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Office of the United States Trade Representative
Executive Office of the President

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U.S. Trade Representative Froman Announces Outcome of Generalized System of Preferences Review

Washington, D.C. – United States Trade Representative Michael Froman announced today the outcome of the Obama Administration's 2012 Annual Review under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program. GSP is a 37-year-old trade preference program under which the United States provides duty-free treatment to many imports from developing countries.

"GSP is a time-tested tool for advancing international economic development while also helping U.S. businesses, workers, and consumers by lowering the costs of imported goods, including those used as inputs for U.S. manufacturing," Ambassador Froman said. "The annual review allows the Administration to ensure that the program continues to meet the needs of developing countries while taking into account such factors as the growing competitiveness of many emerging market economies and the country eligibility criteria set forth in the GSP statute."

Ambassador Froman added, "Given the GSP program's importance both for developing countries and for U.S. jobs and economic growth, the Administration will work with Congress to renew GSP – so that developing countries can continue to expand their economies through trade with the United States, and so that U.S. businesses and consumers can continue to benefit from the cost savings on GSP products, including intermediate inputs for Made-in-America goods."

Based on the Administration's review of several issues and petitions related to eligibility of products under the GSP program, President Obama made determinations today affecting product coverage under GSP. The President: 1) granted waivers of competitive need limitations (CNLs) for over 100 products from 14 countries, including both petitioned and de minimis waivers; and 2) determined that two products from two countries – a corn product from Brazil and passenger tires from Indonesia – should no longer be eligible for duty-free treatment under the GSP program because the relevant country is sufficiently competitive and exceeded CNLs for the product. The changes to GSP eligibility for these products will become effective on July 1, 2013. The Administration deferred decisions on petitions to add three products – cut roses, frozen broccoli, and certain preserved artichokes – to duty-free treatment under GSP.

As part of this year's review, the Administration also considered petitions to withdraw or suspend certain countries' eligibility for GSP benefits based on statutory criteria, including whether a country is taking steps to afford internationally recognized standards for worker rights, whether a country acts in good faith in recognizing and enforcing arbitral awards in favor of United States citizens, and the extent to which a country adequately and effectively protects intellectual property rights (IPR). As described in a separate press release, the President has decided, drawing on the recommendation of the U.S. Trade Representative, to suspend the GSP benefits of Bangladesh based on that country's failure to meet the statutory GSP country eligibility criterion related to worker rights. In addition, USTR has accepted for review a country practice petition on Ecuador related to recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards. Initial steps in the review of the Ecuador petition will be announced in a forthcoming notice published in the Federal Register. Several other country practice petitions accepted in previous years remain under review: Indonesia, Russia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan regarding protection of IPR, and Fiji, Georgia, Iraq, Niger, the Philippines, and Uzbekistan regarding worker rights.

HTS number	Description	Country	Decision
0713.90.81	Dried leguminous vegetables, nesi, shelled, if entered Sept. 1 through the following April 30, or withdrawn for consumption at any time	Bolivia	Grant
0802.52.00	Pistachios, fresh or dried, shelled	Turkey	Grant
0802.80.10	Areca nuts, fresh or dried, in shell	India	Grant
0810.60.00	Durians, fresh	Thailand	Grant
0813.40.10	Papayas, dried	Thailand	Grant
0813.40.80	Tamarinds, dried	Thailand	Grant
1102.90.30	Cereal flours nesi, mixed together	India	Grant
1604.13.90	Sardines, sardinella and brisling or sprats (not in oil and airtight cont.), prepared or preserved, not minced, cont. 225 g or more	Ecuador	Grant
1702.90.52	Sugar syrups, artificial honey, caramel, nesoi, subject to gen. note 15 of the HTS	India	Grant
1703.90.50	Molasses nesi	Ukraine	Grant
1806.10.22	Cocoa powder, o/65% but less than 90% by dry wt of sugar, subject to gen. note 15 of the HTS	Brazil	Grant
1901.20.45	Mixes for bakers wares (dairy prod. of Ch4 US note 1), n/o 25% bf, not retail, subj. to add. US nte 10 to Ch.4, not GN15	Turkey	Grant
2001.90.45	Mangoes, prepared or preserved by vinegar or acetic acid	India	Grant
2004.90.10	Antipasto, prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid, frozen	Ecuador	Grant
2005.80.00	Sweet corn, prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar, acetic acid or sugar, not frozen	Thailand	Grant
2005.91.97	Vegetables nesoi, & mixtures of vegetables, prepared or preserved otherwise than by vinegar or acetic acid, not frozen, not preserved by sugar	India	Grant
2008.30.96	Citrus fruit nesoi (including bergamots), other than peel or pulp, otherwise prepared or preserved, nesoi	Ecuador	Grant
2008.99.50	Papayas, other than pulp, otherwise prepared or preserved, nesi	Thailand	Grant
2103.90.72	Mixed condiments and mixed seasonings (described in add US note 3 to Ch. 21), subject to gen. note 15 of the HTS	India	Grant
2401.20.57	Tobacco, partly or wholly stemmed/stripped, n/threshed or similarly proc., not or n/over 35% wrapper, not flue-cured burley etc., other nesi	Jordan	Grant
2516.12.00	Granite, merely cut into blocks or slabs of a rectangular (including square) shape	India	Grant
2813.90.50	Sulfides of nonmetals, excluding carbon disulfide and sulfides of arsenic or phosphorus	India	Grant
2827.39.25	Tin chlorides	India	Grant
2827.39.45	Barium chloride	India	Grant

