

that currently or could pose market barriers.

3. Principal topics. Describe the suggested topics for the workshop, for inclusion in a plenary session and break-out sessions.

4. Please state which venue for holding the workshop, the U.S. (Washington, DC area) or China (Beijing), would be most convenient and include a brief explanation as to why.

5. Proposed foreign participants. Provide a representative list of the organizations that you would like to see invited to participate in the workshop, including a description of their function or business and their country of incorporation or origin. Also, please identify potential Chinese participants and speakers.

6. U.S. stakeholder participants (*e.g.*, associations, agencies, companies, users, others). Provide a list of the U.S.-based organizations that are likely to partner with you for participation in the workshop.

7. Proposed focus area objectives. Describe the intended goals to be attained and why they are important.

Additional information about the first three workshops in this series is available at <http://ts.nist.gov/ts/htdocs/210/gsig/apec1.htm#workshop>, <http://www.technology.gov/Prel/pr040819.htm>, <http://www.mac.doc.gov/china/workshop%20summary.htm>.

Dated: December 8, 2004.

Hratch G. Semerjian,
Acting Director.

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Cancellation of Visa, ELVIS, Guaranteed Access Level (GAL) Certification, and Exempt Certification Requirements for Member Countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO)

December 14, 2004.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection canceling visa requirements for WTO member countries.

DATES: *Effective Date:* January 1, 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Philip J. Martello, Director, Trade and Data Division, Office of Textiles and

Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-3400.

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).

The WTO Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC), approved by Congress as part of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act, provides for the integration of the textiles and clothing sectors into the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1994. In accordance with its obligations under the ATC, and consistent with Section 331 of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act and the schedule announced by CITA on May 1, 1995 (60 FR 21075), the United States will no longer impose textile and apparel quotas under the ATC for goods exported on or after January 1, 2005. Consistent with these obligations, the United States has informed its trading partners with whom it has entered into visa arrangements in order to carry out such quotas and which are members of the WTO that such visa arrangements will be terminated and will not apply to goods exported from the country of origin on and after January 1, 2005.

In the letter below, CITA instructs the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection to cancel all requirements for visas, ELVIS transmissions, GAL certifications, and exempt certifications, for goods exported from the country of origin on or after January 1, 2005. For goods that are the product of countries that are not members of the WTO, applicable requirements for visas, ELVIS transmissions, GAL certifications, and exempt certifications will remain in effect.

James C. Leonard III,
Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

Commissioner, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, Washington, DC 20229.

Dear Commissioner: This directive cancels all previous directives concerning requirements for visa, ELVIS transmissions, Guaranteed Access Level (GAL) Certifications, and Exempt Certifications, issued to you by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, for the following countries, covering cotton, wool, man-made fiber, silk blend and non-cotton vegetable fiber textile and textile products subject to the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing, effective for goods exported from those countries on and after January 1, 2005: Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, Guatemala, Haiti, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Korea,

Lebanon, Macau, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Macedonia, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Poland, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Trinidad, Turkey, UAE, and Uruguay.

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreement has determined that this action falls within the foreign affairs exception to the rulemaking provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(1).

Sincerely,
James C. Leonard III,
Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc. 04-27789 Filed 12-15-04; 4:05 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-U

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Solicitation of Public Comments on Request for Textile and Apparel Safeguard Action on Imports From China

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

ACTION: Solicitation of public comments concerning a request for safeguard action on imports from China of knit fabric (Category 222).

SUMMARY: The Committee has received a request from the National Council of Textile Organizations, the National Textile Association, the American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition, and UNITE HERE! (Requestors) asking the Committee to reapply the limit on imports from China of knit fabric in accordance with the textile and apparel safeguard provision of the Working Party on the Accession of China to the World Trade Organization (the Accession Agreement). On December 24, 2003 the Committee established an Accession Agreement limit on imports from China of knit fabric, which will expire on December 23, 2004. The Committee hereby solicits public comments on this request.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jay Dowling, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4058.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Authority: Section 204 of the Agriculture Act of 1956, as amended; Executive Order 11651, as amended.

Background

The textile and apparel safeguard provision of the Accession Agreement provides for the United States and other members of the World Trade Organization that believe imports of