

Street, 6th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19123–2932.

Office of the Regional Chief Counsel, Region IV, Social Security Administration, Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center, 61 Forsyth Street SW, Suite 20T45, Atlanta, GA 30303–8910.

Office of the Regional Chief Counsel, Region V, Social Security Administration, 200 West Adams Street, 30th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606–5208.

Office of the Regional Chief Counsel, Region VI, Social Security Administration, 1301 Young Street, Ste. 340, Mailroom 104, Dallas, TX 75202–5433.

Office of the Regional Chief Counsel, Region VII, Social Security Administration, Richard Bolling Federal Building, 601 E 12th Street, Room 965, Kansas City, MO 64106–2898.

Office of the Regional Chief Counsel, Region VIII, Social Security Administration, 1961 Stout Street, Suite 4169, Denver, CO 80294–4003.

Office of the Regional Chief Counsel, Region IX, Social Security Administration, 160 Spear Street, Suite 800, San Francisco, CA 94105–1545.

Office of the Regional Chief Counsel, Region X, Social Security Administration, 701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2900 M/S 221A, Seattle, WA 98104–7075.

Office of Program Law, Office of the General Counsel, Social Security Administration, 6401 Security Boulevard, Altmeyer Building, Room 617, Baltimore, MD 21235–6401.

**Andrew Saul,**

*Commissioner of Social Security.*

[FR Doc. 2020–04246 Filed 2–28–20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4191–02–P**

## SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

[Docket No. SSA–2020–0002]

### Announcing Our Guidance Document Portal

**AGENCY:** Social Security Administration.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces our new guidance document portal established under Executive Order 13891, “Promoting the Rule of Law Through Improved Agency Guidance Documents” (E.O. 13891) and the Office of Management and Budget’s (OMB) memorandum, M–20–02, “Guidance Implementing Executive Order 13891, Titled ‘Promoting the Rule of Law Through Improved Agency Guidance Documents.’”

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jennifer Dulski, Office of Regulations

and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, 3100 West High Rise, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, Maryland 21235–6401, (410) 966–2341. For information on eligibility or filing for benefits, call our national toll-free number, 1–800–325–0778, or visit our internet site, Social Security Online, at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On October 9, 2019, the President of the United States issued E.O. 13891.<sup>1</sup> E.O. 13891 states that it is the policy of the executive branch, to the extent consistent with applicable law, to require that agencies treat guidance documents as non-binding both in law and in practice, except as incorporated into a contract; take public input into account when appropriate in formulating guidance documents; and make guidance documents readily available to the public. In order to make guidance documents readily available to the public, E.O. 13891 requires that each agency or agency component, as appropriate, establish or maintain on its website a single, searchable, indexed portal that contains or links to all guidance documents in effect from such agency or component. It also requires that the guidance document portal include a statement informing the public that guidance documents lack the force and effect of law, except as authorized by law or as incorporated into a contract. Each agency or agency component, as appropriate, must establish its guidance document portal by February 28, 2020.

We are announcing our new guidance document portal, which is available at [www.socialsecurity.gov/guidance](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/guidance). By February 28, 2020, you will be able to access from our portal all of our guidance documents remaining in effect. We will also make this notice available on the portal.

Dated: February 24, 2020.

**Andrew Saul,**

*Commissioner of Social Security.*

[FR Doc. 2020–04177 Filed 2–28–20; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4191–02–P**

## OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket Number USTR–2020–0009]

### Request for Comments Concerning the Extension of Particular Exclusions Granted Under the May 2019 Product Exclusion Notice From the \$34 Billion Action Pursuant to Section 301: China’s Acts, Policies, and Practices Related to Technology Transfer, Intellectual Property, and Innovation

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States Trade Representative.

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

**SUMMARY:** Effective July 6, 2018, the U.S. Trade Representative imposed additional duties on goods of China with an annual trade value of approximately \$34 billion as part of the action in the Section 301 investigation of China’s acts, policies, and practices related to technology transfer, intellectual property, and innovation. The U.S. Trade Representative initiated the exclusion process in July 2018 and granted multiple sets of exclusions. The fourth set of exclusions was granted in May 2019, and are scheduled to expire on May 14, 2020. The U.S. Trade Representative has decided to consider a possible extension for up to 12 months of particular exclusions granted in May 2019. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) invites public comment on whether to extend particular exclusions.

