

products shall be charged to the limits set forth in this directive.

These limits do not apply to goods entered under the Outward Processing Program, as defined in the letter to the Commissioner of Customs, dated December 8, 1999 (see 64 FR 69746).

Any shipment for entry under the Outward Processing Program which is not accompanied by a valid certification in accordance with the provisions established in the letter to the Commissioner of Customs, dated December 9, 1999 (see 64 FR 69743), shall be denied entry. However, the Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia may authorize the entry and charges to the appropriate specific limits by the issuance of a valid visa. Also see directive dated April 2, 1998, as amended (63 FR 17156).

These limits may be revised if the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia becomes a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the United States applies the WTO agreement to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

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. 99-32794 Filed 12-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-F

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Announcement of Import Restraint Limits for Certain Cotton, Wool, Man-Made Fiber, Silk Blend and Other Vegetable Fiber Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Romania

December 14, 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: 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 import restraint limits for textile products, produced or manufactured in Romania and exported during the period January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2000 are based on the limits notified to the Textiles Monitoring Body pursuant to the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC).

These limits do not apply to goods entered under the Outward Processing Program, as defined in the notice and letter to the Commissioner of Customs published in the **Federal Register** on December 14, 1999 (see 64 FR 69746).

Any shipment for entry under the Outward Processing Program which is not accompanied by valid certification in accordance with the provisions established in the notice and letter to the Commissioner of Customs, published in the **Federal Register** on December 14, 1999 (see 64 FR 69744), shall be denied entry. However, the Government of Romania may authorize the entry and charges to the appropriate specific limits by the issuance of a valid visa. Also see 49 FR 493, as amended, published on January 4, 1984.

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

December 14, 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, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textiles and textile products in the following categories, produced or manufactured in Romania 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 limit |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 313 | 2,361,841 square meters. |
| 314 | 1,771,380 square meters. |
| 315 | 4,262,830 square meters. |
| 333/833 | 168,831 dozen. |
| 334 | 408,085 dozen. |
| 335/835 | 213,855 dozen. |
| 338/339 | 922,951 dozen. |
| 340 | 402,862 dozen. |
| 341/840 | 168,831 dozen. |
| 347/348 | 720,353 dozen. |
| 350 | 38,134 dozen. |
| 352 | 256,794 dozen. |
| 359pt. ¹ | 921,111 kilograms. |
| 360 | 2,380,407 numbers. |
| 361 | 1,586,939 numbers. |
| 369pt. ² | 417,754 kilograms. |
| 410 | 177,507 square meters. |
| 433/434 | 9,832 dozen. |
| 435 | 10,284 dozen. |
| 442 | 11,910 dozen. |
| 443 | 91,879 numbers. |
| 444 | 43,313 numbers. |
| 447/448 | 23,887 dozen. |
| 604 | 1,694,478 kilograms. |
| 638/639 | 870,198 dozen. |
| 640 | 119,682 dozen. |
| 647/648 | 206,593 dozen. |
| 666 | 173,508 kilograms. |

¹ Category 359pt.: all HTS numbers except 6406.99.1550.

² Category 369pt.: all HTS numbers except 5601.10.1000, 5601.21.0090, 5701.90.1020, 5701.90.2020, 5702.10.9020, 5702.39.2010, 5702.49.1020, 5702.49.1080, 5702.59.1000, 5702.99.1010, 5702.99.1090, 5705.00.2020 and 6406.10.7700.

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. These limits do not apply to products exported under the Outward Processing Program.

Products in the above categories exported during 1999 shall be charged to the applicable category limits for that year (see directive dated November 30, 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.

These limits do not apply to goods entered under the Outward Processing Program, as defined in the letter to the Commissioner of Customs, dated December 8, 1999 (see 64 FR 69746).

Any shipment for entry under the Outward Processing Program which is not accompanied by a valid certification in accordance with the provisions established in the letter to the Commissioner of Customs, dated December 9, 1999 (see 64 FR 69744), shall be denied entry. However, the Government of Romania may authorize the entry and charges to the appropriate specific limits by the issuance of a valid visa. Also see directive dated December 29, 1983, as amended, (49 FR 493).

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. 99-32795 Filed 12-17-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-F

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

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

December 14, 1999.

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: January 1, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ross Arnold, 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.

In exchange of notes dated December 9 and December 14, 1999, the Governments of the United States and Bangladesh agreed to amend the existing visa arrangement for 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, 800-899,

produced or manufactured in Bangladesh and exported on and after January 1, 2000. The amended arrangement consolidates existing provisions and new provisions for the Electronic Visa Information System (ELVIS). The Governments of the United States and Bangladesh will implement a 6-month test phase in which, in addition to the ELVIS requirements, shipments will continue to be accompanied by a visa. This notice supersedes the notice and letter to the Commissioner of Customs, as amended, published in the **Federal Register** on November 17, 1988 (53 FR 46484).

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.

Goods integrated into GATT 1994 in Stage II by the United States will not require a visa or ELVIS transmission (see **Federal Register** notice 63 FR 53881, published on October 7, 1998).

Interested persons are advised to take all necessary steps to ensure that textile products 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

December 14, 1999.

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

Dear Commissioner: This directive supersedes the directive issued to you on November 14, 1988 by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. Under the terms of section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); and pursuant to the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing and the Export Visa Arrangement, effected by exchange of notes dated December 9 and December 14, 1999, between the Governments of the United States and Bangladesh; and in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended, you are directed to prohibit, effective on January 1, 2000, 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, 800-899, including part categories and merged categories, produced or manufactured in Bangladesh and exported on and after January 1, 2000 for which the Government of Bangladesh has not issued an appropriate export visa and Electronic Visa Information System (ELVIS) transmission fully described below. Should additional categories, part-categories or merged categories become subject to import quotas, 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 shipment of the aforementioned textile products. A circular stamped marking in blue ink will appear on the front of the original export license. The original visa shall not be stamped on duplicate copies of the export license. The original export license with the original visa stamp will be required to enter the shipment into the United States. Duplicates of the export license and/or visa may not be used for this purpose.

Visa Requirements

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 code specified by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) (the code for Bangladesh is "BD"), and a six digit serial number identifying the shipment; e.g., OBD123456.

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 authorized by the Government of Bangladesh.

4. The correct category(s), part category(s), merged category(s), quantity(s) and unit(s) of quantity in the shipment in the unit(s) of quantity provided for in Annex A of the Export Visa Arrangement, in the U.S. Department of Commerce Correlation, and in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States Annotated, or successor document and 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. (For example, quota Category 347/348 may be visaed as "Cat. 347/348" or if the shipment consists solely of Category 347 merchandise, the shipment may be visaed as "Cat. 347," but not as "Cat. 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, illegible, or have been crossed out or altered in any way. If the quantity indicated on the visa is less than that of the