

By order of the Commission.
Donna R. Koehnke,
Secretary.
[FR Doc. 96-33014 Filed 12-26-96; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 7020-02-P

[Investigation No. 332-360]

International Harmonization of Customs Rules of Origin

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Request for public comment on draft proposals for chapters 50-63 (Textiles).

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 20, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Eugene A. Rosengarden, Director, Office of Tariff Affairs and Trade Agreements (O/TA&TA) (202-205-2595), or Jan Summers (202-205-2605).

Parties having an interest in particular products or HTS chapters and desiring to be included on a mailing list to receive available documents pertaining thereto should advise Diane Whitfield by phone (202-205-2610) or by mail at the Commission, 500 E St SW, Room 404, Washington, D.C. 20436. Hearing impaired persons are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting the Commission's TDD terminal on 202-205-1810. The media should contact Margaret O'Laughlin, Director, Office of Public Affairs (202-205-1819).

BACKGROUND: Following receipt of a letter from the United States Trade Representative (USTR) on January 25, 1995, the Commission instituted Investigation No. 332-360, International Harmonization of Customs Rules of Origin, under section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (60 FR 19605, April 19, 1995).

The investigation is intended to provide the basis for Commission participation in work pertaining to the Uruguay Round Agreement on Rules of Origin (ARO), under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994 and adopted along with the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The ARO is designed to harmonize and clarify nonpreferential rules of origin for goods in trade on the basis of the substantial transformation test; achieve discipline in the rules' administration; and provide a framework for notification, review, consultation, and dispute settlement. These harmonized rules are intended to make country-of-origin determinations impartial, predictable, transparent, consistent, and neutral, and to avoid

restrictive or distortive effects on international trade. The ARO provides that technical work to those ends will be undertaken by the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) (now informally known as the World Customs Organization or WCO), which must report on specified matters relating to such rules for further action by parties to the ARO. Eventually, the WTO Ministerial Conference is to "establish the results of the harmonization work program in an annex as an integral part" of the ARO.

In order to carry out the work, the ARO calls for the establishment of a Committee on Rules of Origin of the WTO and a Technical Committee on Rules of Origin (TCRO) of the WCO. These Committees bear the primary responsibility for developing rules that achieve the objectives of the ARO.

A major component of the work program is the harmonization of origin rules for the purpose of providing more certainty in the conduct of world trade. To this end, the agreement contemplates a 3-year WCO program, which was formally initiated in July, 1995. Under the ARO, the TCRO is to undertake (1) to develop harmonized definitions of goods considered wholly obtained in one country, and of minimal processes or operations deemed not to confer origin, (2) to consider the use of change in Harmonized System classification as a means of reflecting substantial transformation, and (3) for those products or sectors where a change of tariff classification does not allow for the reflection of substantial transformation, to develop supplementary or exclusive origin criteria based on value, manufacturing or processing operations or on other standards.

The draft rules for chapters 50-63 of the Harmonized System that are being made available for public comment cover goods that are not considered to be wholly made in a single country. The rules rely largely on the change of heading as a basis for ascribing origin. Copies of the proposed revised rules will be available from the Office of the Secretary at the Commission, from the Commission's Internet web server (<http://www.usitc.gov>), or by submitting a request on the Office of Tariff Affairs and Trade Agreements voice messaging system, 202-205-2592. Due to their length, the rules will not be available by FAX. These proposals are intended to serve as the basis for the U.S. proposal to the Technical Committee on Rules of Origin of the WCO. The proposals are based on the principles of application enacted by Congress in Section 334 of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3592) with respect to country of

origin determinations for textile goods but may not necessarily reflect or restate existing Customs treatment in all cases for all current nonpreferential purposes. Based upon a decision of the Trade Policy Staff Committee, the proposals are intended for future harmonization for the nonpreferential purposes indicated in the ARO for application on a global basis. The proposals may undergo change as proposals from other government administrations and the private sector are received and considered.

Under the circumstances, the proposals should not be cited as authority for the application of current domestic law.

If eventually adopted by the TCRO for submission to the Committee on Rules of Origin of the World Trade Organization, these proposals would comprise an important element of the ARO work program to develop harmonized, non-preferential country of origin rules, as discussed in the Commission's earlier notice. Thus, in view of the importance of these rules, the Commission seeks to ascertain the views of interested parties concerning the extent to which the proposed rules reflect the standard of substantial transformation provided in the Agreement.

