

**MER: (Respondents-Medical Providers)**

Number of Responses: 9,182,836.  
 Frequency of Response: Unknown.  
 Average Burden Per Response: 15 minutes.  
 Estimate Annual Burden: 2,295,709 hours.

**CE: (Respondents-Medical Providers)**

Number of Responses: 3,001,500.  
 Frequency of Response: Unknown.  
 Average Burden Per Response: 30 minutes.  
 Estimated Annual Burden: 1,500,750 hours.

**CE: (Respondents-Claimants)**

	Appoint-ment form	Medical release
Number of Respondents.	750,375 ..	1,500,750.
Frequency of Response.	2 .....	2.
Average Burden Per Response.	5 minutes	5 minutes.
Estimated Annual Burden.	125,062 hours.	250,125 hours

**CE Providers (Respondents-Medical Providers)**

Number of Responses: 6,300.  
 Frequency of Response: 1.  
 Average Burden: 20 minutes.  
 Estimated Annual Burden: 2,100 hours.

**ADL: (Respondents-Claimants)**

Number of Responses: 2,264,000.  
 Frequency of Response: 1.  
 Average Burden Per Response: 15 minutes.  
 Estimated Annual Burden: 566,000 hours.

**Pain: (Respondents-Claimants)**

Number of Responses: 1,000,000.  
 Frequency of Response: 1.  
 Average Burden Per Response: 15 minutes.  
 Estimated Average Burden: 250,000 hours.

In addition to your comments on the accuracy of the Agency's burden estimate, we are soliciting comments on the need for the information; its practical utility; ways to enhance its quality, utility and clarity; and on ways to minimize burden on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Written comments and recommendations regarding the information collection should be directed within 30 days to the OMB Desk Officer and SSA Reports Clearance Officer at the following addresses:

(OMB), Office of Management and Budget, OIRA, Attn: Desk Officer for SSA, New Executive Office Building, Room 10230, 725 17th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20503.  
 (SSA), Social Security Administration, DCFAM, Attn: Frederick W. Brickenkamp, 1-A-21 Operations Bldg., 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235.

To receive a copy of any of the forms or clearance packages, call the SSA Reports Clearance Officer on (410) 965-4145 or write to him at the address listed above.

Dated: October 27, 1998.

**Frederick W. Brickenkamp,**

Reports Clearance Officer, Social Security Administration.

[FR Doc. 98-29323 Filed 11-3-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4190-29-P

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

[Public Notice No. 2918]

**Shipping Coordinating Committee; Subcommittee on Ship Design and Equipment; Meeting Notice**

The Shipping Coordinating Committee will conduct an open meeting at 9:30 am on Tuesday, November 24, 1998, in Room 2415, at U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, 2100 2nd Street, SW, Washington, DC 20593-0001. The purpose of the meeting is to prepare for the forty second session of the Subcommittee on Ship Design and Equipment of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) which is scheduled for March 8-12, 1999, at IMO Headquarters in London, England.

Among other things, items of particular interest are: revision of the High Speed Craft Code; emergency towing arrangements for tankers; safety aspects of ballast water management; guidelines on helicopter landing areas; prohibition of the use of asbestos on board new ships; development of a code on polar navigation; development on requirements for wing-in-ground craft; international approval procedures for life-saving appliances; standards and requirements for thermal protective litojackets; and guidelines under MARPOL Annex VI on prevention of air pollution from ships.

IMO works to develop international agreements, guidelines, and standards for the marine industry. In most cases, these form the basis for class society rules and national standards/regulations. Such an open meeting supports the U.S. Representative to the IMO Subcommittee in developing the U.S. position on those issues at the IMO

Subcommittee meetings. This open meeting serves as an excellent forum for the U.S. maritime industry to express their ideas and participate in the international rulemaking process. All members of the maritime industry are encouraged to send representatives to participate in the development of U.S. positions on those issues affecting your maritime industry and remain abreast of all activities ongoing within the IMO.

Members of the public may attend this meeting up to the seating capacity of the room. Interested persons may seek information by writing: Mr. Wayne Lundy, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Commandant (G-MSE-3), 2100 2nd Street, SW, Washington, DC 20593-0001 or by calling: (202) 267-2206.

Dated: October 26, 1998.

**Stephen M. Miller,**

Chairman, Shipping Coordinating Committee.

[FR Doc. 98-29464 Filed 11-3-98; 8:45 am]

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**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 4, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Gloria Blue, Executive Secretary, Trade Policy Staff Committee, Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17th Street NW, Room 501, 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](http://www.ustr.gov)) under the section on Reports. This year we have added the following African countries to the report: the Southern African Customs Union (Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland (in addition to South Africa)); the West African Economic and Monetary Union (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo); and the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon).

In addition, the new Internet Tax Freedom Act has added a new section to the NTE relating to U.S. electronic commerce. 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 501, 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 4, 1998.

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 "non-confidential."

Written comments submitted in correction 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. 98-29506 Filed 11-3-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3190-01-M

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Highway Administration

#### Environmental Impact Statement: Williamson County, Texas

**AGENCY:** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that a Major Investment Study (MIS) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared for a proposed U.S. Highway 183 corridor improvement project in Williamson County, Texas. The study corridor includes the existing U.S. Highway 183 alignment and the general area located east of existing U.S. Highway 183. The study limits extend from approximately Lakeline Boulevard, located north of RM 620 and south of the City of Cedar Park, to north of the City of Leander, south of the San Gabriel River.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Walter C. Waidelich, District Engineer, Federal Highway Administration, Room 826, Federal Building, 300 East 8th Street, Austin, Texas 78701. Stacey Benningfield, Texas Turnpike Authority, Texas Department of Transportation, 125 East 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701-2483.