

policy will be effective for a six-month pilot period to permit the Exchange to determine the effectiveness of the new policy before implementing it on a permanent basis.

II. Discussion

The Commission finds that the proposed rule change is consistent with the requirements of the Act and the rules and regulations thereunder applicable to a national securities exchange, and in particular, the requirements of Sections 6(b)(5) ⁵ in that it is designed to prevent fraudulent, manipulative acts and practices and to promote just and equitable principles of trade, and to remove impediments to and protect the mechanism of a free and open market and to protect investors and the public interest.⁶

The Commission believes that allowing floor brokers or market makers to clear the post for cabinet securities while remaining at their post will ensure that these floor brokers or market makers will be at their posts when they need to respond to orders in more liquid securities at a much faster pace.

The Commission believes that approving the proposed rule change on a pilot basis is reasonable under the Act because it will serve to protect investors and the public interest by providing the Exchange with the opportunity to evaluate the effects of allowing floor brokers and market makers to clear the post for cabinet securities by phone instead of in person, and to determine whether any modifications are necessary. The pilot program will expire on July 6, 1998. The Commission requests that the CHX submit a report on the effectiveness of the pilot program by June 6, 1998.

It is therefore ordered, pursuant to Section 19(b)(2) of the Act ⁷ that the proposed rule change (SR-CHX-97-28) is approved on a pilot basis through July 6, 1998.

For the Commission, by the Division of Market Regulation, pursuant to delegated authority:⁸

Jonathan G. Katz,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-722 Filed 1-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8010-01-M

⁵ 15 U.S.C. § 78f(b)(5).

⁶ In approving this rule, the Commission notes that it has considered the proposed rule's impact on efficiency, competition, and capital formation. 15 U.S.C. 78c(f).

⁷ 15 U.S.C. 78s(b)(2).

⁸ 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12).

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster #2999]

The Territory of Guam; Amendment #1

In accordance with a notice from the Federal Emergency Management Agency dated December 29, 1997, the above-numbered Declaration is hereby amended to establish the incident period for this disaster as beginning on December 16, 1997 and continuing through December 17, 1997.

All other information remains the same, i.e., the deadline for filing applications for physical damage is February 17, 1998 and for economic injury the termination date is September 17, 1998.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008)

Dated: December 30, 1997.

Bernard Kulik,

Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

[FR Doc. 98-740 Filed 1-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster Loan Area #3042]

New York and Contiguous Counties in Connecticut and New Jersey

Westchester County and the contiguous counties of Bronx, Putnam, and Rockland in New York; Fairfield County in Connecticut; and Bergen County in New Jersey constitute a disaster area as a result of damages caused by a fire in the Village of Dobbs Ferry which occurred on December 15, 1997. Applications for loans for physical damage as a result of this disaster may be filed until the close of business on March 2, 1998 and for economic injury until the close of business on September 30, 1998 at the address listed below or other locally announced locations: Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 1 Office, 360 Rainbow Boulevard South, 3rd Floor, Niagara Falls, NY 14303.

The interest rates are:

| | Percent |
|--|---------|
| For Physical Damage: | |
| Homeowners With Credit Available Elsewhere | 7.625 |
| Homeowners Without Credit Available Elsewhere | 3.812 |
| Businesses With Credit Available Elsewhere | 8.000 |
| Businesses and Non-Profit Organizations Without Credit Available Elsewhere | 4.000 |

| | Percent |
|---|---------|
| Others (Including Non-Profit Organizations) With Credit Available Elsewhere | 7.125 |
| For Economic Injury: | |
| Businesses and Small Agricultural Cooperatives Without Credit Available Elsewhere | 4.000 |

The numbers assigned to this disaster for physical and economic injury damage are 304205 and 969700 for New York, 304305 and 969800 for Connecticut, and 304405 and 969900 for New Jersey.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008)

Dated: December 31, 1997.

Paul N. Weech,

Acting Administrator.

[FR Doc. 98-738 Filed 1-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Disaster #3041]

Northern Mariana Islands

As a result of the President's major disaster declaration on December 24, 1997, I find that the Island of Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands constitutes a disaster area as a result of damages caused by Typhoon Paka and associated torrential rains, high winds, high surf, and tidal surges beginning on December 16, 1997 and continuing. Applications for loans for physical damages as a result of this disaster may be filed until the close of business on February 26, 1998 and for economic injury until the close of business on September 24, 1998 at the address listed below or other locally announced locations: Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 4 Office, P.O. Box 13795, Sacramento, CA 95853-4795.

