

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Patent and Trademark Office****Recording Assignments (Formerly Called Changes in Patent and Trademark Practices)**

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce (DoC), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on the continuing information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before September 18, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information should be directed to the attention of Audrey Britt, Manager of the Assignment Division, by telephone at (703) 308-9706 or by facsimile transmission to (703) 308-7124.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. Abstract**

As part of the responsibilities outlined by 35 U.S.C. 261 and 262 for patents, and 15 U.S.C. 1057 and 1060 of the Trademark Act of 1946 for trademarks, the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) records a variety of documents submitted to them by the public, corporations, other federal

agencies, and Government-owned or Government-controlled corporations. These individuals, federal agencies, and corporations can submit various documents which establish their rights, and/or titles for patents and trademarks to the PTO for recording. This officially and publicly establishes their rights and titles. These documents typically include items such as transfers of properties (i.e., patents and trademarks), liens, licenses, assignments of interest, security interests, mergers, and explanations of transactions or other documents that record the transfer of ownership from one party to another. The PTO can also record assignments for applications, patents, and trademarks. By submitting these various items, the individual, federal agency or corporation can establish their ownership of an item.

Once the document has been recorded, it is available to the public. All recorded documents, except for those under secrecy orders or those in which the federal government has a documented interest, can be viewed by the public. The public uses these documents to conduct ownership and chain-of-title searches. The public can view these records either at the PTO or the National Archives and Records Administration, depending on when they were recorded.

To make the recording process faster, more efficient, and more accurate, the PTO developed an automated system called the Patent and Trademark Assignment System or PTAS. This system helps automate the movement of the various documents to be recorded throughout the PTO Assignment Division.

In order to accurately record a document and to take advantage of the

speed and efficiency of the PTAS, the PTO developed cover sheets to submit with the document to be recorded. These cover sheets capture all of the necessary data needed to accurately record the various documents. These cover sheets were also designed so that they can be easily scanned into the PTAS. At this time, only the cover sheets can be scanned into the PTAS. The PTO does not currently use any automated, electronic, mechanical, or any other technological collection methods to collect the information for patent and application assignments.

**II. Method of Collection**

By mail, facsimile transmission, or hand carried to the Patent and Trademark Office.

**III. Data**

*OMB Number:* 0651-0027.

*Type of Review:* Renewal without change.

*Affected Public:* Individuals or households, businesses or other for-profit, not-for-profit institutions, farms, state, local or tribal governments, and the Federal Government.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 320,000 responses per year.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* It is estimated to take the public six minutes to complete an assignment of an application (Form PTO/SB/15) and an assignment of a patent (Form PTO/SB/41). It is estimated to take a half hour to complete a trademark recordation form cover sheet or a patent recordation form cover sheet.

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours:* 100,000 hours per year.

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Cost Burden:* \$17,500,000 per year.

Title of form or function	Form number(s)	Estimated time for response	Estimated annual burden hours	Estimated annual responses
Assignment of Application .....	PTO/SB/15 .....	6 mins .....	7,500	7,500
Assignment of Patent .....	PTO/SB/41 .....	6 mins .....	7,500	75,000
Trademark Recordation Form Cover Sheet .....	Form PTO-1618A, B, & C .....	30 mins .....	42,500	85,000
Patent Recordation Form Cover Sheet .....	Form PTO-1619A, B, & C .....	30 mins .....	42,500	85,000
Totals .....	.....	.....	100,000	320,000

**IV. Request for Comments**

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden

(including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques

or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: July 14, 1998.

**Linda Engelmeier,**

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of Management and Organization.*

[FR Doc. 98-19204 Filed 7-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

## COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

### Adjustment of Import Limits for Certain Cotton, Man-Made Fiber, Silk Blend and Other Vegetable Fiber Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Oman

July 14, 1998.

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

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

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 20, 1998.

**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:** Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended.

The current limits for certain categories are being increased, variously, for carryover and carryforward.

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 62 FR 66057, published on December 17, 1997). Also see 62 FR 67627, published on December 29, 1997.

**Troy H. Cribb,**

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

#### Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

July 14, 1998.

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 December 19, 1997, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textiles and textile products, produced or manufactured in Oman and exported during the twelve-month period which began on January 1, 1998 and extends through December 31, 1998.

Effective on July 20, 1998, you are directed to increase the limits for the following categories, as provided for under the terms of the bilateral agreement between the Governments of the United States and the Sultanate of Oman, effected by exchange of notes dated December 13, 1993 and January 15, 1994, as amended and extended:

Category	Adjusted twelve-month limit <sup>1</sup>
334/634 .....	166,500 dozen.
335/635 .....	280,269 dozen.
338/339 .....	577,388 dozen.
340/640 .....	280,269 dozen.
341/641 .....	210,202 dozen.
347/348 .....	956,831 dozen.
647/648/847 .....	429,659 dozen.

<sup>1</sup> The limits have not been adjusted to account for any imports exported after December 31, 1997.

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,

Troy H. Cribb,

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

[FR Doc. 98-19219 Filed 7-17-98; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-F

## COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

### Adjustment of Import Limits for Certain Cotton, Wool, Man-Made Fiber, Silk Blend and Other Vegetable Fiber Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Sri Lanka

July 14, 1998.

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

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

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 20, 1998.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Helen L. LeGrande, 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:** Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended.

The current limits for certain categories are being adjusted, variously, for swing, special shift, carryover, carryforward, special carryforward, and allowance for handloomed products.

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 62 FR 66057, published on December 17, 1997). Also see 62 FR 67837, published on December 30, 1997.

**Troy H. Cribb,**

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

#### Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

July 14, 1998.

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 December 22, 1997, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton, wool, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textiles and textile products, produced or manufactured in Sri Lanka and exported during the twelve-month period which began on January 1, 1998 and extends through December 31, 1998.

Effective on July 20, 1998, you are directed to adjust the limits for the following categories, as provided for under the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing:

Category	Adjusted twelve-month limit <sup>1</sup>
237 .....	378,494 dozen.
314 .....	5,410,964 square meters.
331/631 .....	3,712,107 dozen pairs.
333/633 .....	13,359 dozen.
334/634 .....	904,824 dozen.
335/835 .....	204,058 dozen.
336/636/836 .....	588,478 dozen.
338/339 .....	1,597,383 dozen.
340/640 .....	1,569,583 dozen.
341/641 .....	2,220,363 dozen of which not more than 1,554,376 dozen shall be in Category 341 and not more than 1,554,376 dozen shall be in Category 641.
342/642/842 .....	727,287 dozen.
345/845 .....	98,476 dozen.