

For the Commission, by the Division of Trading and Markets, pursuant to delegated authority.<sup>12</sup>

**Sherry R. Haywood,**

*Assistant Secretary.*

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## SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

### Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loans; Interest Rate for First Quarter FY 2024

**AGENCY:** Small Business Administration.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This is a notice for the Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loans interest rate for loans approved on or after October 31, 2023.

**DATES:** Issued on November 30, 2023.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Robert Blocker, Office of Financial Assistance, U.S. Small Business Administration, at [robert.blocker@sba.gov](mailto:robert.blocker@sba.gov); or (202) 619-0477.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Small Business Administration publishes an interest rate for Military Reservist Economic Injury Disaster Loans (13 CFR 123.512) on a quarterly basis. The interest rate will be 4.000 for loans approved on or after October 31, 2023.

**Robert Blocker,**

*Chief, Disaster Loan Policy Division, Office of Financial Assistance.*

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## OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket Number USTR-2023-0014]

### Request for Comments and Notice of a Public Hearing Regarding the 2024 Special 301 Review

**AGENCY:** Office of the United States Trade Representative.

**ACTION:** Request for comments and notice of public hearing.

**SUMMARY:** Each year, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) conducts a review to identify countries that deny adequate and effective protection of intellectual property (IP) rights or deny fair and equitable market access to U.S. persons who rely on IP protection. Based on this review, the U.S. Trade Representative determines which, if any, of these countries to identify as Priority Foreign

Countries. USTR requests written comments that identify acts, policies or practices that may form the basis of a country's identification as a Priority Foreign Country or placement on the Priority Watch List or Watch List.

**DATES:**

*January 30, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. EST:* Deadline for submission of written comments, hearing statements, and notices of intent to appear at the hearing from the public.

*February 13, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. EST:* Deadline for submission of written comments, hearing statements, and notices of intent to appear at the hearing from foreign governments.

*February 21, 2024:* The Special 301 Subcommittee will hold a public hearing at the Office of the United States Trade Representative, 1724 F Street NW, Rooms 1&2, Washington, DC. If necessary, the hearing may continue on the next business day. Those who intend to testify at the public hearing must submit a notice of intent to appear by the deadlines stated above. Please consult the USTR website at <https://ustr.gov/issue-areas/intellectual-property/Special-301> for confirmation of the date and location and the schedule of witnesses.

*February 28, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. EST:* Deadline for submission of post-hearing written comments from persons who testified at the public hearing.

*On or about April 26, 2024:* USTR will publish the 2024 Special 301 Report within 30 days of the publication of the National Trade Estimate Report.

**ADDRESSES:** USTR strongly encourages electronic submissions made through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <https://www.regulations.gov> (*Regulations.gov*). Follow the submission instructions in section IV below. The docket number is USTR-2023-0014. For alternatives to on-line submissions, please contact USTR at [Special301@ustr.eop.gov](mailto:Special301@ustr.eop.gov) before transmitting a comment and in advance of the relevant deadline.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Claire Avery-Page, Director for Innovation and Intellectual Property, at [Special301@ustr.eop.gov](mailto:Special301@ustr.eop.gov) or (202) 395-6862. You can find information about the Special 301 Review at <https://www.ustr.gov>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### I. Background

Section 182 of the Trade Act of 1974 (Trade Act) (19 U.S.C. 2242), commonly known as the Special 301 provisions, requires the U.S. Trade Representative to identify countries that deny adequate and effective IP protections or fair and equitable market access to U.S. persons

who rely on IP protection. The Trade Act requires the U.S. Trade Representative to determine which, if any, of these countries to identify as Priority Foreign Countries. Acts, policies or practices that are the basis of a country's identification as a Priority Foreign Country can be subject to the procedures set out in sections 301-305 of the Trade Act (19 U.S.C. 2411-2415).

In addition, USTR has created a Priority Watch List and Watch List to assist in pursuing the goals of the Special 301 provisions. Placement of a trading partner on the Priority Watch List or Watch List indicates that particular problems exist in that country with respect to IP protection, enforcement or market access for persons that rely on intellectual property protection. Trading partners placed on the Priority Watch List are the focus of increased bilateral attention concerning the problem areas.

USTR chairs the Special 301 Subcommittee, which reviews information from many sources, and consults with and makes recommendations to the U.S. Trade Representative on issues arising under Special 301. Written submissions from the public are a key source of information for the Special 301 review process. In 2024, USTR will conduct a public hearing as part of the review process and will allow hearing participants to provide additional information relevant to the review. At the conclusion of the process, USTR will publish the results of the review in a Special 301 Report.

USTR requests that interested persons identify through the process outlined in this notice those countries the acts, policies or practices of which deny adequate and effective protection for IP rights or deny fair and equitable market access to U.S. persons who rely on IP protection. The Special 301 provisions also require the U.S. Trade Representative to identify any act, policy or practice of Canada that affects cultural industries, was adopted or expanded after December 17, 1992, and is actionable under Article 32.6 of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) (as defined in section 3 of the USMCA Implementation Act). USTR invites the public to submit views relevant to this aspect of the review.

The Special 301 provisions require the U.S. Trade Representative to identify all such acts, policies or practices within 30 days of the publication of the National Trade Estimate Report. In accordance with this statutory requirement, USTR will

<sup>12</sup> 17 CFR 200.30-3(a)(12), (59).