

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: In order to ensure the most timely receipt and

consideration of comments submitted in response to this notice, the following guidelines and special procedures have been established:

(1) All comments will be received at the U.S. Department of Commerce rather than the Office of the United States Trade Representative;

(2) The Department of Commerce has arranged to accept non-confidential, public submissions by electronic mail (e-mail). An automatic reply confirming receipt of e-mail submissions will be sent. E-mail submissions in Microsoft Word or Corel WordPerfect are preferred. If a word processing application other than those two is used, please advise us in your submission of the specific application used;

(3) In order to facilitate prompt processing of submissions, the Department of Commerce strongly urges and prefers e-mail submission of non-confidential, public comments;

(4) To ensure security, submissions containing business confidential information should not be sent by e-mail, but via the U.S. Postal Service or commercial express delivery (see paragraph 6 and 7 below for special requirements applying to such submissions). If a submission contains business confidential information, a non-confidential public version must also be submitted along with the business confidential version.

(5) Business-confidential submissions must be accompanied by a justification as to why the information contained in the submission should be treated confidentially. 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 "non-confidential".

(6) When comments are submitted using the U.S. Postal Service or commercial couriers, it is strongly

recommended that submitters notify the Department of Commerce by e-mail (ntecomments@ita.doc.gov) as to the date of transmittal and method of delivery (U.S. Postal Service or name of courier company).

(7) All submissions must be in English and should conform to the information requirements of 15 CFR 2003. If submissions are made via U.S. Postal Service or commercial express delivery, the submission should be accompanied by a computer disk containing a machine-readable version. The disk should have a label identifying the software used, the submitter and the title of the submission. In addition, business confidential and public or non-confidential submissions should be submitted on separate disks which are clearly marked "business confidential" or "non-confidential", as appropriate.

Submissions must be received at the Department of Commerce no later than Friday, December 12, 2003.

After the filing deadline, 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 review on the web at: <http://web.ita.doc.gov/otea/ntecomments.nsf>. Arrangements can also be made to view these non-proprietary public comments in the Foreign Trade Reference Room (Room 2233) in the U.S. Department of Commerce. The Department of Commerce is located at 14th St. and Constitution Ave., NW in Washington, DC. Customary hours of operation for the Foreign Trade Reference Room are from 9 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday. Call (202) 482-2185 to confirm. Questions regarding the operation of the Reference Room should be directed to Ms. Marva Thompson at (202) 482-2185.

Carmen Suro-Bredie,

Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee.

[FR Doc. 03-27496 Filed 10-30-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-W3-P