

quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth, as quoted for Middling 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>32</sub> inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (U.S. Northern Europe price), adjusted for the value of any cotton user marketing certificates issued, exceeds the Northern Europe price by more than 1.25 cents per pound. This condition was met during the consecutive 10-week period that ended January 23, 1997. Therefore, a quota referenced as the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 8, effective March 8, 1997, is hereby established.

Previously there were only 20 subheadings available for designating upland cotton special import quotas in subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTS. Therefore, at most, only 20 such quotas could be in effect at one time and any additional quota which had been triggered could not become effective until the earliest of the 20 quotas ended. However, Presidential Proclamation 6948 dated October 29, 1996, added six new HTS subheadings for quotas—21 through 26. A maximum of 26 quotas may now be in effect at one time.

To be effective as soon as possible, Quota 8 is established as of March 8, 1997, and applies to upland cotton purchased not later than June 5, 1997, and entered into the United States not later than September 3, 1997. The quota amount, 44,900,528 kilograms (98,988,801 pounds), is equal to 1 week's consumption of upland cotton by domestic mills at the seasonally-adjusted average rate of the most recent 3 months for which data are available—September 1996 through November 1996. The special import quota identifies a quantity of imports that is not subject to the over-quota tariff rate of a tariff-rate quota. The quota is not divided by staple length or by country of origin. The quota does not affect existing tariff rates or phytosanitary regulations. The quota does not apply to Extra Long Staple cotton.

**Authority:** Sec. 136, P.L. 104-127 and U.S. Note 6(a), Subchapter III, Chapter 99 of the HTS.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on March 18, 1997.

**Dan Glickman,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-7410 Filed 3-24-97; 8:45 am]

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#### Office of the Secretary

#### Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 9

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** A special import quota for upland cotton equal to 45,099,152 kilograms (99,426,691 pounds) is established in accordance with section 136(b) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (the 1996 Act) under Presidential Proclamation 6301 of June 7, 1991, and Presidential Proclamation 6948 of October 29, 1996. The quota is referenced as the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 9, effective April 24, 1997, and is set forth in subheading 9903.52.09, subchapter III, chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS).

**DATES:** The quota is effective as of April 24, 1997, and applies to upland cotton purchased not later than July 22, 1997 (90 days from the date the quota is established), and entered into the United States not later than October 20, 1997 (180 days from the date the quota is established).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Janise Zygmunt, Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture, Stop 0515, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, DC 20013-2415, or call (202) 720-8841.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The 1996 Act requires that a special import quota for upland cotton be determined and announced immediately if, for any consecutive 10-week period, the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth, as quoted for Middling 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>32</sub> inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (U.S. Northern Europe price), adjusted for the value of any cotton user marketing certificates issued, exceeds the Northern Europe price by more than 1.25 cents per pound. This condition was met during the consecutive 10-week period that ended January 30, 1997. Therefore, a quota referenced as the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 9, effective April 24, 1997, is hereby established.

Previously there were only 20 subheadings available for designating upland cotton special import quotas in subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTS. Therefore, at most, only 20 such quotas could be in effect at one time and any additional quota which had been triggered could not become effective until the earliest of the 20 quotas ended. However, Presidential Proclamation 6948 dated October 29, 1996, added six new HTS subheadings for quotas—21 through 26. A maximum of 26 quotas may now be in effect at one time.

To be effective as soon as possible, Quota 9 is established as of April 24, 1997, and applies to upland cotton purchased not later than July 22, 1997, and entered into the United States not later than October 20, 1997. The quota amount, 45,099,152 kilograms (99,426,691 pounds), is equal to 1 week's consumption of upland cotton by domestic mills at the seasonally-adjusted average rate of the most recent 3 months for which data are available—October 1996 through December 1996. The special import quota identifies a quantity of imports that is not subject to the over-quota tariff rate of a tariff-rate quota. The quota is not divided by staple length or by country of origin. The quota does not affect existing tariff rates or phytosanitary regulations. The quota does not apply to Extra Long Staple cotton.

**Authority:** Sec. 136, Pub L. 104-127 and U.S. Note 6(a), Subchapter III, Chapter 99 of the HTS.

Signed at Washington, DC, on March 18, 1997.

**Dan Glickman,**  
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-7411 Filed 3-24-97; 8:45 am]

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#### Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 10

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** A special import quota for upland cotton equal to 45,099,152 kilograms (99,426,691 pounds) is established in accordance with section 136(b) of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (the 1996 Act) under Presidential Proclamation 6301 of June 7, 1991, and Presidential Proclamation 6948 of October 29, 1996. The quota is referenced as the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 10, effective May 1, 1997, and is set forth in subheading 9903.52.10, subchapter III, chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS).

