

In addition, applications for economic injury loans from small businesses located in the following contiguous counties in Florida may be filed until the specified date at the above location: Charlotte, De Soto, Flagler, Hardee, Hillsborough, Lake, Lee, Manatee, Marion, Pasco, Putnam, and Sumter.

The interest rates are:

| | Percent |
|---|---------|
| For Physical Damage: | |
| Homeowners With Credit Available Elsewhere | 7.250 |
| Homeowners Without Credit Available Elsewhere | 3.625 |
| 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 | 7.000 |
| For Economic Injury: | |
| Businesses and Small Agricultural Cooperatives Without Credit Available Elsewhere | 4.000 |

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 322508 and for economic injury the number is 9F4700.

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

Dated: October 22, 1999.

Bernard Kulik,

Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance.

[FR Doc. 99-28589 Filed 11-1-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8025-01-P

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Economic Injury Disaster #9F26]

State of Florida; Amendment #1

The above-numbered declaration is hereby amended to include Duval and Gulf Counties and the contiguous counties of Baker, Bay, Calhoun, Clay, Franklin, Liberty, Nassau, and St. Johns in the State of Florida as an economic injury disaster loan area as a result of toxic algae blooms, known as Red Tide, beginning on August 19, 1999.

All other information remains the same, *i.e.*, the deadline for filing applications for economic injury is July 18, 2000.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 59002)

Dated: October 25, 1999.

Aida Alvarez,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 99-28591 Filed 11-1-99; 8:45 am]

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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

[Declaration of Economic Injury Disaster #9F26]

State of Florida; (And Contiguous Counties in Alabama)

Ocala County and the contiguous counties of Santa Rosa and Walton in the State of Florida, and Covington and Escambia Counties in the State of Alabama constitute an economic injury disaster loan area as a result of toxic algae blooms, known as Red Tide, beginning on August 19, 1999. Eligible small businesses and small agricultural cooperatives without credit available elsewhere may file applications for economic injury assistance as a result of this disaster until the close of business on July 18, 2000 at the address listed below or other locally announced locations: U.S. Small Business Administration, Disaster Area 2 Office, One Baltimore Place, Suite 300, Atlanta, GA 30308.

The interest rate for eligible small businesses and small agricultural cooperatives is 4 percent. The economic injury number for the State of Alabama is 9F2700.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program No. 59002)

Dated: October 18, 1999.

Aida Alvarez,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 99-28590 Filed 11-1-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice 3152]

Culturally Significant Objects Imported for Exhibition Determinations: Johannes Vermeer's "The Art of Painting"

DEPARTMENT: United States Department of State.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the following determinations: Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Act of October 19, 1965 (79 Stat. 985, 22 U.S.C. 2459), the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2681, *et seq.*), Delegation of Authority No. 234 of October 1, 1999, and Delegation of Authority of October 19, 1999, I hereby determine that the object to be included in the exhibition Johannes Vermeer's "The Art of Painting," imported from abroad for the temporary exhibition without profit within the United States, is of cultural significance. This object is imported

pursuant to a loan agreement with a foreign lender. I also determine that the exhibition or display of the exhibit object at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, from on or about December 5, 1999, to on or about February 6, 2000, is in the national interest. Public Notice of these determinations is ordered to be published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, including a description of the exhibit object, contact Jacqueline H. Caldwell, Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State (telephone: 202/619-6982). The address is U.S. Department of State, SA-44; 301-4th Street, SW, Room 700, Washington, DC 20547-0001.

Dated: October 25, 1999.

James D. Whitten,

Executive Director, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State.

[FR Doc. 99-28639 Filed 11-1-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-08-P

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Request For Public Comment With Respect to the Annual National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to section 303 of the Trade and Tariff Act of 1984, as amended, USTR is required to publish annually the National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers (NTE). With this notice, the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) is requesting interested parties to assist it in identifying significant barriers to U.S. exports of goods, services and overseas direct investment for inclusion in the NTE. Particularly important are impediments materially affecting the actual and potential financial performance of an industry sector. The TPSC invites written comments that provide views relevant to the issues to be examined in preparing the NTE.

DATES: Public comments are due not later than December 3, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street NW, Room 122, Washington, DC 20508.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gloria Blue, Office of Policy

Coordination, Office of the United States Trade Representative, (202) 395-3475.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Last year's report may be found on USTR's Internet Home Page (www.ustr.gov) under the section on Reports. This year we are adding one other country, Romania, to the report, but are not making any change in the list of barrier categories. Finally, in order to ensure compliance with the statutory mandate for reporting foreign trade barriers that are significant, we will focus particularly on those restrictions where there has been active private sector interest.

