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**USTR Announces Tariff-Rate Quota Allocations for Raw Cane Sugar, Refined Sugar, and Sugar-Containing Products for 2004/2005**

Washington - The Office of the United States Trade Representative today announced the country-by-country tariff-rate quota allocations of the raw cane sugar, refined sugar, and sugar-containing products for Fiscal Year (FY) 2005. A tariff-rate quota is an import policy that allows countries to ship specified quantities of a product to the United States at a relatively low tariff, but subjects all other imports of that product to a higher tariff.

The Secretary of Agriculture established the in-quota quantity of the tariff-rate quota for raw cane sugar for FY 2005 at 1,117,195 metric tons. This is the minimum level to which the United States is committed to under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement. The country-by-country allocations are:

<u>Country</u>	<u>FY 2005 Allocation in Metric Tons</u>
Argentina	45,281
Australia	87,402
Barbados	7,371
Belize	11,583
Bolivia	8,424
Brazil	152,691
Colombia	25,273
Congo	7,258
Cote d'Ivoire	7,258

Costa Rica	15,796
Dominican Republic	185,335
Ecuador	11,583
El Salvador	27,379
Fiji	9,477
Gabon	7,258
Guatemala	50,546
Guyana	12,636
Haiti	7,258
Honduras	10,530
India	8,424
Jamaica	11,583
Madagascar	7,258
Malawi	10,530
Mauritius	12,636
Mexico	7,258
Mozambique	13,690
Nicaragua	22,114
Panama	30,538
Papua New Guinea	7,258
Paraguay	7,258
Peru	43,175

Philippines	142,160
South Africa	24,220
St. Kitts & Nevis	7,258
Swaziland	16,849
Taiwan	12,636
Thailand	14,743
Trinidad-Tobago	7,371
Uruguay	7,258
Zimbabwe	12,636

These allocations are based on the countries' historical shipments to the United States. The allocations of the raw cane sugar tariff-rate quota to countries that are net importers of sugar are conditioned on receipt of the appropriate verifications of origin.

This allocation includes the following minimum-quota countries: Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Haiti, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, St. Kitts & Nevis, and Uruguay.

The in-quota quantity of the tariff-rate quota for refined sugar for FY 2005 has been established by the Secretary of Agriculture at 43,000 metric tons, raw value (47,399 short tons). Of this, the Secretary reserved 22,656 metric tons (24,974 short tons) for specialty sugars. Of the quantity not reserved for specialty sugar, 10,300 metric tons (11,354 short tons) is allocated to Canada and 2,954 metric tons (3,256 short tons) is allocated to Mexico. The remaining 7,090 metric tons (7,815 short tons) of the in-quota quantity may be supplied by any country, subject to any other provision of law, on a first-come, first-served basis. The 22,656 metric tons reserved for specialty sugars may also be supplied by any country, subject to any other provision of law, on a first-come, first-served basis.

With respect to the tariff-rate quota of 64,709 metric tons (71,329 short tons) for certain sugar-containing products maintained under Additional U.S. Note 8 to chapter 17 to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, 59,250 metric tons (65,312 short tons) is being allocated to Canada. The remainder of the sugar-containing products tariff-rate quota is available for other countries on a first-come, first-served basis.

Conversion factor: 1 metric ton = 1.10231125 short tons.

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