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]

BILLING CODE 4915–00–P

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]

BILLING CODE 4810–25–M

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 beincluded 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

SPI ''A'' for purposes of receiving an automatic GSP refund should the GSP be renewed with retroactive effect will have to reprogram their software to accept the submission of estimated duties with the SPI ''A'' designation on entries. (ABI filers who do not wish to reprogram their software will be required to request refunds in writing to the appropriate port director identifying the affected entry numbers if the GSP is renewed with retroactive effect). While reprogramming is strictly voluntary, continued use of the SPI ''A'' has some benefits: one already mentioned is that the filer will not have to request a refund of deposited duties in writing should the GSP be renewed with retroactive effect; another is that ACS will perform its usual edits on the information transmitted by the filer, thereby ensuring that GSP claims are for acceptable country/tariff combinations and eliminating the need for numerous statistical corrections.

Importers may not use the SPI ''A'' if they intend to later claim drawback. To claim both this refund and drawback would be to request a refund in excess of duties actually deposited. Importers who are unsure as to whether they will claim drawback are advised not to use the SPI ''A''. If the GSP is renewed with retroactive effect, and they have not yet claimed drawback, they may request a refund by writing to the port director at the port of entry. If the GSP is not renewed with retroactive effect, they will still have the option of filing a drawback entry.

Refunds

1. Automatic

Should the GSP be renewed with retroactive effect, then Customs will liquidate or reliquidate all affected ABI entry summaries with a refund for the GSP line items. If an ABI entry summary was filed with the SPI ''A'', then no further action need be taken by the filer to request a refund.

2. Need for written request

If an ABI entry summary was filed without the SPI ''A'', then the request for a refund must be in writing. Further, all non-ABI filers must request refunds in writing. Instructions on how to request a refund in writing will be issued if the GSP is renewed with retroactive effect.

Informal Entries

Refunds on informal entries filed through the ABI with the SPI ''A'' designation will be processed in accordance with the automatic refund procedure outlined above.

Baggage declarations and non-ABI informals

When merchandise is presented for clearance, travelers and importers will be advised verbally or by a written notice that they may be eligible for a refund of GSP duties. Travelers/importers may write a statement directly on their Customs declarations (CF 6059B) or informal entries (CF 363) indicating their desire for a refund. Then should the GSP be renewed with retroactive effect, no further action need be taken by the importer to request a refund. Failure to request a refund at this time and in this manner does not operate to bar a written request in the future.

Mail entries

Should the GSP be renewed with retroactive effect, those addressees who received GSP eligible merchandise (identified on the CF 3419A, (Mail Entry)) may be eligible for a refund of GSP duties and should submit a separate written claim for a refund. The request for the refund and a copy of the CF 3419A should be submitted to the appropriate International Mail Branch identified at the bottom right-hand corner of the CF 3419A. (The copy of the CF 3419A must be included with the request, as the information contained on the form will be the only record of the GSP merchandise entered and whether the duties and fees were paid).

Dated: June 10, 1998.

Louis E. Samenfink,

Acting Assistant Commissioner, Field Operations.

[FR Doc. 98–15883 Filed 6–15–98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4820–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

[FI–3–91]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Regulation Project

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning an existing final regulation, FI–3–91 (TD 8456), Capitalization of Certain Policy Acquisition Expenses (§§ 1.848–2(g)(8), 1.848–2(h)(3), and 1.848–2(i)(4)).

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before August 17, 1998 to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Garrick R. Shear, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection should be directed to Carol Savage, (202) 622–3945, Internal Revenue Service, room 5569, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Capitalization of Certain Policy Acquisition Expenses.

OMB Number: 1545–1287.

Regulation Project Number: FI–3–91.

Abstract: Internal Revenue Code section 848 provides that insurance companies must capitalize ''specified policy acquisition expenses.'' In lieu of identifying the categories of expenses that must be capitalized, section 848 requires that a company capitalize an amount of otherwise deductible expenses equal to specified percentages of net premiums with respect to certain types of insurance contracts. Insurance companies that enter into reinsurance agreements must determine the amounts to be capitalized under those agreements consistently. This regulation provides elections to permit the parties to a reinsurance agreement to shift the burden of capitalization for their mutual benefit.

Current Actions: There is no change to this existing regulation.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 2,070.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 1 hour.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 2,070.

The following paragraph applies to all of the collections of information covered by this notice:

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a valid OMB control number. Books or records relating to a collection of information must be retained as long as their contents may become material in the administration of any internal