

the other, unrelated arguments offered by the parties after issuance of the preliminary results of the new shipper review.

#### Notification

Bonding is no longer permitted to fulfill security requirements for shipments from Shandong Heze of fresh garlic from the PRC entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption in the United States on or after the publication of this rescission notice in the **Federal Register**.

This notice serves as a final reminder to importers of their responsibility under 19 CFR 351.402(f)(2) to file a certificate regarding the reimbursement of antidumping duties prior to liquidation of the relevant entries during these review periods. Failure to comply with this requirement, pursuant to 19 CFR 351.402(f)(3), could result in the Department's presumption that reimbursement of antidumping duties occurred and the subsequent assessment of doubled antidumping duties.

This notice also serves as the only reminder to parties subject to administrative protective orders (APO) of their responsibility concerning the disposition of proprietary information disclosed under APO in accordance with 19 CFR 351.305(a)(3). Timely written notification of the return/destruction of APO material or conversion to judicial protective order is hereby requested. Failure to comply with the regulations and terms of an APO is a violation which is subject to sanctions.

We are issuing and publishing this determination and notice in accordance with sections 751(a)(2)(B)(iv) and 777(i) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended.

Dated: October 22, 2002.

**Faryar Shirzad,**

*Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.*

[FR Doc. 02-27395 Filed 10-25-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-M

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

[A-570-831]

#### **Fresh Garlic From the People's Republic of China: Notice of Extension of Time Limit for the Final Results of Antidumping Duty New Shipper Review**

**AGENCY:** Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of extension of time limit for the final results of antidumping duty new shipper review.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce is extending the time limit for the final results of the new shipper review of the antidumping duty order on fresh garlic from the People's Republic of China until no later than November 26, 2002. The new shipper review covers one exporter, Jinan Yipin Corporation Ltd.<sup>1</sup> The period of review is November 1, 2000, through October 31, 2001. This extension is made pursuant to section 751(a)(2)(B)(iv) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 28, 2002.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Jennifer Moats, AD/CVD Enforcement 3, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-5047.

#### **The Applicable Statute and Regulations**

Unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the statute are references to the provisions effective January 1, 1995, the effective date of the amendments made to the Tariff Act of 1930 (the Act) by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act and all citations to the Department of Commerce's (the Department's) regulations are to 19 CFR part 351 (2002).

#### **Background**

On July 24, 2002, the Department issued the preliminary results of the new shipper review of the antidumping duty order on fresh garlic from the People's Republic of China. See *Fresh Garlic from the People's Republic of China: Notice of Preliminary Results of Antidumping Duty New Shipper Review and Intent to Rescind in Part*, 67 FR 49669 (July 31, 2002). We invited parties to comment on our preliminary results. We received comments from the petitioners and the new shipper, Jinan Yipin Corporation, Ltd. The final results for this review are currently due October 22, 2002.

#### **Extension of Time Limit for Final Results of New Shipper Review**

Section 751(a)(1)(B)(iv) of the Act provides that the Department will issue the final results of a new shipper review within 90 days after the date on which the preliminary results were issued. If

<sup>1</sup> We were also conducting a new shipper review of the antidumping order on fresh garlic from the People's Republic of China for Shandong Heze International Trade and Developing Company (Shandong Heze). On October 22, 2002, we issued a notice rescinding that new shipper review.

the Department determines that a new shipper review is extraordinarily complicated, however, section 751(a)(1)(B)(iv) of the Act allows the Department to extend the deadline for the final results to up to 150 days after the date on which the preliminary results of the new shipper review were issued. The Department has determined that this case is extraordinarily complicated, and the final results of this new shipper review cannot be completed within 90 days from the date on which the preliminary results were issued. The Department finds that this new shipper review is extraordinarily complicated because the comments we received present a number of complex factual and legal questions about the assignment of antidumping duty margins.

Therefore, in accordance with section 751(a)(1)(B)(iv) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.214(i)(3), the Department is extending the time limit for the completion of the final results by thirty-five days. The final results will be due no later than November 26, 2002.

