

Dated: August 2, 2012.

Kathy Bushnell,

Forest Public Affairs Officer/DFO.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Economic Development Administration

Notice of Petitions by Firms for Determination of Eligibility to Apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance

AGENCY: Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice and Opportunity for Public Comment.

Pursuant to Section 251 of the Trade Act 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2341

et seq.), the Economic Development Administration (EDA) has received petitions for certification of eligibility to apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) from the firms listed below. Accordingly, EDA has initiated investigations to determine whether increased imports into the United States of articles like or directly competitive with those produced by each of these firms contributed importantly to the total or partial separation of the firm's workers, or threat thereof, and to a decrease in sales or production of each petitioning firm.

LIST OF PETITIONS RECEIVED BY EDA FOR CERTIFICATION ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY FOR TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE

07/06/12 to 08/06/12

| Firm name | Firm address | Date accepted for investigation | Product(s) |
|---|---|---------------------------------|--|
| Dohm-Icebox, Inc. | 1111 Delaware Avenue, Longmont, CO 80501. | 07/10/12 | The firm manufactures hats and other apparel. |
| HEB Manufacturing Co., Inc. | 67 VT Rte. 110, Chelsea, VT 05038. | 07/10/12 | The firm performs wire forming, metal fabricating, and metal stamping functions. |
| J.L. Souser & Associates d/ b/a JLS Automation. | 3495 Industrial Avenue, York, PA 17402. | 07/12/12 | The firm manufactures industrial packaging machinery used in the food industry. |
| Finishing Professionals, LLC | 7777 E. 4th Avenue, Denver, CO 80207. | 07/16/12 | The firm manufactures plated fabricated metal parts. |
| Gorman Machine Corp | 7 Burke Drive, Brockton, MA 02301. | 08/06/12 | The firm designs and manufactures coil winding machinery. |
| New World Millworks, Inc. ... | 1211 Atchison Court, Castle Rock, CO 80109. | 08/06/12 | The firm manufactures architectural millwork products including but not limited to wood cabinetry and interior millwork. |

Any party having a substantial interest in these proceedings may request a public hearing on the matter. A written request for a hearing must be submitted to the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms Division, Room 7106, Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230, no later than ten (10) calendar days following publication of this notice.

Please follow the requirements set forth in EDA's regulations at 13 CFR 315.9 for procedures to request a public hearing. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance official number and title for the program under which these petitions are submitted is 11.313, Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms.

Dated: August 6, 2012.

Miriam Kearse,

Eligibility Certifier, TAA for Firms.

[FR Doc. 2012-19764 Filed 8-10-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[S-52-2012]

Approval of Subzone Status; Shimadzu USA Manufacturing, Inc., Canby, OR

On May 8, 2012, the Executive Secretary of the Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZ) Board docketed an application submitted by the Port of Portland, grantee of FTZ 45, requesting subzone status subject to the existing activation limit of FTZ 45, on behalf of Shimadzu USA Manufacturing, Inc., in Canby, Oregon.

The application was processed in accordance with the FTZ Act and Regulations, including notice in the **Federal Register** inviting public comment (77 FR 28568, 05/15/2012). The FTZ staff examiner reviewed the application and determined that it meets the criteria for approval. Pursuant to the authority delegated to the FTZ Board Executive Secretary (15 CFR Sec. 400.36(f)), the application to establish Subzone 45G is approved, subject to the FTZ Act and the Board's regulations, including Section 400.13 and further subject to FTZ 45's pre-existing activation limit.

Dated: August 8, 2012.

Andrew McGilvray,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2012-19807 Filed 8-10-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[B-53-2012]

Foreign-Trade Zone 20—Suffolk, VA; Notification of Proposed Production Activity, Usui International Corporation, (Diesel Engine Fuel Lines), Chesapeake, VA

The Virginia Port Authority, grantee of FTZ 20, submitted a notification of proposed production activity on behalf of Usui International Corporation (Usui), located in Chesapeake, Virginia. The notification conforming to the requirements of the regulations of the Board (15 CFR 400.22) was received on June 28, 2012.

The Usui facility is located within Site 9 of FTZ 20. The facility is used for the production of diesel engine fuel lines. Production under FTZ procedures could exempt Usui from customs duty payments on foreign status components

used in export production. On its domestic sales, Usui would be able to choose the duty rate during customs entry procedures that applies to diesel engine fuel lines (duty rate—2.5%) for the foreign status inputs noted below. Customs duties also could possibly be deferred or reduced on foreign status production equipment.

Components and materials sourced from abroad include: Plastic caps and clips, rubber o-rings, paper labels, adhesive tape, tubes/pipes/profiles, fasteners, springs, tags, brackets, engine parts, plates, fixtures, alarm tanks, and caps (duty rate ranges from free to 8.5%).

