

Use: See notice at 68 FR 53547, September 11, 2003.

Comments: None received. *Decision:* Approved. No instruments of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instruments, for such purposes as they are intended to be used, are being manufactured in the United States.

Reasons: These are compatible accessories for an existing instrument purchased for the use of the applicant.

The accessories are pertinent to the intended uses and we know of no domestic accessories which can be readily adapted to the previously imported instrument.

Gerald A. Zerdy,

Program Manager, Statutory Import Programs Staff.

[FR Doc. 03-27693 Filed 11-3-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

The University of Michigan; Notice of Decision on Application for Duty-Free Entry of Scientific Instrument

This decision is made pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Materials Importation Act of 1966 (Pub. L. 89-651, 80 Stat. 897; 15 CFR part 301). Related records can be viewed between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. in Suite 4100W, U.S. Department of Commerce, Franklin Court Building, 1099 14th Street, NW., Washington, DC.

Docket Number: 03-024R. *Applicant:* The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2136. *Instrument:* Materials Preparation and Crystal Growth System, Model MCGS5. *Manufacturer:* Crystalox Limited, United Kingdom. *Intended Use:* See notice at 68 FR 36769, June 19, 2003.

Comments: None received. *Decision:* Approved. No instrument of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument, for such purposes as it is intended to be used, is being manufactured in the United States.

Reasons: The foreign instrument provides: (1) Induction cold crucible melting capable of complete levitation of the charge (for purity), (2) Czochralski growth for production of single crystals and (3) small crucible volume (21 ccm²) allowing research-scale experiments with precious metals (e.g., platinum). The National Institute of Standards and Technology advises in its memorandum of October 22, 2003 that (1) these capabilities are pertinent to the applicant's intended purpose and (2) it knows of no domestic instrument or

apparatus of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument for the applicant's intended use.

We know of no other instrument or apparatus of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument which is being manufactured in the United States.

Gerald A. Zerdy,

Program Manager, Statutory Import Programs Staff.

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Docket Number: 03-041. *Applicant:* University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109. *Instrument:* 2 (each) CdZnTe Conplanar Grad Radiation Detectors. *Manufacturer:* Baltic Scientific Instruments, Latvia. *Intended Use:* See notice at 68 FR 53547, September 11, 2003.

Comments: None received. *Decision:* Approved. No instrument of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument, for such purposes as it is intended to be used, is being manufactured in the United States. *Reasons:* The foreign instrument provides optimal fabrication of a CdZnTe crystal gamma-ray detector using very specialized crystals and signal processing techniques for high energy resolution for use in space exploration. A university physics department advised October 27, 2003 that (1) this capability is pertinent to the applicant's intended purpose and (2) it knows of no domestic instrument or apparatus of equivalent scientific value to the foreign instrument for the applicant's intended use.

We know of no other instrument or apparatus of equivalent scientific value

to the foreign instrument which is being manufactured in the United States.

Gerald A. Zerdy,

Program Manager, Statutory Import Programs Staff.

[FR Doc. 03-27692 Filed 11-3-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

Notice of Solicitation of Comments on Modification of Worsted Wool Fabric Tariff Rate Quotas

AGENCY: Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration.

ACTION: Notice of solicitation of comments on a request for modification of tariff rate quota limitations on the import of certain worsted wool fabrics.

DATES: To be considered, comments must be received or postmarked by 5:00 p.m., November 24, 2003.

ADDRESS: Comments must be submitted to: Deputy Assistant Secretary for Textiles, Apparel and Consumer Goods Industries, Room 3001, United States Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20230. Six copies of comments should be submitted.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of Commerce (Department) hereby solicits comments on a request for an increase in the limitations on the quantity of imports of certain worsted wool fabric under the 2004 tariff rate quotas established by the Trade and Development Act of 2000 (TDA 2000), and amended by the Trade Act of 2002. To be considered, comments must be received or postmarked by 5:00 p.m. November 24, 2003 and must comply with the requirements of 15 CFR 340 (66 FR 6459, published January 22, 2001). Thirty days after the end of the comment period, the Department will determine whether the limitations should be modified.

