

Agreements Act (URAA) (19 U.S.C. 3537(b)(1)) requires that notice and opportunity for comment be provided after the United States submits or receives a request for the establishment of a WTO dispute settlement panel. Consistent with this obligation, but in an effort to provide additional opportunity for comment, USTR is providing notice that consultations have been requested pursuant to the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU). If such consultations should fail to resolve the matter and a dispute settlement panel is established pursuant to the DSU, such panel, which would hold its meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, would be expected to issue a report on its findings and recommendations within six to nine months after it is established.

Major Issues Raised by the United States

On March 18, 2004, the United States requested consultations with the Government of China pursuant to Articles 1 and 4 of the DSU, Article XXII:1 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 (GATT 1994), and Article XXII:1 of the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) regarding China's VAT on ICs.

China provides for a 17 percent VAT on ICs. However, USTR understands that enterprises in China are entitled to a partial refund of the VAT on ICs that they have produced, resulting in a lower VAT rate on their products. China therefore appears to be subjecting imported ICs to higher taxes than applied to domestic ICs and to be according less favorable treatment to imported ICs.

In addition, USTR understands that China allows for a partial refund of VAT for domestically-designed ICs that, because of technological limitations, are manufactured outside of China. China thus appears to be providing for more favorable treatment of imports from one Member than another, and discriminating against services and service suppliers of other Members.

USTR understands that China implements its preferential tax for domestically-produced or designed ICs through the following measures:

- Document 18 (June 24, 2000), Notice of the State Council Regarding Issuance of Certain Policies Concerning the Development of the Software Industry and Integrated Circuit Industry;
- Document 25 (September 22, 2000), Notice of the Ministry of Finance, State Administration of Taxation, and General Administration of Customs on Relevant Tax Policy Issues Concerning Encouraging the Development of the

Software Industry and the Integrated Circuit Industry;

- Document 86 (March 7, 2002), Notice of the Ministry of Information Industry Regarding Issuance of Regulations on Certification of Integrated Circuit Design Enterprises and Products;
- Document 70 (October 10, 2002), Notice of the Ministry of Finance, State Administration of Taxation Regarding Furthering Tax Policies to Encourage the Development of the Software Industry and Integrated Circuit Industry;
- Document 140 (October 25, 2002), Notice of the Ministry of Finance, State Administration of Taxation Regarding Tax Policies for Imports of Integrated Circuit Products Domestically Designed and Fabricated Abroad; and
- Document 1384 (December 23, 2003), Notice of the State Administration of Taxation Regarding Issuance of the Catalogue of Integrated Circuit Products Enjoying Preferential Tax (First Batch); as well as any amendments, related measures, or other implementing measures.

USTR therefore believes that these measures are inconsistent with the obligations of China under Articles I and III of the GATT 1994, the Protocol on the Accession of the People's Republic of China to the WTO, and Article XVII of the GATS.

Public Comment: Requirements for Submissions

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments concerning the issues raised in the dispute. Persons submitting comments may either send a copy by fax to Sandy McKinzy at (202) 395-3640, or transmit a copy electronically to FR0419@ustr.gov, with "China VAT (DS309)" in the subject line. For documents sent by fax, USTR requests that the submitter provide a confirmation copy to the electronic mail address listed above.

USTR encourages the submission of documents in Adobe PDF format, as attachments to an electronic mail. Interested persons who make submissions by electronic mail should not provide separate cover letters; information that might appear in a cover letter should be included in the submission itself. Similarly, to the extent possible, any attachments to the submission should be included in the same file as the submission itself, and not as separate files.

Comments must be in English. A person requesting that information contained in a comment submitted by that person be treated as confidential business information must certify that such information is business

confidential and would not customarily be released to the public by the commenter. Confidential business information must be clearly designated as such and "BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL" must be marked at the top and bottom of the cover page and each succeeding page.

Information or advice contained in a comment submitted, other than business confidential information, may be determined by USTR to be confidential in accordance with section 135(g)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2155(g)(2)). If the submitter believes that information or advice may qualify as such, the submitter—

- (1) Must clearly so designate the information or advice;
- (2) Must clearly mark the material as "SUBMITTED IN CONFIDENCE" at the top and bottom of the cover page and each succeeding page; and
- (3) Is encouraged to provide a non-confidential summary of the information or advice.

Pursuant to section 127(e) of the URAA (19 U.S.C. 3537(e)), USTR will maintain a file on this dispute settlement proceeding, accessible to the public, in the USTR Reading Room, which is located at 1724 F Street, NW., Washington, DC 20508. The public file will include non-confidential comments received by USTR from the public with respect to the dispute; if a dispute settlement panel is convened, the U.S. submissions to that panel, the submissions, or non-confidential summaries of submissions, to the panel received from other participants in the dispute, as well as the report of the panel; and, if applicable, the report of the Appellate Body. An appointment to review the public file (Docket WTO/DS-309, China VAT Dispute) may be made by calling the USTR Reading Room at (202) 395-6186. The USTR Reading Room is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Daniel E. Brinza,

Assistant United States Trade Representative for Monitoring and Enforcement.

