

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Request for Public Comments on Commercial Availability Petition under the United States - Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA)

February 8, 2006.

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

ACTION: Request for public comments concerning a petition for a determination that certain 100 percent cotton, 3- or 4-thread twill weave, flannel fabrics cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner under the CBTPA.

SUMMARY: On February 7, 2006, the Chairman of CITA received a petition from Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg, P.A., on behalf of B*W*A of New York, New York, alleging that certain 100 percent cotton, 3- or 4-thread twill weave, flannel fabrics, of yarn-dyed, combed and ring spun single yarns, of the specifications detailed below, classified in subheading 5208.43.0000 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS), cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner. The petition requests that woven cotton shirts, blouses, and dressing gowns of such fabrics assembled in one or more CBTPA beneficiary countries be eligible for preferential treatment under the CBTPA. CITA hereby solicits public comments on this petition, in particular with regard to whether these fabrics can be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner. Comments must be submitted by February 28, 2006 to the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, Room 3001, United States Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maria K. Dybczak, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-3400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 213(b)(2)(A)(v)(II) of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, as added by Section 211(a) of the CBTPA; Section 6 of Executive Order No. 13191 of January 17, 2001.

Background:

The CBTPA provides for quota- and duty-free treatment for qualifying textile

and apparel products. Such treatment is generally limited to products manufactured from yarns or fabrics formed in the United States. The CBTPA also provides for quota- and duty-free treatment for apparel articles that are both cut (or knit-to-shape) and sewn or otherwise assembled in one or more CBTPA beneficiary countries from fabric or yarn that is not formed in the United States, if it has been determined that such fabric or yarn cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner. In Executive Order No. 13191, the President delegated to CITA the authority to determine whether yarns or fabrics cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner under the CBTPA and directed CITA to establish procedures to ensure appropriate public participation in any such determination. On March 6, 2001, CITA published procedures that it will follow in considering requests (66 FR 13502).

On February 7, 2006, the Chairman of CITA received a petition on behalf of B*W*A of New York, New York, alleging that certain 100 percent cotton, 3- or 4-thread twill weave, flannel fabrics, of yarn-dyed, combed and ring spun single yarns, of the specifications detailed below, classified HTSUS subheading 5208.43.0000, cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner and requesting quota- and duty-free treatment under the CBTPA for woven cotton shirts, blouses and dressing gowns that are cut and sewn in one or more CBTPA beneficiary countries from such fabrics.

Specifications:

Fiber Content:	100% Cotton
Weight:	98 - 150 g/m ²
Thread Count:	39 - 66 warp ends per centimeter; 27 - 39 filling picks per centimeter;
Yarn Number:	84 - 86 metric warp and filling, ring spun, combed;
Weave:	3- or 4-thread twill;
Finish:	Of yarns of different colors; plaids, checks and stripes, napped on both sides, and pre-shrunk.

The petitioner emphasizes that the fabrics in question are made of yarn dyed with fiber reactive dyes, that are combed and ring spun, and that the finished fabric must be napped on both sides, and pre-shrunk.

CITA is soliciting public comments regarding this request, particularly with respect to whether these fabrics can be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner. Also relevant is whether other

fabrics that are supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner are substitutable for the fabric for purposes of the intended use. Comments must be received no later than February 28, 2006. Interested persons are invited to submit six copies of such comments or information to the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, Room 3100, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th St. N.W. and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20230.

If a comment alleges that these fabrics can be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner, CITA will closely review any supporting documentation, such as a signed statement by a manufacturer of the fabric stating that it produces the fabric that is the subject of the request, including the quantities that can be supplied and the time necessary to fill an order, as well as any relevant information regarding past production.

CITA will protect any business confidential information that is marked "business confidential" from disclosure to the full extent permitted by law. CITA generally considers specific details, such as quantities and lead times for providing the subject product as business confidential. However, information such as the names of domestic manufacturers who were contacted, questions concerning the capability to manufacture the subject product, and the responses thereto should be available for public review to ensure proper public participation in the process. If this is not possible, an explanation of the necessity for treating such information as business confidential must be provided. CITA will make available to the public non-confidential versions of the request and non-confidential versions of any public comments received with respect to a request in Room 3100 in the Herbert Hoover Building, 14th St. N.W. and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20230. Persons submitting comments on a request are encouraged to include a non-confidential version and a non-confidential summary.

James C. Leonard III,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc.06-1370 Filed 2-9-06; 2:29 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-S