Background

Title V of the TDA 2000 created two tariff rate quotas (TRQs), providing for temporary reductions for three years in the import duties on limited quantities of two categories of worsted wool fabrics suitable for use in making suits, suit-type jackets, or trousers: (1) for worsted wool fabric with average fiber diameters greater than 18.5 microns (Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the

United States (HTS) heading 9902.51.11); and (2) for worsted wool fabric with average fiber diameters of 18.5 microns or less (HTS heading 9902.51.12).

On August 6, 2002, President Bush signed into law the Trade Act of 2002, which includes several amendments to Title V of the TDA 2000. These include the extension of the program through 2005; the reduction of the in-quota duty rate on HTS 9902.51.12 (average fiber diameter 18.5 microns or less) from 6 percent to zero, effective for goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after January 1, 2002; and an increase in the 2003 through 2005 TRQ levels to 3,500,000 square meters for HTS 9902.51.12 and to 4,500,000 square meters for HTS 9902.51.11. Both of these limitations may be modified by the President, not to exceed 1,000,000 square meters per year for each tariff rate quota.

The TDA 2000 requires the annual consideration of requests by U.S. manufacturers of men's or boys' worsted wool suits, suit-type jackets and trousers for modification of the limitation on the quantity of fabric that may be imported under the tariff rate quotas, and grants the President the authority to proclaim modifications to the limitations. In determining whether to modify the limitations, specified U.S. market conditions with respect to worsted wool fabric and worsted wool apparel must be considered. On January 22, 2001, the Department published regulations establishing procedures for considering requests for modification of the limitations. 15 CFR 340.

On September 26, 2003, the Department published a notice in the Federal Register soliciting requests for modification of the 2004 tariff rate quota limitations. The Department received one such request, from Hartmarx Corporation. The request is for the maximum increase (1,000,000 square meters) in each of the two tariff rate quota limitations (HTS 9902.51.11 and HTS 9902.51.12). The request is reproduced below.

Comments may be submitted by any interested person, including U.S. manufacturers of worsted wool fabric, wool yarn, wool top and wool fiber. Comments must comply with the requirements of 15 CFR 340. If the person submitting comments is a domestic producer of worsted wool fabric, comments should include, to the extent available, the following information for each limitation with respect to which comments are being made: (1) A list of domestic manufacturers of worsted wool suits, suit-type jackets, or trousers for whom

orders were filled during the period July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003, the date of such orders, the total quantity ordered and supplied in square meters of domestically produced worsted wool fabric and of imported worsted wool fabric, and the average price received per square meter of domestically produced worsted wool fabric and of imported worsted wool fabric for such orders; 2) A list of all requests to purchase worsted wool fabric during the period July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003 that were rejected by the person submitting the comments, indicating the dates of the requests, the quantity requested, the price quoted, and the reasons why the request was rejected; 3) Data indicating the increase or decrease in production and sales for the period January 1, 2003 to June 30, 2003 and the comparable six month period in the previous year of domestically-produced worsted wool fabrics used in the production of worsted wool suits, suit-type jackets and trousers; 4) Evidence of lost sales due to the temporary duty reductions on certain worsted wool fabric under the tariff rate quotas; and 5) Other evidence of the ability of domestic producers of worsted wool fabric to meet the needs of the manufacturers of worsted wool suits, suit-type jackets and trousers in terms of quantity, variety, and other relevant factors.

Comments must be accompanied by a statement by the person submitting the request (if a natural person), or an employee, officer or agent of the legal entity submitting the request, with personal knowledge of the matters set forth therein, certifying that the information is complete and accurate, signed and sworn before a Notary Public, and acknowledging that false representations to a federal agency may result in criminal penalties under federal law. Any business confidential information provided that is marked confidential and protected from disclosure to the full extent permitted by law. To the extent business confidential information is provided, a non-confidential submission should also be provided, in which business confidential information is summarized or, if necessary, deleted.

Dated: October 29, 2003.