The information submitted should relate to one or more of the following ten categories of foreign trade barriers:

(1) Import policies (e.g., tariffs and other import charges, quantitative restrictions, import licensing, and customs barriers);

(2) Standards, testing, labeling, and certification (including unnecessarily restrictive application of phytosanitary standards, refusal to accept U.S. manufacturers' self-certification of conformance to foreign product standards, and environmental restrictions);

(3) Government procurement (e.g., "buy national" policies and closed bidding);

(4) Export subsidies (e.g., export financing on preferential terms and agricultural export subsidies that displace U.S. exports in third country markets);

(5) Lack of intellectual property protection (e.g., inadequate patent, copyright, and trademark regimes);

(6) Services barriers (e.g., limits on the range of financial services offered by foreign financial institutions, regulation of international data flows, restrictions on the use of data processing, quotas on imports of foreign films, and barriers to the provision of services by professionals (e.g., lawyers, doctors, accountants, engineers, nurses, etc.));

(7) Investment barriers (e.g., limitations on foreign equity participation and on access to foreign government-funded R&D consortia, local content, technology transfer and export performance requirements, and restrictions on repatriation of earnings, capital, fees and royalties);

(8) Anticompetitive practices with trade effects tolerated by foreign governments (including anticompetitive activities of both state-owned and private firms that apply to services or to goods and that restrict the sale of U.S. products to any firm, not just to foreign firms that perpetuate the practices);

(9) Trade restrictions affecting electronic commerce (e.g., tariff and

non-tariff measures, burdensome and discriminatory regulations and standards, and discriminatory taxation; and

(10) Other barriers (i.e., barriers that encompass more than one category, e.g., bribery and corruption, or that affect a single sector).

As in the case of last year's NTE, we are asking that particular emphasis be placed on any practices that may violate U.S. trade agreements. We are also interested in receiving any new or updated information pertinent to the barriers covered in last year's report as well as new information. Please note that the information not used in the NTE will be maintained for use in future negotiations.

It is most important that your submission contain estimates of the potential increase in exports that would result from the removal of the barrier, as well as a clear discussion of the method(s) by which the estimates were computed. Estimates should fall within the following value ranges: Less than \$5 million; \$5 to \$25 million; \$25 million to \$50 million; \$50 million to \$100 million; \$100 million to \$500 million; or over \$500 million. Such assessments enhance USTR's ability to conduct meaningful comparative analyses of a barrier's effect over a range of industries.

Please note that interested parties discussing barriers in more than one country should provide a separate submission (i.e., one that is self-contained) for each country.

Written Comments: All written comments should be addressed to: Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street NW, Room 122, Washington, DC 20508.

All submissions must be in English and should conform to the information requirements of 15 CFR 2003. A party must provide ten copies of its submission which must be received at USTR no later than December 3, 1999.

If the submission contains business confidential information, ten copies of a confidential version must also be submitted. A justification as to why the information contained in the submission should be treated confidentially must be included in the submission. In addition, any submissions containing business confidential information must be clearly marked "Confidential" at the top and bottom of the cover page (or letter) and of each succeeding page of the submission. The version that does not contain confidential information should also be clearly marked, at the top and

bottom of each page, "public version" or "nonconfidential."

Written comments submitted in connection with this request, except for information granted "business confidential" status pursuant to 15 CFR 2003.6, will be available for public inspection shortly after the filing deadline. Inspection is by appointment only with the staff of the USTR Public Reading Room and can be arranged by calling Brenda Webb (202) 395-6186. The Reading Room is open to the public from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon, and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Frederick L. Montgomery,

Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.

[FR Doc. 99-28649 Filed 11-1-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-01-M

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket No. WTO/DS-178]

WTO Dispute Settlement Proceeding Regarding United States—Safeguard Measure on Imports of Lamb Meat From Australia

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the United States Trade Representative ("USTR") is providing notice of Australia's request for the establishment of a dispute settlement panel under the Marrakesh Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization ("WTO"). Australia challenges the United States' action in imposing temporary quantitative limitations on imports of lamb meat in an effort to prevent serious injury to the domestic industry and to facilitate its adjustment to import competition. In this dispute Australia alleges that the United States' safeguard measure is inconsistent with certain obligations under the WTO Agreement on Safeguards, and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994 ("GATT 1994"). USTR invites written comments from the public concerning the issues raised in this dispute.

DATES: Although USTR will accept any comments received during the course of the dispute settlement proceedings, comments should be submitted by January 10, 1999, to be assured of timely consideration by USTR in preparing its first written submission to the panel.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted to Sandy McKinzy, Litigation Assistant, Office of Monitoring and Enforcement, Room 122, Attn: Lamb Meat, Office of the United States Trade