

Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Council office (see ADDRESSES) by May 21, 1997.

Dated: May 14, 1997.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
[FR Doc. 97-13165 Filed 5-19-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Technology Administration

Notice of Public Meeting on the Proposed Experimental Program To Stimulate Competitive Technology (EPSCoT)

SUMMARY: The Technology Administration will hold an open meeting on June 16, 1997 to solicit input on the proposed Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Technology (EPSCoT) from representatives of state and local government, universities, and the private- and non-profit sectors, who are involved with technology development, diffusion, commercialization, and using technology to promote economic growth. The purpose of the meeting is to determine what activities are currently being conducted in the states to foster technology-based economic growth and how a new competitive, cost-shared federal grant program with the mission of fostering the development of indigenous technology assets in states that are traditionally under represented in Federal R&D funding could be structured. The following states would currently be eligible to participate in the EPSCoT: Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming, as well as the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

DATES: The meeting will be held on June 16, 1997 from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Billings Hotel in Billings, Montana. Individuals wishing to attend the meeting should contact Maureen Wood, Office of the Under Secretary for Technology, at (202) 482-1091 by close of business June 12, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marc Cummings, Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce at (202) 482-8323.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Technology Administration (TA) is

proposing a new, competitive, matching grant program called the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Technology (EPSCoT) to foster the development of indigenous technology assets in states that traditionally have been under represented in the distribution of Federal R&D expenditures.

Technology is the engine of economic growth and, as such, its development, deployment, and diffusion are critical to U.S. competitiveness. Although it is often said that nations do not compete, companies do, it is apparent that sub-national units—regions within states and clusters of states—do compete, not simply with one another, but also internationally. This is because in a global economy, capital, labor, and technology are increasingly mobile and they are attracted to regions with the most promising opportunities. To this end, regional policies and infrastructures play a large role in determining both where companies locate and their ability to be competitive in a global marketplace.

Commerce Department research shows that firms that adopt advanced technologies create more jobs at higher wages than those that do not. Furthermore, regions that boast concentrations of high-tech industries enjoy high growth rates and standards of living. Regions thus compete to attract federal research facilities, private investment, and skilled labor. Recent research suggests that a region's technological infrastructure is among the most important factors that businesses consider when making location decisions. Accordingly, regions are searching for strategies to attract and retain high-tech firms and the jobs that they bring. These strategies may involve building on existing strengths at research universities, providing extension services to local businesses, or integrating existing business assistance resources, but ultimately their success is contingent upon an institutional capacity to support technology-based economic development.

In the Federal government's efforts to foster competitiveness, it must ensure that all regions of the nation develop the necessary infrastructure to support indigenous technology development. Most less populated states, whose manufacturers tend to be small- and medium-sized, are at a competitive disadvantage because there is generally no research base on which local businesses can build. The EPSCoT seeks to remedy this disadvantage.

The EPSCoT seeks to build on the NSF's successful Experimental Program

to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) which was established in 1979 to stimulate sustainable improvements in the quality of the academic science and technology infrastructure of states that traditionally have been under represented in receiving federal R&D funds. Within these states, the EPSCoR's primary emphasis is on improving the competitive performance of major research universities. By focusing on building the science base of these regions, primarily in universities, the EPSCoR has successfully strengthened the research capacity of universities in these states; yet, there remains a technology "gap."

Improving the competitive performance of universities, which is an essential component of a successful technology-based economy, is often not sufficient to establish new companies, develop new job opportunities or raise the standard of living.

This why the Department of Commerce proposes to create an EPSCoT—the technology counterpart to the EPSCoR. EPSCoT would help to bridge the gap between university research and the local economy. It would develop essential economic development tools to foster regional technology-based economic growth. The program would stimulate the development of indigenous technological infrastructure and institutional capabilities of states through a variety of means, including outreach activities, technology development and deployment, technology transfer, education and training, and better linking universities, firms, and state and local governments.

Dated: May 14, 1997.

Mary Good,

Under Secretary for Technology.

[FR Doc. 97-13094 Filed 5-19-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-18-M

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

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

May 15, 1997.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs increasing limits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 21, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet Heinzen, 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 current limits for certain categories are being increased, variously, for swing and carryover.

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 61 FR 66263, published on December 17, 1996). Also see 62 FR 6950, published on February 14, 1997.

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 bilateral agreement, but is designed to assist only in the implementation of its provisions.

D. Michael Hutchinson,

Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

May 15, 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 10, 1997, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton, wool, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textiles and textile products and silk apparel, produced or manufactured in China and exported during the twelve-month period beginning on January 1, 1997 and extending through December 31, 1997.

