

[FR Doc.05-8901 Filed 4-29-05; 4:15 pm]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-C

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Solicitation of Public Comments on Request for Textile and Apparel Safeguard Action on Imports from China

April 28, 2005.

AGENCY: The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (the Committee)

ACTION: Solicitation of public comments concerning a request for safeguard action on imports from China of cotton and man-made fiber brassieres (Category 349/649).

SUMMARY: On April 6, 2005, the Committee received a request from the American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition, the National Council of Textile Organizations, the National Textile Association, and UNITE HERE requesting that the Committee limit imports from China of cotton and man-made fiber brassieres (Category 349/649). They request that a textile and apparel safeguard action, as provided for in the Report of the Working Party on the Accession of China to the World Trade Organization (the Accession Agreement), be taken on imports of such brassieres. The Committee hereby solicits public comments on this request, in particular with regard to whether imports from China of such brassieres are, due to market disruption, threatening to impede the orderly development of trade in this product. Comments must be submitted by June 3, 2005 to the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, Room 3001A, United States Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 204 of the Agriculture Act of 1956, as amended; Executive Order 11651, as amended.

BACKGROUND:

The Report of the Working Party on the Accession of China to the World

Trade Organization (Accession Agreement) provides that, if a WTO Member, such as the United States, believes that imports of Chinese origin textile and apparel products are, "due to market disruption, threatening to impede the orderly development of trade in these products", it may request consultations with China with a view to easing or avoiding the disruption. Pursuant to this provision, if the United States requests consultations with China, it must, at the time of the request, provide China with a detailed factual statement showing (1) the existence or threat of market disruption; and (2) the role of products of Chinese origin in that disruption. Beginning on the date that it receives such a request, China must restrict its shipments to the United States to a level no greater than 7.5 percent (6 percent for wool product categories) above the amount entered during the first 12 months of the most recent 14 months preceding the month in which the request was made.

On April 6, 2005, the Committee received a request that an Accession Agreement textile and apparel safeguard action be taken on imports from China of cotton and man-made fiber brassieres (Category 349/649). The Committee has determined that this request provides the information necessary for the Committee to consider the request in light of the considerations set forth in the Procedures. In this case, the Committee notes that imports from China of cotton and man-made fiber brassieres (Category 349/649) have increased from 4,079,865 dozen in the first quarter of 2004 to 5,581,965 dozen in the first quarter of 2005 (includes preliminary data for 2005). The text of the request is reproduced in full below.

The Committee is soliciting public comments on this request, in particular with regard to whether imports from China of such brassieres are, due to market disruption, threatening to impede the orderly development of trade in this product.

Comments may be submitted by any interested person. Comments must be received no later than June 3, 2005. Interested persons are invited to submit ten copies of such comments to the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, Room 3001A, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue N.W., Washington, DC 20230.

If a comment alleges that there is no market disruption or that the subject

imports are not the cause of market disruption, the Committee will closely review any supporting information and documentation, such as information about domestic production or prices of like or directly competitive products. Particular consideration will be given to comments representing the views of actual producers in the United States of a like or directly competitive product.

The Committee will protect any business confidential information that is marked "business confidential" from disclosure to the full extent permitted by law. To the extent that business confidential information is provided, two copies of a non-confidential version must also be provided in which business confidential information is summarized or, if necessary, deleted. Comments received, with the exception of information marked "business confidential", will be available for inspection between Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m and 5:30 p.m in the Trade Reference and Assistance Center Help Desk, Suite 800M, USA Trade Information Center, Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, (202) 482-3433.

The Committee expects to make a determination within 60 calendar days of the close of the comment period as to whether the United States will request consultations with China. If, however, the Committee is unable to make a determination within 60 calendar days, it will cause to be published a notice in the **Federal Register**, including the date by which it will make a determination. If the Committee makes a negative determination, it will cause this determination and the reasons therefore to be published in the **Federal Register**. If the Committee makes an affirmative determination that imports of Chinese origin cotton and man-made fiber brassieres are, due to market disruption, threatening to impede the orderly development of trade in these products, the United States will request consultations with China with a view to easing or avoiding such market disruption in accordance with the Accession Agreement and the Committee's procedures.

