

the Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001. In addition, a copy of each pleading must be served on John J. Paylor, Esq., Consolidated Rail Corporation, 2001 Market Street, 16A, Philadelphia, PA 19101-1416.

Decided: June 10, 1998.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-15974 Filed 6-15-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

[General Counsel Designation No. 237]

Appointment of Members to the Legal Division Performance Review Board

Under the authority granted to me as General Counsel of the Department of the Treasury by 31 U.S.C. 301 and 26 U.S.C. 7801, Treasury Department Order No. 101-5 (Revised), and pursuant to the Civil Service Reform Act, I hereby appoint the following persons to the Legal Division Performance Review Board:

(1) For the General Counsel Panel—
Neal S. Wolin, Deputy General Counsel, who shall serve as Chairperson;
Roberta K. McInerney, Assistant General Counsel (Banking & Finance);
Stephen J. McHale, Chief Counsel, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms;
Kenneth R. Schmalzbach, Assistant General Counsel (General Law and Ethics);
Debra N. Diener, Acting Assistant General Counsel (Enforcement); and
Elizabeth B. Anderson, Chief Counsel, United States Customs Service.

(2) For the Internal Revenue Service Panel—Chairperson, Deputy Chief Counsel, IRS; Deputy General Counsel; Two Associate Chief Counsel, IRS; and Two Regional Counsel, IRS.

I hereby delegate to the Chief Counsel of the Internal Revenue Service the authority to make the appointments to the IRS Panel specified in this Designation and to make the publication of the IRS Panel as required by 5 U.S.C. 4314(c)(4).

Dated: June 10, 1998.

Edward S. Knight,
General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 98-15941 Filed 6-15-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Customs Service

Procedures if the Generalized System of Preferences Program Expires

AGENCY: Customs Service, Treasury.

ACTION: General notice.

SUMMARY: The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) is a renewable preferential trade program that allows the eligible products of designated developing countries to directly enter the United States free of duty. The GSP is currently scheduled to expire at midnight on June 30, 1998, unless its provisions are extended by Congress. This document provides notice to importers that claims for duty-free treatment under the GSP may not be made for merchandise entered or withdrawn from a warehouse on or after July 1, 1998, if the program is not extended before that date. This document also sets forth mechanisms to facilitate refunds, should the GSP be renewed with retroactive effect.

DATES: The plan set forth in this document will become effective as of July 1, 1998, if Congress does not extend the GSP program before that date.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For specific questions relating to the Automated Commercial System: Arthur Versich, Office of Automated Commercial System, 703-921-7117.

For general operational questions:
Formal entries—John Pierce, 202-927-1249;
Informal entries—Thomas Wygant, 202-927-1167;
Mail entries—Robert Woods, 202-927-1236;
Passenger claims—Michael Perron, 202-927-1325.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 501 of the Trade Act of 1974 (the Act), as amended (19 U.S.C. 2461), authorizes the President to establish a Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) to provide duty-free treatment for eligible articles imported directly from designated beneficiary countries. Beneficiary developing countries and articles eligible for duty-free treatment under the GSP are designated by the President by Presidential Proclamation in accordance with sections 502(a) and 503(a) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(a) and 2463(a)). Pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2465(a), as amended by section 981 of Public Law 105-34, 111 Stat. 902, duty-free treatment under the GSP is presently scheduled to expire on June 30, 1998.

Congress is currently considering whether to extend the GSP program. If Congress does not pass legislation renewing the GSP before midnight, June 30, 1998, no claims for duty-free treatment under the program will be allowed on entries made after that time. If legislation is enacted but does not become effective before the GSP expires, language may be included that could renew the GSP with retroactive effect back to the date of its present expiration.

Recognizing the effect that renewing GSP duty treatment with retroactive effect has on both importers, who must request refunds of duties deposited, and Customs, which must liquidate or reliquidate eligible entries, Customs developed a mechanism to facilitate certain refunds. Set forth below is Customs plan that will be implemented on July 1, 1998, if the GSP has not been extended by that date.

Formal Entries

Claims—Duties must be deposited

No claims for duty-free treatment under the GSP may be made for merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption on or after July 1, 1998. Duties at the most-favored-nation rate must be deposited, or a claim may be made under another preferential program for which the merchandise may qualify (for example, the Andean Trade Preference Act or the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act).

When the GSP expires, Customs will employ an electronic mechanism that will allow the timely processing of refunds of duties deposited on eligible entries without requiring further action by the electronic filer. Entry summaries filed after June 30, 1998, with the Special Program Indicator (SPI) for the GSP (the letter "A") used as a prefix to the tariff number for all merchandise that would qualify for the GSP were the GSP still in effect will be accepted with deposited duties, and should the GSP be renewed with retroactive effect, the duties deposited with these entries will be refunded without further action by the filer. In effect, use of the SPI "A" will constitute an importer's request for a refund of duties paid for GSP line items should the GSP be renewed with retroactive effect.

Although the Customs Automated Commercial System (ACS) will be reprogrammed to accept the use of the SPI "A" with the payment of duty, the Automated Broker Interface (ABI) with the ACS will not be so reprogrammed. Accordingly, those filers that utilize the ABI who wish to continue utilizing the