

FACT SHEET

Commerce Textile and Apparel Monitoring System Outline

- Today, the Department of Commerce issued a *Federal Register* notice outlining its framework for the import monitoring system on textiles and apparel from Vietnam and requesting further public comment.
- As with all its trade obligations, the Department will vigorously enforce U.S. trade laws to make sure Americans are treated fairly.
- Today's notice follows the Commerce's December 4, 2006, initial request for comment on the establishment of a temporary textile and apparel import monitoring system, after Vietnam's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO). The system would be in place until the end of the current Administration.
- The Administration will continue to work with, and solicit comment from, all stakeholders, including domestic textile and apparel producers, workers, importers, retailers, interested trade associations, and the government of Vietnam, as it implements the textile and apparel monitoring system to monitor unfair trade practices.

MONITORING SYSTEM:

- The notice outlines the basic principles of the monitoring system.
- The Department intends to initially monitor five sensitive product groups - trousers, shirts, sweaters, underwear and swimwear. This monitoring will be done at various levels, including the three-digit textile category level and the 10-digit HTS level. No additional paperwork is required from importers, and the data will be updated on a monthly basis.
- The monitor will be housed on Import Administration's Office of Textile and Apparel Web site – <http://www.otexa.ita.doc.gov/>.

OUTREACH:

- The outreach process will be ongoing and continue throughout this Administration. All parties are welcome to meet with or otherwise provide input to the Department.
- **Electronic hotline:** vietnam-texapp-monitor-hotline@mail.doc.gov – for parties to more easily provide input, raise questions, or submit suggestions to Commerce about the program.
- **Public hearing:** The Department intends to hold a public hearing on the program in Washington D.C. within three months.
- **Field hearing:** The Department intends to ensure that the locations of these hearings will be convenient to the broad array of parties that have expressed interest in the monitoring program.
- **Email notification:** Commerce also intends to develop an e-mail notification system to provide parties notice of upcoming developments. Those interested in being included in the e-mail notification system should provide Commerce with their e-mail address. E-mail addresses may be submitted in writing or through the electronic hotline.

NEXT STEPS:

- Public comments are due January 31, 2007. Comments may be submitted in writing or filed electronically at vietnam-texapp-monitor-FRcomments@mail.doc.gov. Comments should be limited to 25 pages.