

and previously amended on May 2, 1988 (53 FR 16303, May 6, 1988); September 21, 1988 (53 FR 37628, September 27, 1988); September 20, 1989 (54 FR 39454, September 26, 1989); November 19, 1992 (57 FR 55510, November 25, 1992); and August 16, 1994 (59 FR 43093). A summary of the application for an amendment follows.

Summary of the Application

Applicant: Northwest Fruit Exporters ("NFE"), 105 South 18th Street, # 205 Yakima, Washington 98901.

Contact: Ken Severn, Secretary/Treasurer, Telephone: (509) 453-4837. **Application No.:** 84-7A012.

Date Deemed Submitted: August 5, 1996.

Proposed Amendment: Northwest Fruit Exporters seeks to amend its Certificate to:

1. Add each of the following companies as a new "Member" of the Certificate within the meaning of § 325.2(1) of the Regulations (15 CFR 325.2(1)): Andrus & Roberts Produce Co., Sunnyside, Washington; Barbee Orchards/Obert Cold Storage, Zillah, Washington; Blue Bird, Inc., Peshastin, Washington; Blue Mountain Growers, Inc., Milton-Freewater, Oregon; Columbia Reach Pack, Yakima, Washington; Crandell Fruit Company, Wenatchee, Washington; Custom Apple Packers, Inc., Brewster, Washington; Dole Northwest, Wenatchee, Washington; Fossum Orchards, Inc., Yakima, Washington; G & G Orchards, Inc., Yakima, Washington; Keystone Ranch, Riverside, Washington; Olympic Fruit Co., Moxee, Washington; Rolling Hills Orchards, Emmett, Idaho; Roy Farms, Moxee, Washington; Sands Orchards, Inc., Emmett, Idaho; Smith & Nelson, Inc., Tonasket, Washington; Squaw Creek Ranch, Inc., Pateros, Washington; Symms Fruit Ranch, Inc., Caldwell Idaho; and The Apple House, Inc., Brewster, Washington.

2. Delete the following companies as a "Members" of the Certificate: Blue Chelan, Inc., Chelan, Washington; Earl E. Brown & Sons, Inc., Milton-Freewater, Oregon; Cowin & Sons, Wapato, Washington; Dovex Export Co., Wenatchee, Washington; Duckwall-Pooley Fruit Co., Odell, Oregon; E.W. Brandt & Sons, Inc., Parker, Washington; Holt and Robison Fruit Co., Inc., Omak, Washington; Jones Fruit & Produce, Inc., Cashmere, Washington; M & J Fruit Sales, Yakima, Washington; Nuchief Sales, Inc., Wenatchee, Washington; Orchard View Farms, The Dalles, Oregon; Pacific Fruit Growers & Packers, Inc., Yakima, Washington; Peshastin Fruit Growers Assn., Peshastin, Washington; Pine Canyon Fruit Co.,

Inc., Orondo, Washington; Poirier Warehouse, Pateros, Washington; Rainier Fruit Sales, Selah, Washington; Skookum, Inc., Wenatchee, Washington; Sun King Fruit, Sunnyside, Washington; Valicoff Fruit Company, Inc., Wapato, Washington; and Wapato Fruit, Wapato, Washington; and

3. Change the listing of the company name for the current Member "Trout, Inc." to the new listing "Trout-Blue Chelan, Inc.;"

Dated: August 7, 1996.

W. Dawn Busby,

Director, Office of Export Trading Company Affairs.

[FR Doc. 96-20582 Filed 8-12-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-U

Announcement of Performance Review Board Membership

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, Commerce.

SUMMARY: This announces the appointment by the Department of Commerce Deputy Under Secretary for International Trade, Timothy J. Hauser, of the Performance Review Board (PRB). This is a revised list of membership which includes previous members as listed in the August 3, 1995, Federal Register Announcement (60 FR 39712) with additional members added for a two-year term. The purpose of the International Trade Administration's PRB is to review and make recommendations to the appointing authority on performance and other issues concerning members of the Senior Executive Service (SES). The members are:

Anne L. Alonzo, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Environmental Technologies Exports, Trade Development

Peter Hale, Director, Office of Policy Coordination, Market Access and Compliance

Mary Fran Kirchner, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Promotion Services, U.S. and the Foreign Commercial Service

Holly A. Kuga, Director, Office of AD/CVD Enforcement IV, Import Administration

Eleanor Roberts Lewis, Chief Counsel for International Trade (non-ITA member)

Jon C. Menes, Director, Office of Trade and Economic Analysis, Trade Development

Regina K. Vargo, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere, Market Access and Compliance

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: LaVerne H. Hawkins, Executive

Secretary for the Performance Review Board on 202-482-2536.

