

Federal Register notice 63 FR 16474, published on April 3, 1998.

Troy H. Cribb,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

September 22, 1999.

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); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended; and the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC), you are directed to prohibit, effective on January 1, 2000, entry into the United States for consumption and withdrawal from warehouse for consumption of cotton, wool, man-made fiber and other vegetable fiber textiles and textile products in the following categories, produced or manufactured in Jamaica and exported during the twelve-month period beginning on January 1, 2000 and extending through December 31, 2000, in excess of the following levels of restraint:

Category	Twelve-month restraint limit
331/631	816,085 dozen pairs.
338/339/638/639	1,609,106 dozen.
340/640	752,460 dozen of which not more than 636,697 dozen shall be in shirts made from fabrics with two or more colors in the warp and/or the fill- ing in Categories 340-Y/640-Y ¹ .
341/641	944,859 dozen.
345/845	233,148 dozen.
347/348/647/648	1,736,829 dozen.
352/652	2,595,149 dozen.
445/446	54,835 dozen.

¹Category 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.

The limits set forth above are subject to adjustment pursuant to the provisions of the ATC and administrative arrangements notified to the Textiles Monitoring Body.

Products in the above categories exported during 1999 shall be charged to the applicable category limits for that year (see directive dated November 3, 1998) to the extent of any unfilled balances. In the event the limits established for that period have been exhausted by previous entries, such products shall be charged to the limits set forth in this directive.

Also pursuant to the ATC; and under the terms of the Special Access Program, as set forth in 63 FR 16474 (April 3, 1998), you are directed to establish guaranteed access levels for properly certified cotton, wool, man-made fiber and other vegetable fiber textile products in the following categories which are assembled in Jamaica from fabric formed and cut in the United States and re-exported to the United States from Jamaica during the

twelve-month period which begins on January 1, 2000 and extends through December 31, 2000:

Category	Guaranteed Access Level
331/631	1,320,000 dozen pairs.
336/636	125,000 dozen.
338/339/638/639	1,500,000 dozen.
340/640	300,000 dozen.
341/641	375,000 dozen.
342/642	200,000 dozen.
345/845	50,000 dozen.
347/348/647/648	2,000,000 dozen.
352/652	10,500,000 dozen.
447	30,000 dozen.

Any shipment for entry under the Special Access Program which is not accompanied by a valid and correct certification in accordance with the provisions of the certification requirements established in the directive of February 19, 1987 (52 FR 6049) shall be denied entry unless the Government of Jamaica authorizes the entry and any charges to the appropriate specific limits. Any shipment which is declared for entry under the Special Access Program but found not to qualify shall be denied entry into the United States.

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 of the rulemaking provisions of U.S.C.553(a)(1).

Sincerely,

Troy H. Cribb,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc. 99-25067 Filed 9-24-99; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Announcement of Import Restraint Limits for Certain Wool Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in the Slovak Republic

September 21, 1999.

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

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Naomi Freeman, 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, call (202) 927-5850, or refer to the U.S. Customs website at <http://www.customs.ustreas.gov>. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, call (202) 482-3715.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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

The import restraint limits for textile products, produced or manufactured in the Slovak Republic and exported during the period January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2000 are based on limits notified to the Textiles Monitoring Body pursuant to 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 2000 limits.

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 63 FR 71096, published on December 23, 1998). Information regarding the 2000 CORRELATION will be published in the **Federal Register** at a later date.

Troy H. Cribb,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

September 21, 1999.

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); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended; and the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC), you are directed to prohibit, effective on January 1, 2000, entry into the United States for consumption and withdrawal from warehouse for consumption of wool textile products in the following categories, produced or manufactured in the Slovak Republic and exported during the twelve-month period beginning on January 1, 2000 and extending through December 31, 2000 in excess of the following limits:

Category	Twelve-month restraint limit
410	428,751 square meters.
433	11,975 dozen.
435	18,088 dozen.
443	100,042 numbers.

