

**COMMITTEE FOR THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE  
AGREEMENTS**

**Announcement of Public Comment  
Period on the Elimination of the Paper  
Visa Requirement with the Hong Kong  
Special Administrative Regime of the  
People's Republic of China (HKSAR)**

June 26, 2001.

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

**ACTION:** Seeking public comments on the  
elimination of the paper visa  
requirement with the HKSAR.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lori  
Mennitt, Office of Textiles and Apparel,  
U.S. Department of Commerce, (202)  
482-3400.

**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 Electronic Visa Information  
System (ELVIS) allows foreign  
governments to electronically transfer  
shipment information to the U.S.  
Customs Service on textile and apparel  
shipments. On November 9, 1995, a  
notice was published in the **Federal  
Register** (61 FR 56576) seeking public  
comments on the implementation of  
ELVIS. Subsequently, a document  
published on December 29, 1998 (63 FR  
71621) announced that, starting on  
January 1, 1999, the HKSAR would  
implement the ELVIS system. This  
implementation did not eliminate the  
requirement for a valid paper visa to  
accompany each shipment for entry into  
the United States.

As a result of successful use of the  
dual visa system, preparations are under  
way to move beyond the current dual  
system to the paperless ELVIS system  
with Hong Kong.

The Committee for the  
Implementation of Textile Agreements  
is requesting interested parties to submit  
comments on the elimination of the  
paper visa requirement for Hong Kong  
and utilization of the ELVIS system  
exclusively. Comments must be  
received on or before *insert date 60 days  
from publication*. Comments may be  
mailed to D. Michael Hutchinson,  
Acting Chairman, Committee for the  
Implementation of Textile Agreements,  
room 3001, U.S. Department of  
Commerce, 14th and Constitution  
Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20230.

The Committee for the  
Implementation of Textile Agreements  
has determined that this action falls  
within the foreign affairs exception of

the rulemaking provisions of 5  
U.S.C.553(a)(1).

**D. Michael Hutchinson,**

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

[FR Doc.01-16590 Filed 6-29-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-DR-S**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE  
AGREEMENTS**

**Cancellation of Certain Export Visa  
Requirements for Certain Cotton,  
Wool, Man-Made Fiber, Silk Blend and  
Other Vegetable Fiber Textiles and  
Textile Products Produced or  
Manufactured in Lesotho**

June 26, 2001.

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

**ACTION:** Issuing a directive to the  
Commissioner of Customs canceling  
certain export visa requirements.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** August 20, 2001.

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

**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.

On December 9, 1992, the  
Governments of the United States and  
the Kingdom of Lesotho agreed to  
establish an export visa arrangement for  
certain textiles and textile products,  
produced or manufactured in Lesotho  
and exported from Lesotho. CITA  
directed the U.S. Customs Service to  
prohibit entry of textile and textile  
products covered by the arrangement for  
which the Government of Lesotho had  
not issued an appropriate export visa.  
(See 58 FR 26121, published on April  
30, 1993).

The African Growth and Opportunity  
Act (AGOA) provides that eligible  
textile and apparel articles enter free of  
duty and free of quantitative limitation,  
provided, *inter alia*, that the country has  
adopted an effective visa system to  
prevent unlawful transshipment of the  
articles and the use of counterfeit  
documents relating to importation of the  
articles into the United States. Pursuant  
to this requirement, the Governments of  
the United States and Lesotho agreed to  
a new, AGOA visa system, which  
entered into effect on April 23, 2001.

(See 66 FR 21192, published on April  
27, 2001)

As a result of the new, AGOA visa  
system, the Governments of the United  
States and Lesotho have agreed to  
terminate the 1992 visa arrangement,  
effective August 20, 2001. On and after  
this date, textiles and textile products  
will not be subject to the requirements  
of the 1992 visa arrangement. However,  
importers claiming preferential tariff  
treatment under the AGOA for entries of  
textile and apparel articles should  
ensure that those entries meet the  
requirements of the new, AGOA visa  
system. (See 66 FR 7837, published on  
January 25, 2001).

**D. Michael Hutchinson,**

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

**Committee for the Implementation of Textile  
Agreements**

June 26, 2001.

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

Dear Commissioner: This directive cancels  
and supersedes the directive issued to you on  
April 23, 1993, by the Chairman, Committee  
for the Implementation of Textile  
Agreements. That directive directs you to  
prohibit entry of certain cotton, wool, man-  
made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable  
fiber textiles and textile products, produced  
or manufactured in Lesotho which were not  
properly visaed by the Government of  
Lesotho.