Dated: August 7, 1996.

James T. King, Jr.,

Human Resources Manager, ITA.

[FR Doc. 96-20608 Filed 8-12-96; 8:45 am]

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National Institute of Standards and Technology

[Docket No. 960709188-6188-01]

RIN 0693-XX20

National Voluntary Conformity Assessment System Evaluation (NVCASE) Program

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, (NIST) Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; request for public comment.

SUMMARY: This is to advise the public that the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) received a letter dated May 3, 1996 from the PFS/TECO Corporation requesting the development of a new program under the National Voluntary Conformity Assessment System Evaluation (NVCASE) Program to evaluate and accredit third party product certification bodies which inspect and certify structural use panels and engineered wood products. The proposed program would provide a domestic alternative to similar programs currently operated by the Japanese and Canadian Governments and would allow testing and certification performed in the United States to be accepted by those countries on an equal basis as if performed in either of those countries.

DATES: Comments on this request must be received by October 28, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be submitted in writing to Robert L. Gladhill, NVCASE Program Manager, NIST, Bldg. 820, Room 282, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, by fax at 301-963-2871, or email rlglad@nist.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert L. Gladhill, NVCASE Program Manager, at NIST, Bldg 820, Room 282, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, by telephone at 301-975-4029, by fax at 301-963-2871 or by email at rlglad@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NVCASE procedures at 15 CFR Part 286 require NIST to seek public consultation when it receives such requests. This program involves a collection of information subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act. This collection is approved by the Office of Management

and Budget under OMB Control No. 0693-0019.

The text of the request follows:

May 3, 1996, PFS/TECO Corporation, 2402 Daniels Street, Madison, WI 53704

Dr. Manager, NVCASE Program: Please accept this formal request from PFS/TECO Corporation for NVCASE to develop a specific evaluation program for third party quality assurance certification agencies involved in the inspection and certification agencies involved in the inspection and certification of structural use panels (plywood and oriented strand board) and engineered wood panels, structural glued laminated timber, prefabricated wood I-joists, composite structural lumber, sandwich panels either rigid or foam), particleboard and construction adhesives used in these products.

Using the NIST outline for submitting this request, the following is the background information that should assist NIST in moving ahead with this application.

Foreign Requirements

PFS/TECO Corporation is applying to NIST for development of a NVCASE program in the above wood products area in response to programs currently run by the Japanese Government and the Canadian Government that currently allow for, or will soon allow for, the mutual recognition of a NVCASE certified third party quality assurance certification and inspection agency.

The Japanese program for the wood products and components listed above is under the direction of the Japanese Agricultural Service (JAS) under the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF). Dr. Belinda Collins of NIST made a recent presentation to JAS and MAFF at a Tokyo meeting in which she described the capability of NVCASE to certify United States third party quality assurance certification and inspection agencies. This was done to pave the way for JAS/MAFF to recognize NVCASE certified third party agencies.

This application is a follow-up to that presentation in that PFS/TECO has already obtained the first private sector Foreign Testing Organization (FTO) recognition granted by JAS for plywood, OSB and engineered wood products. This was done at great expense (over \$500,000) and three years of arduous effort. It would be beneficial to PFS/TECO to receive NVCASE recognition acceptable to JAS/MAFF in lieu of the continuing costly trips to Tokyo and costly audits with Japanese staff coming to the United States to maintain the current JAS FTO recognition. The audit and maintenance of a NVCASE recognition would be within the continental United States at greatly reduced expense to PFS/TECO when contrasted to current JAS/FTO approval maintenance costs.

The Canadian program is run by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) under the SCC "Criteria and Procedures for Accreditation of Certification Organizations". The existing North American Trade Agreement (NAFTA) allows for mutual recognition by Canada and the United States of each other country's certified third party

testing laboratories and third party quality assurance certification and inspection organizations.

