

482-4094, Attn: July 15 Cuba Briefing. For further information, please contact John Bolsteins at BXA on (202) 482-3283 or (202) 482-4252.

Background

In March of 1998 and January of 1999, the President announced certain new initiatives intended to aid the Cuban people in their transition to democracy and a market economy.

Under the first initiative, the Department of Commerce and other agencies streamlined the review of license applications for the sale to Cuba of medicines, medical supplies and equipment. Prior to 1998, very few applications to export medicines and medical supplies and equipment for sale to Cuba were submitted to the Commerce Department. Now, since the March 1998 announcement, the volume of applications and licensed medical exports to Cuba has increased notably. These medical exports are monitored to ensure that they are for the use by the Cuban people.

Under the second initiative, the Department of Commerce revised its Cuba regulations to provide for case-by-case review of applications to sell food and certain agricultural items to independent entities and non-governmental organizations in Cuba. This program is intended to aid the small but vital private sector in Cuba. In a corresponding action, the Treasury Department revised its Cuba regulations to provide for specific licensing of travel to Cuba to explore sales opportunities in these commodity areas.

Dated: July 7, 1999.

James Lewis,

Director, Office of Strategic Trade.

[FR Doc. 99-17741 Filed 7-8-99; 11:52 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Bureau of Export Administration

Information Systems Technical Advisory Committee; Notice of Partially Closed Meeting

The Information Systems Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) will meet on July 27 & 28, 1999, 9 a.m., in Room 3884 of the Herbert C. Hoover Building, 14th Street between Pennsylvania Avenue and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. The Committee advises the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration on technical questions that affect the level of export controls applicable to information systems equipment and technology.

July 27

Closed Session

1. Discussion of matters properly classified under Executive Order 12958, dealing with U.S. export control programs and strategic criteria related thereto.

July 28

Public Session 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

2. Election of officers.
3. Comments or presentations by the public.
4. Consultation on renewal of Committee charter.
5. Update on proposed Export Administration Act bill.
6. Discussion paper, Alternatives to High-Performance Computing.
7. Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2000.

Closed Session

8. Discussion of matters properly classified under Executive Order 12958, dealing with U.S. export control programs and strategic criteria related thereto.

A limited number of seats will be available for the public session. Reservations are not required. To the extent time permits, members of the public may present oral statements to the Committee. The public may submit written statements at any time before or after the meeting. However, to facilitate distribution of public presentation materials to Committee members, the Committee suggests that public presentation materials or comments be forwarded before the meeting to the address listed below:

Ms. Lee Ann Carpenter, Advisory Committees MS: 3876, U.S. Department of Commerce, 15th St. and Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20230

The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the delegate of the General Counsel, formally determined on October 3, 1997, pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, that the series of meetings or portions of meetings of these Committees and of any Subcommittees thereof, dealing with the classified materials listed in 5 U.S.C. 552(c)(1) shall be exempt from the provisions relating to public meetings found in section 10(a)(1) and (a)(3), of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The remaining series of meetings or portions thereof will be open to the public.

A copy of the Notice of Determination to close meetings or portions of meetings of these Committees is available for public inspection and

copying in the Central Reference and Records Inspection Facility, Room 6020, Department of Commerce, Washington, DC. For further information or copies of the minutes call Lee Ann Carpenter, 202-482-2583.

Dated: July 6, 1999.

Lee Ann Carpenter,

Committee Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 99-17506 Filed 7-9-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Docket 33-99]

Foreign-Trade Zone 59—Lincoln, NE; Application for Expansion of Manufacturing Authority—Subzone 59A, Kawasaki Motors Manufacturing Corp., U.S.A., Plant, Lincoln, NE (Motorcycles, Personal Watercraft, All-Terrain Vehicles, Utility Work Trucks, Industrial Robots)

A application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) by the Lincoln Foreign Trade Zone, Inc., grantee of 59, requesting an expansion of the scope of manufacturing authority to include new manufacturing capacity under FTZ procedures and requesting authority to expand the boundary of FTZ Subzone 59A at the Kawasaki Motors Manufacturing Corp., U.S.A. (KMM), plant in Lincoln, Nebraska. It was formally filed on June 25, 1999.

Subzone 59A was approved by the Board in 1980 with authority granted for the manufacture of motorcycles, jet skis, and four wheel all-terrain vehicles (Board Order 163, 45 FR 58637, 9-4-80). The subzone was subsequently expanded in 1994 (Board Order 712, 59 FR 66891, 12-28-94) and currently consists of a single, 305-acre site with a total of 1.13 million square feet of manufacturing and warehouse space. The Board later approved the manufacture of off-road, utility work trucks and industrial robots with 6 or more axes of motion under FTZ procedures for the U.S. market and export (Board Orders 744 and 745, 60 FR 30517, 6-9-95).

