

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This is a notice of an Administrative declaration of a disaster for the State of FLORIDA dated 09/29/2015.

*Incident:* Severe storms and flooding.  
*Incident Period:* 07/25/2015 through 08/09/2015.

*Effective Date:* 09/29/2015.  
*Physical Loan Application Deadline Date:* 11/30/2015.

*Economic Injury (EIDL) Loan Application Deadline Date:* 06/29/2016.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit completed loan applications to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** A. Escobar, Office of Disaster Assistance, U.S. Small Business Administration, 409 3rd Street SW., Suite 6050, Washington, DC 20416.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given that as a result of the Administrator's disaster declaration, applications for disaster loans may be filed at the address listed above or other locally announced locations.

The following areas have been determined to be adversely affected by the disaster:

Primary Counties: Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas.

Contiguous Counties: Florida, Hardee, Hernando, Manatee, Polk, Sumter.

The Interest Rates are:

	Percent
<i>For Physical Damage:</i>	
Homeowners with Credit Available Elsewhere .....	3.750
Homeowners without Credit Available Elsewhere .....	1.875
Businesses with Credit Available Elsewhere .....	6.000
Businesses without Credit Available Elsewhere .....	4.000
Non-Profit Organizations with Credit Available Elsewhere ...	2.625
Non-Profit Organizations without Credit Available Elsewhere .....	2.625
<i>For Economic Injury:</i>	
Businesses & Small Agricultural Cooperatives without Credit Available Elsewhere .....	4.000
Non-Profit Organizations without Credit Available Elsewhere .....	2.625

The number assigned to this disaster for physical damage is 14484 6 and for economic injury is 14485 0.

The State which received an EIDL Declaration # is Florida  
(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers 59002 and 59008)

Dated: September 29, 2015.

**Maria Contreras-Sweet,**

*Administrator.*

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**BILLING CODE 8025-01-P**

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE**

**Generalized System of Preferences (GSP): Results of the GSP Limited Product Review, Including Actions Related to Competitive Need Limitations (CNLs)**

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States Trade Representative.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the results of the GSP Limited Product Review launched in July 2015, including: (1) The designation of certain cotton products as eligible for GSP benefits when imported from least-developed beneficiary developing countries (LDBDCs), and (2) the results of the review of CNL-related issues arising from 2014 import data, including CNL waivers, CNL waiver revocations, requests for redesignation of certain products, and *de minimis* CNL waivers.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Aimee Larsen, Director for GSP, Office of the United States Trade Representative. The telephone number is (202) 395-2974, the fax number is (202) 395-9674, and the email address is [ALarsen@ustr.eop.gov](mailto:ALarsen@ustr.eop.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The GSP program provides for the duty-free treatment of designated articles when imported from beneficiary developing countries. The GSP program is authorized by Title V of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2461 *et seq.*), as amended, and is implemented in accordance with Executive Order 11888 of November 24, 1975, as modified by subsequent Executive Orders and Presidential Proclamations.

The GSP program expired on July 31, 2013. GSP was reauthorized on June 29, 2015, by the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015. The GSP program is now effective through December 31, 2017, with retroactive effect through July 31, 2013. Pursuant to the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015, exclusions from GSP duty-free treatment where CNLs have been exceeded for calendar year 2014 will be effective October 1, 2015, unless granted a waiver by the President.

**Results of the GSP Limited Product Review**

Pursuant to Section 203 of the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015, the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) conducted a limited GSP review encompassing products that, based on full-year 2014 import data, are subject to CNL-related actions, including exclusions, waivers, and revocation of waivers, as well as redesignations. As part of this review, the TPSC considered: (1) Petitions to waive CNLs for two products from Thailand; (2) revocation of CNL waivers for three products from beneficiary countries where 2014 imports exceeded certain statutory limits; (3) requests for redesignation of products previously excluded from GSP eligibility for certain beneficiary countries; and (4) products eligible for *de minimis* waivers of CNLs. As part of this review, the TPSC also considered the possible designation of certain cotton products for eligibility for GSP benefits when imported from LDBDCs under the GSP program.

In a Presidential Proclamation dated September 30, 2015, the President implemented his decisions regarding GSP product eligibility issues arising out of this GSP product review, including CNL waivers and CNL revocations. This notice provides further information on the results of the GSP Limited Product Review. These results, comprising five lists, are available for the public to view at <http://www.regulations.gov> in docket USTR-2015-0007, under "Supporting and Related Materials" and at <https://ustr.gov/issue-areas/preference-programs/generalized-system-preferences-gsp/current-reviews/gsp-20142015>.

**Specific Results**

The President designated five upland cotton fiber products as eligible for duty-free treatment under GSP when imported from LDBDCs. See List I (Products Added to the List of Eligible Products for GSP for Least Developed Beneficiary Developing Countries). This designation is pursuant to the authority granted to the President in Section 202 of the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015 and consistent with USTR's December 2011 announcement of trade initiatives intended to enable least-developed countries to benefit more fully from global trade.

