

**PRESS POINTS FOR PROCLAMATION TO MODIFY DUTY-FREE TREATMENT  
UNDER THE TRADE ACT OF 1974**

**For Thailand and Ukraine GSP Decisions:**

- The proclamation implements the President’s determinations regarding the eligibility of Thailand and Ukraine to receive trade benefits under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) trade preferences program.
- The Administration conducts periodic reviews to consider factors related to the continued eligibility of GSP beneficiary countries.
- In making these determinations, the President drew on the recommendations of the U.S. Trade Representative, Ambassador Lighthizer, and the work of an interagency committee that held a public hearing and received public comments as part of its review of the various issues at stake.
- The GSP actions announced are aimed at supporting U.S. manufacturing, implementing Congressional intent with respect to GSP, and strengthening our trade enforcement efforts.
- The Administration’s announcement on GSP does two things:
  - 1) The proclamation withdraws the duty-free treatment accorded under GSP to certain products from Thailand because that country is not taking steps to afford workers in Thailand internationally recognized worker rights. This action will take effect on October 1, 2019.
  - 2) The proclamation restores the duty-free treatment accorded under GSP to certain products from Ukraine because that country has made progress towards providing adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights. This action will take effect five days from the signing of the proclamation.

IF NEEDED – In response to concern that action related to Thailand has another cause:

- This action results from the closure of a GSP review of worker rights in Thailand, which had been under way for six years.
- Despite the six years of engagement, Thailand has yet to take steps to afford internationally recognized worker rights in a number of important areas identified in a 2013 petition from the AFL-CIO, such as providing protections for freedom of association and collective bargaining.

- Protecting worker rights is an eligibility criteria that all countries must meet in order to qualify for GSP benefits from the United States.
- Our hope is that in announcing this action, we will incentivize Thailand to move forward with legislation and administrative enforcement actions related to worker rights that could lead to a reversal of the GSP action we are taking today.
- [Refer all questions to USTR]

**For Mali AGOA Beneficiary Decision:**

- When Mali’s AGOA benefits were restored in December 2013, the Presidential proclamation designated Mali as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country of the program but did not designate it as a “lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African country” even though it met the criteria for such a designation.
- As a consequence, Mali has not been able to take advantage of special rules for certain apparel articles imported from “lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries,” in particular the third country fabric provision that enables Mali to produce apparel competitively.
- Today’s proclamation designates Mali a lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African country and thus qualifies it for those benefits. This action will take effect 30 days after the proclamation is published in the Federal Register.
- [Refer all questions to USTR]

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