

A. September 2018 Action

For background on the proceedings in this investigation, please see the prior notices issued in the investigation, including 82 FR 40213 (August 23, 2017), 83 FR 14906 (April 6, 2018), 83 FR 28710 (June 20, 2018), 83 FR 33608 (July 17, 2018), 83 FR 38760 (August 7, 2018), and 83 FR 40823 (August 16, 2018).

In a notice published on September 21, 2018 (83 FR 47974), the Trade Representative, at the direction of the President, announced a determination to modify the action being taken in the investigation by imposing additional duties on products of China with an annual trade value of approximately \$200 billion. The rate of additional duties initially was 10 percent. Those additional duties were effective starting on September 24, 2018, and currently are in effect. Under Annex B of the September 21 notice, the rate of additional duty was set to increase to 25 percent on January 1, 2019. In the September 21 notice, the Trade Representative stated that he would continue to consider the actions taken in this investigation, and if further modifications were appropriate, he would take into account the extensive public comments and testimony previously provided in response to the notices published on July 17, 2018 (83 FR 33608) and August 7, 2018 (83 FR 38760).

On September 28, 2018 (83 FR 49153), the Trade Representative issued a conforming amendment and modification of the September 21 action. We refer to the September 21 action, as modified by the September 28 notice, as the ‘September 2018 action.’

B. Determination To Modify September 2018 Action

The United States is engaging with China with the goal of obtaining the elimination of the acts, policies, and practices covered in the investigation. The leaders of the United States and China met on December 1, 2018, and agreed to hold negotiations on a range of issues, including those covered in this Section 301 investigation. See <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/statement-press-secretary-regarding-presidents-working-dinner-china/> (the ‘December 1 Statement’). The December 1 Statement notes that the President “agreed that on January 1, 2019, he will leave the tariffs on \$200 billion worth of product at the 10% rate, and not raise it to 25% at this time . . . Both parties agree that they will endeavor to have this transaction completed within the next 90 days. If at

the end of this period of time, the parties are unable to reach an agreement, the 10% tariffs will be raised to 25%.” The end of the 90-day period mentioned in the December 1 Statement is March 1, 2019.

Section 301(b) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (Trade Act), requires the Trade Representative to “take all appropriate and feasible action authorized under [Section 301(c)] to obtain the elimination of [the] act, policy, or practice [under investigation].” Section 307(a)(1) of the Trade Act provides, in relevant part, that the Trade Representative “may modify or terminate any action, subject to the specific direction, if any, of the President with respect to such action, that is being taken under Section 301 if . . . the burden or restriction on United States commerce . . . of the acts, policies, and practices, that are the subject of such action has increased or decreased, or such action is being taken under Section [301(b)] of this title and is no longer appropriate.” In light of the outcome of the December 1 meeting, and at the direction of the President, the Trade Representative has determined that it no longer is appropriate for the rate of duty under the September 2018 action to increase to 25 percent on January 1, 2019, and that the rate of duty under the September 2018 action instead should increase to 25 percent on March 2, 2019 (which is the day following the end of the 90-day period mentioned in the December 1 Statement).

The Trade Representative’s decision to modify the September 2018 action takes into account the extensive public comments and testimony, as well as advice from advisory committees, concerning the actions proposed in the notices issued in advance of the September 2018 action (83 FR 33608 and 83 FR 38760). Those notices, among other things, requested comments on whether the rate of additional duties should be 10 percent or 25 percent. The Trade Representative’s decision also reflects the advice of the interagency Section 301 Committee.

As noted above, Annex B to the September 21 notice increased the rate of additional duties for the September 2018 action to 25 percent on January 1, 2019. The Annex to this notice supersedes Annex B to the September 21 notice, and provides that the rate of additional duties for the September 2018 action will increase to 25 percent on March 2, 2019.

Annex

(Superseding Annex B of the Notice Published at 83 FR 47974)

Effective with respect to goods entered for consumption, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after 12:01 a.m. Eastern Standard Time on March 2, 2019, subchapter III of chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is modified:

1. By deleting “10%” in the Rates of Duty 1-General column of headings 9903.88.03 and 9903.88.04, and inserting “25%” in lieu thereof; and
2. by deleting “10 percent” each place that it appears in U.S. Notes 20(e) and 20(g) to subchapter III of chapter 99 and inserting “25 percent” in lieu thereof.

Robert Lighthizer,

United States Trade Representative.

[FR Doc. 2018-27458 Filed 12-18-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3290-F9-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**Office of Foreign Assets Control**

[Case ID DPRK2-12505]

Notice of OFAC Sanctions Actions

AGENCY: Office of Foreign Assets Control, Treasury.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) is publishing the names of one or more persons that have been placed on OFAC’s Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List based on OFAC’s determination that one or more applicable legal criteria were satisfied. All property and interests in property subject to U.S. jurisdiction of these persons are blocked, and U.S. persons are generally prohibited from engaging in transactions with them.

DATES: See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for effective date(s).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

OFAC: Associate Director for Global Targeting, tel.: 202-622-2420; Assistant Director for Licensing, tel.: 202-622-2480; Assistant Director for Regulatory Affairs, tel.: 202-622-4855; Assistant Director for Sanctions Compliance & Evaluation, tel.: 202-622-2490; or the Department of the Treasury’s Office of the General Counsel: Office of the Chief Counsel (Foreign Assets Control), tel.: 202-622-2410.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Electronic Availability**

The Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List and additional information concerning OFAC sanctions programs are available on OFAC’s website (www.treasury.gov/ofac).

