

launches on harbor seals and other pinnipeds are proposed for inclusion in the Incidental Harassment Authorization. These proposals include:

1. Avoidance, whenever possible, of launches during the harbor seal pupping season of February through May (the scheduled 1997 Taurus SLV launches are presently scheduled outside this period); and
2. Preference for night launches during the period of the year when harbor seals are hauled out in any numbers along the coast of North Vandenberg.

Monitoring and Reporting

The holder of the Incidental Harassment Authorization has proposed a monitoring program to assess the impact of Taurus SLV launches on the harbor seal haulouts in the vicinity of Spur Road and Purisima Point. The applicant proposes to monitor the harbor seal population at these locations for a period of 3 days prior to launch, immediately following launch, and for a 3-day period following launch. The monitoring will consist of a population assessment to determine if there is any reduction in numbers of animals or a notable change in behavior. Video and photographic monitoring of daylight launches would also be conducted if any launch takes place between February and September 1997. The applicant will also perform additional post-launch monitoring for any launches conducted during the harbor seal pupping season. OSC will conduct an acoustic (sound propagation) monitoring program for the first Taurus SLV launch at LSC-576E and the applicant will continue its program for prediction and monitoring focused sonic boom impacts on the NCI.

A report on this monitoring program would be required to be submitted prior to next year's authorization request, unless the monitoring indicated that serious injuries or mortalities had occurred that might relate to the launching. In this case, the authorization would require immediate notification of this fact to the Southwest Regional Director, NMFS.

Conclusions

Based upon information provided by the applicant, the results from monitoring a previous Taurus SLV launch, and previous reviews of the incidental take of harbor seals by this activity, NMFS believes that the short-term impact of the launching of Taurus SLVs is expected to result at worst, in a temporary reduction in utilization of the haulout as seals leave the beach for the safety of the water and may result

in a non-serious TTS injury to those harbor seals hauled out or on the water surface within approximately 3,000 ft of LSC-576E. The launching is not expected to result in any reduction in the number of harbor seals, and they are expected to continue to occupy the same area. In addition, there will not be any impact on the habitat itself. Based upon studies conducted for previous space vehicle launches at Vandenberg, significant long-term impacts on harbor seals at Vandenberg are unlikely but may eventually be determined by the frequency and timing of all launches at Vandenberg.

Proposed Authorization

NMFS proposes to issue an incidental harassment authorization for 1 year for launches of Taurus SLV at LSC-576E provided the monitoring and reporting requirements are implemented. NMFS has preliminarily determined that the proposed launches of Taurus SLVs at LSC-576E would result in the Level A harassment taking of only small numbers of harbor seals, will have a negligible impact on the harbor seal stock and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability for subsistence uses.

Information Solicited

NMFS requests interested persons to submit comments, information, and suggestions concerning this request (see **ADDRESSES**).

Dated: September 19, 1996.

Rennie S. Holt,

*Acting Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 96-24509 Filed 9-24-96; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Increase of a Guaranteed Access Level for Certain Wool Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in the Dominican Republic

September 19, 1996.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs increasing a guaranteed access level.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 25, 1996.

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 this level, refer to the Quota Status Reports posted on the bulletin boards of each Customs port or call (202) 927-5850. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, call (202) 482-3715.

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); Uruguay Round Agreements Act.

On the request of the Government of the Dominican Republic, the U.S. Government agreed to increase the 1996 Guaranteed Access Level for Category 448.

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 60 FR 65299, published on December 19, 1995). Also see 61 FR 1359, published on January 19, 1996.

The letter to the Commissioner of Customs and the actions taken pursuant to it are not designed to implement all of the provisions of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act and the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing, but are designed to assist only in the implementation of certain of their provisions.

D. Michael Hutchinson,

Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

September 19, 1996.

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 January 11, 1996, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton, wool and man-made fiber textile products, produced or manufactured in the Dominican Republic and exported during the twelve-month period which began on January 1, 1996 and extends through December 31, 1996.

Effective on September 25, 1996, you are directed to increase the Guaranteed Access Level for Category 448 to 100,000 dozen.

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).

