

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Secretary of Agriculture

[Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 3]

Import Quota; Upland Cotton

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: A special import quota for upland cotton equal to 44,900,528 kilograms (98,988,801 pounds) is established in accordance with section 136(b) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (the 1996 Act) under Presidential Proclamation 6301 of June 7, 1991, and Presidential Proclamation 6948 of October 29, 1996. The quota is referenced as the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 3, effective February 1, 1997, and is set forth in subheading 9903.52.03, subchapter III, chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS).

DATES: The quota is effective as of February 1, 1997, and applies to upland cotton purchased not later than May 1, 1997 (90 days from the date the quota is established), and entered into the United States not later than July 30, 1997 (180 days from the date the quota is established).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janise Zygmunt, Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, Stop 0515, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, DC 20013-2415 or call (202) 720-8841.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 1996 Act requires that a special import quota for upland cotton be determined and announced immediately if, for any consecutive 10-week period, the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth, as quoted for Middling 1-3/32

inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (U.S. Northern Europe price), adjusted for the value of any cotton user marketing certificates issued, exceeds the Northern Europe price by more than 1.25 cents per pound. This condition was met during the consecutive 10-week period that ended December 19, 1996. Therefore, a quota referenced as the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 3, effective February 1, 1997, is hereby established.

Previously there were only 20 subheadings available for designating upland cotton special import quotas in subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTS. Therefore, at most, only 20 such quotas could be in effect at one time and any additional quota which had been triggered could not become effective until the earliest of the 20 quotas ended. However, Presidential Proclamation 6948 dated October 29, 1996, added six new HTS subheadings for quotas—21 through 26. A maximum of 26 quotas may now be in effect at one time.

To be effective as soon as possible, Quota 3 is established as of February 1, 1997, and applies to upland cotton purchased not later than May 1, 1997, and entered into the United States not later than July 30, 1997. The quota amount, 44,900,528 kilograms (98,988,801 pounds), is equal to 1 week's consumption of upland cotton by domestic mills at the seasonally-adjusted average rate of the most recent 3 months for which data are available—September 1996 through November 1996. The special import quota identifies a quantity of imports that is not subject to the over-quota tariff rate of a tariff-rate quota. The quota is not divided by staple length or by country of origin. The quota does not affect existing tariff rates or phytosanitary regulations. The quota does not apply to Extra Long Staple cotton.

Authority: Sec. 136, Pub. L. 104-127 and U.S. Note 6(a), Subchapter III, Chapter 99 of the HTS.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on March 18, 1997.

Dan Glickman,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-7405 Filed 3-24-97; 8:45 am]

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[Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 4]

Import Quota; Upland Cotton

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, USDA.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: A special import quota for upland cotton equal to 44,900,528 kilograms (98,988,801 pounds) is established in accordance with section 136(b) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (the 1996 Act) under Presidential Proclamation 6301 of June 7, 1991, and Presidential Proclamation 6948 of October 29, 1996. The quota is referenced as the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 4, effective February 8, 1997, and is set forth in subheading 9903.52.04, subchapter III, chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS).

DATES: The quota is effective as of February 8, 1997, and applies to upland cotton purchased not later than May 8, 1997 (90 days from the date the quota is established), and entered into the United States not later than August 6, 1997 (180 days from the date the quota is established).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janise Zygmunt, Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, Stop 0515, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, DC 20013-2415, or call (202) 720-8841.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The 1996 Act requires that a special import quota for upland cotton be determined and announced immediately if, for any consecutive 10-week period, the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth, as quoted for Middling 1³/₃₂ inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (U.S. Northern Europe price), adjusted for the value of any cotton user marketing certificates issued, exceeds the Northern Europe price by more than 1.25 cents per pound. This condition was met during the consecutive 10-week period that ended December 26, 1996.

Therefore, a quota referenced as the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 4, effective February 8, 1997, is hereby established.

Previously there were only 20 subheadings available for designating