

Dated: January 18, 2008.

Emily H. Menashes,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E8-1311 Filed 1-24-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Request for Public Comment on Short Supply Petition Under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)

January 18, 2008.

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

ACTION: Request for Public Comments concerning a request for modification of the NAFTA rules of origin for warp pile fabric made from solution dyed, wet spun acrylic fiber.

SUMMARY: On January 14, 2008, the Chairman of CITA received a request from Glen Raven Custom Fabrics LLC, alleging that certain solution dyed, wet spun acrylic fibers, not carded, combed or otherwise processed for spinning, classified under subheading 5503.30 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS), cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner and requesting that CITA consider whether the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) rule of origin for warp pile fabrics, classified under HTSUS subheading 5801.35, should be modified to allow the use of non-North American solution dyed, wet spun acrylic fiber. The President may proclaim a modification to the NAFTA rules of origin only after reaching an agreement with the other NAFTA countries on the modification. CITA hereby solicits public comments on this request, in particular with regard to whether solution dyed, wet spun acrylic fiber of HTSUS subheading 5503.30 can be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner. Comments must be submitted by February 25, 2008 to the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, Room 3001, United States Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Maria Dybczak, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-3651.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Authority:* Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of

1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Section 202(q) of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 3332(q)); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended.

Background: Under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), NAFTA countries are required to eliminate customs duties on textile and apparel goods that qualify as originating goods under the NAFTA rules of origin, which are set out in Annex 401 to the NAFTA. The NAFTA provides that the rules of origin for textile and apparel products may be amended through a subsequent agreement by the NAFTA countries. See Section 202(q) of the NAFTA Implementation Act. In consultations regarding such a change, the NAFTA countries are to consider issues of availability of supply of fibers, yarns, or fabrics in the free trade area and whether domestic producers are capable of supplying commercial quantities of the good in a timely manner. The Statement of Administrative Action (SAA) that accompanied the NAFTA Implementation Act stated that any interested person may submit to CITA a request for a modification to a particular rule of origin based on a change in the availability in North America of a particular fiber, yarn or fabric and that the requesting party would bear the burden of demonstrating that a change is warranted. NAFTA Implementation Act, SAA, H. Doc. 103-159, Vol. 1, at 491 (1993). The SAA provides that CITA may make a recommendation to the President regarding a change to a rule of origin for a textile or apparel good. SAA at 491. The NAFTA Implementation Act provides the President with the authority to proclaim modifications to the NAFTA rules of origin as are necessary to implement an agreement with one or more NAFTA country on such a modification. See section 202(q) of the NAFTA Implementation Act.

On January 14, 2008, the Chairman of CITA received a request from Glen Raven Custom Fabrics, LLC, alleging that certain acrylic fibers, not carded, combed or otherwise processed for spinning, classified under subheading 5503.30 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS), cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner and requesting that CITA consider whether the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) rule of origin for warp pile fabrics, classified under HTSUS subheading 5801.35, should be modified to allow the use of non-North American acrylic fiber.

CITA is soliciting public comments regarding this request, particularly with

respect to whether the solution dyed, wet spun acrylic fiber described above can be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner. Comments must be received no later than February 25, 2008. 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 and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230.

If a comment alleges that these acrylic staple fibers 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 stating that it produces fiber 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 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 3001 in the Herbert Hoover Building, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20230. Persons submitting comments on a request are encouraged to include a non-confidential version and a non-confidential summary.

R. Matthew Priest,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc. E8-1269 Filed 1-24-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-P

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Written Notice to the Government of Honduras of Intent To Apply a Textile Safeguard Measure on Imports from Honduras of Cotton Socks

January 18, 2008.

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Committee is submitting written notice to the Government of Honduras with respect to its intent to apply a textile safeguard measure on imports of Honduran origin cotton socks (Category 332).

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: *Authority:* Title III, Subtitle B, Section 321 through Section 328 of the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement (“CAFTA–DR” or the “Agreement”) Implementation Act; Article 3.23 of the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement.

