

Economic and Trade Office in Washington, DC, for the Government of the HKSAR and presented to the U.S. Customs Service before any portion of the shipment will be released. The waiver, if used, only waives the requirement to present a visa with the shipment. It does not waive any quota requirement. Visa waivers will only be issued for classification purposes or for one-time special purpose shipments that are not part of an ongoing commercial enterprise.

If the visaed export license is deficient, the U.S. Customs Service will not return the original document after entry, but will provide the importer a certified copy of that visaed export license for use in obtaining a new correct visaed export license or a visa waiver.

ELVIS Requirements:

A. Each ELVIS message will include the following information:

- i. The visa number as defined above.
- ii. The date of issuance. The date of issuance shall be the day, month and year on which the visa was issued.
- iii. The correct category(s), part category(s), merged category(s), quantity(s) and unit(s) of quantity of the shipment in the unit(s) of quantity provided for in the 1992–1995 bilateral agreement and notified to the Textiles Monitoring Body and listed in Annex A to the Export Visa Arrangement.
- iv. The manufacturer ID number (MID). The MID shall begin with "HK," followed by the first three characters from each of the first two words of the name of the manufacturer, followed by the largest number on the address line up to the first four digits, followed by three letters from the city name.

B. Entry of a shipment shall not be permitted:

- i. if an ELVIS transmission has not been received for the shipment from the HKSAR;
- ii. if the ELVIS transmission for that shipment is missing any of the following:

- a. visa number
- b. category, part category or merged category
- c. quantity
- d. unit of measure
- e. date of issuance
- f. manufacturer ID number;
- iii. if the ELVIS transmission for the shipment does not match the information supplied by the importer with regard to any of the following:
- a. visa number
- b. category, part category or merged category
- c. unit of measure;
- iv. if the quantity being entered is greater than the quantity transmitted;
- v. if the visa number has previously been used, except in the case of a split shipment, or canceled, except when an entry has already been made using the visa number.

C. A new, correct ELVIS transmission from the HKSAR is required before a shipment that has been denied entry for one of the circumstances described above will be released.

D. Visa waivers will only be considered for one time special purpose shipments that are not part of an ongoing commercial enterprise and for legitimate classification purposes.

E. Shipments will not be released for twenty-four hours or 1 calendar day in the

event of a system failure. If system failure exceeds twenty-four hours or 1 calendar day, for the remaining period of the system failure the U.S. Customs Service will release shipments on the basis of the paper visaed document.

F. If a shipment from the HKSAR is allowed entry into the commerce of the United States with an incorrect visa, no visa, an incorrect ELVIS transmission, or no ELVIS transmission, and redelivery is requested but cannot be made, and after the Government of the HKSAR does not issue a visa or ELVIS transmission or request a visa waiver (if applicable), the shipment will be charged to the correct category limit whether or not a replacement visa or waiver is provided or a new ELVIS message is transmitted.

G. The U.S. Customs will provide the Government of the HKSAR with an electronic report on visa utilization which is accessible at any time. This report will contain:

- a. visa number
- b. category number
- c. unit of measure
- d. quantity charged to quota
- e. entry number
- f. entry line number

Other Provisions:

With the exception of suits of wool, man-made fibers, silk blend and/or non-cotton vegetable fibers, all textiles and textile products, including bona-fide gifts valued at US\$50 or less, imported for the personal use of the importer and not for resale, regardless of value, and properly marked commercial sample shipments valued at US\$800 or less do not require a visa or ELVIS transmission for entry and shall not be charged to agreement levels if applicable. Notwithstanding the foregoing, personal shipments of suits of wool, man-made fibers, silk blend and/or non-cotton vegetable fibers accompanying the traveler, regardless of value, do not require a visa or ELVIS transmission for entry and shall not be charged to agreement levels.

Effective on January 1, 1999 neither a visa nor an ELVIS transmission will be required for products integrated in the second stage of the integration of textiles and clothing into GATT 1994 from WTO member countries (see directive dated September 30, 1998) A visa will continue to be required for non-integrated products.

Any shipment which is not accompanied by a valid and correct visa and ELVIS transmission in accordance with the foregoing provisions, shall be denied entry by the Government of the United States unless the Government of the HKSAR authorizes the entry and any charges to the agreement levels.

The visa stamp remains unchanged.

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). This letter will be published in the **Federal Register**.

