

COALITION FOR GSP

2019 MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Congress has renewed the GSP program through December 31, 2020. However, the Trump Administration has launched a series of “country practice reviews” that threaten duty-free benefits for many American importers. Already, India and Turkey have lost GSP eligibility, and other major suppliers like Thailand and Indonesia remain under review. Yet 2019 also presents opportunities for legislation changes to make the GSP program more importer-friendly and lay the groundwork for congressional reauthorization in 2020.

COUNTRY PRACTICE REVIEWS: WHAT IS AT STAKE

Country practice reviews present a different – and potentially much greater – risk to importers than congressional failure to renew GSP in a timely manner. These risks include:

- **All imports from the countries could lose GSP benefits indefinitely** without specific “action” step (e.g., passing legislation) for reinstatement;
- **Country suspensions often last many years** before reinstatement (e.g., Argentina lost eligibility from 2012 to 2018), if at all (e.g., Bangladesh has not regained eligibility lost in 2013), and
- **Tariffs paid during suspensions are non-refundable** so money paid is lost forever, unlike tariffs paid during expirations.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The Coalition for GSP will weigh in with the Administration and Members of Congress and others, as appropriate, about the potential harm to U.S. companies of suspending GSP eligibility for major supplier countries. Planned activities include:

- **Written comments and testimony** as part of the formal review process;
- **Meetings with Congressional staff** about importance of GSP generally and potential benefits of modernizing GSP rules,
- **Meetings with Congressional staff on behalf of Coalition members only** about importance of retaining (or reinstating) GSP for specific products from subject countries for constituent companies, and
- **Outreach to new companies** impacted by potential loss of GSP for specific to expand support for continued GSP benefits.

MEMBER BENEFITS

Members of the Coalition for GSP receive:

- **Members-only email updates** on the legislation and review processes to remain informed of potential actions;
- **Assistance drafting company-specific materials** for use in communicating with key Congressional staff (note: this does not include detailed company submissions or testimony as part of formal review process);
- **Assistance generating Congressional outreach to the Administration** in support of continued (or reinstated) GSP benefits;
- **Invitations to meetings** with Congress and the Administration (or help scheduling meetings in Washington, DC), and
- **General help with and updates on** other GSP-related issues that might arise.

COMPANY DUES

Company dues are based on the number of U.S. employees and annual GSP tariff savings. Dues are \$10,000 for companies with 500+ workers and \$1+ million in annual GSP savings. For others, dues are set at 1 percent of savings and capped at:

- \$2,500 for companies with 100 or fewer U.S. employees;
- \$5,000 for companies with 101 to 500 U.S. employees, and
- \$10,000 for companies with more than 500 U.S. employees.

To join or for more information, please contact **Dan Anthony** at anthony@tradepartnership.com.