

research permit no. 968 submitted by Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Acoustic Thermometry of Ocean Climate Project, Institute for Geophysics and Planetary Physics, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, California 92093-02252, has been granted.

**ADDRESSES:** The amendment and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713-2289); and

Regional Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213 (310/980-4001).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The requested amendment has been granted under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*), the provisions of § 216.39 of the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216), the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), the provisions of § 222.25 of the regulations governing the taking, importing, and exporting of endangered fish and wildlife (50 CFR 222.23), and the Fur Seal Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1151 *et seq.*).

This amendment incorporates into Permit No. 968 refinements to the research protocol, as provided for by Special Condition A.5. of Permit 968.

Issuance of this amendment, as required by the ESA was based on a finding that such permit: (1) Was applied for in good faith; (2) will not operate to the disadvantage of the endangered species which is the subject of this permit; and (3) is consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in section 2 of the ESA.

Dated: February 27, 1997.

Ann D. Terbush,

Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 97-5382 Filed 3-4-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

## COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

### New Export Visa Stamp for Certain Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Japan

February 27, 1997.

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

**ACTION:** Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs providing for the use of a new export visa stamp.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 1, 1997.

**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); Uruguay Round Agreements Act.

Beginning on April 1, 1997, the "Japan Cotton Textile Exporters Association" and the "Japan Silk & Synthetic Textiles Exporters' Association" will merge to form the "Japan Textiles Exporters' Association."

Effective on April 1, 1997, regardless of the date of export, textile products from Japan shall be accompanied by a visa with the new stamped marking "Japan Textiles Exporters' Association," instead of the ones from the former "Japan Cotton Textile Exporters Association" and "Japan Silk & Synthetic Textiles Exporters' Association." There will be a grace period from April 1, 1997 through April 30, 1997, during which the old or the new visas will be acceptable. The new visa stamp must accompany goods exported on and after May 1, 1997.

Export visa stamps from Japan with the following markings remain unchanged and will continue to be accepted: "Japan Woollen & Linen Textiles Exporters Association," "The Japan Textile Products Exporters' Association" and "Japan General Merchandise Exporters' Association." The exempt certification stamp will continue unchanged with the "The

Japan Textile Products Exporters' Association" marking.

See 52 FR 4639, published on February 13, 1987.

Troy H. Cribb,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

February 27, 1997.

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 February 6, 1987, as amended, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive directed you to prohibit entry of certain textiles and textile products, produced or manufactured in Japan for which the Government of Japan has not issued an appropriate visa or exempt certification.

Beginning on April 1, 1997, the "Japan Cotton Textile Exporters Association" and the "Japan Silk & Synthetic Textiles Exporters' Association" will merge to form the "Japan Textiles Exporters' Association."

Effective on April 1, 1997, regardless of the date of export, textile products from Japan shall be accompanied by a visa with the new stamped marking "Japan Textiles Exporters' Association," instead of the ones from the former "Japan Cotton Textile Exporters Association" and "Japan Silk & Synthetic Textiles Exporters' Association." There will be a grace period for goods exported from April 1, 1997 through April 30, 1997, during which the old or the new visas will be acceptable. The new visa stamp must accompany goods exported on and after May 1, 1997.

A facsimile of the new visa stamp is enclosed with this letter. The remaining visa and certification stamps remain unchanged.

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,

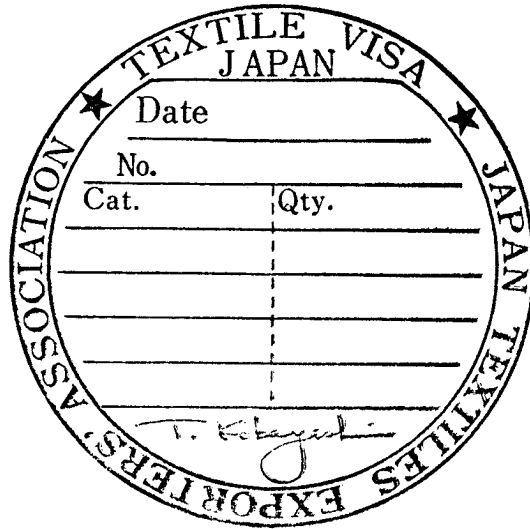
Troy H. Cribb,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

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V i s a   S t a m p :

J A P A N   T E X T I L E   E X P O R T E R S '   A S S O C I A T I O N



[FR Doc. 97-5402 Filed 3-4-97; 8:45 am]

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