Notice of OFAC Actions

On December 10, 2018, OFAC determined that the property and interests in property subject to U.S. jurisdiction of the following persons are blocked under the relevant sanctions authority listed below.

Individuals

1. CHOE, Ryong Hae (a.k.a. CH'OE, Ryong-hae); DOB 15 Jan 1950; Gender Male; Secondary sanctions risk: North Korea Sanctions Regulations, sections 510.201 and 510.210; Director of the Workers' Party of Korea Organization and Guidance Department (individual) [DPRK2].

Designated pursuant to Section 1(a)(iii) of Executive Order 13687 of January 2, 2015, "Imposing Additional Sanctions with Respect to North Korea" (E.O. 13687) for being an official of the Workers' Party of Korea.

2. JONG, Kyong Thae (a.k.a. CHO'NG, Kyo'ng-t'aek), Pyongyang, Korea, North; DOB 01 Jan 1961 to 31 Dec 1963; Gender Male; Secondary sanctions risk: North Korea Sanctions Regulations, sections 510.201 and 510.210; Minister of State Security (individual) [DPRK2].

Designated pursuant to Section 1(a)(ii) of E.O. 13687 for being an official of the Government of North Korea.

Also designated pursuant to Section 1(a)(iii) of E.O. 13687 for being an official of the Workers' Party of Korea.

3. PAK, Kwang Ho (a.k.a. PAK, Kwang-ho); DOB 01 Jan 1946 to 31 Dec 1948; Gender Male; Secondary sanctions risk: North Korea Sanctions Regulations, sections 510.201 and 510.210; Director of the Propaganda and Agitation Department (individual) [DPRK2].

Designated pursuant to Section 1(a)(iii) of E.O. 13687 for being an official of the Workers' Party of Korea.

Andrea Gacki,

Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control.

[FR Doc. 2018-27453 Filed 12-18-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4810-AL-P

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**Notice of Funding Availability Under Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program**

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice of fund availability.

SUMMARY: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is announcing the availability of funds for supportive services grants for new applicants and existing grantees under the Supportive

Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program. This Notice of Fund Availability (NOFA) contains information concerning the SSVF Program, supportive services grant application process. Awards made for supportive services grants will fund operations beginning October 1, 2019.

DATES: Applications for supportive services grants under the SSVF Program must be received by the SSVF Program Office by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time on February 22, 2019. In the interest of fairness to all competing applicants, this deadline is firm as to date and hour, and VA will treat as ineligible for consideration any application that is received after the deadline. Applicants should take this practice into account and make early submission of their materials to avoid any risk of loss of eligibility brought about by unanticipated delays, computer service outages, or other submission-related problems.

ADDRESSES: For a Copy of the Application Package: Copies of the application can be downloaded from the SSVF website at www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp. Questions should be referred to the SSVF Program Office via email at SSVF@va.gov. For detailed SSVF Program information and requirements, see part 62 of Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations (38 CFR part 62).

Submission of Application Package: Applicants must submit applications electronically following instructions found at www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp. Applications may not be mailed or sent by facsimile (FAX). Applications must be received in the SSVF Program Office by 4:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on the application deadline date. Applications must arrive as a complete package. Materials arriving separately will not be included in the application package for consideration and may result in the application being rejected. See Award Information section of this NOFA for maximum allowable grant amounts.

Technical Assistance: Information regarding how to obtain technical assistance with the preparation of a supportive services grant application is available on the SSVF Program website at: www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. John Kuhn, National Director, Supportive Services for Veteran Families, by email at SSVF@va.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Funding Opportunity Title: Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program.

Announcement Type: Initial.

Funding Opportunity Number: VA-SSVF-110918.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 64.033, VA Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program.

Funding Opportunity Description**Purpose**

The SSVF Program purpose is to provide supportive services grants to private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives, who will coordinate or provide supportive services to very low-income veteran families who: (i) Are residing in permanent housing and are at risk of becoming homeless; (ii) are homeless and scheduled to become residents of permanent housing within a specified time period; or (iii) after exiting permanent housing within a specified time period, are seeking other housing that is responsive to such very low-income veteran family's needs and preferences. SSVF prioritizes the delivery of rapid re-housing services to homeless veteran households.

Rapid re-housing is an intervention designed to help individuals and families quickly exit homelessness, return to housing in the community, and avoid homelessness again in the near term. The core components of a rapid re-housing program are housing identification, financial assistance with move-in and rental expenses, and rapid re-housing case management and services. These core components represent the minimum that a program must be providing to households to be considered a rapid re-housing program, but do not provide guidance for what constitutes an effective rapid re-housing program. Applicants should familiarize themselves with the Rapid Re-housing Performance Benchmarks and Program Standards found on at www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp.

Funding Priorities

The principle goal for this NOFA is to provide support to those applicants who demonstrate the greatest capacity to end homelessness among veterans or, in communities that have already met US Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Federal Criteria and Benchmarks, or, alternatively, Community Solutions' Functional Zero (the latter can be found at https://cmtysolutions.org/sites/default/files/final_zero_2016_metrics.pdf), a capacity to sustain these gains. Priority will be given to grantees who can demonstrate adoption of evidence-based practices in their application.