

that currently or could pose market barriers.

3. Principal topics. Describe the suggested topics for the workshop, for inclusion in a plenary session and break-out sessions.

4. Please state which venue for holding the workshop, the U.S. (Washington, DC area) or China (Beijing), would be most convenient and include a brief explanation as to why.

5. Proposed foreign participants. Provide a representative list of the organizations that you would like to see invited to participate in the workshop, including a description of their function or business and their country of incorporation or origin. Also, please identify potential Chinese participants and speakers.

6. U.S. stakeholder participants (*e.g.*, associations, agencies, companies, users, others). Provide a list of the U.S.-based organizations that are likely to partner with you for participation in the workshop.

7. Proposed focus area objectives. Describe the intended goals to be attained and why they are important.

Additional information about the first three workshops in this series is available at <http://ts.nist.gov/ts/htdocs/210/gsig/apec1.htm#workshop>, <http://www.technology.gov/Prel/pr040819.htm>, <http://www.mac.doc.gov/china/workshop%20summary.htm>.

Dated: December 8, 2004.

Hratch G. Semerjian,
Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 04-27646 Filed 12-16-04; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Cancellation of Visa, ELVIS, Guaranteed Access Level (GAL) Certification, and Exempt Certification Requirements for Member Countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO)

December 14, 2004.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection canceling visa requirements for WTO member countries.

DATES: *Effective Date:* January 1, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Philip J. Martello, Director, Trade and Data Division, Office of Textiles and

Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-3400.

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 WTO Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC), approved by Congress as part of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act, provides for the integration of the textiles and clothing sectors into the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994. In accordance with its obligations under the ATC, and consistent with Section 331 of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act and the schedule announced by CITA on May 1, 1995 (60 FR 21075), the United States will no longer impose textile and apparel quotas under the ATC for goods exported on or after January 1, 2005. Consistent with these obligations, the United States has informed its trading partners with whom it has entered into visa arrangements in order to carry out such quotas and which are members of the WTO that such visa arrangements will be terminated and will not apply to goods exported from the country of origin on and after January 1, 2005.

In the letter below, CITA instructs the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection to cancel all requirements for visas, ELVIS transmissions, GAL certifications, and exempt certifications, for goods exported from the country of origin on or after January 1, 2005. For goods that are the product of countries that are not members of the WTO, applicable requirements for visas, ELVIS transmissions, GAL certifications, and exempt certifications will remain in effect.

James C. Leonard III,
Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

Commissioner, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, Washington, DC 20229.

Dear Commissioner: This directive cancels all previous directives concerning requirements for visa, ELVIS transmissions, Guaranteed Access Level (GAL) Certifications, and Exempt Certifications, issued to you by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, for the following countries, covering cotton, wool, man-made fiber, silk blend and non-cotton vegetable fiber textile and textile products subject to the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing, effective for goods exported from those countries on and after January 1, 2005: Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, Guatemala, Haiti, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Korea,

Lebanon, Macau, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Macedonia, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Poland, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Trinidad, Turkey, UAE, and Uruguay.

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreement has determined that this action falls within the foreign affairs exception to the rulemaking provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(1).

Sincerely,
James C. Leonard III,
Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc. 04-27789 Filed 12-15-04; 4:05 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-U

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Solicitation of Public Comments on Request for Textile and Apparel Safeguard Action on Imports From China

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

ACTION: Solicitation of public comments concerning a request for safeguard action on imports from China of knit fabric (Category 222).

SUMMARY: The Committee has received a request from the National Council of Textile Organizations, the National Textile Association, the American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition, and UNITE HERE! (Requestors) asking the Committee to reapply the limit on imports from China of knit fabric in accordance with the textile and apparel safeguard provision of the Working Party on the Accession of China to the World Trade Organization (the Accession Agreement). On December 24, 2003 the Committee established an Accession Agreement limit on imports from China of knit fabric, which will expire on December 23, 2004. The Committee hereby solicits public comments on this request.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jay Dowling, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4058.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Authority: Section 204 of the Agriculture Act of 1956, as amended; Executive Order 11651, as amended.

Background

The textile and apparel safeguard provision of the Accession Agreement provides for the United States and other members of the World Trade Organization that believe imports of

Chinese origin textile and apparel products are, due to market disruption, threatening to impede the orderly development of trade in these products to request consultations with China with a view to easing or avoiding the disruption. Pursuant to this provision, if the United States requests consultations with China, it must, at the time of the request, provide China with a detailed factual statement showing “(1) the existence or threat of market disruption; and (2) the role of products of Chinese origin in that disruption.” Beginning on the date that it receives such a request, China must restrict its shipments to the United States to a level no greater than 7.5 percent (6 percent for wool product categories) above the amount entered during the first 12 months of the most recent 14 months preceding the request. If exports from China exceed that amount, the United States may enforce the restriction.

