



U.S. – Colombia Free Trade Agreement

How Trade Promotion Authority Works

- ✚ Trade Promotion Authority was passed by Congress as part of the Trade Act of 2002 and signed into law on August 6, 2002.
- ✚ TPA is a pact whereby the Executive Branch agrees to consult with Congress during the negotiations and Congress agrees to hold an "up or down" vote on the agreement.
- ✚ Trade Promotion Authority procedures apply to the United States - Colombia Free Trade Agreement, since the Agreement was signed before TPA expired on July 1, 2007.
- ✚ After receiving legislation to implement the Agreement, Congress has a maximum of 90 legislative days to vote on this legislation.
- ✚ The House Ways and Means Committee has a maximum of 45 legislative days to act and send the bill to the full House for a vote.
- ✚ The full House must vote within 15 legislative days, for a total of 60 legislative days.
- ✚ If the House votes on the bill at any time between the 46th and 60th legislative day after it is introduced, the Senate Finance Committee has a maximum of 15 legislative days to act. The full Senate must then vote on the bill within 15 legislative days.
- ✚ Congress has never taken the full 90 legislative days to enact legislation implementing a free trade agreement.