Dated: October 22, 2002.

**Richard W. Moreland,**

*Deputy Assistant Secretary for AD/CVD Enforcement I.*

[FR Doc. 02-27396 Filed 10-25-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### International Trade Administration

[A-588-854]

#### **Certain Tin Mill Products From Japan: Notice of Initiation of Changed Circumstances Review of the Antidumping Order**

**AGENCY:** Import Administration, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of initiation of changed circumstances antidumping duty review.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with 19 CFR 351.216(b), Nippon Steel Corporation ("Nippon"), an exporter and manufacturer of the subject merchandise, filed a request for a changed circumstances review of the antidumping order on certain tin mill products from Japan with respect to certain laminated tin-free steel, as described below. In Nippon's request, Weirton Steel Corporation, United States Steel Corporation, Bethlehem Steel Corporation, USS-Posco Industries, and National Steel Corporation stated that they do not object to the exclusion of this product

from the order. In response to the apparent lack of interest in this product from the domestic industry, the Department of Commerce ("the Department") is initiating a changed circumstances review with respect to this request for all future entries for consumption of tin-free laminated steel, as described below.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 28, 2002.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Michael Ferrier, Import Administration, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230; telephone: (202) 482-1394.

**The Applicable Statute and Regulations**

Unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the statute are references to the provisions effective January 1, 1995, the effective date of the amendments made to the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended ("the Act"), by the Uruguay Round Agreements Act. In addition, unless otherwise indicated, all citations to the Department's regulations are to the regulations as codified at 19 CFR part 351 (2002).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

On August 28, 2000, the Department published in the **Federal Register** the antidumping duty order on certain tin mill products from Japan. *See Notice of Antidumping Duty Order: Certain Tin Mill Products from Japan* 65 FR 52067 (August 28, 2000). On September 6, 2002, Nippon, an exporter and manufacturer of the subject merchandise requested that the Department revoke in part the antidumping duty order on certain tin mill products from Japan. Specifically, Nippon requested that the Department revoke the order with respect to imports meeting the following specifications: Tin-free steel laminated on one or both sides of the surface with a polyester film, consisting of two layers (an amorphous layer and an outer crystal layer), that contains no more than the indicated amounts of the following environmental hormones: 1 mg/kg BADGE (BisPhenol—A Di-glycidyl Ether), 1 mg/kg BFDGE (BisPhenol—F Di-glycidyl Ether), and 3 mg/kg BPA (BisPhenol—A).

Nippon included letters from Weirton Steel Corporation, United States Steel Corporation, Bethlehem Steel Corporation, USS-Posco Industries, and National Steel Corporation, in its request for the changed circumstances review stating their support for the exclusion of the tin-free laminated steel,

as described above. However, the Department does not have information on the record of this changed circumstances review that the aforementioned domestic tin mill producers account for substantially all, or at least 85 percent, of the production of the domestic like product. *See Oil Country Tubular Goods From Mexico: Preliminary Results of Changed Circumstances Antidumping Duty Administrative Review*, 64 FR 14213 (March 24, 1999). Additionally, the Department has no information on the record that the other known domestic producers of tin mill products, Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corporation, and Ohio Coatings Corporation, have no interest in maintaining the antidumping duty order with respect to certain laminated tin-free steel described in Nippon's request. Therefore, we are not combining this initiation with a preliminary determination, which is our normal practice under section 351.221(c)(3)(ii). This notice of initiation will accord all interested parties an opportunity to address this proposed exclusion.

