

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20436

**MEMORANDUM ON PROPOSED TARIFF LEGISLATION
of the 110th Congress¹**

[Date approved: April 10, 2008]²

Bill No. and sponsor: H.R. 4473 (Mr. Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. of Georgia et al.).

Proponent name,³ location: Coats North America, Charlotte, NC.

Other bills on product (110th Congress only): H.R. 4440 and H.R. 4471.⁴

Nature of bill: Temporary duty suspension through December 31, 2011.

Retroactive effect: None.

Suggested article description(s) for enactment (including appropriate HTS subheading(s)):

Acrylic staple fibers (polyacrylonitrile staple), dyed but not carded, combed or otherwise processed for spinning, containing by weight 92 percent or more of polyacrylonitrile, not more than 0.01 percent of zinc and 2 percent or more but not over 8 percent of water, the foregoing with a filament decitex of 4.0 to 6.7 (plus or minus 10 percent), with a fiber shrinkage of 0 to 22 percent (plus or minus 10 percent) and with a cut fiber length of 100 mm to 135 mm and a target length of 120 mm (provided for in subheading 5503.30.00).

Check one: Same as that in bill as introduced.
 Different from that in bill as introduced (see Technical comments section).

Product information, including uses/applications and source(s) of imports:

Acrylic staple fibers are synthetic fibers made from a polymer containing at least 85 percent by weight of acrylonitrile units. The fibers are produced by dry or wet spinning. In dry spinning, the material is dissolved in a solvent and extruded through a spinneret; the solvent is then evaporated, leaving long continuous filaments. In wet spinning, the solution is extruded through the spinneret into a liquid coagulating bath to form filaments. The filaments are then drawn, dried, and processed. Staple fibers are made by either cutting the filaments into uniform lengths, which is done on the same production line on which the filaments are produced, or by grouping the filaments into "tow," which will be stretched to break the filaments into fibers of varying lengths. Fibers may be sold in a natural state (no color added), pigment-dyed (color added when the fiber is still in a molten form), or dyed (color added after the fibers are formed). Various other additives may be used during the production process, depending on the end-use characteristics desired. Acrylic fibers are used to produce a variety of products, including craft yarns, apparel, pile fabrics, upholstery fabrics, home furnishings, and industrial products. Such fibers may also be used in non-textile applications.

¹ Industry analyst preparing report: Heidi Colby-Oizumi (202-205-3391); Tariff Affairs contact: Jan Summers (202-205-2605).

² Access to an electronic copy of this memorandum is available at http://usitc.gov/tata/hts/other/rel_doc/bill_reports/index.htm.

³ The sponsor/proponent did not identify any additional beneficiaries of this bill.

⁴ This bill and H.R. 4471 appear to cover the identical range of goods. Only one bill need be enacted.

Acrylic staple fibers are imported under HTS subheading 5503.30.00, which covers all acrylic or modacrylic staple fibers, not carded, combed or otherwise processed for spinning. Dutiable U.S. imports under HTS subheading 5503.30.00 totaled \$83.8 million in 2007. Turkey was the primary supplier of such fibers in 2007, followed by Italy, Mexico,⁵ and Germany.

Estimated effect on customs revenue:

HTS subheading: 5503.30.00					
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Col. 1-General rate of duty (AVE)	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%
Estimated value <i>dutiable</i> imports	\$1,562,000	\$1,562,000	\$1,562,000	\$1,562,000	\$1,562,000
Customs revenue loss 1/	\$57,794	\$67,166	\$67,166	\$67,166	\$67,166

1/ The general duty rate on all goods falling into subheading 5503.30.00 is currently reduced to 3.7% through the close of 2009 under heading 9902.25.62. The figure shown in the table for 2009 reflects the elimination of this reduced duty rate. The heading covers a broader range of goods than the dyed product covered by this bill.

Source of estimated dutiable import data: U.S. Industry estimates.

Contacts with domestic firms/organizations (including the proponent):

Name of firm/organization	Date contacted	Claim US makes same or competing product(s)?	Submission attached?	Opposition noted?
		(Yes/No)		
Coats North America (Proponent) Chris Smith, 704-329-5800	02/07/2008	No	Yes	No
American Fiber Manufacturers Association Paul O'Day, 703-875-0432	02/07/2008	No	No	No
American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition Sara Ormand, 202-452-0866	02/07/2008	No	Yes	No
Amital Spinning Corp. Milt E. Gold, <i>mgold@amital.net</i>	02/07/2008	No	No	No
The Association of Georgia's Textile, Carpet and Consumer Products Manufacturers G.L. Bowen III, 404-688-0555	02/07/2008	No	No	No

⁵ Originating goods of Mexico are already eligible to enter free of duty under the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Name of firm/organization	Date contacted	Claim US makes same or competing product(s)?	Submission attached?	Opposition noted?
		(Yes/No)		
Culp, Inc., Robert G. Culp, III, 336-889-5161	02/12/2008	No	No	No
Glen Raven, Inc. Allen E. Gant, Jr., 336-227-6211	02/07/2008	No	Yes	No
Hexcel Michael Bacal, michael.bacal@hexcel.com	02/07/2008	No	No	No
Milliken & Company Kathi Dutilh, kdutilh@millikendc.com	02/12/2008	No	Yes	No
National Council of Textile Organizations Missy Branson, 202-822-8026	01/31/2008	No	No	No
National Spinning Co., Inc. James W. Chesnutt, 252-975-7218	02/07/2008	No	Yes	No
Patrick Yarn Mills, Inc. Gilbert Patrick, gilbert@patrickyarns.com	02/07/2008	No	No	No
Quaker Fabric Corporation Larry A. Liebenow, lliebenow@quakerfabric.com	02/07/2008	No	No	No
Sterling Fibers, Inc. James Hagerott, 850-994-5311	02/07/2008	No	Yes	No
Toho Tenax America, Inc. Marc Verbruggen, 865-354-5505	02/07/2008	No	No	No
Tuscarora Yarns, Inc., Peter Hegarty, phegarty@tuscarorayarns.com	02/07/2008	No	No	No
William Barnet & Son, LLC Ron Vinolo, 864-576-7154	02/07/2008	No	No	No

Technical comments:⁶

For clarity and to be more consistent with other tariff provisions, it is suggested that the article description be amended as shown on page 1.

⁶ The Commission may express an opinion on the HTS classification of a product to facilitate consideration of the bill. However, by law, only the U.S. Customs Service is authorized to issue a binding ruling on this matter. The Commission believes that the U.S. Customs Service should be consulted prior to enactment of the bill.

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4473

To suspend temporarily the duty on certain acrylic synthetic staple fiber.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 12, 2007

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia (for himself, Mr. KINGSTON, and Mr. SHULER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To suspend temporarily the duty on certain acrylic synthetic staple fiber.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. CERTAIN ACRYLIC SYNTHETIC STAPLE FIBER.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 99 of
5 the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is
6 amended by inserting in numerical sequence the following
7 new heading:

“	9902.01.00	Acrylic staple fiber dyed (polyacrylonitrile staple), not carded, combed, or otherwise processed for spinning, containing by weight a minimum of 92 percent polyacrylonitrile, not more than .01 percent zinc and from 2 to 8 percent water, imported in the form of staple fiber with a filament decitex of 4.0 decitex to 6.7 decitex (plus or minus 10 percent) with a fiber shrinkage of 0 to 22 percent (plus or minus 10 percent) and a cut fiber length of 100 mm to 135 mm with a target length of 120 mm (provided for in subheading 5503.30.00)	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2011	”.
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1 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by
2 subsection (a) applies to articles entered, or withdrawn
3 from warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day
4 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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