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USTR Announces FY 2009 Tariff-Rate Quota Allocations for Raw Cane Sugar, Refined and Specialty Sugar and Sugar-Containing Products

Washington, DC -- The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) today announced the country-specific in-quota allocations under the tariff-rate quotas on imported raw cane sugar, refined and specialty sugar and sugar-containing products for Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 (Oct. 1, 2008 through Sept. 30, 2009). Tariff-rate quotas allow countries to export specified quantities of a product to the United States at a relatively low tariff, but subjects all imports of the product above a pre-determined threshold to a higher tariff.

On September 9, 2008, the Secretary of Agriculture announced sugar program provisions for FY 2009. The in-quota quantity for the tariff-rate quota (TRQ) on raw cane sugar for FY 2009 is 1,117,195 metric tons* raw value, which is the minimum amount to which the United States is committed under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Uruguay Round Agreements. USTR is allocating the raw cane sugar TRQ of 1,117,195 metric tons raw value to the following countries:

<u>Country</u>	<u>FY 2009 Raw Cane Sugar Allocations (metric tons raw value)</u>
Argentina	45,281
Australia	87,402
Barbados	7,371
Belize	11,583
Bolivia	8,424
Brazil	152,691
Colombia	25,273
Congo	7,258
Costa Rica	15,796
Cote d'Ivoire	7,258
Dominican Republic	185,335
Ecuador	11,583
El Salvador	27,379
Fiji	9,477

Gabon	7,258
Guatemala	50,546
Guyana	12,636
Haiti	7,258
Honduras	10,530
India	8,424
Jamaica	11,583
Madagascar	7,258
Malawi	10,530
Mauritius	12,636
Mexico	7,258
Mozambique	13,690
Nicaragua	22,114
Panama	30,538
Papua New Guinea	7,258
Paraguay	7,258
Peru	43,175
Philippines	142,160
South Africa	24,220
St. Kitts & Nevis	7,258
Swaziland	16,849
Taiwan	12,636
Thailand	14,743
Trinidad & Tobago	7,371
Uruguay	7,258
Zimbabwe	12,636

These allocations are based on the countries' historical shipments to the United States. The allocations of the raw cane sugar tariff-rate quota to countries that are net importers of sugar are conditioned on receipt of the appropriate verifications of origin, and certificates for quota eligibility must accompany imports from any country to which an allocation is provided.

On September 9, 2008, the Secretary of Agriculture established the FY 2009 refined sugar tariff-rate quota at 94,575 metric tons raw value for which the sucrose content, by weight in the dry state, must have a polarimeter reading of 99.5 degrees or more. This amount includes the minimum level to which the United States is committed under the WTO Uruguay Round Agreement (22,000 metric tons raw value, of which 1,656 metric tons raw value is specialty sugar). USTR is allocating a total of 10,300 metric tons raw value of refined sugar to Canada, 2,954 metric tons raw value of refined sugar to Mexico, and 7,090 metric tons raw value of refined sugar to be administered on a first-come, first-served basis. The 74,231 metric tons raw value specialty sugar TRQ, which includes the additional 72,575 metric tons raw value of specialty sugar and the specialty sugar allocation of 1,656 metric tons raw value included in the 22,000 metric tons raw value WTO minimum, will be administered in on a first-come, first-served basis in five tranches. The first tranche of 1,656 metric tons raw value will open on October 23, 2008. All types of specialty sugars are eligible for entry under this tranche. The second tranche of 25,682 metric tons raw value will open on November 10, 2008. The third,

fourth, and fifth tranches of 15,631 metric tons raw value each will open on January 14, 2009; May 19, 2009; and August 24, 2009, respectively. The second, third, fourth, and fifth tranches will be reserved for organic sugar and other specialty sugars not currently produced commercially in the United States or reasonably available from domestic sources.

With respect to the tariff-rate quota of 64,709 metric tons for certain sugar-containing products maintained under Additional U.S. Note 8 to Chapter 17 to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, USTR is allocating 59,250 metric tons to Canada. The remainder is available for other countries on a first-come, first-served basis.

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

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