**DATES:** The quota is effective as of May 1, 1997, and applies to upland cotton purchased not later than July 29, 1997 (90 days from the date the quota is established), and entered into the United States not later than October 27, 1997 (180 days from the date the quota is established).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Janise Zygmunt, Farm Service Agency, United States Department of

Agriculture, Stop 0515, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, DC 20013-2415, or call (202) 720-8841.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The 1996 Act requires that a special import quota for upland cotton be determined and announced immediately if, for any consecutive 10-week period, the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth, as quoted for Middling 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>32</sub> inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (U.S. Northern Europe price), adjusted for the value of any cotton user marketing certificates issued, exceeds the Northern Europe price by more than 1.25 cents per pound. This condition was met during the consecutive 10-week period that ended February 6, 1997. Therefore, a quota referenced as the Secretary of Agriculture's Special Cotton Import Quota Announcement Number 10, effective May 1, 1997, is hereby established.

Previously there were only 20 subheadings available for designating upland cotton special import quotas in subchapter III of chapter 99 of the HTS. Therefore, at most, only 20 such quotas could be in effect at one time and any additional quota which had been triggered could not become effective until the earliest of the 20 quotas ended. However, Presidential Proclamation 6948 dated October 29, 1996, added six new HTS subheadings for quotas—21 through 26. A maximum of 26 quotas may now be in effect at one time.

To be effective as soon as possible, Quota 10 is established as of May 1, 1997, and applies to upland cotton purchased not later than July 29, 1997, and entered into the United States not later than October 27, 1997. The quota amount, 45,099,152 kilograms (99,426,691 pounds), is equal to 1 week's consumption of upland cotton by domestic mills at the seasonally-adjusted average rate of the most recent 3 months for which data are available—October 1996 through December 1996. The special import quota identifies a quantity of imports that is not subject to the over-quota tariff rate of a tariff-rate quota. The quota is not divided by staple length or by country of origin. The quota does not affect existing tariff rates or phytosanitary regulations. The quota does not apply to Extra Long Staple cotton.

**Authority:** Sec. 136, Pub. L. 104-127 and U.S. Note 6(a), Subchapter III, Chapter 99 of the HTS.

Signed at Washington, D.C., on March 18, 1997.

**Dan Glickman,**

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-7412 Filed 3-24-97; 8:45 am]

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### Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. 97-026-1]

#### Availability of an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

**AGENCY:** Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** We are advising the public that an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact have been prepared by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service relative to the review of an application for a permit to allow the release into the environment of a nonindigenous biological control agent. The environmental assessment provides a basis for our conclusion that the release into the environment of the biological control agent will not present a risk of introducing plant pests into the United States or disseminating plant pests within the United States and will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Based on its finding of no significant impact, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has determined that an environmental impact statement need not be prepared.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact are available for public inspection at USDA, room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC, between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect those documents are requested to call ahead on (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the reading room.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Ronald D. Hennessey, Entomologist, Biological Assessment and Taxonomic Support, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road, Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737-1236,

(301) 734-7839; or E-mail: rhenness@aphis.usda.gov. For copies of the environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact, write to Ms. Deborah Knott at the same address. Please refer to the title of the environmental assessment when ordering copies.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under the Federal Plant Pest Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 150aa *et seq.*), and the Plant Quarantine Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. 151 *et seq.*) (the Acts), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has broad authority to regulate the importation, interstate movement, and release into the environment of organisms in order to prevent the dissemination of plant pests into the United States or interstate. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) regulates plant pests under regulations promulgated pursuant to the Acts and contained in 7 CFR part 330 (referred to below as the regulations). The regulations require, among other things, that a permit be obtained for the movement of a plant pest into or through the United States or interstate. The regulations and Acts also allow the Department to include in the permit conditions to prevent the dissemination of plant pests.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), APHIS typically prepares an environmental assessment before issuing a permit for the release in the United States of nonindigenous organisms.

In accordance with applicable regulations, APHIS has received an application for a permit for the release into the environment of a nonindigenous biological control agent. In the course of reviewing the permit application, APHIS assessed the plant pest risk posed by the organism and the impact on the environment of releasing the organism under the conditions described in the permit application. To provide the public with documentation of APHIS' review and analysis of the environmental impact and plant pest risk associated with releasing the biological control agent into the environment, we have prepared an environmental assessment and finding of no significant impact relative to the issuance of a permit for the release into the environment of the following biological control agent: