

for carryover, carryforward and recrediting carryforward.

A description of the textile and apparel categories in terms of HTS numbers is available in the CORRELATION: Textile and Apparel Categories with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (see **Federal Register** notice 61 FR 66263, published on December 17, 1996). Also see 61 FR 68248, published on December 27, 1996.

The letter to the Commissioner of Customs and the actions taken pursuant to it are not designed to implement all of the provisions of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act and the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing, but are designed to assist only in the implementation of certain of their provisions.

**Troy H. Cribb,**

*Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.*

**Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements**

May 8, 1997.

Commissioner of Customs,  
*Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20229.*

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directive issued to you on December 20, 1996, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textile products, produced or manufactured in the United Arab Emirates and exported during the twelve-month period which began on January 1, 1997 and extends through December 31, 1997.

Effective on May 14, 1997, you are directed to adjust the limits for the following categories, as provided for under the Uruguay Round Agreements Act and the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing:

Category	Adjusted twelve-month limit <sup>1</sup>
219 .....	1263,461 square meters.
226/313 .....	2,160,550 square meters.
317 .....	34,854,068 square meters.
326 .....	2,039,563 square meters.
334/634 .....	257,490 dozen.
335/635/835 .....	176,762 dozen.
336/636 .....	213,106 dozen.
338/339 .....	636,859 dozen of which not more than 384,098 dozen shall be in Categories 338-S/339-S <sup>2</sup> .
340/640 .....	357,181 dozen.
341/641 .....	345,724 dozen.
342/642 .....	274,657 dozen.

Category	Adjusted twelve-month limit <sup>1</sup>
347/348 .....	451,785 dozen of which not more than 225,892 dozen shall be in Categories 347-T/348-T <sup>3</sup> .
351/651 .....	197,409 dozen.
352 .....	363,920 dozen.
363 .....	6,798,542 numbers
369-O <sup>4</sup> .....	680,631 kilograms.
369-S <sup>5</sup> .....	94,636 kilograms.
638/639 .....	257,490 dozen.
647/648 .....	369,069 dozen.
847 .....	231,741 dozen.

<sup>1</sup>The limits have not been adjusted to account for any imports exported after December 31, 1996.

<sup>2</sup>Category 338-S: only HTS numbers 6103.22.0050, 6105.10.0010, 6105.10.0030, 6105.90.8010, 6109.10.0027, 6110.20.1025, 6110.20.2040, 6110.20.2065, 6110.90.9068, 6112.11.0030 and 6114.20.0005; Category 339-S: only HTS numbers 6104.22.0060, 6104.29.2049, 6106.10.0010, 6106.10.0030, 6106.90.2510, 6106.90.3010, 6109.10.0070, 6110.20.1030, 6110.20.2045, 6110.20.2075, 6110.90.9070, 6112.11.0040, 6114.20.0010 and 6117.90.9020.

<sup>3</sup>Category 347-T: only HTS numbers 6103.19.2015, 6103.19.9020, 6103.22.0030, 6103.42.1020, 6103.42.1040, 6103.49.8010, 6112.11.0050, 6113.00.9038, 6203.19.1020, 6203.19.9020, 6203.22.3020, 6203.42.4005, 6203.42.4010, 6203.42.4015, 6203.42.4025, 6203.42.4035, 6203.42.4045, 6203.49.8020, 6210.40.9033, 6211.20.1520, 6211.20.3810 and 6211.32.0040; Category 348-T: only HTS numbers 6104.12.0030, 6104.19.8030, 6104.22.0040, 6104.29.2034, 6104.62.2006, 6104.62.2011, 6104.62.2026, 6104.62.2028, 6104.69.8022, 6112.11.0060, 6113.00.9042, 6117.90.9060, 6204.12.0030, 6204.19.8030, 6204.22.3040, 6204.29.4034, 6204.62.3000, 6204.62.4005, 6204.62.4010, 6204.62.4020, 6204.62.4030, 6204.62.4040, 6204.62.4050, 6204.69.6010, 6304.69.9010, 6210.50.9060, 6211.20.1550, 6211.20.6810, 6211.42.0030 and 6217.90.9050.

<sup>4</sup>Category 369-O: all HTS numbers except 6307.10.2005 (Category 369-S).

<sup>5</sup>Category 369-S: only HTS number 6307.10.2005.

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements has determined that these actions fall within the foreign affairs exception to the rulemaking provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(1).

Sincerely,

Troy H. Cribb,

*Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.*

[FR Doc.97-12679 Filed 5-13-97; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-DR-F**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS**

**Request for Public Comments on Bilateral Consultations with the Government of Nepal**

May 8, 1997.

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Janet Heinzen, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212. For information on categories for which consultations have been requested, call (202) 482-3740.

**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).

On April 23, 1997, under Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854), the Government of the United States requested consultations with the Government of Nepal with respect to cotton terry and other pile towels in Category 363, produced or manufactured in Nepal.

The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that, if no solution is agreed upon in consultations with the Government of Nepal, the Government of the United States may later establish a limit for the entry and withdrawal from warehouse for consumption of cotton textile products in Category 363, produced or manufactured in Nepal and exported during the twelve-month period which began on April 23, 1997 and extends through April 22, 1998, at a level of not less than 4,089,480 numbers.