The applicant is now requesting authority to expand the subzone boundary to include an adjacent 27-acre parcel and to expand the scope of FTZ manufacturing authority to include increased capacity for the production of motorcycles, personal watercraft, all-terrain vehicles, utility work trucks, and industrial robots. Under the current expansion plan, the KMM plant's

capacity will be approximately doubled (to 225,000 units per year) with the addition of 1.07 million square feet of production area. The activity will involve fabrication, welding, molding, and assembly using domestic and foreign-origin components. The application indicates that the expanded operations will reduce the current level of foreign-sourced components used in the manufacturing process. Foreign-sourced components and materials (about 40 percent of the finished vehicles' material value) include: plastic parts, rubber belts, fasteners, air and liquid pumps/compressors, data processing equipment (numerical controllers) and parts, optical readers, valves and switches, electric motors and transformers, parts of industrial robots, transmissions/gear boxes, clutches, diodes, transistors, semiconductors, liquid crystal devices, measuring instruments, spark-ignition/diesel engines, transmissions, calipers/brake parts, wheels, tires, parts of rubber, articles of agglomerated cork, paperboard/cardboard boxes, glaziers putty, caulking, glue/adhesive, plastic tubes/pipes/fittings, reflective sheet, polyurethane and PVC sheet/film/laminates, plastic knobs/handles/gaskets/washers/seals/fasteners, V-belts, decals, printed materials, cargo nets, non-electrical graphite/carbon items, safety glass, mirrors, profiles/tubes/sections/couplings/wire of alloy, cast or stainless steel, chain, fasteners, steel/copper springs, brake cables, aluminum tubes/pipes/fittings/fasteners, articles of lead, base metal articles, heat exchangers, filters, bearings and related assemblies, gears, transmission shafts, torque converters, pulleys, ball/roller screws, sprockets, flywheels, propellers, electric motors, commutators, capacitors, fuses, switches, resistors, stators, rotors, inductors, transformers, electromagnetic couplings, batteries, ignition components, starters, alternators, voltage regulators, lighting equipment, horns, audio components, radios, cassette players, navigational equipment, alarm systems, electronic components, fiber optic and coaxial cables, wire, parts of motor vehicles (Heading 8708), hulls, flat panel displays, measuring and process control instruments, thermostats, gauges, and clocks (duty rate range: free – 15%, 16¢+2.5%).

FTZ procedures exempt KMM from Customs duty payments on the foreign components used in export production (15% of shipments). On its domestic sales, the company can choose the duty rate that applies to the finished motorcycles, personal watercraft, all-

terrain vehicles, utility work trucks, and industrial robots (free – 2.8%) for the foreign components noted above. The request indicates that the savings from FTZ procedures will continue to help improve the facility's international competitiveness.

In accordance with the Board's regulations, a member of the FTZ Staff has been designated examiner to investigate the application and report to the Board.

Public comment on the application is invited from interested parties. Submissions (original and three copies) shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their receipt is September 10, 1999. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period (to September 27, 1999).

A copy of the application will be available for public inspection at the following location: Office of the Executive Secretary, Foreign-Trade Zones Board, Room 3716, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th Street & Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

Dated: June 28, 1999.

Dennis Puccinelli,

Acting Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 99-17639 Filed 7-9-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Docket 34-99]

Foreign-Trade Zones 19—Omaha, NE; Application for Foreign-Trade Subzone Status, Zeneca Inc. (Agricultural Chemical Products) Omaha, NE

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) by the Dock Board of the City of Omaha, grantee of FTZ 19, requesting special-purpose subzone status for the manufacturing facilities (agricultural chemical products) of Zeneca Inc. (Zeneca), located in Omaha, Nebraska. The application was submitted pursuant to the Foreign-Trade Zones Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a–81u), and the regulations of the Board (15 CFR part 400). It was formally filed on June 25, 1999.

The Zeneca facility (42 acres, 252,000 sq. ft. + 223,000 proposed) is located at 4111 Gibson road in Omaha, Nebraska. The facilities (63 full-time and 30 seasonal employees) produce agricultural chemical products, which

Zeneca intends to formulate, test, package, and warehouse under FTZ procedures. The principal product to be formulated initially under subzone procedures is the herbicide which is marketed under the trade name Achieve®. Other products sourced from this site are the Force® 3G insecticide, the Ordram® 15GM, FulTime®, Surpass EC®, Eradicane®, Eptam®, and Ro-Neet® herbicides, the Turbocharge® crop adjuvant, and the Bonzi® plant growth regulator. Zeneca indicates that other products may be sourced from this facility in the future, and that initial U.S. value added will be 15 percent of finished products' value.

Zeneca has indicated that the following inputs will be the principal products to be imported initially under FTZ procedures: tralkoxydim; azoxystrobin; n-phosphonomethylglycine trimethyl sulfonium salt; brodifacoum; paclobutrazol; daconil; bromoxynil; cyhalothrin CS; and pirimiphosmethyl. Current duty rates for these inputs range from 3.7 to 10.7 percent.

Zone procedures would exempt Zeneca from Customs duty payments on foreign components used in export production. On its domestic sales, Zeneca would be able to choose the lower duty rate that applies to the finished products (6.5 percent) for the foreign inputs noted above. Zeneca would be able to avoid duty on foreign inputs which become scrap/waste, estimated at 0.5 percent of imported inputs. The application indicates that FTZ procedures would also allow Zeneca to eliminate its current use of a foreign "toll" manufacturer to process the Achieve® herbicide, thus realizing savings through the internalization of this function. FTZ status may also make a site eligible for benefits provided under state/local programs. The application indicates that the savings from zone procedures would help improve the plant's international competitiveness.

In accordance with the Board's regulations, a member of the FTZ Staff has been designated examiner to investigate the application and report to the Board.

Public comment on the application is invited from interested parties. Submissions (original and three copies) shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their receipt is September 10, 1999. Rebuttal comments in response to material submitted during the foregoing period may be submitted during the subsequent 15-day period to September 27, 1999.