

remarks in writing. All written submissions and summaries should be received in the Metric Program Office by February 27, 1995.

DATES: The Metric Town Meeting will be held on Monday, March 27, 1995, and may extend into Tuesday, March 28, to accommodate additional responses and speakers.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Organizations and individuals interested in participating should contact the Director, Metric Program, U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899 as early as possible but before February 27, 1995. Phone (301-975-3690) and FAX (301-948-1416) messages are welcomed.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: World trade is geared toward to metric system of measurement. Industry in the United States is often at a competitive disadvantage when dealing in international markets if its designs or production measurement units differ from those used by the rest of the world. U.S. companies can be excluded from international markets when unable to deliver goods which are built to metric specifications. The Nation can not ignore these globalization pressures.

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the newly ratified General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) have expanded the opportunities for international trade and commerce. To take advantage of those opportunities and to enhance the acceptability of U.S. products, U.S. business must expedite the adoption of the metric system.

Under the provisions of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988, which establishes the metric system as the preferred system of measurement for trade and commerce, the Federal government is required to assist industry, especially small business, in converting to the metric system. Pursuant to Executive Order 12770, the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Interagency Council on Metric Policy have been charged to explore ways to bring together the government, the private sector and the public to discuss the next steps in decision-making about metric conversion.

The Department of Commerce and the Interagency Council on Metric Policy will hold a Metric Town Meeting to listen to the concerns and ideas of the private sector for accelerating the transition to the metric system including actions that the Government

can take to make it easier for industry to convert to metric system use. Accordingly, the Town Meeting will seek views from businesses, trade and professional groups, educators, and state and local government entities on topics such as:

- How using the metric system contributes to key national goals such as U.S. global competitiveness, technology development and commercialization, enhanced labor skills, and U.S. education reform;
- How the effective implementation of trade agreements (e.g., NAFTA and GATT) will be influenced by industry's use or non-use of metric measures;
- What plans the Federal government and individual agencies should undertake to complete a smooth conversion to the metric system in U.S. trade and commerce;
- How industry and Federal, state, and local governments should inform small and mid-sized companies and their workers about how their economic prosperity may be tied, even if indirectly, to global markets, and involve them in more positive discussions on metrication;
- Identifying or eliminating Federal regulatory barriers to metrication;
- Identifying outdated Federal standards that may contribute to continued use of non-metric measures;
- How Federal procurement practices should support metrication efforts;
- What public education or awareness strategies government or industry should initiate to accelerate public understanding and acceptance of the transition to the metric system.

(15 U.S.C. 205(b) and (c))

Dated: January 23, 1995

Mary L. Good,

Under Secretary for Technology.

[FR Doc. 95-2046 Filed 1-26-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-18-M-M

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Announcement of Import Restraint Limits for Certain Cotton, Man-Made Fiber, Silk Blend and Other Vegetable Fiber Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in the People's Republic of Bangladesh

January 24, 1995.

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs establishing limits for the new agreement year.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 1, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ross Arnold, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212. For information on the quota status of these limits, refer to the Quota Status Reports posted on the bulletin boards of each Customs port or call (202) 927-5850. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, call (202) 482-3715.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended; section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854).

The Bilateral Textile Agreement of December 10, 1994 between the Governments of the United States and the People's Republic of Bangladesh establishes limits, pursuant to the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (URATC), for the period beginning on January 1, 1995 and extending through December 31, 1995. The limits have been reduced to account for carryforward used and special carryforward used during 1994.

A copy of the bilateral textile agreement is available from the Textiles Division, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State, (202) 647-1683.

A description of the textile and apparel categories in terms of HTS numbers is available in the CORRELATION: Textile and Apparel Categories with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (see **Federal Register** notice 59 FR 65531, published on December 20, 1994).

The letter to the Commissioner of Customs and the actions taken pursuant to it are not designed to implement all of the provisions of the agreement, but are designed to assist only in the implementation of certain of its provisions.

Rita D. Hayes,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

January 24, 1995.

Commissioner of Customs,
Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20229.

