Federal Register, solicita comentarios sobre una posible aceleración arancelaria en el marco del TLC Chile-EEUU

[Federal Register: May 25, 2007 (Volume 72, Number 101)]

[Notices]

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OFFICE OF THE U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Request for Petitions To Accelerate Tariff Elimination and Modify

the Rules of Origin Under the U.S.-Chile Free Trade Agreement

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice of opportunity to file petitions requesting accelerated

tariff elimination and changes to the rules of origin under the U.S.-

Chile Free Trade Agreement (``the Agreement'' or ``USCFTA'').

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SUMMARY: This notice solicits petitions requesting accelerated tariff

elimination under the USCFTA and describes the procedures for filing

petitions. This notice also solicits proposals on appropriate changes

that USTR should consider for liberalizing the USCFTA's rules of

origin.

DATES: Public comments are due at USTR by close of business, July 20,

2007.

ADDRESSES: Submissions by electronic mail: FR0712@ustr.eop.gov.

Submissions by facsimile: Kent Shigetomi, Office of the Americas, at

(202) 395-9675 . USTR strongly encourages the public to submit documents

electronically rather than by facsimile. See requirements for

submissions below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kent Shigetomi, Office of the

Americas, Office of the United States Trade Representative, Room 523,

600 17th Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508; telephone: (202) 395-3412 ;

facsimile: (202) 395-9675; e-mail: FR0712@ustr.eop.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 5, 2005, the U.S-Chile Free

Trade Commission (``FTC'' or ``the Commission''), the bilateral body

responsible for supervising the implementation of the USCFTA, decided

to launch negotiations to accelerate the elimination of tariffs under

the Agreement. Article 3.3(4) of the USCFTA provides that Parties may

agree to accelerate the elimination of customs duties set out in their

tariff schedules. Section 201(b) of the U.S.-Chile Free Trade Agreement

Implementation Act (``the FTA Act'' or ``the Act'') authorizes the

President to proclaim modifications in the staging of duty treatment

set out in the Agreement, subject to the Act's consultation and layover

requirements.

    Further, on January 24, 2007, the Commission agreed to consider

liberalizing the rules of origin established in the Agreement,

particularly in light of more recent free trade agreements. The USCFTA

requires each government to provide preferential tariff treatment to

goods that meet the Agreement's origin rules. In the United States,

those rules are implemented through the FTA Act. Under the Act, goods

imported into the United States qualify for preferential treatment if

they meet the requirements of the general USCFTA rules of origin set

out in section 202 of the Act and the USCFTA product-specific rules set

out in the HTS. The Agreement allows the Parties to amend the

Agreement's origin rules as they deem appropriate. Section 202(o)(2) of

the USCFTA Act authorizes the President to proclaim modifications to

the USCFTA's product-specific origin rules set forth in the HTS,

subject to the consultation and layover provisions of section 103(a) of

the Act.

Additional Information

    The United States and Chile have not yet decided whether to

accelerate the elimination of tariffs or to make further changes to the

Agreement's rules of origin and, if such changes were made, what the

scope or extent of such changes should be. The United States and Chile

expect to take into account several factors in considering whether to

make such changes, including (1) the extent that any such changes may

reduce transaction and manufacturing costs or increase trade between

Chile and the United States; (2) the feasibility of devising,

implementing, and monitoring new rules of origin; and (3) the level and

breadth of interest that manufacturers, processors, traders, and

consumers in the United States and Chile express for making particular

changes. The United States and Chile expect to make only those changes

that are broadly supported by stakeholders in both countries.

Requirements for Comments/Proposals

    Submitters should indicate whether they have discussed their

proposals with representatives of the relevant sector in Chile and, if

such discussions have taken place, what the result of those discussions

was. Submissions should indicate if representatives of the relevant

sector in Chile do not support the proposal. USTR encourages interested

parties to consider submitting proposals jointly with interested

parties in Chile.

    Scope and Coverage of Proposals: USTR encourages interested parties

to review the broadest appropriate range of items and to submit

proposals that reflect a consensus reached after such a broad-based

review. A single proposal can thus include requests covering multiple

tariff headings. Proposals should cover entire 8-digit tariff

subheadings, and may also be submitted at the 6, 4, or 2 digit level

where the intent is to cover all subsidiary duties.

    Requirements for Submissions: In order to facilitate prompt

processing of submissions, USTR strongly urges and prefers electronic

(e-mail) submissions in response to this notice. In the event that an

interested party cannot make a submission by e-mail, it should send the

submission by facsimile. Facsimile submissions should not exceed 20

pages.

    E-mail submissions should be single copy transmissions in English,

and use the appropriate subject line, ``Chile FTA Tariff

Acceleration,'' ``Chile FTA Rules of Origin,'' or both, depending on

the nature of the submission. Documents should be submitted as

WordPerfect (``.WPD''), MS Word (``.DOC''), or text (``.TXT'') files.

Documents should not be submitted as electronic image files or contain

embedded images (for example, ``.JPG'', ``.TIF'', ``.PDF'', ``.BMP'',

or ``.GIF'') as these files are often excessively large. Supporting

documentation submitted as spreadsheets are acceptable in QuattroPro or

Excel, pre-formatted for printing on 81/2 x 11 inch paper. To the

extent possible, an interested party should include any data

attachments to the submission in the same file as the submission

itself, and not as separate files. E-mail submissions should not

include separate cover letters or messages in the body of the e-mail.

An interested party should include information that might appear in a

cover letter directly in the attached file containing the submission

itself, including the identity of the submitter and the submitter's e-

mail address.

    Petitions will be available for public inspection by appointment

with the staff of the USTR Public Reading Room, except for information

granted ``business confidential'' status pursuant to 15 CFR 2003.6. If

the submission contains business confidential information, the

submitter must provide a non-confidential version of the

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submission that indicates where confidential information was redacted

by inserting asterisks where material was deleted. In addition, the

submitter must mark the confidential submission as ``Business

Confidential'' in large, bold letters at the top and bottom of every

page of the document. The submitter must clearly mark the public

version that does not contain business confidential information as

either ``Public Version'' or ``Non-Confidential'' in large, bold

letters at the top and bottom of every page. The file name of any

documents containing business confidential information attached to an

e-mail transmission should begin with the characters ``BC-''. The file

name of the public version should begin with the characters ``P-''. The

``P-'' or ``BC-'' should be followed by the name of the person or party

submitting the petition. Submissions by e-mail should not include

separate cover letters or messages in the message area of the e-mail;

information that might appear in any cover letter should be included

directly in the submission. The e-mail address for submissions is

FR0712@ustr.eop.gov. USTR shall make available for review public

versions of all documents relating to this review shortly after the due

date by appointment in the USTR Public Reading Room, 1724 F Street,

NW., Washington, DC. Availability of documents may be ascertained and

appointments may be made from 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.,

Monday through Friday, by calling (202) 395-6186 .

Everett Eissenstat,

Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for the Americas.

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