A statement of serious damage, actual threat of serious damage or the exacerbation of serious damage concerning Category 363 follows this notice.

Anyone wishing to comment or provide data or information regarding the treatment of Category 363 or to comment on domestic production or availability of products included in Category 363 is invited to submit 10 copies of such comments or information to Troy H. Cribb, Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230; ATTN: Helen L. LeGrande. The comments received will be considered in the context of the consultations with the Government of Nepal.

Because the exact timing of the consultations is not yet certain, comments should be submitted promptly. Comments or information submitted in response to this notice will be available for public inspection in the Office of Textiles and Apparel, room H3100, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.

Further comments may be invited regarding particular comments or information received from the public which the Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements considers appropriate for further consideration.

The solicitation of comments regarding any aspect of the implementation of an agreement is not a waiver in any respect of the exemption contained in 5 U.S.C.553(a)(1) relating to matters which constitute "a foreign affairs function of the United States."

The United States remains committed to finding a solution concerning Category 363. Should such a solution be reached in consultations with the Government of Nepal, further notice will be published in the **Federal Register**.

A description of the textile and apparel categories in terms of HTS numbers is available in the CORRELATION: Textile and Apparel Categories with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (see **Federal Register** notice 61 FR 66263, published on December 17, 1996).

**Troy H. Cribb,**

*Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.*

**Summary of the Statement in Support of Request for Consultations Under Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956**

**Cotton Terry and Other Pile Towels—Category 363**

**April 1997**

U.S. imports of cotton terry and other pile towels, Category 363, from Nepal surged to 4,089,480 units in year ending January 1997, 177 percent above the 1,477,450 units imported in year ending January 1996 and more than 30 times the 123,720 units imported in 1994. Imports from Nepal were 2.0 percent of total U.S. imports of Category 363 in the year ending January 1997, and were equivalent to nearly one percent of U.S. production of Category 363 in 1996.

U.S. imports of cotton terry and other pile towels, Category 363 from Nepal, entered the U.S. at an average landed duty-paid value of \$0.43 per unit during 1996, 71 percent below the average landed duty-paid value for all cotton terry and other pile towel imports into the U.S., and 72 percent below the

average U.S. producers' price for cotton terry and other pile towels.

The sharp increase of low-valued Category 363 imports from Nepal threatens to cause disruption to the U.S. cotton terry and other pile towel market and to the orderly flow of trade in these products. In several instances, Nepal's import level for year ending January 1997 exceeds the trade levels of WTO countries that have quota agreements with the United States.

**U.S. Production, Import Penetration, and Market Share**

U.S. production of cotton pile and other terry towels, Category 363, declined in 1996 falling to an estimated 498,141,000 units, 6 percent below the 1995 production level and 5 percent below the 1994 level. In contrast, imports of Category 363 increased to 208,807,000 units in year ending January 1997, 10 percent above the same period a year earlier and 13 percent above the 1994 level.

The ratio of imports to domestic production increased from 35 percent in 1994 to 41 percent in 1996. Imports' share of the U.S. market for cotton pile and other terry towels increased from 27 percent in 1994 and 1995 to 30 percent in 1996.

[FR Doc. 97-12677 Filed 5-13-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-F

**COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS**

**Request for Public Comments on Bilateral Consultations with the Government of Pakistan**

May 8, 1997.

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ross Arnold, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212. For information on categories for which consultations have been requested, call (202) 482-3740.

**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); Uruguay Round Agreements Act.

On April 23, 1997, under the terms of Article 6 of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) and the Uruguay Round Agreements Act, the Government of the United States requested consultations

with the Government of Pakistan with respect to cotton yarn in Category 301pt. (HTS numbers 5205.21.0000, 5205.22.0000, 5205.23.0000, 5205.24.0000, 5205.26.0000, 5205.27.0000, 5205.28.0000, 5205.41.0000, 5205.42.0000, 5205.43.0000, 5205.44.0000, 5205.46.0000, 5205.47.0000, 5205.48.0000), produced or manufactured in Pakistan.

The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that, if no solution is agreed upon in consultations with the Government of Pakistan, the Government of the United States reserves its right to establish a twelve-month limit of not less than 2,319,944 kilograms for the entry and withdrawal from warehouse for consumption of cotton textile products in Category 301pt., produced or manufactured in Pakistan.

A summary statement of serious damage, the actual threat of serious damage or the exacerbation of serious damage concerning Category 301pt. follows this notice.

Anyone wishing to comment or provide data or information regarding the treatment of Category 301pt. or to comment on domestic production or availability of products included in Category 301pt. is invited to submit 10 copies of such comments or information to Troy H. Cribb, Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230; ATTN: Helen L. LeGrande. The comments received will be considered in the context of the consultations with the Government of Pakistan.

Because the exact timing of the consultations is not yet certain, comments should be submitted promptly. Comments or information submitted in response to this notice will be available for public inspection in the Office of Textiles and Apparel, room H3100, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC.

Further comments may be invited regarding particular comments or information received from the public which the Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements considers appropriate for further consideration.

The solicitation of comments regarding any aspect of the implementation of an agreement is not a waiver in any respect of the exemption contained in 5 U.S.C.553(a)(1) relating to matters which constitute "a foreign affairs function of the United States."

The United States remains committed to finding a solution concerning