

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

DEPARTMENTAL REGULATION		Number: 1042-068
SUBJECT: Agricultural Advisory Committees For Trade – APAC and ATACs	DATE: May 22, 2007	
	OPI: Foreign Agricultural Service	

1 PURPOSE

The Secretary of Agriculture after consultation with the U.S. Trade Representative on the need for a Trade Representatives Agriculture Advisory program, hereby recharter the following advisory committees on trade (hereinafter the “Committees”):

- a The Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee (APAC) for Trade; and
- b The Agricultural Technical Advisory Committees (ATACs) for Trade, consisting of six ATACs for Trade in the following commodity groups: 1) Animals and Animal Products; 2) Fruits and Vegetables; 3) Grains, Feed and Oilseeds; 4) Sweeteners and Sweetener Products; 5) Tobacco, Cotton, Peanuts, and Planting Seeds; and 6) Processed Foods.

These Committees are authorized by Sections 135(c)(1) and (2) of the Trade Act of 1974 (Pub. L. No. 93-618), as amended. They are intended to ensure that representative elements of the private sector have an opportunity to provide their views on trade and trade policy matters to the U.S. government. The Committees provide the formal mechanism through which the U.S. government may seek advice and information from the private sector. The renewal of these Committees is in the public interest in connection with the work of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. No other agencies or existing advisory committees supply this private sector advice regarding agricultural trade.

2 SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/CANCELLATION

- a Each Committee will terminate four years from the date of filing, unless terminated earlier or renewed by proper authority and appropriate action.
- b Departmental Regulation 1042-68, dated April 2005, is hereby superseded.

3 OFFICERS AND MEMBERSHIP

- a The APAC and each ATAC shall consist of approximately 35 members.
- b Members of each Committee shall be appointed jointly by the Secretary of Agriculture and the U.S. Trade Representative. Members should have expertise and knowledge of agricultural trade as it relates to policy and commodity specific products. The members will normally come from entities with an interest in agriculture, and will serve in a representative capacity presenting the views and interests of U.S. entities that have interests in the subject matters of the committee. Membership shall be balanced and of sufficient size to be reasonably representative of the various agricultural interests of U.S. organizations and persons interested in the respective agricultural commodities. Equal opportunity practices, in line with USDA and USTR policies, will be followed in all appointments to these committees. To ensure that the recommendations of each Committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by the USDA and the USTR, membership should include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women and persons with disabilities. Members will serve at the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture and the U.S. Trade Representative.
- c The APAC shall elect a Chairperson from its membership. The Deputy Administrator for the Office of Negotiations and Agreements, Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), USDA, and the Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Liaison, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, shall administer the agricultural trade advisory committees through their Designated Federal Officers (DFO).
- d Each ATAC shall elect a Chairperson from its membership. Each Committee shall have a DFO. Each Committee shall not conduct any meetings in the absence of this DFO or his or her designee, and such DFO may adjourn the meeting when he or she determines it to be in the public interest.

4 DUTIES

The Committees will advise the Secretary of Agriculture and the U.S. Trade Representative concerning the following: negotiating objectives and bargaining positions before entering into a trade agreement; the operation of an agreement once entered into; and, other matters arising in connection with the administration of the trade policy of the United States.

At the conclusion of negotiations for each trade agreement entered into under the Trade Act of 1974, each Committee affected is required by law to provide a report

on such agreement to the President, to Congress, and to the U.S. Trade Representative.

5 NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

Members of the Committees will serve without reimbursement of travel expenses or per diem allowances.

Meetings of the Committees will be held as often as the Secretary of Agriculture and the U.S. Trade Representative deem necessary. Meetings of these Committees will be open to the public in accordance with Section 135(f)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974 unless otherwise determined that meetings will be concerned with matters the disclosure of which would seriously compromise the development by U.S. Government of trade policy, priorities, negotiation objectives or bargaining positions.

6 REPORTS/SUPPORT

The Committees will, at the conclusion of negotiations of a trade agreement, report on that agreement to the President, to the Congress, and to the U.S. Trade Representative. The USDA Foreign Agricultural Service will furnish administrative support for the operations of the Committees.

7 ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS

Set forth the estimated annual operating cost for the Committees is approximately \$14,000 per year, per committee.

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