Sincerely,

Troy H. Cribb,
Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc. 98–34328 Filed 12–28–98; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Amendment of Coverage of Unit of Quantity Requirement for Textile and Apparel Products Produced or Manufactured in Various Countries

December 21, 1998.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs amending coverage of the requirement that visa quantities be in whole numbers only.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ross C. Arnold, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482–4212.

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.

As stated in the notice and letter to the Commissioner of Customs dated November 30, 1998, published in the **Federal Register** on December 4, 1998 (see 63 FR 67053), the United States Government has notified all countries with visa arrangements with the United States of the requirement to issue visas in whole numbers. Effective on January 1, 1999, the following countries shall be excluded from this requirement: Bangladesh, Egypt, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turkey. For these five countries, Customs will not deny visas solely because they have decimals or fractions. However, Customs will continue to charge in whole units using standard rounding procedures.

The requirement for the use of whole numbers will be effective only for goods exported on and after January 1, 1999. For those countries in which the visa arrangement already requires the use of whole numbers, this requirement continues to apply.

In the letter published below, the Chairman of CITA directs the Commissioner of Customs to exclude the aforementioned countries from the requirement that the quantity stated on the visa be listed in whole numbers only. Also, the Commissioner of Customs is directed to implement the November 30, 1998 directive for textile

products exported on and after January 1, 1999.

Troy H. Cribb,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

December 21, 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 November 30, 1998, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive directs you to require that shipment quantities of textile and apparel products entered into the United States be stated on the visa in whole numbers only.

Effective on January 1, 1999, you are directed to exclude Bangladesh, Egypt, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turkey from this requirement. For these five countries, Customs will not deny visas solely because they have decimals or fractions. However, Customs will continue to charge in whole units, using standard rounding procedures.

The requirement for the use of whole numbers will be effective only for goods exported on and after January 1, 1999. For those countries in which the visa arrangement already requires the use of whole numbers, this requirement continues to apply.

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. 98-34328 Filed 12-28-98; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Request for Public Comments on a Request that the United States Consult with Mexico and Canada Concerning Short Supply of a Certain Polyester Filament Yarn

December 22, 1998.

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

ACTION: Request for public comments concerning a request for consultations on a certain polyester filament yarn.

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

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 purpose of this notice is to advise the public that CITA has been petitioned to initiate consultations with Mexico and Canada under Section 7(2) of Annex 300-B of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) for the purpose of amending the NAFTA rules of origin for HTS subheading 5806.32 to allow the use of a certain non-North American 70 denier bright polyester filament yarn classified in HTS subheading 5402.43, in NAFTA originating goods.

There will be a 30-day comment period beginning on December 29, 1998 and extending through January 28, 1999. Anyone wishing to comment or provide data or information regarding domestic production or availability of this polyester filament yarn classified in HTS subheading 5402.43 is invited to submit 10 copies of such comments or information to Troy H. Cribb, Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230; ATTN: Helen L. LeGrande.

Comments or information submitted in response to this notice will be available for public inspection in the Office of Textiles and Apparel, room H3100, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.

The solicitation of comments is not a waiver in any respect of the exemption contained in 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(1) relating to matters which constitute "a foreign affairs function of the United States."

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). Information regarding the 1999 CORRELATION will be published in the **Federal Register** at a later date.

Troy H. Cribb,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc. 98-34887 Filed 12-28-98; 8:45 am]

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COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

TIME AND DATE: 11:30 a.m., Thursday, January 7, 1999.

PLACE: 1155 21st St., N.W., Washington, D.C., 9th Floor Conference Room.

STATUS: Closed.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED: Enforcement Matters.

CONTACT PERSON FOR MORE INFORMATION: Jean A. Webb, 202-418-5100.

Catherine D. Dixon,

Assistant Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 98-34490 Filed 12-23-98; 4:44 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[OMB Control No. 9000-0041]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request Entitled Technical Proposal-Two-Step Sealed Bidding

AGENCIES: Department of Defense (DOD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Notice of request for public comments regarding an extension to an existing OMB clearance.

SUMMARY: Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Secretariat will be submitting to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) a request to review and approve an extension of a currently approved information collection requirement concerning Technical Proposal-Two-Step Sealed Bidding. The clearance currently expires on April 30, 1999.

DATES: Comments may be submitted on or before March 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, should be submitted to: FAR Desk Officer, OMB, Room 10102, NEOB, Washington, DC 20503, and a copy to the General Services Administration, FAR Secretariat (MVRs), 1800 F Street,