

should be directed to Dave Marshall, National Firearms Act Branch, 650 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20226, (202) 927-8330.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Application and Permit for Permanent Exportation of Firearms.
OMB Number: 1512-0020.

Form Number: ATF F 9 (5320.9).

Abstract: ATF F 9 (5320.9) is required of any person desiring to export an NFA firearm without payment of transfer tax and to establish such exportation to relieve the exporter from payment of the transfer tax.

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, individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 70.

Estimated Time Per Respondent: 18.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 1050.

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. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Also, ATF requests information regarding any monetary expenses you may incur while completing this form.

Dated: September 13, 1996.

John W. Magaw,

Director.

[FR Doc. 96-24166 Filed 9-19-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-31-P

Customs Service

Delayed Processing of Renewed Generalized System of Preferences Duty-Free Claims

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 provisions of the GSP program expired at midnight on July 31, 1995; however, the provisions were recently renewed—beginning October 1, 1996, with retroactive effect to August 1, 1995—by the GSP Renewal Act of 1996 (the 1996 Act). This document provides notice to importers that claims for duty-free treatment under the GSP will be accepted for articles entered on or after October 1, 1996, and sets forth a duty refund procedure for merchandise entered between July 31, 1995, and September 30, 1996, that became eligible for GSP treatment under the retroactive provisions of the 1996 Act. This document also advises the public that certain designated products from Pakistan, for which the U.S. Trade Representative has recommended to the President that GSP eligibility be suspended, will not be entitled to duty-free treatment if entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after July 1, 1996, notwithstanding the retroactive provisions of the 1996 Act.

DATES: The plan for delayed payment of refunds with interest set forth in this document will become effective as of October 1, 1996. Customs expects the processing of refunds to take from four to eight weeks for certain, formal Automated Broker Interface (ABI) entries.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general operational questions:

Formal entries

Carol Argentine, 202-927-0021

Informal entries

Mike Craig, 202-927-0156

Mail entries

Dan Norman, 202-927-0542

Passenger claims

Robert Jacksta, 202-927-1311

For specific questions relating to the Automated Commercial Systems: Irv Fisher, Office of Information and Technology, 202-927-0241.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 501 of the Trade Act of 1974 (the 1974 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 for specific time periods. Sections 502(a) and 503(a) of the 1974 Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2462(a) and 2463(a)), authorize the President to

designate beneficiary developing countries and articles eligible for duty-free treatment under the GSP by Executive Order or Presidential Proclamation. Pursuant to section 504 of the 1974 Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2464), the President has authority, under certain circumstances, to withdraw, suspend, or limit the application of duty-free treatment under the GSP. Pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2465(a), as amended by section 601 of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act, 19 U.S.C. 2465 note, Pub.L. 103-465, 108 Stat. 4990 (1994), duty-free treatment under the GSP program expired on July 31, 1995.

On August 20, 1996, the President signed the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996 (Pub.L. 104-188, 110 Stat. 1755), Subtitle J of Title I of which contains provisions entitled the GSP Renewal Act of 1996 (the 1996 Act, 110 Stat. 1917). The 1996 Act provides that GSP duty-free treatment will apply to eligible articles from designated beneficiary countries that are entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after October 1, 1996, through May 31, 1997, and also that GSP duty-free treatment will have certain retroactive applications to articles entered after July 31, 1995, and before October 1, 1996, as follows:

(1) Articles entered during the period August 1, 1995–December 31, 1995, are eligible for duty-free treatment if the articles would have been eligible for GSP treatment if entered on July 31, 1995; and

(2) Articles entered during the period January 1, 1996–September 30, 1996, are eligible for duty-free treatment if the articles would have been eligible for GSP treatment if entered after September 30, 1996.

Regarding the retroactive provisions, the 1996 Act further provides that, not before October 1, 1996, Customs shall liquidate or reliquidate entries made during the period August 1, 1995–September 30, 1996, and refund any duties collected with interest, provided that a request for liquidation or reliquidation is filed with Customs by February 16, 1997, i.e., within 180 days after the date of the 1996 Act's enactment, that contains sufficient information to enable Customs to locate the entry or to reconstruct the entry if it cannot be located.

Recognizing the impact that retroactive renewal and consequent numerous reliquidations will have on both importers and Customs, Customs has developed a mechanism to facilitate refunds that will be implemented on October 1, 1996.

Duty-Free Entry Summaries

Effective October 1, 1996, filers again will be entitled to file GSP eligible entry summaries without the payment of estimated duties. Up until that time, however, estimated duties at the most-favored-nation rate must be deposited, or a claim may be made under another preferential program for which the merchandise qualifies (for example, the Andean Trade Preference Act, the Caribbean Basin Initiative, or the U.S.-Israel Free Trade Area Agreement).

