

problems. Four (4) countries are required for research, and applicants must choose four (4) additional countries. The solicitation provides a list of eleven (11) countries from which these four (4) additional countries should be chosen, but applicants may propose four (4) alternate countries and provide justifications for these choices. Projects funded under SGA 08-07 will involve gathering and analyzing data to answer the research questions outlined in the solicitation. The research will aim to complement and expand upon existing research on the use of forced labor in the production of goods.

#### *Application and Submission*

*Information:* The full-text version of SGA 08-07 is available on <http://www.grants.gov> and USDOL/ILAB's Web site at <http://www.dol.gov/ILAB/grants/main.htm>. All applications for funding under SGA 08-07 must be submitted electronically to USDOL via <http://www.grants.gov>. Any application sent by mail or other delivery services, e-mail, telegram, or facsimile (FAX) will not be accepted.

*Key Dates:* The deadline for submission of applications is August 8, 2008. All technical questions regarding SGA 08-07 must be sent by July 18, 2008 in order to receive a response. USDOL will publish its responses to these technical questions on SGA 08-07 by July 28, 2008. Any questions regarding the electronic assembly of application packages must be sent at least one week prior to the application deadline. USDOL will make all cooperative agreement awards on or before September 30, 2008.

*Agency Contacts:* All technical questions regarding SGA 08-07 should be sent to Ms. Lisa Harvey, Grant Officer, U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Procurement Services, via e-mail (e-mail address: [harvey.lisa@dol.gov](mailto:harvey.lisa@dol.gov); telephone: (202) 693-4592—this is not a toll-free-number).

*Background Information:* ILAB conducts research and commissions studies to inform and formulate international economic, trade and labor policies in collaboration with other U.S. government agencies, and provides technical assistance to countries abroad in support of foreign labor policy objectives. OCFT, formerly the International Child Labor Program (ICLP), was created at the request of Congress in 1993 to specifically research and report on child labor around the world. More recently Congress, through the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2005, directed ILAB to include, among its responsibilities, monitoring and

combating forced labor. 22 U.S.C. 7112(b). Today, OCFT develops policy, conducts research, and implements technical cooperation projects to eradicate exploitive child labor, trafficking in persons, and forced labor worldwide.

Since 1994, ILAB has published over 20 congressionally mandated reports on international child labor. In addition to its own research, USDOL has funded projects aimed at building the knowledge base on child labor, forced labor and human trafficking world wide for the purposes of improving program planning, policy design and impact measurement. Research projects have included the collection of child labor data through national surveys, rapid assessments, baseline studies; special and thematic studies; comprehensive literature reviews on forced labor, child labor and human trafficking; and the development of creative and innovative methodologies to measure child labor, forced and bonded labor, and human trafficking.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 1st day of July 2008.

**Lisa Harvey,**

*Grant Officer.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

### **Employment and Training Administration**

[A-W-63,206]

#### **Springs Global, US, Inc., Springs Direct Tunnel Road Store Division, Asheville, NC; Notice of Negative Determination Regarding Application for Reconsideration**

By application dated June 5, 2008, a petitioner requested administrative reconsideration of the Department's negative determination regarding eligibility to apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA), applicable to workers and former workers of the subject firm. The denial notice was signed on April 28, 2008 and published in the **Federal Register** on May 15, 2008 (73 FR 28167).

Pursuant to 29 CFR 90.18(c) reconsideration may be granted under the following circumstances:

(1) If it appears on the basis of facts not previously considered that the determination complained of was erroneous;

(2) if it appears that the determination complained of was based on a mistake in the determination of facts not previously considered; or

(3) if in the opinion of the Certifying Officer, a mis-interpretation of facts or of the law justified reconsideration of the decision.

The negative TAA determination issued by the Department for workers of Springs Global, US, Inc., Springs Direct Tunnel Road Store Division, Asheville, North Carolina was based on the finding that the worker group does not produce an article within the meaning of Section 222 of the Trade Act of 1974.

The petitioner states that the workers of the subject firm "answered the needs" in "providing means for the buyer to return damaged goods, overstocks, slow sellers and items they wish to discontinue." The petitioner further states that the subject firm "provided a profitable avenue" and supported sales and orders for the production division and that the subject firm is "specifically designed for direct support of production." The petitioner alleges that because other facilities of Springs Global have been certified eligible for TAA, workers of the subject firm who are engaged in retail should be certified eligible for TAA.

The investigation revealed that workers of Springs Global, US, Inc., Springs Direct Tunnel Road Store Division, Asheville, North Carolina are engaged in activities at retail outlet store that sold close-out home furnishings merchandise. These functions, as described above, are not considered production of an article within the meaning of Section 222 of the Trade Act.

#### **Conclusion**

After review of the application and investigative findings, I conclude that there has been no error or misinterpretation of the law or of the facts which would justify reconsideration of the Department of Labor's prior decision. Accordingly, the application is denied.

Signed in Washington, DC, this 24th day of June 2008.

**Elliott S. Kushner,**

*Certifying Officer, Division of Trade Adjustment Assistance.*

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