The President granted petitions for waivers of CNLs for two products from Thailand: (1) Coconuts otherwise prepared or preserved (HTS 2008.19.15) and (2) copper alloys (other than brass, cupro-nickel or nickel-silver), wire,

coated or plated with metal (HTS 7408.29.10). See List II (Decision on Petitions to Grant Waiver of the Competitive Need Limitation). Additionally, the President revoked existing CNL waivers for three products: (1) Certain plywood sheets (HTS 4412.31.40) from Indonesia; (2) certain copper, stranded wire (HTS 7413.00.10) from Turkey; and (3) certain copper cables and plaited bands (HTS 7413.00.50) from Turkey. See List III (Revocations of Competitive Need Limitation Waivers).

The President also redesignated certain articles from GSP-eligible countries that had previously exceeded the CNLs, but had fallen below the CNL for total annual trade in 2014. The President redesignated as GSP-eligible: (1) Oilcake and other solid residues, resulting from the extraction of vegetable fats or oils, of sunflower seeds (HTS 2306.30.00) from Ukraine; (2) rare gases, other than argon (HTS 2804.29.00) from Ukraine; (3) insulated ignition wiring sets and other wiring sets of a kind used in vehicles, aircraft or ships (HTS 8544.30.00) from Indonesia; and (4) parts of railway/tramway locomotives/rolling stock, axles (HTS 8607.19.03) from Ukraine. See List IV (Products Receiving GSP Redesignation).

The President granted *de minimis* waivers to 98 articles that exceeded the 50-percent import-share CNL, but for which the aggregate value of all U.S. imports of that article was below the 2014 *de minimis* level of \$22 million. See List V (Products Receiving De Minimis Waivers). The articles for which *de minimis* waivers were granted will continue to be eligible for duty-free treatment under GSP when imported from the associated countries.

**William D. Jackson,**

*Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for the Generalized System of Preferences and Chair of the GSP Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Highway Administration

[FHWA Docket No. FHWA-2015-0020]

#### Revision of Thirteen Controlling Criteria for Design; Notice and Request for Comment

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

**ACTION:** Notice; request for comment.

**SUMMARY:** The geometric design standards for projects on the National Highway System (NHS) are incorporated by reference in FHWA regulations. These design standards are comprehensive in nature, covering a multitude of design characteristics, while allowing flexibility in application. Exceptions may be approved on a project basis for designs that do not conform to the minimum or limiting criteria set forth in the standards, policies, and standard specifications.

The FHWA is updating its policy regarding controlling criteria for design. The current policy identifies 13 controlling criteria for design and requires formal design exceptions when any of the 13 controlling criteria are not met. The FHWA intends to further streamline the controlling criteria, and the application of these criteria, based on the results of recent research that evaluated the safety and operational effects of the 13 controlling criteria. The FHWA also intends to clarify when design exceptions are required and the documentation that is expected to support such requests. This notice solicits comments on the proposed revisions to the 13 controlling criteria for the design of projects on the NHS that require a design exception when adopted design criteria are not met, in accordance with FHWA regulations.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before December 7, 2015. Late comments will be considered to the extent practicable.

**ADDRESSES:** Mail or hand deliver comments to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Dockets Management Facility, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590, or fax comments to (202) 493-2251. Alternatively, comments may be submitted to the Federal eRulemaking portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments must include the docket number that appears in the heading of this document. All comments received will be available for examination and copying at the above address from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Those desiring notification of receipt of comments must include a self-addressed, stamped postcard or you may print the acknowledgment page that appears after submitting comments electronically. Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments in any one of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, or labor union). Anyone may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the

**Federal Register** published on April 11, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 70, Pages 19477-78).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For questions about the program discussed herein, contact Elizabeth Hilton, Geometric Design Engineer, FHWA Office of Program Administration, (512) 536-5970 or via email at [elizabeth.hilton@dot.gov](mailto:elizabeth.hilton@dot.gov). For legal questions, please contact Robert Black, Office of the Chief Counsel, (202) 366-1359, or via email at [Robert.Black@dot.gov](mailto:Robert.Black@dot.gov). Office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Electronic Access and Filing**

You may submit or retrieve comments online through the Federal eRulemaking portal at: <http://www.regulations.gov>. The Web site is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year. Please follow the instructions. Electronic submission and retrieval help and guidelines are available under the help section of the Web site. An electronic copy of this document may also be downloaded from the Office of the Federal Register's home page at: <http://www.archives.gov> and the Government Printing Office's Web page at: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara>.

**Purpose of This Notice**

The FHWA is requesting comment on proposed revisions to the 13 controlling criteria for the design of projects on the NHS that require a design exception when not met, in accordance with 23 CFR 625.3(f). Design exceptions are an administrative tool used to document an engineer's evaluation of possible solutions to a specific design issue, including the operational and safety performance of each option, impacts to the human and natural environment, and other factors, and demonstrating the reasons a particular solution that does not meet applicable design standards was selected. Many States have their own process for reviewing design deviations when State or Federal design criteria are not met. When used in this Notice, the term 'design exception' refers to documentation prepared for projects on the NHS when a controlling criterion is not met, and that must be approved by the FHWA or on behalf of FHWA if a State Transportation Agency (STA) has assumed this responsibility through a Stewardship and Oversight agreement. Stewardship and Oversight agreements set forth the agreement between FHWA and each STA on the roles and responsibilities of FHWA and the STA with respect to Title 23 project