**DATES:**

March 12, 2020 at 12:01 a.m. ET: The docket (USTR–2020–0009) will open for comments on the possible extension of particular exclusions.

April 12, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. ET: To be assured of consideration, submit written comments by this deadline.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit public comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <https://www.regulations.gov>. The docket number is USTR–2020–0009. USTR strongly encourages all commenters to use Form A to submit comments. If applicable, Form B (which requests Business Confidential Information (BCI)), along with a copy of the corresponding Form A, must be submitted via email at [301bcisubmissions@ustr.eop.gov](mailto:301bcisubmissions@ustr.eop.gov). See the submission instructions below.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** USTR Assistant General Counsels Philip Butler or Benjamin Allen at (202) 395–5725.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

<sup>1</sup> 84 FR 55235, available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/10/15/2019-22623/promoting-the-rule-of-law-through-improved-agency-guidance-documents>.

## A. Background

For background on the proceedings in this investigation, please see the prior notices issued in the investigation, including 82 FR 40213 (August 23, 2017), 83 FR 14906 (April 6, 2018), 83 FR 28710 (June 20, 2018), 83 FR 40823 (August 16, 2018), 83 FR 47974 (September 21, 2018), 83 FR 65198 (December 19, 2018), 84 FR 7966 (March 5, 2019), 84 FR 20459 (May 9, 2019), 84 FR 43304 (August 20, 2019), 84 FR 45821 (August 30, 2019), 84 FR 69447 (December 18, 2019), and 85 FR 3741 (January 22, 2020).

Effective July 6, 2018, the U.S. Trade Representative imposed additional 25 percent duties on goods of China classified in 818 8-digit subheadings of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS), with an approximate annual trade value of \$34 billion. See 83 FR 28710. The U.S. Trade Representative's determination included a decision to establish a process by which U.S. stakeholders could request exclusion of particular products classified within an 8-digit HTSUS subheading covered by the \$34 billion action from the additional duties. The U.S. Trade Representative issued a notice setting out the process for the product exclusions, and opened a public docket. See 83 FR 32181 (the July 11 notice).

The July 11 notice required submission of requests for exclusion from the \$34 billion action no later than October 9, 2018, and noted that the U.S. Trade Representative periodically would announce decisions. The U.S. Trade Representative granted multiple sets of exclusions. The fourth set of exclusions was granted in May 2019, and are scheduled to expire on May 14, 2020. See 84 FR 21389 (May 14, 2019) (May 2019 notice).

## B. Possible Extensions of Particular Product Exclusions

The U.S. Trade Representative has decided to consider a possible extension for up to 12 months of particular exclusions granted in the May 2019 notice. Accordingly, USTR invites public comments on whether to extend particular exclusions granted in the May 2019 notice. At this time, USTR is not considering comments concerning possible extensions of exclusions granted under any other product exclusion notice.

USTR will evaluate the possible extension of each exclusion on a case-by-case basis. The focus of the evaluation will be whether, despite the first imposition of these additional duties in July 2018, the particular

product remains available only from China. In addressing this factor, commenters specifically should address:

- Whether the particular product and/or a comparable product is available from sources in the United States and/or in third countries.
- Any changes in the global supply chain since July 2018 with respect to the particular product or any other relevant industry developments.
- The efforts, if any, the importers or U.S. purchasers have undertaken since July 2018 to source the product from the United States or third countries.

In addition, USTR will continue to consider whether the imposition of additional duties on the products covered by the exclusion will result in severe economic harm to the commenter or other U.S. interests.

USTR strongly encourages that commenters complete Form A (which will be posted on USTR's website by the time the docket opens) and submit the completed Form A to <https://www.regulations.gov>. The docket number is USTR-2020-0009. USTR will post completed Form A's on the public docket.

In addition to submitting Form A, commenters who are importers and/or purchasers of the products covered by the exclusion also should complete Form B (which will be posted on USTR's website by the time the docket opens) and submit it, along with a copy of their completed Form A, via email at [301bcisubmissions@ustr.eop.gov](mailto:301bcisubmissions@ustr.eop.gov). Form A must be submitted via email with Form B and submitted as a single document (without Form B) to docket USTR-2020-0009 at <https://www.regulations.gov>.

Form B requests BCI information, and will not be posted on the public docket. To facilitate advance preparation of submissions, facsimiles of Forms A and B are annexed to this notice and will be available electronically at <https://ustr.gov/issue-areas/enforcement/section-301-investigations/section-301-china/34-billion-trade-action>.