HTS number	Description	Country	Decision
2830.90.20	Cadmium sulfide	Russia	Grant
2831.90.00	Dithionites and sulfoxylates, other than those of sodium	India	Grant
2833.29.10	Cobalt sulfate	India	Grant
2833.29.40	Chromium sulfate	Turkey	Grant
2834.10.10	Sodium nitrite	India	Grant
2840.11.00	Anhydrous disodium tetraborate (refined borax)	Turkey	Grant
2841.61.00	Potassium permanganate	India	Grant
2844.30.10	Thorium compounds	India	Grant
2904.90.15	4-Chloro-3-nitro-alpha,alpha,alpha-trifluorotoluene; and other specified aromatic sulfonated, nitrated or nitrosated deriv. of hydrocar.	India	Grant
2905.19.10	Pentanol (Amyl alcohol) and isomers thereof	Brazil	Grant
2905.44.00	D-glucitol (Sorbitol)	Indonesia	Grant
2907.29.25	tert-Butylhydroquinone	India	Grant
2908.19.20	Pentachlorophenol and its salts; and 2,4,5-trichlorophenol and its salts	India	Grant
2909.11.00	Diethyl ether	India	Grant
2912.49.10	p-Anisaldehyde	India	Grant
2913.00.50	Nonaromatic halogenated, sulfonated, nitrated or nitrosated derivatives of products of heading 2912	India	Grant
2914.29.10	Isophorone	India	Grant
2914.40.10	4-Hydroxy-4-methylpentan-2-one (Diacetone alcohol)	Brazil	Grant
2914.40.20	1,2,3-Indantrione monohydrate (Ninhydrin)	India	Grant
2915.29.20	Odoriferous or flavoring compounds of aromatic esters of acetic acid, other than benzyl acetate	India	Grant
2915.50.20	Aromatic salts and esters of propionic acid	India	Grant
2921.42.15	N Ethylaniline and N,N diethylaniline	India	Grant
2921.42.21	Metanilic acid	India	Grant
2922.29.26	Amino-naphthols and other amino-phenols and their derivatives used as fast color bases	India	Grant
2924.21.04	3-(p-Chlorophenyl)-1,1-dimethylurea (Monuron)	Brazil	Grant
2927.00.30	Fast color bases and fast color salts, of diazo-, azo- or azoxy-compounds	India	Grant
2933.99.06	alpha-Butyl-alpha-(4-chlorophenyl)-1H-1,2,4-triazole-1-propanenitrile (Mycolbutanil); and one other specified aromatic chemical	India	Grant
3815.90.10	Reaction initiators, reaction accelerators and catalytic preparations, nesoi, consisting wholly of bismuth, of tungsten or of vanadium	Brazil	Grant
3824.90.32	Chemical mixtures nesoi, of two or more inorganic compounds, of hydrosulfite or sulfoxylate compounds or of both	Brazil	Grant