

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

The Honorable Shara L. Aranoff
Chairman
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E St., SW
Washington, DC 20436

FEB 12 2010

Dear Chairman Aranoff:

Chapter 3, Annex 3-A and Chapter Four of the United States - Bahrain Free Trade Agreement (FTA) set out rules of origin for textiles and apparel for applying the tariff provisions of the FTA. These rules are reflected in General Note 30 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS).

Section 202(j) of the United States – Bahrain Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (the Act) authorizes the President, subject to the consultation and layover requirements of section 104 of the Act, to proclaim such modifications to the rules of origin as are necessary to implement an agreement pursuant to Article 3.2.5 of the FTA. One of the requirements set out in section 104 is that the President obtain advice regarding the proposed action from the U.S. International Trade Commission.

Our negotiators have recently reached agreement in principle with representatives of the government of Bahrain on certain modifications to the United States - Bahrain FTA rules of origin, which are reflected in the enclosed document. These changes are the result of determinations that neither U.S. nor Bahraini producers are able to produce certain combed cotton yarns used in the production of certain home furnishings in commercial quantities in a timely manner.

Under authority delegated by the President, and pursuant to section 104 of the Act, I request that the Commission provide advice on the probable effect of the modifications for the products reflected in the enclosed proposal on U.S. trade under the United States – Bahrain FTA, total U.S. trade, and on domestic producers of the affected articles. I request that the Commission provide this advice at the earliest possible date, but not later than five months after the date of receipt of this request. The Commission should issue, as soon as possible thereafter, a public version of its report with any business confidential information deleted.

The Commission's assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Ambassador Ron Kirk

Enclosure

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United States-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement

Proposed chapter note 2 of chapter 63:

The origin of compacted, single, ring spun cotton yarns of subheadings 5205.27aa and 5205.28bb shall be disregarded in determining the origin of cotton pillow cases, other than bolster cases, and sheets, of subheadings 6302.21.90cc, 6302.31.50dd, 6302.31.90ee, cotton bed skirts of subheading 6303.91ff, cotton shams and finished throw pillow covers of subheading 6304.92gg, cotton pillow shells of subheading 6307.90.89hh, and cotton shells for quilts, eiderdowns, comforters and similar articles of subheading 6307.90.89ii.

5205.27aa – ring spun, compact yarn exceeding 102nm

5205.28bb – ring spun, compact yarn exceeding 102 nm

6302.21.90cc – pillow cases, other than bolster cases, and sheets

6302.31.50dd - pillow cases, other than bolster cases, and sheets

6302.31.90ee - pillow cases, other than bolster cases, and sheets

6303.91.00ff – bed skirts

6304.92.00gg – shams and finished throw pillow covers

6307.90.89hh – pillow shells, of cotton

6307.90.89ii – shells for quilts, eiderdowns, comforters and similar articles, of cotton