Set forth below is a summary of the information to be entered on Form A:

- Contact information, including the full legal name of the organization making the comment, whether the commenter is a third party (e.g., law firm, trade association, or customs broker) submitting on behalf of an organization or industry, and the name of the third party organization, if applicable.
- The publication date of the **Federal Register** notice containing the exclusion on which you are commenting. Since USTR at this time only is considering

exclusions granted by the May 2019 notice, this field must specify May 14, 2019.

- The full article description for the exclusion you are commenting on and the 10-digit code, as provided in the **Federal Register** notice granting the exclusion. Please indicate if the exclusion is a 10-digit HTSUS code (covering all products under a single 10-digit HTSUS number).

- Whether the product or products covered by the exclusion are subject to an antidumping or countervailing duty order issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

- Whether you support or oppose extending the exclusion and an explanation of your rationale. Commenters must provide a public version of their rationale, even if the commenter also is submitting a Form B with more detailed, confidential information.

- Whether the products covered by the exclusion or comparable products are available from sources in the U.S. or in third countries. Please include information concerning any changes in the global supply chain since July 2018 with respect to the particular product.

- Whether the commenter will be submitting Form B.

As indicated above, information submitted on Form B will not be publically available. Form B requires commenters who are importers and/or purchasers of the products covered by the exclusion to provide the following information:

- The efforts you have undertaken since July 2018 to source the product from the United States or third countries.

- The value and quantity of the Chinese-origin product covered by the specific exclusion request purchased in 2018, the first half of 2018, and the first half of 2019. Whether these purchases are from a related company, and if so, the name of and relationship to the related company.

- Whether Chinese suppliers have lowered their prices for products covered by the exclusion following the imposition of duties.

- The value and quantity of the product covered by the exclusion purchased from domestic and third country sources in 2018, the first half of 2018, and the first half of 2019.

- If applicable, the commenter's gross revenue for 2018, the first half of 2018, and the first half of 2019.

- Whether the Chinese-origin product of concern is sold as a final product or as an input.

- Whether the imposition of duties on the products covered by the exclusion

will result in severe economic harm to the commenter or other U.S. interests.

- Any additional information in support or in opposition of the extending the exclusion.

Commenters also may provide any other information or data that they consider relevant.

#### **C. Submission Instructions**

To be assured of consideration, you must submit your comment between the

opening of the docket on March 12, 2020, and the April 12, 2020 submission deadline. By submitting a comment, you are certifying that the information provided is complete and correct to the best of your knowledge.

#### **D. Paperwork Reduction Act**

In accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and its implementing regulations, the Office of Management and Budget has

assigned control number 0350–0015, which expires January 31, 2023, to this information collection.

**Joseph Barloon,**

*General Counsel, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.*

**BILLING CODE 3290–F0–P**

OMB Control Number: 0350-0015

Expiration Date: January 31, 2023

## Exclusion Extension Comment Form A

Submit information in Form A on the Public Docket at <https://www.regulations.gov>.

### 1. Submitter Information

Full Organization Legal Name (Public)

Commenter First Name (Public)

Commenter Last Name (Public)

Contact Email Address (Public)

*Note: If you do not wish to provide a public email address, a private email address may be provided when you submit this form on Regulations.gov. Please check the box that reads "I want to provide my contact information" and enter your email address in the designated field.*

**Are you a third party, such as a law firm, trade association, or customs broker, submitting on behalf of an organization or industry? (Public)**

*Note: If you are submitting on behalf of an organization/industry, the information below is required.*

Third Party Firm/Association Name (Public)

Third Party First Name (Public)

Third Party Last Name (Public)

### 2. a) Please provide the publication date of the Federal Register notice containing the exclusion you are commenting on. (Public)

**b) Please provide the 10-digit subheading of the HTSUS applicable to the exclusion you are commenting on. A 10-digit HTSUS number is required. (Public)**

**c) From the Federal Register notice, please provide the full article description for the exclusion. If the exclusion is a 10-digit code, please indicate. (Public)**

**d) Is this product subject to an antidumping or countervailing duty order issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce? (Public)**

- 3. Do you support extending the exclusion (yes or no)? Please explain your rationale. (You must provide a public version of your rationale, even if you are also submitting a Form B with more detailed, confidential information.) (Public)**

