

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Weather Service Modernization and Associated Restructuring

AGENCY: National Weather Service (NWS), NOAA, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice and opportunity for public comment.

SUMMARY: The National Weather Service (NWS) is publishing proposed certifications for the proposed consolidations of:

(1) Evansville Weather Service Office (WSO) into the future Paducah, Central Illinois, Indianapolis, and Louisville Weather Forecast Offices (WFO);

(2) Wichita Falls WSO into the future Oklahoma City and Dallas/Fort Worth WFOs; and

(3) Astoria WSO into the future Portland WFO.

In accordance with Public Law 102-567, the public will have 60-days in which to comment on these proposed consolidation certifications.

DATES: Comments are requested by February 25, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Requests for copies of the proposed consolidation packages should be sent to Tom Beaver, Room 09356, 1325 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910, telephone 301-713-0300. All comments should be sent to Tom Beaver at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Julie Scanlon at 301-713-1698 ext 151.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with section 706 of Public Law 102-567, the Secretary of Commerce must certify that these consolidations will not result in any degradation of service to the affected areas of responsibility and must publish the proposed consolidation certifications in the FR. The documentation supporting each proposed certification includes the following:

(1) A draft memorandum by the meteorologist-in-charge recommending the certification, the final of which will be endorsed by the Regional Director and the Assistant Administrator of the NWS if appropriate, after consideration of public comments and completion of consultation with the Modernization Transition Committee (the Committee);

(2) A description of local weather characteristics and weather-related concerns which affect the weather services provided within the service area;

(3) A comparison of the services provided within the service area and the

services to be provided after such action;

(4) A description of any recent or expected modernization of NWS operation which will enhance services in the service area;

(5) An identification of any area within the affected service area which would not receive coverage (at an elevation of 10,000 feet) by the next generation weather radar network;

(6) Evidence, based upon operational demonstration of modernized NWS operations, which was considered in reaching the conclusion that no degradation in service will result from such action including the WSR-88D Radar Commissioning Report(s), User Confirmation of Services Report(s), and the Decommissioning Readiness Report (as applicable); and

(7) A letter appointing the liaison officer.

These proposed certifications do not include any report of the Committee which could be submitted in accordance with sections 706(b)(6) and 707(c) of Public Law 102-567. In December 1995 the Committee decided that, in general, they would forego the optional consultation on proposed certifications. Instead, the Committee would just review certifications after the public comment period had closed so their consultation would be with the benefit of public comments that had been submitted.

This notice does not include the complete certification packages because they are too voluminous to publish. Copies of the certification packages and supporting documentation can be obtained through the contact listed above.

Once all public comments have been received and considered, the NWS will complete consultation with the Committee and determine whether to proceed with the final certifications. If decisions to certify are made, the Secretary of Commerce must publish the final certifications in the FR and transmit the certifications to the appropriate Congressional committees prior to consolidating the offices.

Dated: December 20, 1996.

Elbert W. Friday, Jr.,

Assistant Administrator for Weather Services.

[FR Doc. 96-32899 Filed 12-26-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-12-M

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Announcement; National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs 1997 Grant Program

The 1997 National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs Program has received an appropriation of \$6,000,000. Washington, DC organizations which perform or exhibit the arts in the nation's capital and fulfill the following requirements may request an application package by writing the Commission of Fine Arts, National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs Program, Pension Building, Suite 312, 441 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001.

Questions may be referred to Donald B. Myer, Program Administrator at 202-504-2200.

Charles H. Atherton,
Secretary.

1997 National Capital Arts and
Cultural Affairs Program

Guidelines

In Public Law 99-190, as amended, the U.S. Congress authorized a grant program to support artistic and cultural programs in the District of Columbia. Its purpose is to provide grants for general operating support to organizations whose primary purpose is performing, exhibiting and/or presenting the arts.

