

Duty-Free Entry Summaries

Effective October 1, 1996, filers again will be entitled to file GSP eligible entry summaries without the payment of estimated duties. Up until that time, however, estimated duties at the most-favored-nation rate must be deposited, or a claim may be made under another preferential program for which the merchandise qualifies (for example, the Andean Trade Preference Act, the Caribbean Basin Initiative, or the U.S.-Israel Free Trade Area Agreement).

Refunds With Interest**A. Formal Entries**

Customs will liquidate or reliquidate all affected entry summaries and refund any duties deposited for items denominated on the GSP line. Field locations shall not issue GSP refunds except as instructed to do so by Customs Headquarters.

If an ABI entry summary was or will be filed with payment of estimated duties using the Special Program Indicator (SPI) for the GSP (the letter "A") as a prefix to the tariff number, no further action by the filer is required; filings with the SPI "A" will be treated as conforming requests for refunds.

Non-ABI filers who either did or did not request a refund by using the SPI "A" must request a refund in writing from the Port Director at the port of entry by February 16, 1997. The letter may cover either single entry summaries or all entry summaries filed by an individual filer at a single port. To expedite refunds, Customs recommends the following information be included in each letter:

1. A statement requesting a refund, as provided by section 1953 of the GSP Renewal Act of 1996;

2. An enumeration of the entry numbers and line items for which refunds are requested; and

3. The amount requested to be refunded for each line item and the total amount owed for all entry summaries.

Interest on duties deposited will be paid, pursuant to section 505 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1505), based on the quarterly Internal Revenue Service interest rates used to calculate interest on refunds of Customs duties as follows:

	Per- cent
July 1, 1995–Mar. 31, 1996	8
Apr. 1, 1996–June 30, 1996	7
July 1, 1996–Dec. 31, 1996	8

B. Informal Entries

Refunds with interest on informal entries filed via ABI on a Customs Form

7501 with the SPI "A" will be processed in accordance with the procedures discussed above.

C. Mail Entries

The addressees must request a refund of GSP duties and return it, along with a copy of the CF 3419A, to the appropriate International Mail Branch (address listed on bottom right hand corner of CF 3419A). It is essential that a copy of the CF 3419A be included, as this will be the only means of identifying whether GSP products have been entered and estimated duties and fees have been paid.

D. Baggage Declarations and Non-ABI Informals

If travelers/importers wrote a statement directly on their Customs declarations (CF 6059B) or informal entries (CF 363 or CF 7501) requesting a refund, no further action by the traveler/importer will be required; the statement will be treated as a conforming request for refunds. Failure to request a refund in this manner does not preclude a traveler/importer from otherwise making a timely request in writing, as described above for non-ABI filers.

Retroactive Suspension of Certain GSP Benefits for Pakistan

As indicated earlier in this document, pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2464, the President has authority, under certain circumstances, to withdraw, suspend, or limit the application of duty-free treatment under the GSP. In a Federal Register notice published June 17, 1996 (61 FR 30646), the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) announced that it had recommended to the President the suspension of GSP eligibility for certain products from Pakistan, effective July 1, 1996. It is anticipated that on or about October 1, 1996, the President will exercise his authority under 19 U.S.C. 2464 and suspend GSP duty-free treatment for such products as recommended by the USTR. Accordingly, duties on the following list of products from Pakistan will not be refunded if the products were entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption on or after July 1, 1996:

HTSUS	Item (Terms below are for descriptive purposes only)
03926.20.30	Gloves designed for use in sports, of plastics.
4203.21.20	Batting gloves.
4203.21.55	Cross-country ski gloves, mittens and mitts.
4203.21.60	Ski or snowmobile gloves, mittens and mitts.

HTSUS	Item (Terms below are for descriptive purposes only)
4203.21.80	Gloves, mittens, etc., of leather, specially designed for use in sports.
5701.10.13	Carpets.
5702.10.10	Carpets.
5702.91.20	Carpets.
5805.00.20	Carpets.
6304.99.10	Carpets.
6304.99.40	Carpets.
9018.90.80	Surgical instruments.
9506.62.80	Inflatable balls, excluding footballs or soccer balls.
9506.91.00	Articles or equipment for exercise.

Dated: September 16, 1996.

John B. McGowan,

Acting Assistant Commissioner, Field Operations.

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UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY**U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy Meeting**

AGENCY: United States Information Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy will meet in Room 600, 301 4th Street, S.W., on September 18, 1996 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

The meeting will be closed to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon because it will involve discussion of classified information relating to the USIS 2000 Satellite Network and the Department of State's Diplomatic Telecommunications Service (DTS-PO). (5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1)).

Please call Betty Hayes, (202) 619-4468, for further information.

Dated: September 16, 1996.

Joseph Duffey,
Director.

Determination To Close a Portion of the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy's Meeting of September 18, 1996

Based on the information provided to the United States Information Agency by the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, I hereby determine that the meeting scheduled by the Commission for September 18, 1996 may be closed to the public from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The Commission has requested that its September 18 meeting be closed from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., because it will

involve discussion of classified
information relating to the USIS 2000
Satellite Network and the Department of
State's Diplomatic Telecommunications
Service (DTS-PO). (5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1))

Dated: September 16, 1996.

Joseph Duffey,

Director.

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