Effective on May 21, 1997, you are directed to increase the limits for the following categories, as provided for under the terms of the bilateral agreement between the Governments of the United States and the People's Republic of China:

Category	Twelve-month limit 1	Category	Twelve-month limit 1
Group I		352	1,710,611 dozen.
200, 218, 219, 226,	1,474,852,906 square	359-C	605,285 kilograms.
237, 239, 300/301,	meters equivalent.	359-V	916,346 kilograms.
313-315, 317/326,		360	7,908,948 numbers of
331, 333-336,			which not more than
338/339, 340-342,			5,293,831 numbers
345, 347/348,			shall be in Category
350-352, 359-C ² ,			360-P ¹⁵ .
359-V ³ , 360-363,		361	4,401,221 numbers.
369-D ⁴ , 369-H ⁵ ,		362	7,381,430 numbers.
369-L ⁶ , 410, 433-		363	22,453,380 numbers.
436, 438, 440,		369-D	4,890,455 kilograms.
442-444, 445/446,		369-H	5,105,427 kilograms.
447, 448, 607,		369-L	3,384,369 kilograms.
611, 613-615,		410	1,047,917 square me-
617, 631, 633-			ters of which not
636, 638/639,			more than 840,019
640-643, 644/844,			square meters shall
645/646, 647-652,			be in Category 410-
659-C ⁷ , 659-H ⁸ ,			A ¹⁶ and not more
659-S ⁹ , 666,			than 840,019 square
669-P ¹⁰ , 670-			meters shall be in
L ¹¹ , 831, 833,			Category 410-B ¹⁷ .
835, 836, 840, 842		433	22,088 dozen.
and 845-847, as a		434	13,860 dozen.
group.		435	25,456 dozen.
Sublevels in Group I		436	15,982 dozen.
200	730,447 kilograms.	438	27,444 dozen.
218	11,593,595 square	440	39,955 dozen of which
	meters.		not more than
219	2,473,374 square me-		22,831 dozen shall
	ters.		be in Category 440-
226	11,230,919 square		M ¹⁸ .
	meters.	442	42,295 dozen.
237	2,000,327 dozen.	443	134,087 numbers.
239	3,106,866 kilograms.	444	212,981 numbers.
300/301	2,376,021 kilograms.	445/446	307,593 dozen.
313	43,549,095 square	447	73,412 dozen.
	meters.	448	23,159 dozen.
314	50,579,806 square	607	3,332,498 kilograms.
	meters.	611	5,422,024 square me-
315	132,431,821 square		ters.
	meters.	613	7,818,294 square me-
317/326	21,759,198 square		ters.
	meters of which not	614	12,285,890 square
	more than 4,162,962		meters.
	square meters shall	615	25,576,990 square
	be in Category 326.		meters.
331	5,337,041 dozen pairs.	617	17,536,359 square
333	99,981 dozen.		meters.
334	338,379 dozen.	631	1,312,969 dozen pairs.
335	411,356 dozen.	633	58,440 dozen.
336	173,817 dozen.	634	635,789 dozen.
338/339	2,472,536 dozen of	635	670,647 dozen.
	which not more than	636	568,712 dozen.
	1,841,842 dozen	638/639	2,508,267 dozen.
	shall be in Cat-	640	1,463,325 dozen.
	egories 338-S/339-	641	1,365,473 dozen.
	S ¹² .	642	339,277 dozen.
340	836,266 dozen of	643	527,424 numbers.
	which not more than	644/844	3,867,313 numbers.
	418,134 dozen shall	645/646	862,877 dozen.
	be in Category 340-	647	1,616,855 dozen.
	Z ¹³ .	648	1,155,232 dozen.
341	711,075 dozen of	649	947,847 dozen.
	which not more than	650	117,436 dozen.
	426,645 dozen shall	651	788,715 dozen of
	be in Category 341-		which not more than
	Y ¹⁴ .		138,858 dozen shall
342	277,158 dozen.		be in Category 651-
345	134,943 dozen.		B ¹⁹ .
347/348	2,454,034 dozen.	652	2,772,260 dozen.
350	167,677 dozen.	659-C	425,507 kilograms.
351	558,067 dozen.	659-H	2,935,901 kilograms.