Refunds With Interest**A. Formal Entries**

Customs will liquidate or reliquidate all affected entry summaries and refund any duties deposited for items denominated on the GSP line. Field locations shall not issue GSP refunds except as instructed to do so by Customs Headquarters.

If an ABI entry summary was or will be filed with payment of estimated duties using the Special Program Indicator (SPI) for the GSP (the letter "A") as a prefix to the tariff number, no further action by the filer is required; filings with the SPI "A" will be treated as conforming requests for refunds.

Non-ABI filers who either did or did not request a refund by using the SPI "A" must request a refund in writing from the Port Director at the port of entry by February 16, 1997. The letter may cover either single entry summaries or all entry summaries filed by an individual filer at a single port. To expedite refunds, Customs recommends the following information be included in each letter:

1. A statement requesting a refund, as provided by section 1953 of the GSP Renewal Act of 1996;

2. An enumeration of the entry numbers and line items for which refunds are requested; and

3. The amount requested to be refunded for each line item and the total amount owed for all entry summaries.

Interest on duties deposited will be paid, pursuant to section 505 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1505), based on the quarterly Internal Revenue Service interest rates used to calculate interest on refunds of Customs duties as follows:

	Per- cent
July 1, 1995–Mar. 31, 1996	8
Apr. 1, 1996–June 30, 1996	7
July 1, 1996–Dec. 31, 1996	8

B. Informal Entries

Refunds with interest on informal entries filed via ABI on a Customs Form

7501 with the SPI "A" will be processed in accordance with the procedures discussed above.

C. Mail Entries

The addressees must request a refund of GSP duties and return it, along with a copy of the CF 3419A, to the appropriate International Mail Branch (address listed on bottom right hand corner of CF 3419A). It is essential that a copy of the CF 3419A be included, as this will be the only means of identifying whether GSP products have been entered and estimated duties and fees have been paid.

D. Baggage Declarations and Non-ABI Informals

If travelers/importers wrote a statement directly on their Customs declarations (CF 6059B) or informal entries (CF 363 or CF 7501) requesting a refund, no further action by the traveler/importer will be required; the statement will be treated as a conforming request for refunds. Failure to request a refund in this manner does not preclude a traveler/importer from otherwise making a timely request in writing, as described above for non-ABI filers.

Retroactive Suspension of Certain GSP Benefits for Pakistan

As indicated earlier in this document, pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2464, the President has authority, under certain circumstances, to withdraw, suspend, or limit the application of duty-free treatment under the GSP. In a Federal Register notice published June 17, 1996 (61 FR 30646), the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) announced that it had recommended to the President the suspension of GSP eligibility for certain products from Pakistan, effective July 1, 1996. It is anticipated that on or about October 1, 1996, the President will exercise his authority under 19 U.S.C. 2464 and suspend GSP duty-free treatment for such products as recommended by the USTR. Accordingly, duties on the following list of products from Pakistan will not be refunded if the products were entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after July 1, 1996:

HTSUS	Item (Terms below are for descriptive purposes only)
03926.20.30	Gloves designed for use in sports, of plastics.
4203.21.20	Batting gloves.
4203.21.55	Cross-country ski gloves, mittens and mitts.
4203.21.60	Ski or snowmobile gloves, mittens and mitts.

HTSUS	Item (Terms below are for descriptive purposes only)
4203.21.80	Gloves, mittens, etc., of leather, specially designed for use in sports.
5701.10.13	Carpets.
5702.10.10	Carpets.
5702.91.20	Carpets.
5805.00.20	Carpets.
6304.99.10	Carpets.
6304.99.40	Carpets.
9018.90.80	Surgical instruments.
9506.62.80	Inflatable balls, excluding footballs or soccer balls.
9506.91.00	Articles or equipment for exercise.

Dated: September 16, 1996.

John B. McGowan,

Acting Assistant Commissioner, Field Operations.

[FR Doc. 96-24119 Filed 9-19-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4820-02-P

UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY**U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy Meeting**

AGENCY: United States Information Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy will meet in Room 600, 301 4th Street, S.W., on September 18, 1996 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

The meeting will be closed to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon because it will involve discussion of classified information relating to the USIS 2000 Satellite Network and the Department of State's Diplomatic Telecommunications Service (DTS-PO). (5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1)).

Please call Betty Hayes, (202) 619-4468, for further information.

Dated: September 16, 1996.

Joseph Duffey,
Director.

Determination To Close a Portion of the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy's Meeting of September 18, 1996

Based on the information provided to the United States Information Agency by the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, I hereby determine that the meeting scheduled by the Commission for September 18, 1996 may be closed to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The Commission has requested that its September 18 meeting be closed from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., because it will