



March 19, 2010

WTO to Consider Adding New Pharmaceuticals to Lists of Products Subject to Zero Tariff (Duty-Free) Rate

The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) is requesting written comments from the public with respect to the expansion of the lists of pharmaceutical products subject to duty-free treatment by certain members of the World Trade Organization (WTO). During the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations in January 1995, the United States and 16 trading partners agreed to the reciprocal elimination of duties on approximately 7,000 pharmaceutical products and chemical intermediaries. Participants also agreed to periodically update the lists of pharmaceuticals subject to a zero tariff rate.

Comments are requested specifically on additions to the lists of pharmaceutical active ingredients; prefixes and suffixes that could be associated with an active ingredient in order to designate its salt, ester, or hydrate form; or chemical intermediates intended for the manufacture of pharmaceutical active ingredients. A copy of the initial lists of proposed items is available at www.regulations.gov under the keyword "USTR-2010-0006." Comments are due by midnight, April 9, 2010 and should be submitted online at www.regulations.gov under the following docket: USTR-2010-0006.

WTO negotiations will begin in the latter part of April 2010. Any amendments to the lists of pharmaceuticals will be subject to approval by all participants in the negotiations.

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