

jackets entered under the Special Access Program (9802.00.8015) provided they are cut in the United States and of a type described below:

(1) A chest plate, "hymo" piece or "sleeve header" of woven or weft-inserted warp knit construction of coarse animal hair or man-made filaments used in the manufacture of men's or boys' tailored suit jackets and suit-type jackets;

(2) A weft-inserted warp knit fabric which contains and exhibits properties of elasticity and resilience which render the fabric especially suitable for attachment by fusing with a thermo-plastic adhesive to the coat-front, side body or back of men's or boys' tailored suit jackets and suit-type jackets.

(3) A woven fabric which contains and exhibits properties of resiliency which render the fabric especially suitable for attachment by fusing with a thermo-plastic adhesive to the coat-front, side body or back of men's or boys' tailored suit jackets and suit-type jackets.

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements has determined that this action falls within the foreign affairs exception of 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. 97-24869 Filed 9-18-97; 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 Thailand

September 15, 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 August 28, 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 Thailand with

respect to yarn, 85% or more by weight artificial staple fiber, Category 603, produced or manufactured in Thailand.

The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that, if no solution is agreed upon in consultations with the Government of Thailand, the Government of the United States reserves its right to establish a twelve-month limit of not less than 1,664,653 kilograms for the entry and withdrawal from warehouse for consumption of yarn of 85% or more artificial staple fiber in Category 603, produced or manufactured in Thailand.

A summary statement of serious damage, the actual threat of serious damage or the exacerbation of serious damage concerning Category 603 follows this notice.

Anyone wishing to comment or provide data or information regarding the treatment of Category 603 or to comment on domestic production or availability of products included in Category 603 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 Thailand.

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 603. Should such a solution be reached in consultations with the Government of Thailand, 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 Statement in Support of Request for Consultations Under Article 6 of the ATC—Thailand

Category 603—Yarn, 85 Percent or more by Weight Artificial Staple Fiber

August 1997

The USG has determined that the increase in imports of yarn for sale, 85 percent or more by weight artificial staple fiber, Category 603, has caused serious damage, or actual threat thereof, to the industry in the United States producing like and/or directly competitive yarn for sale.

Imports of the subject yarn from all sources increased by 15.9 percent in 1996 over 1995, a net increase of nearly 2.0 million kilograms. Domestic orders fell by 19.5 percent and domestic production declined 7.7 percent in 1996 as inventories increased by 17.4 percent. Increasing low-valued imports forced domestic spinners to cut their prices and margins to remain price competitive. Mills cut prices in 1996 and continued to lose orders to imports with unfilled orders dropping 19.5 percent in 1996 below the 1995 level. During the first quarter of 1997 domestic industry orders fell 26.3 percent, as inventories increased 22.3 percent and production fell 20 percent from the same period last year.

Capacity utilization declined as production fell, causing severe margin pressure as fixed costs had to be allocated over fewer sales, which cut gross margins. Compounded with the pressure to lower prices, mills' profitability evaporated. Seventy-eight percent of the companies reported declining profitability in 1996 on the product in question. Two mills fell victim to the margin squeeze and shut down. Production worker employment in the defined industry lost a total of 403 jobs in 1996. More jobs were lost in 1997, as another firm exited the business, resulting in a net loss of 619 jobs from 1995 to the first quarter of 1997.

The USG concluded that the increase in imports from 1995 to 1996 is the direct cause of serious damage to the industry as reflected in the industry's declining production, the substantial increase in inventories, the industry's deteriorating financial performance, and the significant fall in unfilled orders, man-hours, and employment.

The USG has also determined that serious damage to this industry is directly attributable to a sharp and substantial increase in imports of the subject yarn from Thailand. Imports from Thailand have increased significantly, both absolutely and relative to domestic production and world imports, thereby increasing Thailand's share of U.S. imports and the U.S. market. Thailand's low-valued imports adversely affected U.S. domestic prices. U.S. imports of the subject yarn from Thailand rose to 1,279,683 kilograms in 1996, an increase of 22.3 percent above the 1,046,174 kilograms imported during 1995. In the first quarter of 1997, imports from Thailand surged to 610,843 kilograms, 85.8 percent above the 328,698 kilograms imported in the first quarter of 1996. Imports from Thailand for the year ending June 1997 reached 1,557,205 kilograms, 39.7 percent above the 1,114,926 kilograms imported during the same period a year earlier.

The USG further determined that increases in imports of the subject yarn from all sources constitute the actual threat of serious damage or the exacerbation of serious damage to the defined domestic industry producing a like and/or directly competitive product, and that, based on sharp and substantial increases in imports of the subject product from Thailand, such threat was attributable to Thailand.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Air Force

HQ USAF Scientific Advisory Board Meeting

The C2 Advisory Group Meeting in support of the HQ USAF Scientific Advisory Board will meet at Norfolk, VA on October 29-30, 1997, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to gather information and receive briefings.

The meeting will be closed to the public in accordance with section 552b of Title 5, United States Code, specifically subparagraphs (1) and (4) thereof.

For further information, contact the HQ USAF Scientific Advisory Board Secretariat at (703) 697-8404.

Barbara A. Carmichael,

Alternate Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-24905 Filed 9-18-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3910-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Scientific Advisory Board

AGENCY: Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP), DOD.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Pub. L. (92-463) announcement is made of the following open meeting:

Name of Committee: Scientific Advisory Board (SAB).

Dates of Meeting: 13-14 November 1997.

Place: Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Building 54, 14th St & Alaska Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20306-6000.

Time: 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (13 November 1997); 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (14 November 1997).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Ridgely Rabold, Center for Advanced Pathology (CAP), AFIP, Building 54, Washington, DC 20306-6000, phone (202) 782-2553.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

General function of the board: The Scientific Advisory Board provides scientific and professional advice and guidance on programs, policies, and procedures of the AFIP.

Agenda: The Board will hear status reports from the AFIP Deputy Directors, Center for Advanced Pathology Director, the National Museum of Health and Medicine, and each of the pathology departments. Board Members will visit several of the pathology departments.

Open board discussions: Reports will be given on all visited departments. The reports will consist of findings, recommended areas of further research, and suggested solutions. New trends and/or technologies will be discussed and goals established. The meeting is open to the public.

Mary V. Yonts,

Alternate Army Federal Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 97-24899 Filed 9-18-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3710-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Notice of Proposed Information Collection Requests

AGENCY: Department of Education.

ACTION: Notice of proposed information collection requests.

SUMMARY: The Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, invites comments on the

proposed information collection requests as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: An emergency review has been requested in accordance with the Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 3507 (j)), since public harm is reasonably likely to result if normal clearance procedures are followed. Approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has been requested by October 1, 1997. A regular clearance process is also beginning. Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before November 18, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Written comments regarding the emergency review should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Dan Chenok, Desk Officer: Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, NW., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503. Requests for copies of the proposed information collection request should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 7th & D Streets, SW., Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651. Written comments regarding the regular clearance and requests for copies of the proposed information collection requests should be addressed to Patrick J. Sherrill, Department of Education, 600 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 5624, Regional Office Building 3, Washington, DC 20202-4651, or should be electronic mailed to the internet address #FIRB@ed.gov, or should be faxed to 202-708-9346.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Patrick J. Sherrill (202) 708-8196.

Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern time, Monday through Friday.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 (c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 3506 (c)(2)(A)) requires that the Director of OMB provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) may amend or waive the requirement for public consultation to the extent that public participation in the approval process would defeat the purpose of the information collection, violate State or Federal law, or substantially interfere with any agency's ability to perform its statutory obligations. The Deputy Chief Information Officer, Office of the Chief