-27435 Filed 11-3-95; 8:45 am]

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