

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn located at 8777 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Kim Blankenbeker, (301) 713-2276.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to ICCAT will meet in open session to discuss (1) the 1996 ICCAT meeting accomplishments, (2) 1997 management and research activities regarding Atlantic highly migratory species, (3) trade and compliance issues, (4) the results of the Committee's species working groups meetings, (5) implementation of provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and (6) other matters relating to the international management of ICCAT species. While the public will have access to the open sessions of the meeting, there will be no opportunity for public comment. Sessions of the Advisory Committee's Species Working Groups will not be open to the public but the results of those discussions will be reported to the full Advisory Committee during the Committee's open session in the afternoon of April 24. In addition, the Advisory Committee will meet in closed session the morning of April 24 to discuss internal operational matters. Accordingly, the determination has been made that the Committee shall go into executive session at that time. The meeting locations are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kim Blankenbeker at (301) 713-2276 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: May 26, 1997.

**Bruce Morehead,**

*Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*  
[FR Doc. 97-8119 Filed 3-31-97; 8:45 am]

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## COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

### Consolidation and Amendment of Export Visa Requirements to Include the Electronic Visa Information System for Certain Silk Apparel, Cotton, Wool, Man-Made Fiber, Silk Blend and Other Vegetable Fiber Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in the People's Republic of China

March 27, 1997.

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

**ACTION:** Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs consolidating and amending visa requirements.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 1, 1997.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jennifer Aldrich, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212.

#### 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).

In a Memorandum of Understanding dated February 1, 1997, the Governments of the United States and the People's Republic of China agreed to amend the existing visa arrangements for silk apparel and textile products, produced or manufactured in China and exported on and after April 1, 1997. The amended arrangement consolidates existing provisions and new provisions for the Electronic Visa Information System (ELVIS). In addition to the ELVIS requirements, shipments will continue to be accompanied by an original visa stamped on the front of the original commercial invoice issued by the Government of the People's Republic of China.

In the letter published below, the Chairman of CITA directs the Commissioner of Customs to amend the existing visa requirements for silk apparel and textile products, produced or manufactured in China and exported on and after April 1, 1997.

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 66263, published on December 17, 1996). Also see 59 FR 35324, published on July 11, 1994; and 60 FR 22567, published on May 8, 1995.

Interested persons are advised to take all necessary steps to ensure that textile products that are entered into the United States for consumption, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, will meet the visa requirements set forth in the letter published below to the Commissioner of Customs.

**Troy H. Cribb,**

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

#### Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

March 27, 1997.

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

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directives issued to you on July 5, 1994, as amended, and May 3, 1995, as amended, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, that directed you to prohibit entry of certain silk apparel, cotton, wool, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textiles and textile products, produced or manufactured in China for which the Government of the People's Republic of China has not issued an appropriate export visa.

Under the terms of section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding dated February 1, 1997, between the Governments of the United States and the People's Republic of China; and in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended, you are directed to prohibit, effective on April 1, 1997, entry into the Customs territory of the United States (i.e., the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico) for consumption and withdrawal from warehouse for consumption of cotton, wool, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textiles and textile products in Categories 200-239, 300-369, 400-469, 600-670 and 800-899, including part categories and merged categories; and silk apparel in Categories 733-736, 738-748, 750-752 and 758-759, produced or manufactured in China and exported on and after April 1, 1997 for which the Government of the People's Republic of China has not issued an appropriate export visa or Electronic Visa Information System (ELVIS) transmission fully described below. Should additional categories, part categories or merged categories be added to the bilateral agreement or become subject to import quota the entire category(s), part category(s) or merged category(s) shall be included in the coverage of this arrangement.

A visa must accompany each commercial shipment of the aforementioned textile products. A circular stamped marking in blue ink will appear on the front of the original textile export license/commercial invoice or successor document. The license will be printed on a colored guilloche patterned background. The original visa shall not be stamped on duplicate copies of the invoice.

The original invoice with the original visa stamp will be required to enter the shipment into the United States. Duplicates of the invoice and/or visa may not be used for this purpose.

Each visa stamp shall include the following information:

1. The visa number. The visa number shall be in the standard nine digit letter format, beginning with one numeric digit for the last digit of the year of export, followed by the two character alpha country code specified by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) (the code for the People's Republic of China is "CN"), and a six digit numerical serial number identifying the shipment; e.g., 7CN123456.