Dear Commissioner: Under the terms of section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854), and the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (URATC); pursuant to the Bilateral Textile Agreement of December 10, 1994 between the Governments of the United States and the People's Republic of Bangladesh; and in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended,

you are directed to prohibit, effective on February 1, 1995, entry into the United States for consumption and withdrawal from warehouse for consumption of cotton, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textiles and textile products in the following categories, produced or manufactured in Bangladesh and exported during the twelve-month period beginning on January 1, 1995 and extending through December 31, 1995, in excess of the following levels of restraint:

Category	Twelve-month restraint limit ¹
237	309,820 dozen.
331	784,917 dozen pairs.
334	89,644 dozen.
335	169,709 dozen.
336/636	303,700 dozen.
338/339	879,784 dozen.
340/640	1,886,237 dozen.
341	1,562,576 dozen.
342/642	285,052 dozen.
347/348	1,482,791 dozen.
351/651	429,372 dozen.
352/652	8,007,120 dozen.
363	16,004,493 numbers.
369-S ²	1,131,129 kilograms.
634	313,625 dozen.
635	203,191 dozen.
638/639	1,115,728 dozen.
641	654,294 dozen.
645/646	262,016 dozen.
647/648	884,478 dozen.
847	469,625 dozen.

¹ The limits have not been adjusted to account for any imports exported after December 31, 1994.

² Category 369-S: only HTS number 6307.10.2005.

Imports charged to these category limits for the periods February 1, 1994 through December 31, 1994 and December 1, 1994 through December 31, 1994 (Categories 352/652) shall be charged against those levels of restraint to the extent of any unfilled balances. In the event the limits established for those periods have been exhausted by previous entries, such goods shall be subject to the levels set forth in this directive.

The limits set forth above are subject to adjustment in the future pursuant to the provisions of the URATC and any administrative arrangements notified.

In carrying out the above directions, the Commissioner of Customs should construe entry into the United States for consumption to include entry for consumption into the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements has determined that these actions fall within the foreign affairs exception of the rulemaking provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(1).

Sincerely,

Rita D. Hayes,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc. 95-2102 Filed 1-26-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-F

Amendment of Export Visa Requirements for Certain Cotton and Man-Made Fiber Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Bangladesh

January 24, 1995.

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs amending visa requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 1, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ross Arnold, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended; section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854).

The existing export visa arrangement between the Governments of the United States and the People's Republic of Bangladesh is being amended to include the coverage of merged Categories 352/652 for goods produced or manufactured in Bangladesh and exported from Bangladesh on and after February 1, 1995.

A description of the textile and apparel categories in terms of HTS numbers is available in the

CORRELATION: Textile and Apparel Categories with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (see **Federal Register** notice 59 FR 65531, published on December 20, 1994). Also see 53 FR 46484, published November 17, 1988.

Rita D. Hayes,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

January 24, 1995.

Commissioner of Customs,
Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20229.

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directive issued to you on November 14, 1988, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive directed you to prohibit entry of certain cotton and man-made fiber textile products, produced or manufactured in Bangladesh for which the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has not issued an appropriate visa.

Effective on February 1, 1995, you are directed to amend further the November 14, 1988 directive to include the coverage of merged Categories 352/652 for goods produced or manufactured in Bangladesh

and exported from Bangladesh on and after February 1, 1995. Merchandise in Categories 352/652 may be accompanied by either the appropriate merged categories or the correct category corresponding to the actual shipment.

Merchandise in Categories 352 and 652 which is exported from Bangladesh prior to February 1, 1995 shall not be denied entry if accompanied by a merged category 352/652 visa.

Shipments entered or withdrawn from warehouse according to this directive which are not accompanied by an appropriate export visa shall be denied entry and a new visa must be obtained.

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements has determined that this action falls within the foreign affairs exception to the rulemaking provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(1).

Sincerely,

Rita D. Hayes,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc. 95-2101 Filed 1-26-95; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Proposed Additions

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Proposed additions to Procurement List.

SUMMARY: The Committee has received proposals to add to the Procurement List a commodity and services to be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE: February 27, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, Crystal Square 3, Suite 403, 1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, Virginia 22202-3461.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Beverly Milkman (703) 603-7740.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 47(a)(2) and 41 CFR 51-2.3. Its purpose is to provide interested persons an opportunity to submit comments on the possible impact of the proposed actions.

If the Committee approves the proposed additions, all entities of the Federal Government (except as otherwise indicated) will be required to procure the commodity and services listed below from nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.