**Scope of Review**

The products covered by this antidumping order are tin mill flat-rolled products that are coated or plated with tin, chromium or chromium oxides. Flat-rolled steel products coated with tin are known as tin plate. Flat-rolled steel products coated with chromium or chromium oxides are known as tin-free steel or electrolytic chromium-coated steel. The scope includes all the noted tin mill products regardless of thickness, width, form (in coils or cut sheets), coating type (electrolytic or otherwise), edge (trimmed, untrimmed or further processed, such as scroll cut), coating thickness, surface finish, temper, coating metal (tin, chromium, chromium oxide), reduction (single- or double-reduced), and whether or not coated with a plastic material. All products that meet the written physical description are within the scope of this order unless specifically excluded. The following products, by way of example, are outside and/or specifically excluded from the scope of this order:

—Single reduced electrolytically chromium coated steel with a thickness 0.238 mm (85 pound base box) (#10%) or 0.251 mm (90 pound base box) (#10%) or 0.255 mm (#10%) with 770 mm (minimum width) (#1.588 mm) by 900 mm (maximum length if sheared) sheet size or 30.6875 inches (minimum width) (# $\frac{1}{16}$  inch) and 35.4 inches (maximum

length if sheared) sheet size; with type MR or higher (per ASTM) A623 steel chemistry; batch annealed at T2  $\frac{1}{2}$  anneal temper, with a yield strength of 31 to 42 kpsi (214 to 290 Mpa); with a tensile strength of 43 to 58 kpsi (296 to 400 Mpa); with a chrome coating restricted to 32 to 150 mg/m<sup>2</sup>; with a chrome oxide coating restricted to 6 to 25 mg/m<sup>2</sup> with a modified 7B ground roll finish or blasted roll finish; with roughness average (Ra) 0.10 to 0.35 micrometers, measured with a stylus instrument with a stylus radius of 2 to 5 microns, a trace length of 5.6 mm, and a cut-off of 0.8 mm, and the measurement traces shall be made perpendicular to the rolling direction; with an oil level of 0.17 to 0.37 grams/base box as type BSO, or 2.5 to 5.5 mg/m<sup>2</sup> as type DOS, or 3.5 to 6.5 mg/m<sup>2</sup> as type ATBC; with electrical conductivity of static probe voltage drop of 0.46 volts drop maximum, and with electrical conductivity degradation to 0.70 volts drop maximum after stoving (heating to 400 degrees F for 100 minutes followed by a cool to room temperature).

- Single reduced electrolytically chromium- or tin-coated steel in the gauges of 0.0040 inch nominal, 0.0045 inch nominal, 0.0050 inch nominal, 0.0061 inch nominal (55 pound base box weight), 0.0066 inch nominal (60 pound base box weight), and 0.0072 inch nominal (65 pound base box weight), regardless of width, temper, finish, coating or other properties.
- Single reduced electrolytically chromium coated steel in the gauge of 0.024 inch, with widths of 27.0 inches or 31.5 inches, and with T-1 temper properties.
- Single reduced electrolytically chromium coated steel, with a chemical composition of 0.005% max carbon, 0.030% max silicon, 0.25% max manganese, 0.025% max phosphorous, 0.025% max sulfur, 0.070% max aluminum, and the balance iron, with a metallic chromium layer of 70–130 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, with a chromium oxide layer of 5–30 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, with a tensile strength of 260–440 N/mm<sup>2</sup>, with an elongation of 28–48%, with a hardness (HR-30T) of 40–58, with a surface roughness of 0.5–1.5 microns Ra, with magnetic properties of Bm (KG) 10.0 minimum, Br (KG) 8.0 minimum, Hc (Oe) 2.5–3.8, and MU 1400 minimum, as measured with a Riken Denshi DC magnetic characteristic measuring machine, Model BHU-60.
- Bright finish tin-coated sheet with a thickness equal to or exceeding 0.0299 inch, coated to thickness of  $\frac{3}{4}$

pound (0.000045 inch) and 1 pound (0.00006 inch).