2. The date of issuance. The date of issuance shall be the day, month and year on which the visa was issued.

3. The original signature of the issuing official of the Government of the People's Republic of China.

4. The correct category(s), merged category(s), part category(s), quantity(s) and unit(s) of quantity in the shipment as set forth in the U.S. Department of Commerce Correlation and in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS or successor documents) shall be reported in the spaces provided within the visa stamp (e.g., "Cat. 340-510 DOZ").

Quantities must be stated in whole numbers. Decimals or fractions will not be accepted. Merged category quota merchandise may be accompanied by either the appropriate merged category visa or the correct category visa corresponding to the actual shipment (e.g., Categories 347/348 may be visaed as 347/348 or if the shipment consists solely of Category 347 merchandise, the shipment may be visaed as "Category 347," but not as "Category 348").

U.S. Customs shall not permit entry if the shipment does not have a visa, or if the visa number, date of issuance, signature, category, quantity or units of quantity are missing, incorrect or illegible, or have been crossed out or altered in any way. If the quantity indicated on the visa is less than that of the shipment, entry shall not be permitted. If the quantity indicated on the visa is more than that of the shipment, entry shall be permitted and only the amount entered shall be charged to any applicable quota.

If the visa is not acceptable then a new visa must be obtained from the Government of the People's Republic of China, replacement visa issued by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Washington, DC, or a visa waiver may be issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce at the request of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Washington, DC, 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 the quota requirement. Visa waivers will only be issued for legitimate classification disputes between the Governments of the People's Republic of China and the United States of America or for one-time special purpose shipments that are not part of an ongoing commercial enterprise.

Replacement visas shall consist of a textile export visa/invoice form bearing an official

Chinese Embassy embossed stamp on the front and include the standard information required on an export visa and the signature of an official authorized by the Government of the People's Republic of China to issue replacement visas. The signature must match one of two original signatures of authorized officials provided to the United States Government by the Government of the People's Republic of China. The U.S. Customs Service will not permit entry of the shipment if any of the information required on the replacement visa is missing, incorrect or illegible, or has been crossed out or altered in any way.

If the visaed invoice 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 invoice or visa waiver. For particular cases, upon written request by the Government of the People's Republic of China, the U.S. Customs Service will provide the original visa for China.

If a shipment from the People's Republic of China has been allowed entry into the commerce of the United States with incorrect documentation, and redelivery is requested but cannot be made, the shipment will be charged to the correct category limit whether or not a replacement visa or waiver is provided.

#### ELVIS Requirements:

A. Each ELVIS message will include the following information:

I. The visa number. The visa number shall be in the standard nine digit letter format, beginning with one numeric digit for the last digit of the year of export, followed by the two character alpha country code specified by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) (the code for China is "CN"), and a six digit numerical serial number identifying the shipment; e.g., 7CN123456.

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), merged category(s), part category(s), quantity(s) and unit(s) of quantity in the shipment as set forth in the U.S. Department of Commerce Correlation and in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS or successor documents).

IV. The quantity of the shipment in the correct units of quantity.

V. The manufacturer ID number (MID). The MID shall begin with "CN," 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 China;

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 or part category or merged category
- c. unit of measure
- d. quantity

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 cancelled, except when an entry has been made using the visa number.

C. A new, correct ELVIS transmission from China is required before a shipment that has been denied entry for one of the circumstances mentioned in paragraph 3.B.I-V will be released.

D. A new, correct ELVIS transmission from China is required for entries made using a visa waiver under the procedures as previously described. Visa waivers will only be considered for paragraph 3.B.I., if the shipment qualifies as a one-time special purpose shipment that is not part of an ongoing commercial enterprise, or legitimate classification disputes.

E. Shipments will not be released for forty-eight hours in the event of a system failure. If system failure exceeds forty-eight hours, for the remaining period of the system failure the U.S. Customs Service will release shipments on the basis of the paper visaed document.

The People's Republic of China will retransmit all visa information not transmitted during the failure once the system becomes operational. If there is a visa or visas that are not on file in the system or do not match information on the file after retransmission, the U.S. will give prompt notice of detailed information to China for verification, a demand for redelivery should be made.

ELVIS transmission will be stopped on Saturdays, Sundays and Chinese holidays, which should not be considered as system failures.

F. The U.S. Customs Service will confirm daily the receipt of the visa transmission by China and provide China (the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation) with a daily electronic message report on visa utilization which is accessible at any time for any quantities. This electronic message for each specific visa will contain:

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

G. If a shipment from China 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 People's Republic of China 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, visa waiver or new ELVIS message is transmitted.

Should either party disagree on such quota charge, both parties agree to hold technical consultation for verification on categories and quantities charged upon request of the party.

**4. Other Requirements:**

A. The complete name and address of a company actually involved in the manufacturing process of the textile product covered by the visa shall be provided on the textile visa document.