- 4. Please explain whether the products covered by the exclusion, or comparable products, are available from sources in the United States? (Please include information concerning any changes in the global supply chain since July 2018 with respect to the particular product or any other relevant industry developments.) (Public)**

- 5. Please explain whether the products covered by the exclusion, or a comparable products, are available from sources in third countries? (Please include information concerning any changes in the global supply chain since July 2018 with respect to the particular product.) (Public)**

- 6. Will you be submitting Form B? (Public)**

**Note: Submit responses to Form A to the Public Docket at [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) (Information submitted in Form A will be posted on the Public Docket).**

OMB Control Number: 0350-0015

Expiration Date: January 31, 2023

### Exclusion Extension Comment Form B

Form B should be completed by Importers and Purchasers of the products covered by the exclusion. Form B should be submitted via email at [301bcisubmissions@ustr.eop.gov](mailto:301bcisubmissions@ustr.eop.gov) and will not be available to the public. Please include Form A with your email submission of Form B.

**NOTE:** Submit Form A both on regulations.gov and with Form B, via email. Please include your Regulations.gov tracking number when submitting Form B.

1.

a.) Please provide the value in USD and quantity (with units) of the Chinese-origin product covered by the specific exclusion that you purchased in 2018, the first half of 2018, and the first half of 2019. Limit this figure to the products purchased by your firm (or by members of your trade association). Please provide estimates if precise figures are unavailable. (BCI)

2018 Value:

2018 Quantity:

2018 (Jan-Jun)  
Value:

2018 (Jan-Jun)  
Quantity:

2019 (Jan-Jun)  
Value:

2019 (Jan-Jun)  
Quantity:

Are the provided figures estimates? (BCI)

Are any of these purchases from a related company? (BCI)

Please list the name and relationship of the related company. (BCI)

Name:

Relationship:

**b.) Please discuss whether Chinese suppliers have lowered their prices for products covered by the exclusion following imposition of the duties. (BCI)**

**2. Please provide the value in USD and quantity (with units) of the product covered by the specific exclusion that you purchased from any third-country source in 2018, the first half of 2018, and the first half of 2019. Limit this figure to the products purchased by your firm (or by members of your trade association). Please provide estimates if precise figures are unavailable. (BCI)**

**2018 Value:**


**2018 Quantity:**


**2018 (Jan-Jun)  
Value:**

**2018 (Jan-Jun)  
Quantity:**

**2019 (Jan-Jun)  
Value:**

**2019 (Jan-Jun)  
Quantity:**

**Are the provided figures estimates? (BCI)**

**3. Please provide the value in USD and quantity (with units) of the product covered by the specific exclusion that you purchased from domestic sources in 2018, the first half of 2018, and the first half of 2019. Limit this figure to the products purchased by your firm (or by members of your trade association). Please provide estimates if precise figures are unavailable. (BCI)**

<b>2018 Value:</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>2018 Quantity:</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>2018 (Jan-Jun) Value:</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>2018 (Jan-Jun) Quantity:</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>2019 (Jan-Jun) Value:</b>	<input type="text"/>	<b>2019 (Jan-Jun) Quantity:</b>	<input type="text"/>

**Are the provided figures estimates? (BCI)**

**4. Please discuss any efforts you have undertaken since July 2018 to source this product from United States or third countries. (BCI)**

**5. Please provide information regarding your company's gross revenue in USD for 2018, the first half of 2018, and the first half of 2019. (BCI)**

<b>2018 Gross Revenue:</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>First Half (Jan-Jun) 2018:</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>First Half (Jan-Jun) 2019:</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Are the provided figures estimates? (BCI)</b>	<input type="text"/>

**6. Is the Chinese-origin product of concern sold as a final product or as an input used in the production of a final product or products? (BCI)**

**7. Please comment on whether the imposition of additional duties on the product(s) covered by the exclusion you are seeking an extension for, will result in severe economic harm to your company or other U.S. interests. (BCI)**



**8. Please provide any additional information in support of your request, taking account of the instructions provided in Section [B] of the Federal Register notice. (BCI)**

**9. Please provide the Regulations.gov tracking number for your Form A submission (e.g. 1kx-xx-xxxx). (BCI)**

[FR Doc. 2020-04207 Filed 2-28-20; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3290-F0-C

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES  
TRADE REPRESENTATIVE**

**Notice of the 2020 Generalized System  
of Preferences (GSP) Annual Review  
and the Deadline for Filing Petitions**

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States Trade Representative.

