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USTR Announces Revised FY 2008 Tariff-Rate Quota Allocations for Refined Sugar

Washington - The Office of the United States Trade Representative today announced the allocations for the increased Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 tariff-rate quota for refined sugar. A tariff-rate quota is an import policy that allows countries to ship specified quantities of a product to the United States at a relatively low tariff, but subjects all other imports of that product to a higher tariff. This action is in response to a continuing tight refined sugar market due to significantly reduced domestic refining capacity as a result of the February 2008 explosion of a domestic raw cane sugar refinery and a reduction in this coming crop year's sugar beet production.

On August 6, 2008, the Secretary of Agriculture increased the in-quota quantity of the tariff-rate quota for refined sugar for FY 2008 by 272,155 metric tons raw value, none of which is for specialty sugars. This addition to the refined sugar TRQ will open on a first-come, first-served basis on Aug. 14, 2008, and may be entered until December 31, 2008. A total of 40,000 metric tons raw value is being allocated to Canada and 68,278 metric tons raw value is being allocated to Mexico. The remaining 163,877 metric tons raw value of the in-quota quantity may be supplied by any country on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to any other provision of law. The certificate of quota eligibility is required for sugar entering under the tariff-rate quota for refined sugar that is the product of a country that has been allocated a share of the tariff-rate quota for refined sugar.

*Conversion factor: 1 metric ton = 1.10231125 short tons.