[FR Doc. 04-9035 Filed 4-20-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Aviation Proceedings, Agreements Filed the Week Ending April 9, 2004

The following agreements were filed with the Department of Transportation under the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 412 and 414. Answers may be filed within

21 days after the filing of the application.

Docket Number: OST-2004-17512.

Date Filed: April 7, 2004.

Parties: Members of the International Air Transport Association.

Subject: CAC/32/Meet/005/04 dated March 23, 2004; Expedited Resolutions; Resolutions 801re (r-1) and 809 (r2); Minutes relevant to the two resolutions are included in CAC/32/Meet/005/04; Intended effective date: expedited May 1, 2004.

Andrea M. Jenkins,

*Program Manager, Docket Operations,
Federal Register Liaison.*

[FR Doc. 04-9059 Filed 4-20-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Notice of Intent to Request Renewal From the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) of One Current Public Collection of Information

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DoT

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*), the FAA invites public comment on one currently approved public information collection which will be submitted to OMB for renewal.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before June 21, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed or delivered to the FAA at the following address: Ms. Judy Street, Room 613, Federal Aviation Administration, Standards and Information Division, APF-100, 800 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20591.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Judy Street at the above address or on (202) 267-9895.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Therefore, the FAA solicits comments on the following current collection of information in order to evaluate the necessity of the collection, the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden, the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected, and possible ways to minimize the burden of the collection in preparation for submission to renew the clearance of the following information collection.

1. 2120-0668, National Airspace System (NAS) Data Release Request. The information collected is needed to evaluate the validity of a user's request for NAS data from FAA systems and equipment. This data collection is the genesis for granting approval to release filtered NAS data to vendors. The information provided by respondents sets the criteria for the FAA Data Release Request Committee (DRRC) to approve or reject individual requests for NAS data. The current estimated annual reporting burden is 27 hours.

Issued in Washington, DC, on April 15, 2004.

Judith D. Street,

FAA Information Collection Clearance Officer, APF-100.

[FR Doc. 04-9078 Filed 4-20-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Notice of Intent To Rule on a Request To Amend a Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) at Hartsfield Jackson Atlanta International Airport, Atlanta, GA

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent to rule on application.

SUMMARY: The FAA proposes to rule and invites public comment on a request to amend an application to use at the Hartsfield Jackson Atlanta International Airport under the provisions of the Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 (Title IX of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990) (Pub. L. 101-508) and part 158 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 158).

DATES: Comments must be received on or before May 21, 2004.

ADDRESSES: Comments on this request may be mailed or delivered in triplicate to the FAA at the following address: Atlanta Airports District Office, 1701 Columbia Ave., Suite 2-260, College Park, Georgia 30337-2747.

In addition, one copy of any comments submitted to the FAA must be mailed or delivered to Arthur L. Bacon, Director of Finance of the City of Atlanta, Department of Aviation at the following address: City of Atlanta, Department of Aviation, PO Box 20509, Atlanta, Georgia 30320-2509.

Air carriers and foreign air carriers may submit copies of written comments previously provided to the City of Atlanta, Department of Aviation under § 158.23 of part 158.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Terry R. Washington, P.E, Program Manager, Atlanta Airports District Office, 1701 Columbia Ave., Suite 2-260, College Park, Georgia 30337-2747, Telephone Number 404-305-7143. The application may be reviewed in person at this same location.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FAA proposes to rule and invites public comment on the application to amend the application to use a PFC at Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport under the provisions of the Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 (Title IX of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990) (Pub. L. 101-508) and part 158 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR part 158).

On April 9, 2004, the FAA determined that the application to amend the PFC use submitted by The City of Atlanta was substantially complete within the requirements of section 158.25 of part 158. The FAA will approve or disapprove the application, in whole or in part, no later than July 10, 2004. The following is a brief overview of the amendment request.

PFC Amendment Application No.: 00-02-U-01-ATL.

Level of the proposed PFC: \$4.50.

Proposed charge effective date: May 1, 1997.

Proposed charge expiration date: May 1, 2008.

Capital \$309,354,130

Finance and Interest \$209,862,277

\$519,216,407

Brief Description of projects: Design and Construction of Eastside Terminal.

Design and Construction of road way improvements (No Change).

Any person may inspect the application in person at the FAA office listed above under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.**

In addition, any person may, upon request, inspect the application, notice and other documents germane to the application in person at the City of Atlanta's Department of Aviation.

Issued in College Park, Georgia on April 14, 2004.

Troy R. Butler,

Acting Manager, Atlanta Airports District Office, Southern Region.

[FR Doc. 04-9079 Filed 4-20-04; 8:45 am]

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