Notice

On January 18, 2007, as provided for under Article 3.23 of the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement, the United States submitted written notice to the Government of Honduras with respect to its intent to apply a textile safeguard measure on imports of Honduran origin cotton socks (Category 332).

Background

On August 21, 2007, the Committee initiated a safeguard proceeding to determine whether imports of Honduran cotton, wool, and man-made fiber socks (merged Category 332/432 and 632 part) are causing serious damage, or actual threat thereof, to the U.S. industry producing socks, (72 FR 46611, August 21, 2007). The initiation of the safeguard proceeding launched a 30-day period during which interested parties and stakeholders submitted comments. In accordance with section 4 of the Committee’s Procedures for considering action under the CAFTA–DR textile and apparel safeguard, (71 FR 25157, April 28, 2006), the Committee has determined that it intends to apply a textile safeguard measure with respect to imports of Honduran origin cotton socks (Category 332). This determination is based on the comments received and information available to the Committee that demonstrates that safeguard measures are warranted with respect to Honduran origin cotton socks falling within Category 332, which represent approximately 99% of the imports subject to this safeguard inquiry. The Committee notes that it is not at this time making a determination to apply a safeguard measure with respect to wool and man-made fiber socks (Categories 432 and 632 Part, respectively), that were part of this original safeguards inquiry.

Article 3.23(4) of the Agreement provides that, following receipt of written notice by an importing Party of intent to apply a safeguard measure, the exporting Party may request consultations. Article 3.23(4) further provides that, upon receipt of a request

for consultations, the United States and the Government of Honduras shall begin consultations without delay and shall be completed within 60 days of the date of the request for consultations. The United States shall make a decision on whether to apply a safeguard measure within 30 days of completion of the consultations.

If the United States decides in the affirmative, the United States would increase the duty on all Honduran origin cotton socks within Category 332 (including those knit in the United States) to a level that does not exceed the lesser of: (a) The prevailing U.S. normal trade relations (NTR)/most-favored-nation (MFN) duty rate for the article at the time the measure is applied; or (b) the U.S. NTR/MFN applied duty rate in effect on the date of entry into force of the CAFTA–DR, currently 13.5% for most socks imported from Honduras. The Committee is further considering the appropriate safeguard tariff rate that would be applied to imported cotton socks from Honduras.

Article 3.23 of the Agreement provides that, no Party may maintain a textile safeguard measure for a period exceeding three years. In this case, the Committee has further determined that, if at the conclusion of the consultation period, the United States decides in the affirmative, the United States would apply a safeguard measure on imports of Honduran origin cotton socks (Category 332) until December 31, 2008, to coincide with the expiring limits on cotton sock imports from China.

In the event that safeguard measures are applied by the United States, the United States would have to provide mutually agreed and substantially equivalent compensation in textile and apparel products to Honduras. If the United States and Honduras are unable to agree on compensation within 30 days of the application of a textile safeguard measure, Honduras may take tariff action of a substantially equivalent trade effect.

R. Matthew Priest,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc. 08–290 Filed 1–18–08; 4:53 pm]

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COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meetings

TIME AND DATE: 10:30 a.m., Thursday, January 24, 2008.

PLACE: 1155 21st St., NW., Washington, DC, 9th Floor Commission Conference Room.

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: Enforcement Matters.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Sauntia S. Warfield, 202–418–5084.

David A. Stawick,

Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 08–326 Filed 1–22–08; 4:21 pm]

BILLING CODE 6351–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces Code Committee Meeting

AGENCY: Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the forthcoming public meeting of the Code Committee established by Article 146(a), Uniform Code of Military Justice, 10 U.S.C. 946(a), to be held at the Courthouse of the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, 450 E. Street, NW., Washington, DC 20441–0001, at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, March 4, 2008. The agenda for this meeting will include consideration of proposed changes to the Uniform Code of Military Justice and the Manual for Courts-Martial, United States, and other matters relating to the operation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice throughout the Armed Forces.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

William A. DeCicco, Clerk of Court, United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, 450 E Street, NW., Washington, DC 20442–0001, telephone (202) 761–1448.

Dated: January 17, 2008.

C.R. Choate,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 08–291 Filed 1–24–08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001–06–M