Eligibility to Apply: To be eligible for a grant from the National Capital Arts and Cultural Affairs Program, an organization must be designated in 20 U.S.C. 956a or must satisfy all the following criteria:

1. The organization must have its principal place of business in the District of Columbia and must have the primary purpose of performing, exhibiting, and/or presenting the arts;

2. The organization must be engaged primarily in performing, exhibiting and/or presenting the arts in a facility or facilities located in the District of Columbia;

a. "Performing" is the public presentation before a live audience of dance, theater, opera, music and related forms.

b. "Exhibiting" is the public display to a live audience of the visual arts, including, but not limited to painting, sculpture, photography, works on paper, textiles, crafts, cultural artifacts, and media arts.

c. "Presenting" is the programming and/or presentation of "Performing" or "Exhibiting" as defined above;

3. The organization must allocate a substantial portion of its annual income to exhibiting, performing and/or

presenting art in facilities located in the District of Columbia;

4. The organization must be a not-for-profit, non-academic institution of demonstrated national repute; and

5. The organization must have an annual income, exclusive of federal or pass-through federal funds, in excess of \$1 million for each of the three years prior to the year of application.

[FR Doc. 96-32904 Filed 12-26-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6330-01-M

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Announcement of Import Restraint Limits for Certain Cotton, Wool, Man-Made Fiber, Silk Blend and Other Vegetable Fiber Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Bahrain

December 20, 1996.

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

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet Heinzen, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212. For information on the quota status of these limits, 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.

The import restraint limits for textile products, produced or manufactured in Bahrain and exported during the period January 1, 1997 through December 31, 1997 are based on limits notified to the Textiles Monitoring Body pursuant to the Uruguay Round Agreements Act and the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC).

In the letter published below, the Chairman of CITA directs the Commissioner of Customs to establish the limits for the 1997 period.

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 61 FR 66263, published on December 17, 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 ATC, 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

December 20, 1996.

Commissioner of Customs,

Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20229.

Dear Commissioner: Pursuant to section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854), the Uruguay Round Agreements Act and the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC); and in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended, you are directed to prohibit, effective on January 1, 1997, entry into the United States for consumption and withdrawal from warehouse for consumption of cotton, wool, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textile products in the following categories, produced or manufactured in Bahrain and exported during the twelve-month period beginning on January 1, 1997 and extending through December 31, 1997, in excess of the following levels of restraint:

Category	Twelve-month restraint limit
Group I 237, 239, 330-336, 338, 339, 340- 342, 345, 347, 348-354, 359, 431-436, 438- 440, 442-448, 459, 630-636, 638, 639, 640- 647, 648, 649, 650-654, 659, 831-836, 838, 839, 840, 842- 847, 850-852, 858 and 859, as a group.	39,505,041 square meters equivalent.
Sublevels in Group I 338/339	548,930 dozen.
340/640	263,367 dozen of which not more than 197,525 dozen shall be in Categories 340-Y/640-Y ¹ .

¹ Category 340-Y: only HTS numbers 6205.20.2015, 6205.20.2020, 6205.20.2046, 6205.20.2050 and 6205.20.2060; Category 640-Y: only HTS numbers 6205.30.2010, 6205.30.2020, 6205.30.2050 and 6205.30.2060.

Imports charged to these category limits for the period January 1, 1996 through December

31, 1996 shall be charged against those levels of restraint to the extent of any unfilled balances. In the event the limits established for that period have been exhausted by previous entries, such goods shall be subject to the levels set forth in this directive.

The limits set forth above are subject to adjustment in the future pursuant to the provisions of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act, the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing and any administrative arrangements notified to the Textiles Monitoring Body.

In carrying out the above directions, the Commissioner of Customs should construe entry into the United States for consumption to include entry for consumption into the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements has determined that these actions fall 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. 96-32984 Filed 12-26-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-F

Announcement of Import Restraint Limits for Certain Cotton, Man-Made Fiber, Silk Blend and Other Vegetable Fiber Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Bangladesh

December 20, 1996.

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

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 1997.

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 these limits, 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.

The import restraint limits for textile products, produced or manufactured in Bangladesh and exported during the period January 1, 1997 through December 31, 1997 are based on the limits notified to the Textiles Monitoring Body pursuant to the