Forthcoming Commission notices will advise the public on the progress of the TCRO's work and will contain any harmonized definitions or rules that have been provisionally or finally adopted.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS: Interested persons are invited to submit written statements concerning this phase of the Commission's investigation. Written statements should be submitted as quickly as possible, and follow-up statements are permitted; but all statements must be received at the Commission by the close of business on February 7, 1997 in order to be considered. Information supplied to the Customs Service in statements filed pursuant to notices of that agency has been given to us and need not be separately provided to the Commission. Again, the Commission notes that it is particularly interested in receiving input from the private sector on the effects of the various proposed rules and definitions on U.S. exports. Commercial or financial information which a submitter desires the Commission to treat as confidential must be submitted on separate sheets of paper, each marked "Confidential Business Information" at the top. All submissions requesting confidential treatment must conform with the requirements of

section 201.6 of the Commission's *Rules of Practice and Procedure* (19 CFR 201.6). All written submissions, except for confidential business information, will be available for inspection by interested persons. All submissions should be addressed to the Office of the Secretary, United States International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20436.

Issued: December 23, 1996.

By order of the Commission.

Donna R. Koehnke,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96-33012 Filed 12-26-96; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Immigration and Naturalization Service

Agency Information Collection

Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request

ACTION: Request OMB emergency approval; Sponsor's notice of change of address.

The Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service has submitted the following information collection request (ICR) utilizing emergency review procedures, to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. OMB approval has been requested by December 29, 1996. If granted, the emergency approval is only valid for 180 days. Comments should be directed to OMB, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Ms. Deborah Bond, 202-395-7316, Department of Justice Desk Officer, Washington, DC 20503.

During the first 60 days of this same period a regular review of this information collection is also being undertaken. Comments are encouraged and will be accepted until February 25, 1997. Request written comments and suggestions from the public and affected agencies concerning the proposed collection of information. Your comments should address one or more of the following four points.

(1) Evaluate whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency; including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) Evaluate the accuracy of the agencies estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(3) Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Overview of this Information Collection

(1) *Type of Information Collection:* New Information Collection.

(2) *Title of the Form/Collection:* Sponsor's Notice of Change of Address.

(3) *Agency form number, if any, and the applicable component of the Department of Justice sponsoring the collection:* Form I-865. Adjudications Division, Immigration and Naturalization Service.

(4) *Affected public who will be asked or required, as well as a brief abstract:* Primary: Individuals or Households. The form will be used by every sponsor who has filed an affidavit of support under section 213A of the INA to notify the Service of a change of address. The data will be used to locate a sponsor if there is a request for reimbursement.

(5) *An estimate of the total number of respondents and the amount of time estimated for an average respondent to respond:* 100,000 respondents at .233 hours per response.

(6) *An estimate of the total public burden (in hours) associated with the collection:* 23,300 annual burden hours.

If you have additional comments, suggestions, or need a copy of the proposed information collection instrument with instructions, or additional information, please contact Mr. Richard A. Sloan, 202-616-7600, Director, Policy Directives and Instructions Branch, Immigration and Naturalization Service, U.S. Department of Justice, Room 5307, 425 I Street, NW., Washington, DC 20536.

If additional information is required contact: Mr. Robert B. Briggs, Clearance Officer, United States Department of Justice, Information Management and Security Staff, Justice Management Division, Suite 850, Washington Center, 1001 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20530.

Dated: December 20, 1996.

Robert B. Briggs,
Department Clearance Officer, United States
Department of Justice.

[FR Doc. 96-32929 Filed 12-26-96; 8:45 am]

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Office for Victims of Crime

[OJP (OVC) No. 1109]

ZRIN No. 1121-ZA56

Office for Victims of Crime Fiscal Year 1996 Discretionary Program Plan (Supplement)

AGENCY: Office of Justice Programs, Office for Victims of Crime, Justice.

ACTION: Public announcement of availability of discretionary funds for training and technical assistance.

SUMMARY: The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) publishes this supplemental notice to announce the availability of discretionary funds for a competitive program to provide training and technical assistance to build capacity of victim service agencies nationwide. See 61 F.R. 21294.

DATES: Application kit will be available beginning January 15, 1997.

All applications are due March 14, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Office for Victims of Crime, 633 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20531.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Donna Ray, 202/616-3572.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Introduction

OVC is a component of the Office of Justice Programs within the U.S. Department of Justice. The Office serves as the Federal focal point for improving the treatment of crime victims and ensuring that their rights and interests are met. In addition to its role as a national victims' advocate, OVC is responsible for administering two formula grant programs authorized by the Victims of Crime Act, as amended (the victim assistance and compensation grant programs), supporting national scope training and technical assistance activities via discretionary grants, and providing training and technical assistance for Federal and state law enforcement personnel involved in investigations, prosecutions, corrections and the provision of direct services to victims of crime. See 42 U.S.C. 10601-10605.

Application Process

The application kit for OVC's Technical Assistance and Conference Series will be available beginning January 15, 1997 and will serve as a request for proposal. It will contain a detailed description of this competitive program and complete forms and instructions for developing the application. The Program