Category	Twelve-month limit ¹
659-S	636,433 kilograms.
666	3,685,179 kilograms of which not more than 1,286,250 kilograms shall be in Category 666-C ²⁰ .
669-P	2,077,336 kilograms.
670-L	16,224,327 kilograms.
831	560,703 dozen pairs.
833	29,166 dozen.
835	126,576 dozen.
836	289,572 dozen.
840	501,766 dozen.
842	279,162 dozen.
846	187,869 dozen.
847	1,321,279 dozen.
Group III	
201, 220, 222, 223, 224-V ²¹ , 224-O ²² , 225, 227, 229, 369-O ²³ , 400, 414, 464, 465, 469, 600, 603, 604-O ²⁴ , 606, 618-622, 624-629, 665, 669-O ²⁵ and 670-O ²⁶ , as a group.	258,858,249 square meters equivalent.
Levels not in a Group	
369-S ²⁷	623,606 kilograms.
863-S ²⁸	8,747,164 numbers.
870	33,593,729 kilograms.

¹ The limits have not been adjusted to account for any imports exported after December 31, 1996.

² Category 359-C: only HTS numbers 6103.42.2025, 6103.49.8034, 6104.62.1020, 6104.69.8010, 6114.20.0048, 6114.20.0052, 6203.42.2010, 6203.42.2090, 6204.62.2010, 6211.32.0010, 6211.32.0025 and 6211.42.0010.

³ Category 359-V: only HTS numbers 6103.19.2030, 6103.19.9030, 6104.12.0040, 6104.19.8040, 6110.20.1022, 6110.20.1024, 6110.20.2030, 6110.20.2035, 6110.90.9044, 6110.90.9046, 6201.92.2010, 6202.92.2020, 6203.19.1030, 6203.19.9030, 6204.12.0040, 6204.19.8040, 6211.32.0070 and 6211.42.0070.

⁴ Category 369-D: only HTS numbers 6302.60.0010, 6302.91.0005 and 6302.91.0045.

⁵ Category 369-H: only HTS numbers 4202.22.4020, 4202.22.4500 and 4202.22.8030.

⁶ Category 369-L: only HTS numbers 4202.12.4000, 4202.12.8020, 4202.12.8060, 4202.92.1500, 4202.92.3015 and 4202.92.6090.

⁷ Category 659-C: only HTS numbers 6103.23.0055, 6103.43.2020, 6103.43.2025, 6103.49.2000, 6103.49.8038, 6104.63.1020, 6104.63.1030, 6104.69.1000, 6104.69.8014, 6114.30.3044, 6114.30.3054, 6203.43.2010, 6203.43.2090, 6203.49.1010, 6203.49.1090, 6204.63.1510, 6204.69.1010, 6210.10.9010, 6211.33.0010, 6211.33.0017 and 6211.43.0010.

⁸ Category 659-H: only HTS numbers 6502.00.9030, 6504.00.9015, 6504.00.9060, 6505.90.5090, 6505.90.6090, 6505.90.7090 and 6505.90.8090.

⁹ Category 659-S: only HTS numbers 6112.31.0010, 6112.31.0020, 6112.41.0010, 6112.41.0020, 6112.41.0030, 6112.41.0040, 6211.11.1010, 6211.11.1020, 6211.12.1010 and 6211.12.1020.

¹⁰ Category 669-P: only HTS numbers 6305.32.0010, 6305.32.0020, 6305.33.0010, 6305.33.0020 and 6305.39.0000.

¹¹ Category 670-L: only HTS numbers 4202.12.8030, 4202.12.8070, 4202.92.3030 and 4202.92.9025.

¹² Category 338-S: all HTS numbers except 6109.10.0012, 6109.10.0014, 6109.10.0018 and 6109.10.0023; Category 339-S: all HTS numbers except 6109.10.0040, 6109.10.0045, 6109.10.0060 and 6109.10.0065.

¹³ Category 340-Z: only HTS numbers 6205.20.2015, 6205.20.2020, 6205.20.2050 and 6205.20.2060.

¹⁴ Category 341-Y: only HTS numbers 6204.22.3060, 6206.30.3010, 6206.30.3030 and 6211.42.0054.

¹⁵ Category 360-P: only HTS numbers 6302.21.3010, 6302.21.5010, 6302.21.9010, 6302.31.3010, 6302.31.7010 and 6302.31.9010.

¹⁶ Category 410-A: only HTS numbers 5111.11.3000, 5111.11.7030, 5111.19.2000, 5111.19.6020, 5111.19.6040, 5111.19.6060, 5111.19.6080, 5111.20.9000, 5111.20.9000, 5111.90.3000, 5212.11.1010, 5212.12.1010, 5212.13.1010, 5212.14.1010, 5212.15.1010, 5212.21.1010, 5212.22.1010, 5212.23.1010, 5212.25.1010, 5311.00.2000, 5407.91.0510, 5407.92.0510, 5407.93.0510, 5408.31.0510, 5408.32.0510, 5408.34.0510, 5515.13.0510, 5515.22.0510, 5515.92.0510, 5516.31.0510, 5516.32.0510, 5516.33.0510, 5516.34.0510 and 6301.20.0020.

