

recommended approval of the consolidation, automation, and closure certifications for WSO Victoria, Texas.

In January 1999, the Victoria Chamber of Commerce sent the Secretary of Commerce a position paper regarding NWS's performance during the October 1998 flood event in south Texas. The position paper stated NWS's poor performance in forecasting the flood could be attributed to not having a fully operational weather office in Victoria.

In February 1999, NWS completed a service assessment report on the south Texas flood. The service assessment revealed the problems encountered were due to the record flooding and loss of upstream river gauges. Having a fully operational Victoria weather office would not have changed the outcome because flood forecasts for the Victoria area are generated by the River Forecast Center in Fort Worth, Texas.

After consideration of public comments received, MTC endorsements, the Victoria Chamber of Commerce's position paper, and the NWS service assessment, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere approved the WSO Victoria, Texas, consolidation, automation, and closure certifications and transmitted notice of the certifications and transmitted notice of the certifications to Congress on October 7, 1999. Certification approval authority was delegated from the Secretary of Commerce to the Under Secretary in June 1996. The NWS is not completing the certification requirements of Public Law 102-567 by publishing the final consolidation, automation, and closure certification notice in the FR.

Dated: October 12, 1999.

**John J. Kelly, Jr.,**

*Assistant Administrator for Weather Services.*

### **Summary of Public Comments and NWS Response**

*Public Comments on WSO Victoria, Texas:* Nineteen individual letters and over 2100 forms were received as public comments from the Victoria, Texas, area. Many of the public comments referred to delays in receiving warnings or missing information. Some of the comments included the following:

"Delays in warnings—During several periods of severe weather, warnings were not issued on the radio or television broadcasts until thirty minutes after the warnings were issued \* \* \*. Current conditions, forecasts, and updates have been delayed by as much as four hours."

"Time is a big factor in weather, without local radar coverage and up to date information. Time is against us. A

lot of people would be sitting ducks without protection."

"Just for one example, we remember a fast developing heavy storm with hail, last spring, that came across from Goliad Co. to DeWitt Co. Area and our local TV weather forecasting could not even inform us until it was upon us."

"Often we have received information that is inaccurate, late or even no information about weather events in our area from the Corpus Christi office."

*NWS Response:* The Corpus Christi forecast office has and will continue to work closely with the Victoria media, emergency managers, and civic leaders to maintain and enhance lines of communication. Close working relationships have been established with key members of the media, such as TV25, radio station KVIC, and the *Victoria Advocate*. NWS staff have held several meetings with the Victoria Chamber of Commerce President to increase the awareness of the technological capabilities of the Corpus Christi office, communications links, and products and services. The Corpus Christi office initiated and led the first-ever severe weather conference with Victoria County officials, the Chamber of Commerce, local media, and volunteer storm spotters.

The Corpus Christi office led an effort to establish an Emergency Alert System (EAS) Plan among all media outlets in the Victoria District, which includes the counties of Calhoun, De Witt, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca, and Victoria. The EAS is important to alert the citizens of the Victoria Crossroads area to stay out of harm's way. Public outreach has expanded through the development of the Emergency Managers Weather Information Network and by establishing a system to relay warnings from NOAA Weather Radio to the media.

During anticipated significant weather events, the NWS special liaison officer for Victoria is detailed to the main Victoria fire station or the designated Victoria Emergency Operations Center. The special liaison officer coordinates severe weather/flood information between Victoria and the Corpus Christi office.

When severe warnings are issued for the Victoria area, the Corpus Christi office calls the Victoria 911 dispatcher immediately, who in turn, relays the warnings to the local police, sheriff, and fire department. The Corpus Christi office also calls the Victoria Department of Public Safety when warnings are issued and faxes warning information to the Calhoun County Emergency Management Center.

Whenever thunderstorm activity approaches Victoria County, an extra meteorologist is called into the Corpus Christi office. This meteorologist coordinates warning information for the Victoria area and ensures the Victoria County Emergency Operations Center, fire department, and TV25 Chief Meteorologist are notified of severe weather warnings.

The NWS is committed to providing accurate and timely products and services to the Victoria community for the protection of life and property.

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### **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 Indonesia**

October 12, 1999.

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

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

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 19, 1999.

**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, call (202) 927-5850, or refer to the U.S. Customs website at <http://www.customs.ustreas.gov>. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, call (202) 482-3715.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

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

The current limits for certain categories are being adjusted for swing and special shift.

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 63 FR 71096, published on December 23, 1998). Also

see 63 FR 69055, published on December 15, 1998.

**Troy H. Cribb,**

*Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.*

**Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements**

October 12, 1999.