- Electrolytically chromium coated steel having ultra flat shape defined as oil can maximum depth of  $\frac{5}{64}$  inch (2.0 mm) and edge wave maximum of  $\frac{5}{64}$  inch (2.0 mm) and no wave to penetrate more than 2.0 inches (51.0 mm) from the strip edge and coilset or curling requirements of average maximum of  $\frac{5}{64}$  inch (2.0 mm) (based on six readings, three across each cut edge of a 24 inches (61 cm) long sample with no single reading exceeding  $\frac{4}{32}$  inch (3.2 mm) and no more than two readings at  $\frac{4}{32}$  inch (3.2 mm)) and (for 85 pound base box item only: crossbuckle maximums of 0.001 inch (0.0025 mm) average having no reading above 0.005 inch (0.127 mm)), with a camber maximum of  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6.3 mm) per 20 feet (6.1 meters), capable of being bent 120 degrees on a 0.002 inch radius without cracking, with a chromium coating weight of metallic chromium at 100 mg/m<sup>2</sup> and chromium oxide of 10 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, with a chemistry of 0.13% maximum carbon, 0.60% maximum manganese, 0.15% maximum silicon, 0.20% maximum copper, 0.04% maximum phosphorous, 0.05% maximum sulfur, and 0.20% maximum aluminum, with a surface finish of Stone Finish 7C, with a DOS-A oil at an aim level of 2 mg/square meter, with not more than 15 inclusions/foreign matter in 15 feet (4.6 meters) (with inclusions not to exceed  $\frac{1}{32}$  inch (0.8 mm) in width and  $\frac{3}{64}$  inch (1.2 mm) in length), with thickness/temper combinations of either 60 pound base box (0.0066 inch) double reduced CADR8 temper in widths of 25.00 inches, 27.00 inches, 27.50 inches, 28.00 inches, 28.25 inches, 28.50 inches, 29.50 inches, 29.75 inches, 30.25 inches, 31.00 inches, 32.75 inches, 33.75 inches, 35.75 inches, 36.25 inches, 39.00 inches, or 43.00 inches, or 85 pound base box (0.0094 inch) single reduced CAT4 temper in widths of 25.00 inches, 27.00 inches, 28.00 inches, 30.00 inches, 33.00 inches, 33.75 inches, 35.75 inches, 36.25 inches, or 43.00 inches, with width tolerance of  $\pm \frac{1}{8}$  inch, with a thickness tolerance of  $\pm 0.0005$  inch, with a maximum coil weight of 20,000 pounds (9071.0 kg), with a minimum coil weight of 18,000 pounds (8164.8 kg) with a coil inside diameter of 16 inches (40.64 cm) with a steel core, with a coil maximum outside diameter of 59.5 inches (151.13 cm), with a maximum of one weld (identified with a paper flag) per

coil, with a surface free of scratches, holes, and rust.

- Electrolytically tin coated steel having differential coating with 1.00 pound/base box equivalent on the heavy side, with varied coating equivalents in the lighter side (detailed below), with a continuous cast steel chemistry of type MR, with a surface finish of type 7B or 7C, with a surface passivation of 0.7 mg/square foot of chromium applied as a cathodic dichromate treatment, with coil form having restricted oil film weights of 0.3–0.4 grams/base box of type DOS-A oil, coil inside diameter ranging from 15.5 to 17 inches, coil outside diameter of a maximum 64 inches, with a maximum coil weight of 25,000 pounds, and with temper/coating/dimension combinations of: (1) CAT 4 temper, 1.00/.050 pound/base box coating, 70 pound/base box (0.0077 inch) thickness, and 33.1875 inch ordered width; or (2) CAT5 temper, 1.00/0.50 pound/base box coating, 75 pound/base box (0.0082 inch) thickness, and 34.9375 inch or 34.1875 inch ordered width; or (3) CAT5 temper, 1.00/0.50 pound/base box coating, 107 pound/base box (0.0118 inch) thickness, and 30.5625 inch or 35.5625 inch ordered width; or (4) CADR8 temper, 1.00/0.50 pound/base box coating, 85 pound/base box (0.0093 inch) thickness, and 35.5625 inch ordered width; or (5) CADR8 temper, 1.00/0.25 pound/base box coating, 60 pound/base box (0.0066 inch) thickness, and 35.9375 inch ordered width; or (6) CADR8 temper, 1.00/0.25 pound/base box coating, 70 pound/base box (0.0077 inch) thickness, and 32.9375 inch, 33.125 inch, or 35.1875 inch ordered width.
- Electrolytically tin coated steel having differential coating with 1.00 pound/base box equivalent on the heavy side, with varied coating equivalents on the lighter side (detailed below), with a continuous cast steel chemistry of type MR, with a surface finish of type 7B or 7C, with a surface passivation of 0.5 mg/square foot of chromium applied as a cathodic dichromate treatment, with ultra flat scroll cut sheet form, with CAT 5 temper with 1.00/0.10 pound/base box coating, with a lithograph logo printed in a uniform pattern on the 0.10 pound coating side with a clear protective coat, with both sides waxed to a level of 15–20 mg/216 sq. in., with ordered dimension combinations of (1) 75 pound/base box (0.0082 inch) thickness and 34.9375 inch x 31.748 inch scroll cut dimensions; or (2) 75 pound/base box (0.0082 inch)