B. Merchandise imported for the personal use of the importer and not for resale, regardless of value; properly marked commercial sample shipments valued at U.S. \$250 or less; and mutually agreed exempt items certified as exempt by the Government of the People's Republic of China do not require a visa or an ELVIS transmission for entry.

The visa stamp remains unchanged.

The actions taken concerning the Government of the People's Republic of China with respect to imports of silk apparel, textiles and textile products in the foregoing categories have been determined by the Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements to involve foreign affairs functions of the United States. Therefore, these directions to the Commissioner of Customs, which are necessary for the implementation of such actions, fall 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. 97-8239 Filed 3-28-97; 8:45 am]

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## **CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

### **Availability of Funds for Training and Technical Assistance for the Seniors for Schools Initiative**

**AGENCY:** Corporation for National and Community Service.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of funds.

**SUMMARY:** The Corporation for National and Community Service ("Corporation") announces the availability of up to \$350,000 to provide training and technical assistance to programs that receive grants under the Corporation's Seniors for Schools Initiative. The purpose of the initiative is to mobilize the time, talent, experience, and resources of seniors to tutor and mentor public school children in kindergarten through third grade. The initiative will (1) build on the experience of the Foster Grandparent Program and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program; and (2) recruit adults over the age of 55, without regard to their economic status, to work in teams with young children in a

variety of roles, including helping them to read independently by the end of the third grade.

**DATES:** All applications must be received by 6 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, May 15, 1997. Facsimiles will not be accepted. All applicants must be able to provide training and technical assistance to the selected programs, beginning on July 1, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested organizations may request application materials by writing to the Corporation for National and Community Service, Attn.: Tess Scannell, Room 9201, 1201 New York Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20525.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** For further information, contact Tess Scannell at (202) 606-5000, ext. 190. This notice may be requested in an alternative format for the visually impaired.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### **Background**

The Corporation is a federal government corporation that encourages Americans of all ages and backgrounds to engage in community-based service. This service addresses the nation's educational, public safety, environmental, and other human needs to achieve direct and demonstrable results. In supporting service programs, the Corporation fosters civic responsibility, strengthens the ties that bind us together as a people, and provides educational opportunity for those who make a substantial commitment to service.

On August 27, 1996, President Clinton announced the America Reads Challenge, which includes a vital national service component. The goal of this campaign is to ensure that every child can read independently by the end of the third grade. To achieve this goal, the President has called for a substantial increase in the number of tutors and mentors available to young children.

Under the National and Community Service Act of 1990, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 12501 *et seq.*, the Corporation may "support innovative and model programs." Under this statutory authority, the Corporation intends to meet the America Reads Challenge by adopting the goals of this initiative and helping to mobilize thousands of volunteers to serve as tutors. One of the Corporation's efforts will be the Seniors for Schools Initiative, which will involve recruiting men and women over the age of 55, without regard to their economic status, to work in teams and make a significant commitment to help children learn to read. This initiative will build on the experience of the Foster Grandparent Program and Retired

and Senior Volunteer Program—programs that have worked extensively with children in school settings for many years. The Corporation intends to fund eight to ten programs, each implementing the Seniors for Schools Initiative in a different community.

To support the Seniors for Schools programs, the Corporation intends to enter into a cooperative agreement with an organization to provide training and technical assistance that strengthens the programs' performance and effectiveness. Through this notice, the Corporation invites applications from organizations that wish to be considered for the training and technical assistance award.

### **Eligible Applicants**

Public agencies (including federal, state, and local agencies and other units of government); non-profit organizations (including youth-serving groups, groups that serve older persons, community-based organizations, service organizations, etc.); institutions of higher education; Indian tribes; and for-profit companies are eligible to apply. Organizations may apply to provide training and technical assistance in partnership with organizations seeking other Corporation funds. Under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995, an organization described in section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 501(c)(4)) which engages in lobbying activities, is not eligible to apply.

### **Estimated Number of Awards**

The Corporation anticipates making one award.

### **Period of Performance**

The period of performance for the cooperative agreement is up to 24 months, contingent upon performance and the availability of appropriations. All applicants must be able to provide training and technical assistance beginning on July 1, 1997.

### **Selection Criteria**

The Corporation will initially determine whether the organization is eligible and whether the application contains the information required in the application materials. After this initial screening, the Corporation will assess applications based on the criteria listed below:

1. The quality of the proposed activities based on the scope of activities and approaches proposed to be used to provide training, materials, and other resources, and the technical support that programs need to meet their objectives.