PFS/TECO was able to successfully become certified via NIST's NVLAP program for its wood products testing laboratories which had led to its mutual acceptance in Canada for wood products testing purposes. However, with no existing parallel NVCASE program, PFS/TECO is currently undergoing a difficult, time consuming application with the SCC in Canada with an estimate time for completion of up to two years and at a cost of several hundred thousand dollars. Meanwhile, existing Canadian third party wood product quality assurance inspection and certification agencies with their prior SCC approval (obtained years ago as a requirement within Canada) are readily accepted here in the United States under NAFTA. The quick development of the NVCASE program for wood products based third party certification and inspection agencies would put PFS/TECO back on a "level playing field" at, again, a greatly reduced cost and at a faster turn-around compared to the deliberate, slow pace of the Canadian SCC approval process.

Industry Sector

As stated in our opening paragraph, the industry sector is wood panels, engineered wood components and related wood based structural products and adhesives. These include:

Plywood—Currently certified to NIST/DOC Standard PS1-95

Oriented Strand Board (OSB)—Currently certified to NIST/DOC Standard PS 2-92

Structural Use Panels—Either PS 1 or PS 2 certified

Additionally, all of the following industry sector are certified to a wide range of ASTM and ANSI standards and/or PS 2:

Wood Composite Panels

Structural Glued Laminated Timber

Prefabricated Wood I-Joists

Composite Structural Lumber

Sandwich Panels (Rigid or Foam)

Particleboard

Construction adhesives—used in all of the above products

Program Area

The program area would cover product certification only. The testing laboratory portion is already covered by NVLAP and PFS/TECO is certified as a testing laboratory for all of the above wood products or adhesives under NVLAP.

Level of Recognition

The program would involve direct accreditation by NVCASE as the NAFTA agreement allows reciprocal recognition by Canada by NVCASE certified third party certification and inspection agencies. PFS/TECO believes that NIST, via Dr. Belinda Collins, is negotiating similar reciprocal recognition of NVCASE by JAS/MAFF for use in the Japanese market segment that PFS/TECO currently serves via its own FTO certification and engineered wood certification by JAS/MAFF.

Recommended Criteria/Technical Requirements

The recommended criteria would include PS 1-95 and PS 2-92 issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce coupled with a wide range of ASTM and ANSI standards dealing with the various physical property testing or measurement approaches for plywood, OSB, and their related engineered wood components. Please refer to PFS/TECO's NVLAP accreditation of file at NIST which details the over 50 ASTM and ANSI standards involved in these various wood products and components.

Rationale

Covered in the above discussion are the difficulties, costs and extensive time involved in directly achieving recognition by the JAS/MAFF for Japan and the SCC for Canada. That alone should suffice as the justifying rationale for a NVCASE program as Canada via NAFTA already recognized NVCASE certified third parties and NIST appears to be successfully negotiating NVCASE recognition with JAS/MAFF in Japan.

Both Canada and Japan do not recognize other private sector accreditation approaches or non-Federal government approaches for third party quality assurance inspection and certification agencies such as via the model building codes, or via various state governments. Japan and Canada will only accept, at this time, a Federal government program such as NVCASE in that it parallels their own national, centralized governmental approach to certification of third party organizations.

If this NVCASE program were to move ahead, PFS/TECO believes that it would ease or further ease market access for the large segments of the U.S. plywood and OSB industry into Japan or into Canada. PFS/TECO is aware of approximately ten other U.S. private sector third party quality assurance inspection and certification agencies that would benefit by and would probably participate in this NVCASE program if it were developed into fruition.

After review of the above, please advise what NIST's opinion and response is. If there are any questions or if I can provide additional details, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,
Michael J. Slifka, P.E.,
Executive Vice President.

Interested parties should respond in writing to the above address. All comments submitted will become part of the public record and will be available for inspection and copying at the U.S. Department of Commerce Central Reference and Records and Inspection Facility, Room 6020, Herbert C. Hoover Building, 14th and Constitution Avenue, Washington, DC 20230.

Dated: August 6, 1996.
Samuel Kramer,
Associate Director.
[FR Doc. 96-20560 Filed 8-12-96; 8:45 am]
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