INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

19 CFR Parts 201, 206, 208, and 213, and 214 Through 299

Rules of General Application; Investigations Relating to Global and Bilateral Safeguard Actions, Market Disruption, Trade Diversion, and Review of Relief Actions; Investigations With Respect to Commercial Availability of Textile Fabric and Yarn in Sub-Saharan African Countries; Trade Remedy Assistance

AGENCY: International Trade Commission.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The United States International Trade Commission ("Commission") amends provisions of its Rules of Practice and Procedure concerning the Freedom of Information Act, the Privacy Act, the Government in the Sunshine Act, certain investigations, and trade remedy assistance. The amendments are part of the agency’s retrospective analysis of its Rules that attempts to determine whether rules should be modified, streamlined, expanded, or repealed so as to make the agency’s regulatory program more effective or less burdensome in achieving regulatory objectives.

DATES: This rule is effective on August 10, 2015.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lisa R. Barton, Secretary, telephone (202) 205–2000. United States International Trade Commission. Hearing-impaired individuals are advised that information on this matter can be obtained by contacting the Commission’s TDD terminal at (202) 205–1810. General information concerning the Commission may also be obtained by accessing its Internet server at http://www.usitc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 335 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1335) authorizes the Commission to adopt such reasonable procedures, rules, and regulations as it deems necessary to carry out its functions and duties. This rulemaking seeks to improve provisions of the Commission’s existing Rules of Practice and Procedure.

Consistent with its ordinary practice, the Commission is issuing these amendments in accordance with provisions of section 553 of the Administrative Procedure Act ("APA") (5 U.S.C. 553), although such provisions are not mandatory with respect to this rulemaking. The APA procedure entails the following steps: (1) Publication of a notice of proposed rulemaking; (2) solicitation of public comments on the proposed amendments; (3) Commission review of public comments on the proposed amendments; and (4) publication of final amendments at least thirty days prior to their effective date.

This rulemaking is a result of the Commission’s Plan for Retrospective Analysis of Existing Rules, which was published on February 14, 2012, at 77 FR 8114. The plan was issued in response to Executive Order 13579 of July 11, 2011 (76 FR 41587, July 14, 2011), and established a process under which the Commission will periodically review its significant rules to determine whether any such rules should be modified, streamlined, expanded, or repealed so as to make the agency’s regulatory program more effective or less burdensome in achieving regulatory objectives. The Commission’s Plan calls for the agency to seek public input on its Rules every two years.

Pursuant to the Plan, the Commission published a notice of proposed rulemaking on February 6, 2015 (80 FR 6665). This notice proposed certain amendments to the Commission’s Rules. The proposed amendments concerned the Freedom of Information Act, the Privacy Act, the Government in the Sunshine Act, certain investigations, and trade remedy assistance. The notice also sought input to assist the Commission in determining whether, in addition to the proposed amendments, any of the agency’s Rules should be modified, streamlined, expanded, or repealed so as to make the agency’s regulatory program more effective or less burdensome in achieving regulatory objectives. The public was invited to comment both on the proposed amendments and on any of the Commission’s existing Rules.

The Commission received comments in response to the notice of proposed rulemaking. By letter dated April 6, 2015, the Customs and International Trade Bar Association (CITBRA) filed comments and a request to revise the...