TRQ to countries that are not importers of sugar are conditioned on receipt of the appropriate verifications of origin, and certificates for quota eligibility must accompany imports from any country for which an allocation has been provided.

On June 15, 2015, the Secretary also announced the establishment of the in-quota quantity of the FY 2016 refined sugar TRQ at 132,000 MTRV 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 Agreements (22,000 MTRV of which 1,656 MTRV is reserved for specialty sugar) and an additional 110,000 MTRV for specialty sugars. USTR is allocating the refined sugar TRQ as follows: 10,300 MTRV of refined sugar to Canada, 2,954 MTRV to Mexico, and 7,090 MTRV to be administered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Imports of all specialty sugar will be administered on a first-come, first-served basis in five tranches. The Secretary has announced that the total in-quota quantity of specialty sugar will be the 1,656 MTRV included in the WTO minimum plus an additional 110,000 MTRV. The first tranche of 1,656 MTRV will open October 9, 2015. All types of specialty sugars are eligible for entry under this tranche. The second tranche of 27,500 MTRV will open on October 23, 2015. The third, fourth, and fifth tranches of 27,500 MTRV each will open on January 8, 2016, April 8, 2016 and July 8, 2016, 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 in-quota quantity of 64,709 metric tons (MT) of the TRQ for imports of certain sugar-containing products maintained under Additional U.S. Note 8 to chapter 17 of the HTS, USTR is allocating 59,250 MT to Canada. The remainder, 5,459 MT, of the in-quota quantity is available for other countries on a first-come, first-served basis.

Raw cane sugar, refined and specialty sugar and sugar-containing products for FY 2016 TRQs may enter the United States as of October 1, 2015.

Conversion factor: 1 metric ton = 1.10231125 short tons.

In accordance with the Act, the advisory group provides “advice, information, and recommendations to the Administrator and the Director—

(1) On the implementation of this title [the Act] and the amendments made by this title;

(2) On commonly accepted quiet aircraft technology for use in commercial air tour operations over a national park or tribal lands, which will receive preferential treatment in a given air tour management plan;

(3) On other measures that might be taken to accommodate the interests of visitors to national parks; and

(4) At the request of the Administrator and the Director, safety, environmental, and other issues related to commercial air tour operations over a national park or tribal lands.”

Membership

The current NPOAG ARC is made up of one member representing general aviation, three members representing the commercial air tour industry, four members representing environmental concerns, and two members representing Native American interests. Current members of the NPOAG ARC are as follows: Heidi Williams representing general aviation; Alan Stephen, Matt Zuccaro, and Mark Francis representing commercial air tour operators; Mark Belles, Nicholas Miller, Michael Sutton, and Dick Hingson representing environmental interests; and Leigh Kuwanwiswina and Martin Begaye representing Native American tribes. The 3-year membership terms of Ms. Williams, Mr. Stephen, and Mr. Begaye expire on October 9, 2015.

Selection

The person selected to fill the upcoming open seat representing general aviation concerns is Melissa Rudinger and the person selected to fill the upcoming open seat representing air tour operator concerns is Alan Stephen. Mr. Stephen is a current member and will serve another term. Their 3-year terms will begin on October 10, 2015. No persons expressed interest in filling the upcoming opening to represent Native American interests. The FAA and NPS will solicit interest for this opening in another Federal Register notice in the near future.

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Keith Lusk,
Program Manager, Special Programs Staff, Western-Pacific Region.

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