D. Michael Hutchinson,
*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Textiles, Apparel and Consumer Goods
Industries*

October 14, 2003

Industry Assessment Division
Office of Textiles and Apparel
Room 3100

United States Department of Commerce

Washington, DC 20230

RE: Request for Modification of Tariff Rate
Quotas on the Import of Certain Worsted
Wool Fabrics

To Whom It May Concern: As President and Chief Executive Officer of Hartmarx Corporation and on behalf of Hartmarx Corporation and its wholly-owned subsidiaries ("the Companies"), manufacturers of men's and boys' worsted wool suits, suit-type jackets and trousers¹, I am submitting this request in response to the Department of Commerce's "Notice of Solicitation of Requests for Modification of Tariff Rate Quotas on the Import of Certain Worsted Wool Fabrics". This modification request is consistent with the procedures established for considering requests for modifications of the tariff rate quotas under Title V or the Trade and Development Act of 2000 (the Act) and the regulations published by the Department.

Hartmarx Corporation has its principal executive and administrative offices in Chicago, Illinois. The Companies have manufacturing facilities in Alabama, New York, Missouri, Illinois, Pennsylvania and Arkansas. The Company was established in 1872, and we believe we are the largest manufacturer and marketer of men's suits, sport coats, and slacks in the United States. Substantially all of the company's products are sold to a wide variety of retail channels under established brand names or the private labels of major retailers. For example, the Company owns the Hart Schaffner & Marx and Hickey-Freeman labels and also offers its products under a variety of brand names it owns or under exclusive licensing agreements.

As domestic manufacturers of men's and boys' worsted wool suits, suit-type jackets and trousers, the Companies are eligible to request a modification of the limitation on the quantity of imported worsted wool fabrics under headings 9902.51.11 and 9902.51.12 of the harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS). This request seeks an increase in the limitations for imports entering on or after January 1, 2004 of 1 million square meters for HTS heading 9902.51.11 and an increase of 1 million square meters for HTS heading 9902.51.12².

For the twelve months July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003, our companies imported a substantial quantity of worsted wool fabric despite the difficult economic conditions in the men's tailored clothing business. As conditions in the men's tailored clothing business improve, the companies, along with other companies in the industry, would expect to import more worsted wool fabric to meet the anticipated demand from our customers. This is especially true given the quantity of fabric imports of other domestic manufacturers of men's and boys' worsted wool tailored clothing who are seeking allocations of the tariff rate quota. In addition, domestic fabric production has experienced significant and rapid declines in the last few years. The following information is summarized from the Hartmarx Form 10-

¹ As required by 15 CFR 340.3(b)(2).

² As required by 15 CFR 340.3(b)(3).

K filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission from 1993 to 2002 shows that during that period the Companies purchased a reduced amount of all our fabric needs (not just worsted wool) from Burlington Industries, and imported significantly more fabric.

Fiscal year ended November 30	Percent of fabric needs	
	Purchases from Burlington Industries	Imports
2002	8	65
2001	11	55
2000	20	40
1999	25	33
1998	33	30
1997	40	22
1996	43	19
1995	46	17
1994	51	20
1993	48	25

Purchases from Burlington Industries for the period July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003 were not significant. Whereas in prior periods the companies purchased over one million square meters from Burlington.

Today, the Companies rely on mills in more than 15 countries to supply worsted wool fabric. Therefore, we know that unless the limitations are significantly increased, we will be unable to receive adequate TRQ allocations to satisfy our needs.

Hickey-Freeman only uses fabric described in HTS heading 9902.51.12. Because of the nature of the fabric used by Hickey-Freeman, Burlington has not been a significant worsted wool fabric supplier to Hickey-Freeman for many years. This situation stands in stark contrast to that of decades ago when Burlington was such a large fabric supplier that Hickey-Freeman purchased business interruption insurance to insure against financial losses should Burlington's mills be unable to fulfill Hickey-Freeman's fabric orders. Hickey-Freeman has been a significant customer of Loro Piana USA (Warren of Stafford), but has reduced its purchases over the last few years because that mill has been unable to satisfy our fabric needs at the same level as it had previously. In 2000, Loro Piana USA (Warren of Stafford) supplied approximately 30 percent of Hickey-Freeman's total fabric purchases. Today, Hickey-Freeman relies on mills in 6 countries to supply worsted wool fabric.