The interest rates are:

| | Percent |
|---|---------|
| For Physical Damage: | |
| Homeowners With Credit Available Elsewhere | 7.625 |
| Homeowners Without Credit Available Elsewhere | 3.812 |
| Businesses With Credit Available Elsewhere | 8.000 |
| Businesses and Non-Profit Organizations Without Credit Available Elsewhere | 4.000 |
| Others (Including Non-Profit Organizations) With Credit Available Elsewhere | 7.125 |
| For Economic Injury: | |

| | Percent |
|---|---------|
| Businesses and Small Agricultural Cooperatives Without Credit Available Elsewhere | 4.000 |

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 304106 and for economic injury the number is 969600.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 59002 and 59008)

Dated: December 30, 1997.

Bernard Kulik,

Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

[FR Doc. 98-739 Filed 1-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 2708]

Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs; Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES), Department of State.

ACTION: Notice of a public meeting regarding Government Activities on International Harmonization of Chemical Classification and Labeling Systems.

SUMMARY: This public meeting will provide an update on current activities related to international harmonization since the previous public meeting, conducted October 17, 1997 (See Department of State Public Notice 2608, on pages 51926-51927 of the **Federal Register** of October 3, 1997.) The meeting will also offer interested organizations and individuals the opportunity to provide information and views for consideration in the development of U.S. government policy positions. For more complete information on the harmonization process, please refer to State Department Public Notice 2526, pages 15951-15957 of the **Federal Register** of April 3, 1997.

The meeting will take place from 10 am until noon on January 23 in Room N3437 ABC, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. Attendees should use the entrance at C and Third Streets NW. To facilitate entry, please have a picture ID available and/or a U.S. government building pass if applicable.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information or to submit written comments or information, please contact Mary Frances Lowe, U.S.

Department of State, OES/ENV, Room 4325, 2201 C Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20520. Phone (202) 736-7111, fax (202) 647-5947.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of State is announcing a public meeting of the interagency committee concerned with the international harmonization of chemical hazard classification and labeling systems (an effort often referred to as the "globally harmonized system" or GHS). The purpose of the meeting is to provide interested groups and individuals with an update on activities since the October 17, 1997, public meeting, a preview of key upcoming international meetings, and an opportunity to submit additional information and comments for consideration in developing U.S. government positions. Representatives of the following agencies participate in the interagency group: the Department of State, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Transportation, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Food and Drug Administration, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Agriculture, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, and the National Institute of Environmental Health Services.

The Agenda of the public meeting will include:

1. Introduction
2. Reports on recent international meetings
 - Meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Mixtures Working Group, November 20-21, Ottawa, Canada. The working group conducted its first meeting and outlined a workplan for developing a review of existing classification systems for chemical mixtures.
 - Meeting of the Coordinating Group for the Harmonization of Chemical Classification Systems (CG/HCCS), November 24-26, 1997, in Ottawa, Canada. The agenda for this meeting included further consideration of the clarification of the scope of the GHS and of the appropriate institutional arrangements for updating and maintaining the system. Papers from the meeting on these subjects are available in the public docket, described below.
 - Meeting of the UN Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, December 8-18, in Geneva, Switzerland. The Subcommittee considered physical hazard classification criteria proposals.
3. Preparation for upcoming meetings.
 - Meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and

Development Advisory Group on Harmonization. This meeting will focus on classification criteria proposals for health and environmental endpoints.

4. Public Comments.

5. Concluding Remarks.

Participants in the meeting may submit written comments as well as speak on topics relating to harmonization of chemical classification and labeling systems. All written comments will be placed in the public docket (OSHA docket H-022H). The docket is open from 10 am until 4 pm, Monday through Friday, and is located at the Department of Labor, Room 2625, 200 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. (Telephone: 202-219-7894; Fax: 202-219-5046). The public may also consult the docket to review previous **Federal Register** notices, comments received, a working "thought starter" document of the CG/HCCS on the scope of the harmonization effort, U.S. government and stakeholder comments on the "thought starter" scope clarification, Questions and Answers about the GHS, and a response to comments on the April 3 **Federal Register** notice.

Dated: January 6, 1998.

Robert J. Ford,

Deputy Director, Office of Environmental Policy, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

[FR Doc. 98-715 Filed 1-12-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-09-M

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice No. 2710]

Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad; Public Meeting Notice

The Department of State announces a meeting of the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Religious Freedom Abroad on Friday, January 23, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. in the Loy Henderson room at the U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street, N.W., Washington D.C. The purpose of the meeting will be the presentation of an interim report, prepared by the Committee's sub-groups and including recommendations on religious persecution and conflict resolution, for adoption by the Advisory Committee and presentation to the Secretary of State. Because of the Secretary's rigorous schedule, it has not been possible to provide a full 15 day's advance notice of this meeting.

This meeting is open to members of the public up to the seating capacity of the room. Admittance to the State Department building is only by means