All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Chad Rupe,
Acting Administrator, Rural Utilities Service.
[FR Doc. 2019–07813 Filed 4–17–19; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3410–15–P

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Request for Public Comment on a Commercial Availability Request Under the U.S.-Morocco Free Trade Agreement

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Request for public comments concerning a request for modification of the U.S.-Morocco Free Trade Agreement (USMFTA) rules of origin for women’s or girls’ swimwear made from certain knit fabric.

SUMMARY: The Government of the United States received a request from the Government of Morocco dated March 14, 2019, on behalf of GOTTEX SWIMWEAR BRANDS LTD to initiate consultations under Article 4.3.3 of the USMFTA. The Government of Morocco is requesting that the United States and Morocco (“the Parties”) consider revising the rules of origin for women’s or girls’ swimwear to address availability of supply of certain knit fabric in the territories of the Parties. The President of the United States may proclaim a modification to the USMFTA rules of origin set out in Annex 4–A of the USMFTA as are necessary to implement an agreement with Morocco under Article 4.3.6 of the USMFTA, subject to the consultation and layover requirements of Section 104 of the USMFTA Implementation Act. See Section 203(j)(2)(B)(i) of the USMFTA Implementation Act. Executive Order 11651 established CITA to supervise the implementation of textile trade agreements and authorizes the Chairman of CITA to take actions or recommend that appropriate officials or agencies of the United States take actions necessary to implement textile trade agreements. 37 FR 4699 (March 4, 1972).

The Government of the United States received a request from the Government of Morocco dated March 14, 2019, on behalf of GOTTEX SWIMWEAR BRANDS LTD, requesting that the United States consider whether the USMFTA rule of origin for women’s or girls’ swimwear classified under HTSUS 6112.41 should be modified to allow the use of printed and piece-dyed warp knit fabrics of polyester or nylon fibers, containing between 6% and 41% elastomeric yarns classified under subheading 6004.10 of the HTSUS that is not originating under the USMFTA.

CITA is soliciting public comments regarding this request, particularly with respect to whether the fabric described above can be supplied by the U.S. domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner.


Background: Article 4.3.3 of the USMFTA provides that, on the request of either Party, the Parties shall consult to consider whether the rules of origin applicable to a particular textile or apparel good should be revised to address issues of availability of supply of fibers, yarns, or fabrics in the territories of the Parties. In the consultations, pursuant to Article 4.3.4 of the USMFTA, each Party shall consider all data presented by the other Party that demonstrate substantial production in its territory of a particular fiber, yarn, or fabric. The Parties shall consider that there is substantial production if a Party demonstrates that its domestic producers are capable of supplying commercial quantities of the fiber, yarn, or fabric in a timely manner.

The USMFTA Implementation Act provides the President with the authority to proclaim as part of the HTSUS, modifications to the USMFTA rules of origin set out in Annex 4–A of the USMFTA as are necessary to implement an agreement with Morocco under Article 4.3.6 of the USMFTA, subject to the consultation and layover requirements of Section 104 of the USMFTA Implementation Act. See Section 203(j)(2)(B)(i) of the USMFTA Implementation Act. Executive Order 11651 established CITA to supervise the implementation of textile trade agreements and authorizes the Chairman of CITA to take actions or recommend that appropriate officials or agencies of the United States take actions necessary to implement textile trade agreements. 37 FR 4699 (March 4, 1972).

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[B–27–2019]

Foreign-Trade Zone 124—Gramercy, Louisiana; Application for Subzone, Offshore Energy Services, Inc.; Broussard, Louisiana

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZ) Board by the Port of South Louisiana, grantee of FTZ 124, requesting subzone status for the facility of Offshore Energy Services, Inc., located in Broussard, Louisiana. The application was submitted pursuant to the provisions of the Foreign-Trade Zones Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a–81u), and the regulations of the FTZ Board (15 CFR part 400). It was formally docketed on April 15, 2019.

The proposed subzone (58.2 acres) is located at 5900 Highway 90 in Broussard (Lafayette Parish), Louisiana. A notification of proposed production activity has been submitted and is being processed under 15 CFR 400.37 (Doc. B–2019).

In accordance with the FTZ Board’s regulations, Camille Evans of the FTZ Staff is designated examiner to review the application and make recommendations to the FTZ Board.

Public comment is invited from interested parties. Submissions shall be addressed to the FTZ Board’s Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their receipt is May 28, 2019. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period to June 12, 2019.

A copy of the application will be available for public inspection at the Office of the Executive Secretary, Foreign-Trade Zones Board, Room 21013, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230–0002, and in the “Reading Room” section of the FTZ Board’s website, which is accessible via www.trade.gov/ftz.

For further information, contact Camille Evans at Camille.Evans@trade.gov or (202) 482–2350.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[S–21–2019]

Approval of Subzone Expansion; Swagelok Company Ravenna, Ohio

On February 19, 2019, the Executive Secretary of the Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZ) Board docketed an application submitted by the Cleveland Cuyahoga County Port Authority, grantee of FTZ 40, requesting an expansion of Subzone 401 subject to the existing activation limit of FTZ 40, on behalf of Swagelok Company, in Ravenna, Ohio.

The application was processed in accordance with the FTZ Act and Regulations, including notice in the Federal Register inviting public comment (84 FR 6129, February 16, 2019). The FTZ staff examiner reviewed the application and determined that it meets the criteria for approval. Pursuant to the authority delegated to the FTZ Board Executive Secretary (15 CFR Sec. 400.36(f)), the application to expand Subzone 401 was approved on April 15, 2019, subject to the FTZ Act and the Board’s regulations, including Section 400.13, and further subject to FTZ 40’s 2,000-acre activation limit.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[B–26–2019]

Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ) 167—Green Bay, Wisconsin; Notification of Proposed Production Activity

ProAmpac Holdings, Inc.; (Flexible Packaging Applications) Neenah and Appleton, Wisconsin

ProAmpac Holdings, Inc. (ProAmpac) submitted a notification of proposed production activity to the FTZ Board for its facilities in Neenah and Appleton, Wisconsin. The notification conformed to the requirements of the regulations of the FTZ Board (15 CFR 400.22) was received on April 5, 2019.

The applicant indicates that it will be submitting a separate application for FTZ designation at ProAmpac’s facilities under FTZ 167. The facilities are used for the production of flexible packaging for food, medical, pharmaceutical, and other consumer and industrial applications. Pursuant to 15 CFR 400.14(b), FTZ activity would be limited to the specific foreign-status material/component and specific finished products described in the submitted notification (as described below) and subsequently authorized by the FTZ Board.

Production under FTZ procedures could exempt ProAmpac from customs duty payments on the foreign-status material/component used in export production (estimated 5% percent of production). On its domestic sales, for the foreign-status material/component noted below, ProAmpac would be able to choose the duty rates during customs entry procedures that apply to plastic pouch stock, paper can liner and pouch stock, and aluminum laminated packaging stock (duty rate ranges from duty-free to 4.2%). ProAmpac would be able to avoid duty on foreign-status material which becomes scrap/waste. Customs duties also could possibly be deferred or reduced on foreign-status production equipment.

The material/component sourced from abroad is aluminum foil (with gauges not exceeding 0.051mm) (duty rate ranges from 5.3 to 5.8%). The request indicates that aluminum foil is subject to an antidumping/ countervailing duty (AD/CVD) order if imported from China. The FTZ Board’s