
❖ SPC&B Update ❖

A Newsletter for Clients of Sharretts, Paley, Carter & Blauvelt, P.C.

April 16, 2013

I. Burma and Laos Seek GSP Treatment

II. CPSC Requests Information on Possible Exemptions from Third Party Testing

III. SPC&B to Conduct USA ITA Webinar on Importing Textiles and Apparel into Canada



I. In today's Federal Register, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) announced the initiation of reviews to consider designating Burma (Myanmar) and Laos as beneficiary developing countries (BDCs) under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), providing for duty free treatment of designated articles. Burma's previous designation as a BDC under the GSP was suspended effective July 1, 1989, due to a failure to meet internationally recognized worker rights. Given the recent progress made by the country and the gradual resumption of normal relations between our two countries, the U.S. may be willing to consider its request for re-designation under the GSP. Laos received Normal Trade Relations (formerly known as Most Favored Nation) status in 2005 and has never before been considered for eligibility for GSP trade benefits.

A hearing on both countries will be held on June 4, 2013. Anyone interested in appearing at the hearing or submitting comments should contact us by the beginning of May 2013.

II. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is asking for information on materials used in the manufacture of certain children's products that can be determined not to include a prohibited element (lead or certain other heavy metals) or chemical (six prohibited phthalates), so that third party testing would not be required. The agency also seeks information on materials that do not contain the prohibited substances in concentrations above the legally established limits. In particular, the CPSC is requesting this information on materials used in the production of the following children's products listed next to the associated prohibited elements or chemicals:

- ◆ Children's toys — antimony, arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury and selenium
- ◆ Children's toys and child care articles — DBP, BBP, DEHP, DnOP, DINP and DIDP (phthalates)
- ◆ Manufactured woods such as particle board, medium-density fiber board and plywood — lead
- ◆ Synthetic food dyes — lead

The CPSC previously determined that certain materials, including textiles and wood, did not include

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lead, unless processing treatments result in the addition of the prohibited element. Accordingly, third party testing is not required for such materials appearing in children's products.

If you are interested in submitting information on the above to the CPSC, please let us know. Comments must be submitted by June 17, 2013.

III. Whether you are actively importing into Canada--or whether you want to start selling your products in this important market--join USA-ITA and Sharretts, Paley, Carter & Blauvelt, P.C. for an overview on importing to Canada from start to finish. SPC&B firm member Alli M. Baron will take you through the process, from pre-importation requirements to post-importation recordkeeping and enforcement. She will cover topics including:

- Pre-importation requirements
- Importation procedures
- Tariff classification and treatment
- Value for duty (and tax)
- Post-importation requirements
- Trade incentive programs
- Other important information, such as importer programs, electronic transmission of data, and other Canadian government requirements such as intellectual property requirements

Following the presentation, there will be time for Q&A with Ms. Baron. This webinar will be recorded and distributed to all registered attendees.

[Click here for more information and registration.](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Gail Cumins at gcumins@spcblaw.com, Alli Baron at abaron@spcblaw.com or Donna Shira at dshira@spcblaw.com or call us at 212-425-0055.