In the period January 1, 2003 to June 30, 2003 compared to January 1, 2002 to June 30, 2002, our business changed significantly in that we produced significantly more garments using worsted wool fabrics finer than 18.5 microns and fewer garments using worsted wool fabric greater than 18.5 microns.

We are attaching, as part of this modification request, business confidential production and other data required under the regulations and request that it be protected from disclosure. This data is separately attached and is labeled "Business Confidential."

This letter and the attached Business Confidential data provides the basis for our requested modification.

As an officer of the company submitting this request, I have personal knowledge of the matters set forth herein, and I certify that the information is complete and accurate. I acknowledge that false representations to a federal agency may result in criminal penalties under federal law.

Homi B. Patel,

*President and Chief Executive Officer,
Hartmarx Corporation.*

[FR Doc. 03-27642 Filed 11-3-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

[Docket No. 031003246-3246-01]

National Voluntary Conformity Assessment System Evaluation (NVCASE) Program

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) announces the establishment of a sub-program under the National Voluntary Conformity Assessment System Evaluation (NVCASE) program to recognize accreditors of certification bodies involved in organic production and processing. The sub-program is being established pursuant to NVCASE procedures in response to a request from the International Organic Accreditation Service. Accreditation bodies recognized by NIST may then accredit certification bodies that are involved in organic production and processing.

The action being taken under this notice addresses both general and specific NVCASE requirements relating to organic production and processing. Sub-program requirements have been developed in accordance with NVCASE procedures and with public consultation. Public input was obtained at an open meeting on May 9, 2003.

DATES: Applications will be accepted beginning December 4, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Applications for recognition may be obtained from, and returned to, NVCASE Program Manager, NIST, 100 Bureau Drive, Mailstop 2150, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-2150, (Attention: Jogindar S. Dhillon), or by fax (301) 975-5414, or e-mail at dhillon@nist.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jogindar S. Dhillon, NIST, 100 Bureau Drive, Mailstop 2150, Gaithersburg, MD

20899-2150, fax: (301) 975-5414, e-mail: dhillon@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NVCASE sub-program to recognize accreditation bodies that accredit certification bodies for organic production and processing is being established in accordance with NVCASE program procedures, 15 CFR 286.2(b)(3)(iii). The general and specific requirements were established pursuant to NVCASE procedures as cited in 15 CFR 286.5. Public consultation on these requirements was conducted at a workshop held on May 9, 2003. This workshop was announced in the **Federal Register** Vol. 68, No. 63/ Wednesday, April 2, 2003.

NIST will apply the general requirements contained in the International Organization for Standardization/International Electrotechnical Commission (ISO/IEC) Guide 61—"General Requirements for Assessment and Accreditation of Certification/Registration Bodies" or its latest revision to all applicant accreditation bodies. These general requirements will be supplemented by specific technical requirements outlined below and contained in the NVCASE handbook, available upon request from NIST.

Under this sub-program, NIST-recognized accreditors will accredit certification bodies for conformance to:

- (i) The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements' (IFOAM) Accreditation Criteria and IFOAM Basic Standards for organic production and processing; and/or
- (ii) ISO/IEC Guide 65—"General Requirements for bodies operating product certification systems"—and international standards, as requested by the applicant certification bodies, in the field of organic production and processing.

NVCASE recognition of an accreditor of "Organic Production and Processing" certification bodies does not convey recognition by any other organization.

NIST will accept applications from interested accreditation bodies for recognition to accredit certification bodies involved in organic production and processing until December 4, 2003. All accreditation bodies that have submitted a complete application and required fees to NIST within 30 days after the beginning of the acceptance of applications will be included in an initial group for evaluation. Applications received subsequently will be considered on an as-received basis for evaluation after the initial group of applicants has been considered. You may request a copy of the application