Public comment is invited from interested parties. Submissions shall be addressed to the Board's Executive Secretary at the address below. The closing period for their receipt is September 24, 2012.

A copy of the notification will be available for public inspection at the Office of the Executive Secretary, Foreign-Trade Zones Board, Room 2111, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230-0002, and in the "Reading Room" section of the Board's Web site, which is accessible via www.trade.gov/ftz.

For further information, contact Pierre Duy at Pierre.Duy@trade.gov or (202) 482-1378.

Dated: July 26, 2012.

Andrew McGilvray,
Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2012-19806 Filed 8-10-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

[Docket Number: 120706222-2222-01]

Alternative Personnel Management System (APMS) at the National Institute of Standards and Technology

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of modifications.

SUMMARY: This notice announces changes to the existing provisions of the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Alternative Personnel Management System (APMS) published October 21, 1997. NIST is implementing direct-hire authority on a permanent basis for all Nuclear Reactor Operator positions in NIST's Scientific and Engineering Technician (ZT) career

path at the Pay Band III and above, and for all positions in NIST's Scientific and Engineering (ZP) career path at the Pay Band III and above except for the Information Technology Management, 2210 series; the General Engineering, 801 series; and the General Physical Science, 1301 series.

DATES: The changes to the APMS announced in this notice are effective on August 13, 2012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susanne Porch at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, (301) 975-3000; or Valerie Smith at the U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-0272.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In accordance with Public Law 99-574, the National Bureau of Standards Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1987, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) approved a demonstration project plan, "Alternative Personnel Management System (APMS) at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)," and published the plan in the *Federal Register* on October 2, 1987 (52 FR 37082). The project plan has been modified twice to clarify certain NIST authorities (54 FR 21331 of May 17, 1989, and 55 FR 39220 of Sept. 25, 1990). The project plan and subsequent amendments were consolidated in the final APMS plan, which became permanent on October 21, 1997, 62 FR 54604. NIST first amended the plan on May 6, 2005 (70 FR 23996), to strengthen the link between pay and performance, to simplify the pay-for-performance system, and to broaden the link between performance and retention service credit for reduction in force, which became permanent upon publication. NIST amended the plan again on July 15, 2008 (73 FR 40500), to improve flexibility in rewarding new and mid-level employees and to broaden the ability to make performance distinctions and that amendment became permanent on October 1, 2008.

On December 3, 2010, the Department of Commerce approved NIST's request to pilot direct-hire under 5 U.S.C. 3304(a)(3) for a period of one year for all positions within the Scientific and Engineering (ZP) career path at the Pay Band III and above, for Nuclear Reactor Operator positions in the Scientific and Engineering Technician (ZT) career path at Pay Band III and above, and for all occupations for which there is a special rate under the General Schedule (GS) pay system. On January 5, 2011, a *Federal Register* notice was published

(76 FR 539) implementing the direct-hire pilot for a period of one year. During the pilot, information was gathered on the impact of direct-hire authority on preference eligibles, as well as information supporting the finding of a severe shortage of candidates for the positions covered under the direct-hire authority.

On December 20, 2011, NIST published a *Federal Register* notice (76 FR 78889) extending the direct-hire pilot for an additional six (6) months. During this extended pilot period, NIST submitted a request to the Department of Commerce to implement direct-hire authority under 5 U.S.C. 3304(a)(3) on a permanent basis for Nuclear Reactor Operator positions in NIST's Scientific and Engineering Technician (ZT) career path at the Pay Band III and above, and for all positions in NIST's Scientific and Engineering (ZP) career path at the Pay Band III and above except for the Information Technology Management, 2210 series; the General Engineering, 801 series; and the General Physical Science, 1301 series. The request included a statistical analysis determining the impact of direct-hire authority on preference eligibles as well as a justification supporting the finding of a severe shortage of candidates in the covered positions. On April 20, 2012, the Department of Commerce, in consultation with OPM, approved NIST's request to implement direct-hire authority on a permanent basis for the above occupations. The Department of Commerce also granted NIST approval to continue piloting direct-hire authority for all positions in the General Engineering, 801 series and the General Physical Science, 1301 series for an additional period of twelve (12) months.

The APMS plan provides for modifications to be made as experience is gained, results are analyzed, and conclusions are reached on how the system is working. This notice formally announces the modification to the APMS and implements direct-hire authority under 5 U.S.C. 3304(a)(3) on a permanent basis.

Dated: August 8, 2012.

David Robinson,
Associate Director for Management Resources.

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I. Executive Summary

The National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Alternative Personnel Management System (APMS) is designed to (1) improve hiring and