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 December 8, 1998, 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, produced or manufactured in Indonesia and exported during the twelve-month period which began on January 1, 1999 and extends through December 31, 1999.

Effective on October 19, 1999, you are directed to adjust the limits for the categories listed below, as provided for under the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing:

Category	Adjusted twelve-month limit <sup>1</sup>
<b>Levels in Group I</b>	
200 .....	981,514 kilograms.
219 .....	9,022,696 square meters.
300/301 .....	4,905,437 kilograms.
313-O <sup>2</sup> .....	13,424,887 square meters.
314-O <sup>3</sup> .....	58,427,796 square meters.
315-O <sup>4</sup> .....	29,512,104 square meters.
317-O <sup>5</sup> /326-O <sup>6</sup> /617	23,974,136 square meters of which not more than 4,167,829 square meters shall be in Category 326-O.
331/631 .....	2,400,369 dozen pairs.
338/339 .....	1,569,959 dozen.
340/640 .....	1,803,659 dozen.
341 .....	1,067,415 dozen.
347/348 .....	2,126,793 dozen.
350/650 .....	139,056 dozen.
351/651 .....	625,907 dozen.
359-C/659-C <sup>7</sup> .....	1,551,167 kilograms.
359-S/659-S <sup>8</sup> .....	1,319,336 kilograms.
433 .....	12,724 dozen.
443 .....	96,036 numbers.
445/446 .....	67,252 dozen.
448 .....	24,718 dozen.
611-O <sup>9</sup> .....	4,226,276 square meters.
613/614/615 .....	21,756,916 square meters.
618-O <sup>10</sup> .....	922,217 square meters.
619/620 .....	10,472,294 square meters.
625/626/627/628/629-O <sup>11</sup> .....	26,113,499 square meters.
634/635 .....	372,545 dozen.
638/639 .....	1,577,285 dozen.
641 .....	2,439,735 dozen.

Category	Adjusted twelve-month limit <sup>1</sup>
645/646 .....	685,322 dozen.
647/648 .....	3,697,613 dozen.
847 .....	384,853 dozen.
Subgroup in Group II	
400, 410, 414, 431, 434, 435, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 459pt., 464 and 469pt., as a group.	3,206,640 square meters equivalent.

<sup>1</sup> The limits have not been adjusted to account for any imports exported after December 31, 1998.

<sup>2</sup> Category 313-O: all HTS numbers except 5208.52.3035, 5208.52.4035 and 5209.51.6032.

<sup>3</sup> Category 314-O: all HTS numbers except 5209.51.6015.

<sup>4</sup> Category 315-O: all HTS numbers except 5208.52.4055.

<sup>5</sup> Category 317-O: all HTS numbers except 5208.59.2085.

<sup>6</sup> Category 326-O: all HTS numbers except 5208.59.2015, 5209.59.0015 and 5211.59.0015.

<sup>7</sup> 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; 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.

<sup>8</sup> Category 359-S: only HTS numbers 6112.39.0010, 6112.49.0010, 6211.11.8010, 6211.11.8020, 6211.12.8010 and 6211.12.8020; 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.

<sup>9</sup> Category 611-O: all HTS numbers except 5516.14.0005, 5516.14.0025 and 5516.14.0085.

<sup>10</sup> Category 618-O: all HTS numbers except 5408.24.9010 and 5408.24.9040.

<sup>11</sup> Category 625/626/627/628; Category 629-O: all HTS numbers except 5408.34.9085 and 5516.24.0085.

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,  
Troy H. Cribb,

*Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.*

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**COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS**

**Announcement of Levels for Certain Cotton, Wool and Man-Made Fiber Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in the United Mexican States**

October 6, 1999.

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

**ACTION:** Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs establishing levels under the North America Free Trade Agreement.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** January 1, 2000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Naomi Freeman, 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, call (202) 927-5850, or refer to the U.S. Customs website at <http://www.customs.ustreas.gov>. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, call (202) 482-3715.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

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

In order to implement Annex 300-B of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), restrictions and consultation levels for certain cotton, wool and man-made fiber textile products from Mexico are being established for the period beginning on January 1, 2000 and extending through December 31, 2000.

These restrictions and consultation levels do not apply to NAFTA originating goods, as defined in Annex 300-B, Chapter 4 and Annex 401 of the NAFTA. In addition, restrictions and consultation levels do not apply to textile and apparel goods that are assembled in Mexico from fabrics wholly formed and cut in the United States and exported from and re-imported into the United States under U.S. tariff item 9802.00.90.

In the letter published below, the Chairman of CITA directs the Commissioner of Customs to implement levels for the 2000 period.

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