

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C.

Investigation No. 332-470

ADVICE CONCERNING POSSIBLE MODIFICATIONS TO THE U.S. GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF
PREFERENCES, 2005 REVIEW

AGENCY: United States International Trade Commission

ACTION: Institution of investigation and scheduling of hearing

SUMMARY: Following receipt on August 9, 2005 of a request from the United States Trade Representative (USTR) under section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1332 (g)), the Commission instituted investigation No. 332-470, *Advice Concerning Possible Modifications to the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences, 2005 Review*.

BACKGROUND: As requested by the USTR, in accordance with sections 503(a)(1)(A), 503(e), and 131(a) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (1974 Act), and under section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930, the Commission will provide advice with respect to the probable economic effect on U.S. industries producing like or directly competitive articles and on consumers of the elimination of U.S. import duties for all beneficiary developing countries under the GSP for HTS subheading 1302.39.0010. In providing its advice on these articles, the USTR asked that the Commission assume that the benefits of the GSP would not apply to imports that would be excluded from receiving such benefits by virtue of competitive need limits specified in section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act. In his letter, the USTR also requested that the Commission provide advice, on a different time schedule, with respect to the probable economic effect of the elimination of U.S. duties on certain watches. The Commission will provide that advice in February 2006 in its report on investigation No. 332-471, *Advice Concerning Possible Modifications to the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences, 2005 Special Review on Watches*.

As requested by the USTR, the Commission will provide advice as to the probable economic effect on United States industries producing like or directly competitive articles and on consumers of the restoration of India for duty-free treatment under the GSP for HTS subheading 2916.39.15.

As requested by the USTR and in accordance with section 503(d)(1)(A) of the 1974 Act, the Commission will provide advice on whether any industry in the United States is likely to be adversely affected by a waiver of the competitive need limits specified in section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act for the Philippines for HTS subheading 0804.50.80; for Brazil for HTS subheading 4412.19.40; and for Turkey for HTS subheadings 6802.21.10 and 6802.91.20.

As requested by the USTR, the Commission will provide its advice no later than November 10, 2005. With respect to the competitive need limit in section 503(c)(2)(A)(i)(I) of the 1974 Act, the Commission, as requested, will use the dollar value limit of \$115,000,000.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 9, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Project Leader, Cynthia B. Foreso (202-205-3348 or cynthia.foreso@usitc.gov)
Deputy Project Leader, Alan Treat (202-205-3426 or alan.treat@usitc.gov)

The above persons are in the Commission's Office of Industries. For more information on legal aspects of the investigation, contact William Gearhart of the Commission's Office of the General Counsel at 202-205-3091 or william.gearhart@usitc.gov. The media should contact Margaret O'Laughlin, Office of External Relations at 202-205-1819 or margaret.olaughlin@usitc.gov. Hearing impaired individuals are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting the TDD terminal on 202-205-1810. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its internet server (<http://www.usitc.gov>). The public record for these investigations may be viewed on the Commission's electronic docket (EDIS-ONLINE) at <http://edis.usitc.gov/hvwebex>.

PUBLIC HEARING: A public hearing in connection with this investigation will be held beginning at 9:30 a.m. on September 29, 2005, at the United States International Trade Commission Building, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC. All persons have the right to appear by counsel or in person, to present information, and to be heard. Persons wishing to appear at the public hearing should file a letter with the Secretary, United States International Trade Commission, 500 E St., SW, Washington, DC 20436, not later than the close of business (5:15 p.m.) on September 9, 2005, in accordance with the requirements in the "Submissions" section below.

WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS: In lieu of or in addition to participating in the hearing, interested parties are invited to submit written statements or briefs concerning these investigations. All written submissions, including requests to appear at the hearing, statements, and briefs, should be addressed to the Secretary, United States International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20436. Any prehearing statements or briefs should be filed not later than 5:15 p.m., September 12, 2005; the deadline for filing posthearing statements or briefs is 5:15 p.m., October 7, 2005. All written submissions must conform with the provisions of section 201.8 of the *Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure* (19 C.F.R. 201.8). Section 201.8 of the rules requires that a signed original (or a copy designated as an original) and fourteen (14) copies of each document be filed. In the event that confidential treatment of the document is requested, at least four (4) additional copies must be filed, in which the confidential information must be deleted (see the following paragraph for further information regarding confidential business information). The Commission's rules do not authorize filing submissions with the Secretary by facsimile or electronic means, except to the extent permitted by section 201.8 of the rules (see Handbook for Electronic Filing Procedures, http://hotdocs.usitc.gov/pubs/electronic_filing_handbook.pdf).

Any submissions that contain confidential business information must also conform with the requirements of section 201.6 of the *Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure* (19 C.F.R. 201.6). Section 201.6 of the rules requires that the cover of the document and the individual pages be clearly marked as to whether they are the "confidential" or "nonconfidential" version, and that the confidential business information be clearly identified by means of brackets. All written submissions, except for confidential business information, will be made available in the Office of the Secretary to the Commission for inspection by interested parties.

The Commission may include some or all of the confidential business information submitted in the course of these investigations in the report it sends to the USTR. As requested by the USTR, the Commission will publish a public version of the report. However, in the public version, the Commission will not publish confidential business information in a manner that would reveal the operations of the firm supplying the information.

Persons with mobility impairments who will need special assistance in gaining access to the Commission should contact the Secretary at 202-205-2000.

By order of the Commission.

/s/
Marilyn R. Abbott
Secretary to the Commission

Issued: August 15, 2005