¹⁷ Category 410-B: only HTS numbers 5007.10.6030, 5007.90.6030, 5112.11.2030, 5112.11.2060, 5112.19.9010, 5112.19.9020, 5112.19.9040, 5112.19.9050, 5112.19.9060, 5112.20.3000, 5112.30.3000, 5112.90.3000, 5112.90.9010, 5112.90.9010, 5212.11.1020, 5212.12.1020, 5212.13.1020, 5212.14.1020, 5212.15.1020, 5212.21.1020, 5212.22.1020, 5212.23.1020, 5212.25.1020, 5309.21.2000, 5309.29.2000, 5407.91.0520, 5407.92.0520, 5407.93.0520, 5408.31.0520, 5408.32.0520, 5408.33.0520, 5408.34.0520, 5515.13.0520, 5515.22.0520, 5515.92.0520, 5516.31.0520, 5516.32.0520, 5516.33.0520 and 5516.34.0520.

¹⁸ Category 440-M: HTS numbers 6203.21.0030, 6203.23.0030, 6205.10.1000, 6205.10.2010, 6205.10.2020, 6205.30.1510, 6205.30.1520, 6205.90.3020, 6205.90.4020 and 6211.31.0030.

¹⁹ Category 651-B: only HTS numbers 6107.22.0015 and 6108.32.0015.

²⁰ Category 666-C: only HTS number 6303.92.2000.

²¹ Category 224-V: only HTS numbers 5801.21.0000, 5801.23.0000, 5801.24.0000, 5801.25.0010, 5801.25.0020, 5801.26.0010, 5801.26.0020, 5801.26.0020, 5801.31.0000, 5801.33.0000, 5801.34.0000, 5801.35.0010, 5801.35.0020, 5801.36.0010 and 5801.36.0020.

²² Category 224-O: all HTS numbers except 5801.21.0000, 5801.23.0000, 5801.24.0000, 5801.25.0010, 5801.25.0020, 5801.26.0010, 5801.26.0020, 5801.31.0000, 5801.33.0000, 5801.34.0000, 5801.35.0010, 5801.35.0020, 5801.36.0010 and 5801.36.0020 (Category 224-V).

²³ Category 369-O: all HTS numbers except 6302.60.0010, 6302.91.0005 and 6302.91.0045 (Category 369-D); 4202.22.4020, 4202.22.4500, 4202.22.8030 (Category 369-H); 4202.12.4000, 4202.12.8020, 4202.12.8060, 4202.92.1500, 4202.92.3015, 4202.92.6090 (Category 369-L); and 6307.10.2005 (Category 369-S).

²⁴ Category 604-O: all HTS numbers except 5509.32.0000 (Category 604-A).

²⁵ Category 669-O: all HTS numbers except 6305.32.0010, 6305.32.0020, 6305.33.0010, 6305.33.0020 and 6305.39.0000 (Category 669-P).

²⁶ Category 670-O: only HTS numbers 4202.22.4030, 4202.22.8050 and 4202.32.9550.

²⁷ Category 369-S: only HTS number 6307.10.2005.

²⁸ Category 863-S: only HTS number 6307.10.2015.

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

Sincerely,

D. Michael Hutchinson,

Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc. 97-13216 Filed 5-19-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-F

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request—Flammability Standards for Clothing Textiles and Vinyl Plastic Film

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In the **Federal Register** of February 10, 1997 (62 FR 5961), the Consumer Product Safety Commission published a notice in accordance with provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) to announce the agency's intention to seek reinstatement of approval of a collection of information in regulations implementing the flammability standards for clothing textiles and vinyl plastic film. The regulations prescribe requirements for testing and recordkeeping by persons and firms issuing guaranties of garments, fabrics, and related materials subject to the Standard for the Flammability of Clothing Textiles (16 CFR part 1610) and the Standard for the Flammability of Vinyl Plastic Film (16 CFR part 1611). No comments were received in response to that notice. By publication of this notice, the Commission announces that it has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget a request for reinstatement of approval of those collections of information without change through July 31, 2000.

Additional Information About the Request for Reinstatement of Approval of Collections of Information

Agency address: Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207.

Title of information collection: Standard for the Flammability of Clothing Textiles, 16 CFR part 1610;