Sincerely,
D. Michael Hutchinson,
*Acting Chairman, Committee for the
Implementation of Textile Agreements.*
[FR Doc. 96-24518 Filed 9-24-96; 8:45 am]
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**Adjustment of an Import Limit for
Certain Man-Made Fiber Textile
Products Produced of Manufactured in
Malaysia**

September 19, 1996.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the
Commissioner of Customs increasing a
limit.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 25, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ross
Arnold, International Trade Specialist,
Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S.
Department of Commerce, (202) 482-
4212. For information on the quota
status of this limit, refer to the Quota
Status Reports posted on the bulletin
boards of each Customs port or call
(202) 927-6712. For information on
embargoes and quota re-openings, call
(202) 482-3715.

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); Uruguay Round Agreements
Act.

The current limit for Category 619 is
being increased for carryover.

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 60 FR 65299,
published on December 19, 1995). Also
see 60 FR 62394, published on
December 6, 1995.

The letter to the Commissioner of
Customs and the actions taken pursuant
to it are not designed to implement all
of the provisions of the Uruguay Round
Agreements Act and the Uruguay Round
Agreement on Textiles and Clothing, but
are designed to assist only in the
implementation of certain of their
provisions.

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

Committee for the Implementation of Textile
Agreements

September 19, 1996.

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 November 29, 1995, by the
Chairman, Committee for the Implementation
of Textile Agreements. That directive
concerns imports of certain cotton, wool and
man-made fiber textiles and textile products
and silk blend and other vegetable fiber
apparel, produced or manufactured in
Malaysia and exported during the twelve-
month period which began on January 1,
1996 and extends through December 31,
1996.

Effective on September 25, 1996, you are
directed to increase the limit for Category 619
to 5,079,556 square meters¹, as provided for
under the terms of the Uruguay Round
Agreements Act and the Uruguay Round
Agreement on Textiles and Clothing.

The Committee for the Implementation of
Textile Agreements has determined that this
action falls within the foreign affairs
exception to 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.96-24517 Filed 9-24-96; 8:45 am]

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**Settlement of Import Limits for Certain
Wool Textile Products Produced or
Manufactured in Russia**

September 19, 1996.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the
Commissioner of Customs establishing a
limit.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1996.

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 this limit, refer to the
Quota Status Reports posted on the
bulletin boards of each Customs port or
call (202) 927-5850. For information on
embargoes and quota re-openings, call
(202) 482-3715.

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).

A notice published in the Federal
Register on September 20, 1995 (60 FR
48695) announces a request by the
Government of the United States for
consultations with the Government of

the Russian Federation with respect to
women's and girls' wool coats in
Category 435.

In a Memorandum of Understanding
(MOU) dated August 5, 1996, the
Governments of the United States and
the Russian Federation agree to
establish limits for wool textile products
in Category 435 for four consecutive
one-year periods, beginning on October
1, 1996 and extending through
September 30, 2000.

In the letter published below, the
Chairman of CITA directs the
Commissioner of Customs to establish a
limit for Category 435 for the period
October 1, 1996 through September 30,
1997.

This limit may be subject to revision
pursuant to the Uruguay Round
Agreements Act and the Uruguay Round
Agreement on Textiles and Clothing on
the date that the Russian Federation
becomes a member of the World Trade
Organization.

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 60 FR 65299,
published on December 19, 1995).

The letter to the Commissioner of
Customs and the actions taken pursuant
to it are not designed to implement all
of the provisions of the August 5, 1996
MOU, but are designed to assist only in
the implementation of certain of its
provisions.

D. Michael Hutchinson,

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

Committee for the Implementation of Textile
Agreements

September 19, 1996.

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

Dear Commissioner: Under the terms of
section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956,
as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); the
Memorandum of Understanding dated
August 5, 1996 between the Governments of
the United States and the Russian Federation;
and in accordance with the provisions of
Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as
amended, you are directed to prohibit,
effective on October 1, 1996, entry into the
United States for consumption and
withdrawal from warehouse for consumption
of wool textile products in Category 435,
produced or manufactured in the Russian
Federation and exported during the twelve-
month period beginning on October 1, 1996
and extending through September 30, 1997,
in excess of 51,000 dozen.

Textile products in Category 435 which
have been exported to the United States prior
to October 1, 1996 shall not be subject to this
directive.

¹ The limit has not been adjusted to account for
any imports exported after December 31, 1995.