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United States Trade Representative Ron Kirk Announces FY 2013 Tariff-Rate Quota Allocations for Raw Cane Sugar, Refined and Specialty Sugar and Sugar-Containing Products

September 11, 2012

Washington, D.C. – United States Trade Representative Ron Kirk today announced the country-specific in-quota allocations under the tariff-rate quotas on imported raw cane sugar, refined and specialty sugar and sugar-containing products for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 (Oct. 1, 2012 through Sept. 30, 2013). Tariff-rate quotas allow countries to export specified quantities of a product to the United States at a relatively low tariff, but subject all imports of the product above a pre-determined threshold to a higher tariff.

On September 7, 2012, the Secretary of Agriculture announced sugar program provisions for FY 2013. The in-quota quantity for the tariff-rate quota (TRQ) on raw cane sugar for FY 2013 is 1,117,195 metric tons* raw value (MTRV), which is the minimum amount to which the United States is committed under the World Trade Organization (WTO). The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) is allocating the raw cane sugar TRQ of 1,117,195 MTRV to the following countries in the quantities specified below:

Country FY 2013 Raw Cane Sugar Allocations (MTRV)

Argentina 46,154

Australia 89,087

Barbados 7,513

Belize 11,807

Bolivia 8,587

Brazil 155,634

Colombia 25,760

Congo 7,258

Costa Rica 16,100

Cote d'Ivoire 7,258

Dominican Republic 188,908

Ecuador 11,807

El Salvador 27,907

Fiji 9,660

Gabon 7,258

Guatemala 51,520

Guyana 12,880

Haiti 7,258

Honduras 10,733

India 8,587

Jamaica 11,807

Madagascar 7,258

Malawi 10,733

Mauritius 12,880

Mozambique 13,953

Nicaragua 22,540

Panama 31,127

Papua New Guinea 7,258

Paraguay 7,258

Peru 44,007

Philippines 144,901

South Africa 24,687

St. Kitts & Nevis 7,258

Swaziland 17,174

Thailand 15,027

Trinidad & Tobago 7,513

Uruguay 7,258

Zimbabwe 12,880

These allocations are based on each country's historical shipments to the United States. The allocations of the raw cane sugar TRQ to countries that are net importers of sugar are conditioned on receipt of the appropriate verifications of origin, and certificates for quota eligibility must accompany imports from any country to which an allocation is provided.

On September 7, 2012, the Secretary of Agriculture announced the establishment of the in-quota quantity for the FY 2013 refined sugar TRQ at 117,254 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 quantity to which the United States is committed under the WTO Agreement (22,000 MTRV, of which 1,656 MTRV is reserved for specialty sugar). USTR is allocating 12,050 MTRV of refined sugar to Canada and 8,294 MTRV of refined sugar 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. USDA has announced that the total quantity of specialty sugar will be the 1,656 MTRV consistent with our WTO commitment plus an additional 95,254 MTRV. The first tranche of 1,656 MTRV will open on October 12, 2012. All types of specialty sugars are eligible for entry under this tranche. The second tranche of 35,245 MTRV will open on October 26, 2012. The third, fourth, and fifth tranches of 20,003 MTRV each will open on January 11, 2013; April 11, 2013; and July 11, 2013, 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) for the TRQ for imports of certain sugar-containing products maintained under Additional U.S. Note 8 to Chapter 17 to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, USTR is allocating 59,250 MT to Canada. The remainder is available for other countries on a first-come, first-served basis.

Raw cane sugar, refined and specialty sugar and sugar-containing products for FY2013 TRQs may enter the United States as of October 1, 2012.

*Conversion factor: 1 metric ton = 1.10231125 short tons.