

GSP: An Overview of the Child Labor Review for Certain GSP Eligible Carpet Lines

The GSP Subcommittee has initiated a review of the worst forms of child labor in the production of certain hand made carpets imported under the GSP program. The 2004 Miscellaneous Trade and Technical Corrections Act (HR 1047) (the “2004 Act”), as approved by Congress, authorized the President to designate seven tariff lines relating to carpets (5702.51.20 (now 5702.50.20), 5702.91.30, 5702.92.00 (now 5702.92.10), 5702.99.10 (now 5702.99.05), 5703.10.00 (now 5703.10.20), 5703.20.10, and 5703.30.00 (now 5703.30.20)) as eligible for duty-free treatment under the GSP program. The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) approved the designation of these lines to be eligible for the U.S. GSP program. However, the TPSC conditioned the Administration's addition of these tariff lines under GSP by requiring the GSP subcommittee to conduct a triennial review. That review is to identify whether each beneficiary country is taking steps to eliminate the worst forms of child labor, including the use of bonded child labor, in the production of these types of carpets. If a specific beneficiary country is deemed not to be taking sufficient steps to eliminate the worst forms of child labor, the TPSC will recommend to the President changes in GSP coverage. Such changes would remove carpet lines found to be made with the worst forms of child labor from the list of GSP eligible articles of the beneficiary country in question. Other beneficiary countries may retain GSP benefits for these carpets, provided they are making adequate efforts to combat the worst forms of child labor.

A Federal Register Notice was published on January 18, 2008. Comments from the public must be submitted, per the Requirements for Submission in the Federal Register Notice, to the Chairman of the GSP Subcommittee of the Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) as soon as possible, but no later than 5 p.m., Friday, February 15, 2008, to FR0081@USTR.EOP.GOV. (Note: The letters “FR” in the e-mail address are followed by the numbers, zero, not letters.)

[Click Here](#) for the [GSP Federal Register Notice Regarding the Initiation of Child Labor Review in the Production of Certain GSP-Eligible Hand-Loomed or Hand-Hooked Carpets.](#)

[Click Here](#) for the [Complete List of Beneficiary Developing Countries Exporting Hand-Loomed or Hand-Hooked GSP-Eligible Carpet Lines.](#)