The Committee has published procedures (the Procedures) it follows in considering requests for Accession Agreement textile and apparel safeguard actions (68 FR 27787, May 21, 2003; 68 FR 49440, August 18, 2003), including the information that must be included in such requests in order for the Committee to consider them.

On November 19, 2004, the Requestors asked the Committee to reapply an Accession Agreement textile and apparel safeguard action on imports from China of knit fabric (Category 222) on the grounds that an anticipated increase in imports of knit fabric after December 23, 2004, threatens to disrupt the U.S. market for knit fabric. The request is available at http://otexa.ita.doc.gov/Safeguard_intro.htm. In light of the considerations set forth in the Procedures, the Committee has determined that the Requestors have provided the information necessary for the Committee to consider the request.

The Committee is soliciting public comments on the request, in particular with regard to whether there is a threat of disruption to the U.S. market for knit fabric and, if so, the role of Chinese-origin knit fabric in that disruption. To this end, the Committee seeks relevant information addressing factors such as the following, which may be relevant in the particular circumstances of this case, involving a product under a quota that will expire on December 23, 2004: (1) Whether imports of knit fabric from China are entering, or are expected to enter, the United States at prices that are substantially below prices of the like or directly competitive U.S. product, and whether those imports are likely to have a significant depressing or suppressing effect on domestic prices of the like or

directly competitive U.S. product or are likely to increase demand for further imports from China; (2) whether exports of Chinese-origin knit fabric to the United States are likely to increase substantially and imminently (due to existing unused production capacity, to capacity that can easily be shifted from the production of other products to the production of knit fabric, or to an imminent and substantial increase in production capacity or investment in production capacity), taking into account the availability of other markets to absorb any additional exports; (3) whether Chinese-origin knit fabrics that are presently sold in the Chinese market or in third-country markets will be diverted to the U.S. market in the imminent future (for example, due to more favorable pricing in the U.S. market or to existing or imminent import restraints into third country markets); (4) the level and the extent of any recent change in inventories of knit fabric in China or in U.S. bonded warehouses; (5) whether conditions of the domestic industry of the like or directly competitive product demonstrate that market disruption is likely (as may be evident from any anticipated factory closures or decline in investment in the production of knit fabric, and whether actual or anticipated imports of Chinese-origin knit fabric are likely to affect the development and production efforts of the U.S. knit fabric industry; and (6) whether U.S. managers, retailers, purchasers, importers, or other market participants have recognized Chinese producers of knit fabric as potential suppliers (for example, through pre-qualification procedures or framework agreements).

Comments may be submitted by any interested person. Comments must be received no later than January 18, 2005. Interested persons are invited to submit ten copies of such comments to the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, Room 3001A, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20230.

The Committee will protect any business confidential information that is marked business confidential from disclosure to the full extent permitted by law. To the extent that business confidential information is provided, two copies of a non-confidential version must also be provided in which business confidential information is summarized or, if necessary, deleted. Comments received, with the exception of information marked “business confidential”, will be available for inspection between Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. in the Trade

Reference and Assistance Center Help Desk, Suite 800M, USA Trade Information Center, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC, (202) 482-3433.

The Committee will make a determination within 60 calendar days of the close of the comment period as to whether the United States will request consultations with China. If the Committee is unable to make a determination within 60 calendar days, it will cause to be published a notice in the **Federal Register**, including the date by which it will make a determination. If the Committee makes a negative determination, it will cause this determination and the reasons therefore to be published in the **Federal Register**. If the Committee makes an affirmative determination that imports of Chinese-origin knit fabric threaten to disrupt the U.S. market, the United States will request consultations with China with a view to easing or avoiding the disruption.

James C. Leonard, III,
Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Modification to Announcement of Intent To Initiate the Process To Remove Aeronautical Information From Public Sale and Distribution

AGENCY: National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice modification.

SUMMARY: After initial feedback from the public on NGA's notice in Federal Register Volume 69, Number 222, pages 67546-67547, NGA has determined that a period of public comment will benefit the final decision on this policy issue. Therefore, NGA is inviting public comment on the proposed action to withdraw aeronautical data and products from public distribution. The period of comment will be open from the date of this Register until 30 June 2005. NGA will consider all comments when making the final decision to go forward with this proposed action, in part, in whole, or not at all.

DATES: Period of Public Comment: December 17, 2004 to 30 June 2005. Proposed Implementation Date of final Decision: 1 October 2005.