

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

Title 15: Commerce and Foreign Trade

PART 2006—PROCEDURES FOR FILING PETITIONS FOR ACTION UNDER

SECTION 301 OF THE TRADE ACT OF 1974, AS AMENDED

§ 2006.0 Submission of petitions requesting action under section 301.

(a) Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (the “Trade Act”) requires the United States Trade Representative, subject to the specific direction, if any, of the President regarding such action, to take appropriate and feasible action in response to a foreign government's **violation of a trade agreement, or any other international agreement the breach of which burdens or restricts United States commerce**; and authorizes the Trade Representative, subject to the specific direction of the President, if any, **to take action to obtain the elimination of acts, policies, and practices of foreign countries that are unjustifiable, unreasonable, or discriminatory and burden or restrict United States commerce**. Section 302 of the Trade Act provides for petitions to be filed with the Trade Representative requesting that action be taken under section 301. Petitions filed under section 302 will be treated as specified in these regulations.

(b) Petitions may be submitted **by an interested person**. An interested person is deemed to be any party who has a significant interest affected by the act, policy, or practice complained of, for example: A producer, a commercial importer, or an exporter of an affected product or service; a United States person seeking to invest directly abroad, with implications for trade in goods or services; a person who relies on protection of intellectual property rights; a trade association, a certified union or recognized union or group of workers which is representative of an industry engaged in the manufacture, production or wholesale distribution in the United States of a product or service so affected; or any other private party representing a significant economic interest affected directly by the act, policy or practice complained of in the petition.

2006.2 Adequacy of the petition.

If the petition filed pursuant to section 302 does not conform substantially to the requirements of §§2006.0 and 2006.1, the Chairman of the Section 301 Committee may decline to docket the petition as filed and, if requested by petitioner, return it to petitioner with guidance on making the petition conform to the requirements, or may nevertheless determine that there is sufficient information on which to proceed to a determination whether to initiate an investigation.

§ 2006.3 Determinations regarding petitions.

Within 45 days after the day on which the petition is received, the Trade Representative shall determine, after receiving the advice of the Section 301 Committee, whether to initiate an investigation.

(a) If the Trade Representative determines not to initiate an investigation, the Section 301 Chairman shall notify the petitioner of the reasons and shall publish notice of the negative determination and a summary of the reasons there for in the Federal Register.

§ 2006.4 Requests for information made to Foreign Governments or Instrumentalities.

If the U.S. Trade Representative receives a petition alleging violations of any international agreement, he will notify the foreign government or instrumentality of the allegations and may request information, in English, necessary to a determination under section 304(a)(1)(A) of the Trade Act. The Trade Representative may proceed on the basis of best information available if, within a reasonable time, no information is received in response to the request.

§ 2006.5 Consultations with the Foreign Government.

(a) If the Trade Representative determines to initiate an investigation on the basis of a petition he shall, on behalf of the United States, request consultations with the foreign country concerned regarding the issues involved in such an investigation. In preparing United States presentations for consultations and dispute settlement proceedings, the Trade Representative shall seek information and advice from the petitioner and any appropriate private sector representatives, including committees established pursuant to section 135 of the Trade Act.

§ 2006.6 Formal dispute settlement.

If the issues in a petition are covered by a trade agreement between the United States and the foreign government involved and a mutually acceptable resolution cannot be reached within the consultation period provided for in the agreement, or by 150 days after consultations begin, whichever is earlier, the Trade Representative shall institute the formal dispute settlement proceedings, if any, provided for in the trade agreement.

§ 2006.11 Consultations before making determinations.

Prior to making a determination on what action, if any, should be taken in regard to issues raised in the petition, the Trade Representative shall obtain advice from any appropriate private sector advisory representatives, including committees established pursuant to section 135 of the Trade Act, unless expeditious action is required, in which case he shall seek such advice after making the determination. The Trade Representative may also request the views of the International Trade Commission regarding the probable economic impact of the proposed action.

§ 2006.12 Determinations; time limits.

On the basis of the petition, investigation and consultations, and after receiving the advice of the Section 301 Committee, the **Trade Representative shall determine whether U.S. rights under any trade agreement are being denied, or whether any other act, policy, or practice actionable under section 301 exists** and, if so, what action (if any) should be taken under section 301. These determinations shall be made:

- (a) In the case of an investigation involving a trade agreement (other than the agreement on subsidies and countervailing measures described in section 2(c)(5) of the Trade Agreements Act of 1979), **within 30 days after the dispute settlement procedure concludes**, or 18 months after the initiation of the investigation, **whichever is earlier**.
- (b) In all other cases, within 12 months after initiating an investigation.