The African Growth and Opportunity Act  
(AGOA) provides that eligible textile and  
apparel articles enter free of duty and free of  
quantitative limitation, provided, *inter alia*,  
that the country has adopted an effective visa  
system to prevent unlawful transshipment of  
the articles and the use of counterfeit  
documents relating to importation of the  
articles into the United States. Pursuant to  
this requirement, the Governments of the  
United States and Lesotho agreed to a new,  
AGOA visa system, which entered into effect  
on April 23, 2001. (See 66 FR 21192,  
published on April 27, 2001)

As a result of the new, AGOA visa system,  
the Governments of the United States and  
Lesotho have agreed to terminate the 1992  
visa arrangement, effective August 20, 2001.  
On and after this date, textiles and textile  
products will not be subject to the  
requirements of the 1992 visa arrangement.  
However, importers claiming preferential  
tariff treatment under the AGOA for entries  
of textile and apparel articles should ensure  
that those entries meet the requirements of  
the new, AGOA visa system. (See 66 FR  
7837, published on January 25, 2001).

Therefore, effective on August 20, 2001,  
you are directed to terminate the textile visa  
requirement set forth in the April 23, 1993  
directive. Importers claiming preferential  
tariff treatment under the AGOA for entries  
of textile and apparel articles must continue  
to meet the requirements of the new, AGOA  
visa system. (See 66 FR 7837, published on  
January 25, 2001)

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,

D. Michael Hutchinson,

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

[FR Doc. 01-16591 Filed 6-29-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-DR-F**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary

#### Proposed Collection; Comment Request

**AGENCY:** Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness).

**ACTION:** Notice.

In compliance with section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) announces the following proposed reinstatement of a public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is a necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

**DATES:** Consideration will be given to all comments received by August 31, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) (Force Management Policy/Military

Personnel Policy/Compensation), ATTN: Thomas R. Tower, 4000 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-4000.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instruments, please write to the above address or call (703) 693-1059.

*Title, Associated Form, and OMB Control Number:* Application for Annuity Certain Military Surviving Spouses, Form #: DD Form 2769, OMB Number: 0704-0402.

*Needs and Uses:* This information collection requirement is necessary to identify and pay surviving spouses who meet the criteria established for benefits under the provisions of The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998, Public Law 105-85, Section 644, as amended. The DD Form 2769, "Application for Annuity—Certain Military Surviving Spouses," used in this information collection, provides a vehicle for the surviving spouse to apply for the annuity benefit. The Department will use this information to determine if the applicant is eligible for the annuity benefit and make payment to the surviving spouse. The respondents of this information collection are a never-remarried surviving spouse of a member of a Uniformed Service who (1) died before March 21, 1974, and was entitled to retired or retainer pay on the date of death, or (2) was a member of a Reserve Component of the Armed Forces who died before October 1, 1978 and on the date of death would have been entitled to retired pay except for not yet being 60 years of age.

*Affected Public:* Individuals.

*Annual Burden Hours:* 200.

*Number of Respondents:* 200.

*Responses Per Respondent:* 1.

*Average Burden per Response:* 1 hour.

*Frequency:* On occasion.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Summary of Information Collection**

The National Defense Authorization Act of FY 1998, Public Law 105-85,

section 644, requires the Secretary of Defense to pay an annuity to qualified surviving spouses. As required by the Act, no benefit shall be paid to any person under this section unless an application for such benefit is filed with the Secretary concerned by or on behalf of such person. This information collection is needed to obtain the necessary data so that the Department can determine if the applicant is eligible for the annuity benefit and make payment to the surviving spouse.

Dated: June 25, 2001.

**Patricia L. Toppings,**

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.*

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**BILLING CODE 5001-08-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary

[Transmittal No. 01-20]

#### **36(b)(1) Arms Sales Notification**

**AGENCY:** Department of Defense, Defense Security Cooperation Agency.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Defense is publishing the unclassified text of a section 36(b)(91) arms sales notification. This is published to fulfill the requirements of section 155 of P.L. 104-164 dated 21 July 1996.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ms. J. Hurd, DSCA/COMPT/RM, (703) 604-6575.

The following is a copy of a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, transmittal 01-20 with attached transmittal, policy justification, and Sensitivity of Technology.

Dated: June 25, 2001.

**L.M. Bynum,**

*Alternative OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.*

**BILLING CODE 5001-10-M**