The limits set forth above are subject to adjustment pursuant to the provisions of the

ATC and administrative arrangements notified to the Textiles Monitoring Body.

Products in the above categories exported during 1999 shall be charged to the applicable category limits for that year (see directive dated October 6, 1998) to the extent of any unfilled balances. In the event the limits established for that period have been exhausted by previous entries, such products shall be charged to the limits set forth in this directive.

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 of 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. 99-25066 Filed 9-24-99; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Request for Public Comments on Bilateral Textile Consultations with the Government of Belarus

September 21, 1999.

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

ACTION: Notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Naomi Freeman, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212. For information on the category for which consultations have been requested, call (202) 482-3740.

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.

On September 17, 1999, under Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, the Government of the United States requested consultations with the Government of Belarus with respect to glass fiber fabric in Category 622, produced or manufactured in Belarus.

The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that, if no solution is agreed upon in consultations with the Government of Belarus, the Government of the United States reserves its right to establish a twelve-month limit for the period beginning on September 17, 1999 and extending through September 16, 2000 of not less than 6,480,552 square

meters for the entry and withdrawal from warehouse for consumption of glass fiber fabric in Category 622, produced or manufactured in Belarus.

A summary statement of serious damage, actual threat of serious damage or the exacerbation of serious damage concerning Category 622 follows this notice.

Anyone wishing to comment or provide data or information regarding Category 622 or to comment on domestic production or availability of products included in this category 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: Becky Geiger. The comments received will be considered in the context of the consultations with the Government of Belarus.

Because the exact timing of the consultations is not yet certain, comments should be submitted promptly. 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.

Further comments may be invited regarding particular commentary or information received from the public which the Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements considers appropriate for further consideration.

This 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."

The United States remains committed to finding a solution concerning this category. Should such a solution be reached in consultations with the Government of Belarus, further notice will be published in the **Federal Register**.

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 63 FR 71096, published on December 23, 1998). Information regarding the 2000

CORRELATION will be published in the **Federal Register** at a later date.

Troy H. Cribb,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Statement in Support of Request for Consultations Under Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956

Belarus

Glass Fiber Fabric—Category 622

Import Situation and Conclusion

U.S. imports of glass fiber fabric, Category 622, from Belarus surged to 6,480,552 square meters during the year ending May 1999, over 14 times the 456,093 square meters imported during the year ending May 1998. During the first five months of 1999, Belarus shipped 4,864,218 square meters, nearly 20 times the January-May 1998 level and over two and a half times the total calendar year 1998 level. In 1999, Belarus became the second largest supplier of glass fiber fabric to the United States, accounting for 10 percent of total Category 622 imports. In calendar year 1997, Belarus was the seventh largest supplier and accounted for less than one percent of total Category 622 imports. Imports from Belarus were 1.3 percent of U.S. production of Category 622 in year ending March 1999 and only 0.1 percent in 1997.

U.S. imports of glass fiber fabric, Category 622, from Belarus entered the U.S. at an average landed duty-paid value of \$0.81 per square meter during the first five months of 1999, 23 percent below the average landed duty-paid value for all glass fiber fabric imports into the U.S., and 39 percent below the average U.S. producers' price for glass fiber fabrics.

The sharp and substantial increase of low-valued Category 622 imports from Belarus threatens to cause disruption to the U.S. glass fiber fabric market and industry.

U.S. Production, Import Penetration, and Market Share

U.S. production of glass fiber fabric, Category 622, fell to 388,849,000 square meters in 1998, 6 percent below the 1997 production level. Production continued downward in 1999, falling to 92,555,000 square meters during January-March 1999, 16 percent below the first quarter 1998 level. Imports of category 622 increased to 54,741,000 square meters in 1998, 15 percent above the 1997 level, and reached 65,657,000 square meters for the year ending May 1999, 38 percent higher than the level of imports for the same period a year earlier. Imports surged in 1999, increasing 52 percent during January-