**ACTION:** Notice of available statistics and announcement of the 2020 GSP Annual Review.

**SUMMARY:** The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) will consider petitions to modify the GSP status of GSP beneficiary developing countries (BDCs) because of country practices; add products to GSP eligibility; remove products from GSP eligibility for one or more countries; waive competitive need limitations (CNLs); deny *de minimis* waivers for eligible products; or redesignate currently excluded products. This review will include separate hearings on accepted country practice review and product petitions, which USTR will announce in the **Federal Register** at a later date.

**DATES:** March 26, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. EST: Deadline for submission of petitions to modify the GSP status of GSP BDCs because of country practices; add products to GSP eligibility; remove products from GSP eligibility for one or more countries; waive CNLs; deny *de minimis* waivers for eligible products; or redesignate currently excluded products. USTR will not consider petitions submitted after the deadline. USTR will announce the petitions accepted for review, along with a schedule for any related public hearings, and the opportunity for the public to provide comments at a later date.

**ADDRESSES:** USTR strongly prefers electronic submissions made through

the Federal eRulemaking portal: <http://www.regulations.gov> (*Regulations.gov*). Follow the instructions for submitting petitions in section III below. For alternatives to online submissions, please contact Claudia Chlebek in advance of the submission deadline at [gsp@ustr.eop.gov](mailto:gsp@ustr.eop.gov), or 202-395-2974.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Claudia Chlebek at [gsp@ustr.eop.gov](mailto:gsp@ustr.eop.gov), or 202-395-2974.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The GSP program provides for the duty-free treatment of designated articles when imported from designated BDCs. The GSP program is authorized by Title V of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (Trade Act) (19 U.S.C. 2461-2467), and is implemented in accordance with Executive Order 11888 of November 24, 1975, as modified by subsequent Executive Orders and Presidential Proclamations.

**I. 2019 Import Statistics Related to CNLs, *De Minimis* Waivers, and Product Redesignations**

USTR has posted the 2019 import statistics relating to CNLs, *de minimis* waivers, and product redesignations on the USTR website at [https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/IssueAreas/gsp/2020\\_GSP\\_Annual\\_Review-2019\\_Import\\_Statistics.pdf](https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/IssueAreas/gsp/2020_GSP_Annual_Review-2019_Import_Statistics.pdf). These statistics include three lists:

List I identifies GSP-eligible articles from BDCs that exceeded a CNL in 2019 by having been imported into the United States in a quantity valued in excess of \$190 million, or in a quantity equal to or greater than 50 percent of the total U.S. import value for this product in 2019. Unless the President grants a waiver in response to a petition filed by an interested party, these products automatically will be removed from GSP eligibility on November 1, 2020.

List II identifies GSP-eligible articles from BDCs that are above the 50 percent CNL but are eligible for a *de minimis* waiver since total U.S. imports of the product in 2019 were less than \$24.5 million. Articles eligible for *de minimis*

waivers automatically are considered in the GSP annual review process without the filing of a petition. As described below, USTR only will accept petitions in opposition to a potential *de minimis* waiver for a particular product.

List III identifies GSP-eligible articles from certain BDCs that currently are not receiving GSP duty-free treatment but may be considered for GSP redesignation based on 2019 trade data and consideration of certain statutory factors. Note that products exceeding the 50 percent CNL may be considered for redesignation if there was no U.S. production of a like or directly competitive product in the last three years.

List IV identifies GSP-eligible articles from BDCs that currently have a CNL waiver but where imports of the article have exceeded 150 percent of the CNL or 75 percent of the appraised value of total imports of that article. Unless the President grants a continuation of the waiver in response to a petition filed by an interested party, these products will be removed from GSP eligibility on November 1, 2020.

**II. 2020 GSP Annual Review**

**A. Country Practice Review Petitions**

An interested party may submit a petition to review the GSP eligibility of any BDC with respect to any of the designation criteria listed in sections 502(b) and 502(c) of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(b) and (c)). The docket number is USTR-2020-0003.

**B. Product Review Petitions**

An interested party may submit the following petitions:

**Product addition petitions:** Petitions to designate additional articles as eligible for GSP benefits, including designating articles as eligible only for countries designated as least-developed beneficiary developing countries (LDBDCs), or as beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). Petitioners seeking to add products to