thickness and 34.1875 inch x 29.076 inch scroll cut dimensions; or (3) 107 pound/base box (0.0118 inch) thickness and 30.5625 inch x 34.125 inch scroll cut dimension.

- Tin-free steel coated with a metallic chromium layer between 100–200 mg/m<sup>2</sup> and a chromium oxide layer between 5–30 mg/m<sup>2</sup>; chemical composition of 0.05% maximum carbon, 0.03% maximum silicon, 0.60% maximum manganese, 0.02% maximum phosphorous, and 0.02% maximum sulfur; magnetic flux density (“Br”) of 10 kg minimum and a coercive force (“Hc”) of 3.8 Oe minimum.

The merchandise subject to this order is classified in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (“HTSUS”), under HTSUS subheadings 7210.11.0000, 7210.12.0000, 7210.50.0000, 7212.10.0000, and 7212.50.0000 if of non-alloy steel and under HTSUS subheadings 7225.99.0090, and 7226.99.0000 if of alloy steel. Although the subheadings are provided for convenience and Customs purposes, our written description of the scope of this review is dispositive.

#### Initiation of Changed Circumstances Antidumping Duty Administrative Review

Pursuant to section 751(d)(1) of the Act, the Department may revoke an antidumping or countervailing duty order, in whole or in part, based on a review under section 751(b) of the Act (*i.e.*, a changed circumstances review). Section 751(b)(1) of the Act requires a changed circumstances review to be conducted upon receipt of a request which shows changed circumstances sufficient to warrant a review. Section 351.222(g) of the Department’s regulations provides that the Department will conduct a changed circumstances administrative review under 19 CFR 351.216, and may revoke an order (in whole or in part), if it determines that (i) producers accounting for substantially all of the production of the domestic like product to which the order pertains have expressed a lack of interest in the relief provided by the order, in whole or in part, or (ii) if other changed circumstances sufficient to warrant revocation exist. To the Department’s knowledge the following are U.S. producers of tin mill products: Bethlehem Steel Corporation, National Steel Corporation, Midwest Division, Ohio Coatings Corporation, U.S. Steel Group, a Unit of USX Corp., Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corporation, and USS-Posco Industries, Inc. Based upon the statements of no interest by Weirton

Steel Corporation, United States Steel Corporation, Bethlehem Steel Corporation, USS-Posco Industries, and National Steel Corporation, we believe there is information sufficient to warrant initiation of this changed circumstances review.

The Department will publish in the **Federal Register** a notice of preliminary results of changed circumstances review, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.221(c), which will set forth the factual and legal conclusions upon which our preliminary results are based, and a description of any action proposed based on those results. Interested parties may submit comments for consideration in the Department's preliminary results not later than 14 days after publication of this notice. Responses to those comments may be submitted not later than 7 days following submission of the comments. All written comments must be submitted in accordance with 19 CFR 351.303, and must be served on all interested parties on the Department's service list in accordance with 19 CFR 351.303. The Department will also issue its final results of review within 270 days after the date on which the changed circumstances review is initiated, in accordance with 19 CFR 351.216(e), and will publish these results in the **Federal Register**. While the changed circumstances review is underway, the current requirement for a cash deposit of estimated antidumping duties on all subject merchandise, including the merchandise that is the subject of this changed circumstances review, will continue unless and until it is modified pursuant to the final results of this changed circumstances review or other administrative review.

