Sunshine Act, Public Law 94–409, that the Commission will host the SEC-
Government-Business Forum on Small Business Capital Formation on
Thursday, November 17, 2016, beginning at 9:00 a.m., in the
Auditorium, Room L–002.
The forum will include remarks by
SEC Commissioners and a panel
discussion that Commissioners may
attend. The panel discussion will
explore how capital formation options
are working for small businesses after
the implementation of the JOBS Act.
This Sunshine Act notice is being
issued because a majority of the
Commission may attend the meeting.
For further information, please
contact Brent J. Fields from the Office of
the Secretary at (202) 551–5400.

Dated: November 10, 2016.
Brent J. Fields,
Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES
TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

Generalized System of Preferences:
Import Statistics Relating to
Competitive Need Limitations

AGENCY: Office of the United States
Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice is to inform the
public of the availability of import
statistics for the first nine months of
2016 relating to competitive need
limitations (CNLs) under the
Generalized System of Preferences
(GSP) program. These import statistics
identify some articles for which the
2016 trade levels may exceed statutory
CNLs. Interested parties may find this
information useful in deciding whether
to submit a petition to waive the CNLs
for individual beneficiary developing
countries (BDCs) with respect to specific
GSP-eligible articles.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Naomi Freeman at (202) 395–2974 or
gsp@ustr.eop.gov.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

I. Competitive Need Limitations

The GSP program provides for the
duty-free importation of designated
articles when imported from designated
BDCs. The GSP program is authorized by
Title V of the Trade Act of 1974 as
Act), and is implemented in accordance
with Executive Order 11888 of
November 24, 1975, as modified by
subsequent Executive Orders and
Presidential Proclamations.

Section 503(c)(2)(A) of the 1974 Act
sets out the two different measures for
CNLs. When the President determines
that a BDC has exported to the United
States during a calendar year either (1)
a quantity of a GSP-eligible article
having, in excess of the applicable amount for that year ($175
million for 2016), or (2) a quantity of a
GSP-eligible article having a value equal
to or greater than 50 percent of the value
of total U.S. imports of the article from
all countries (50 percent CNL), the
President must terminate GSP duty-free
 treatment for that article from that BDC
by no later than July 1 of the next
calendar year, unless the President
grants a waiver before the exclusion
 goes into effect. CNLs do not apply to
least-developed countries or
beneficiaries of the African Growth and
Opportunity Act.

Any interested party may submit a
petition seeking a waiver of the 2016
CNL for individual beneficiary
developing countries with respect to
specific GSP-eligible articles. In
addition, under section 503(c)(2)(F) of
the 1974 Act, the President may waive
the 50 percent CNL with respect to an
eligible article imported from a BDC, if
the value of total imports of that article
from all countries during the calendar
year did not exceed the applicable de
minimis amount for that year ($23
million for 2016).

II. Implementation of Competitive Need
Limitations

Exclusions from GSP duty-free
treatment where CNLs have been
exceeded will be effective July 1, 2017,
unless the President grants a waiver
before the exclusion goes into effect.
Exclusions for exceeding a CNL will be
based on full 2016 calendar-year import
statistics.

III. Interim 2016 Import Statistics

In order to provide advance notice of
countries that may exceed the CNLs for
2016, the Office of the U.S. Trade
Representative has compiled interim
import statistics for the first nine
months of 2016 relating to CNLs. This
information can be viewed at: https://
ustr.gov/issue-areas/preference-
programs/generalized-system-
preferences-gsp/current-reviews/gsp-
20162017.

Full calendar-year 2016 data for
individual tariff subheadings will be
available in February 2017 on the Web
site of the U.S. International Trade

The interim 2016 import statistics are
organized to show, for each article, the
Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the
United States (HTSUS) subheading and
BDC of origin, the value of imports of
the article from the specified country
for the first nine months of 2016, and the
 corresponding share of total imports of
that article from all countries. The list
includes the GSP-eligible articles from
BDCs that, based on interim nine-month
2016 data, exceed $110 million dollars,
or an amount greater than 42 percent of