This notice is in accordance with sections 751(b)(1) and 777(i)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.216 and 351.222.

Dated: October 21, 2002.

**Faryar Shirzad,**

*Assistant Secretary for Import Administration.*

[FR Doc. 02-27394 Filed 10-25-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Geographic and Atmospheric Administration

#### Availability of Seats for the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

**AGENCY:** National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP), National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce (DOD).

**ACTION:** Notice and request for applications.

**SUMMARY:** The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (HIHWNMS or Sanctuary) is seeking applicants for the following two vacant seats on its Sanctuary Advisory Council (Council): Fishing and Native Hawaiian. The Sanctuary will choose two applicants as members and two as alternates to those members. Members are chosen based upon their particular expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying; community and professional affiliations; philosophy regarding the conservation and management of marine resources; and the length of residence in the area affected by the Sanctuary. Applicants who are chosen as members should expect to serve two-year terms, pursuant to the Council's Charter.

**DATES:** Applications are due by November 20, 2002.

**ADDRESSES:** Application kits may be obtained on our website [www.hihwnms.nos.noaa.gov](http://www.hihwnms.nos.noaa.gov) or from Amy Glester at the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, 6700 Kalaniana'ole Hwy, Suite 104, Honolulu, Hawaii 96825. Completed applications should be sent to the same address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Amy Glester at (808) 397-2655, or [amy.glester@noaa.gov](mailto:amy.glester@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The HIHWNMS Advisory Council was established in March 1996 (the current Council has served since July 1998) to assure continued public participation in the management of the Sanctuary. Since its establishment, the Council has played a vital role in the decisions affecting the Sanctuary surrounding the main Hawaiian Islands.

The Council's twenty-four voting members represent a variety of local user groups, as well as the general public, plus ten local, state and Federal governmental jurisdictions.

The Council is supported by three subcommittees: a Research Committee chaired by the Research Representative, an Education Committee chaired by the Education Representative, and a Conservation Committee chaired by the Conservation Representative, each respectively dealing with matters concerning research, education and resource protection.

The Council represents the coordination link between the Sanctuary and the state and federal management agencies, user groups,

researchers, educators, policy makers, and other various groups that help to focus efforts and attention on the humpback whale and its habitat around the main Hawaiian Islands.

The council functions in an advisory capacity to the Sanctuary Manager and is instrumental in helping to develop policies and program goals, and to identify education, outreach, research, long-term monitoring, resource protection and revenue enhancement priorities. The Council works in concert with the Sanctuary Manager by keeping him or her informed about issues of concern throughout the Sanctuary, offering recommendations on specific issues, and aiding the Manager in achieving the goals of the Sanctuary program within the context of Hawaii's marine programs and policies.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. Section 1431 *et seq.*

(Federal Domestic Assistance Catalog Number 11.429 Marine Sanctuary Program).

Dated: October 15, 2002

**Jamison S. Hawkins,**

*Acting Assistant Administrator for Oceans and Coastal Zone Management.*

[FR Doc. 02-27368 Filed 10-25-02; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### United States Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. 2003-C-002]

#### Request for comments and notice of round table meetings regarding Small Business Views on Additional Harmonization of Patent Laws

**AGENCY:** United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

**ACTION:** Request for input and notice of round table meetings.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) seeks comments from small businesses, experts in global patent issues and other interested parties on achieving additional harmonization of patent laws. As a part of this effort, USPTO announces the scheduling of three round table meetings to receive views on patent law harmonization issues.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by December 19, 2002, to ensure consideration. Requests to participate in round table meetings must be received by November 22, 2002. If it becomes necessary to limit the number of participants, preference will be given to first-in-time requests. The round table meetings are tentatively scheduled for December 2, 2002, in the greater Los