D. Michael Hutchinson,

Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

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April 6, 2005

James Leonard
Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements
Room H3100
U.S. Department of Commerce
14th and Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Leonard:

The American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition (AMTAC), National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO), National Textile Association (NTA), and UNITE HERE! request that the Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA) take the necessary actions to impose a safeguard on U.S. imports from China of cotton and man-made brassieres and other body-supporting garments classified within Category 349/649 of the U.S. Textile and Apparel Category System. This request is made pursuant to the guidelines issued by CITA (68 F.R. 27788, May 21, 2003).

The parties submitting this request are trade associations and unions which are representative of either domestic producers of products like or directly competitive with cotton and man-made fiber brassieres, in Category 349/649 or of domestic producers of components used in the production of products that are like or directly competitive with the those contained in Category 349/649.

For your background information, descriptions of each organization are as follows:

AMTAC is a not-for-profit manufacturing trade association established for the purpose of preserving and creating American manufacturing jobs through the establishment of trade policy and other measures necessary for the U.S. manufacturing sector to stabilize and grow. Its members are involved in a wide variety of manufacturing, including textiles, throughout the United States. AMTAC's office is in Washington, D.C. www.amtacdc.org

NCTO is a not-for-profit trade association established to represent the entire spectrum of the United States textile sector, from fibers to yarns to fabrics to finished products, as well as suppliers in the textile machinery, chemical and other such sectors which have a stake in the prosperity and survival of the U.S. textile sector. Its headquarters are in Washington, D.C., and it also maintains and office in Gastonia, NC. www.ncto.org

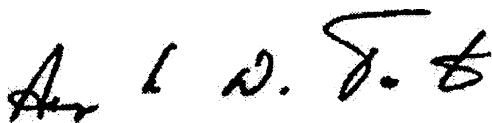
NTA is a not-for-profit trade association of companies who knit or weave fabrics in the United States, dye, print or otherwise finish fabrics in the United states, or supply fibers, yarns, or other services to the American textile industry. NTA's office is in Boston, MA. www.nationaltextile.org

UNITE HERE! was formed by a merger in 2004 of UNITE (formerly the Union of Needletrades, Textiles and Industrial Employees) and HERE (Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union). The union UNITE HERE represents more than 440,000 active members and more than 400,000 retirees throughout North America. UNITE HERE's headquarters are in New York, NY. www.unitehere.org

It is the strong view of the petitioners that market disruption continues in category 349/649 and that renewed surges of imports from China are exacerbating that disruption. As a result of a request filed by the petitioners in 2003, CITA agreed that market disruption was the case and imposed a quota on imports from China in this category for the annual period that began on December 24, 2003. Since the expiration of that quota imports of Chinese origin brassieres have surged, with imports in the first quarter of 2005 being up 43 percent compared to the same period in 2004.

In sum, surging low-priced imports from China and a long term trend of declining production indicates that the situation is similar to the circumstances in late 2004 when CITA determined that Chinese imports were contributing to market disruption in this category. The language on safeguards in the U.S./China Protocol of Accession is based on language in the Multi-Fiber Agreement (MFA) and the WTO's Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC). Both of those international agreements contained language providing for immediate action in the event of highly unusual and critical circumstances. We believe that current circumstances are such and that prompt action is necessary irrespective of the timelines in the CITA procedures.

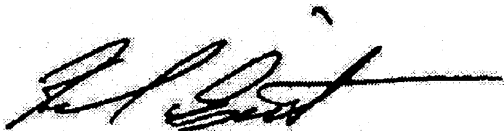
Sincerely,



Auggie Tantillo
Executive Director
AMTAC



Cass Johnson
President
NCTO



Karl Spilhaus
President
NTA



Bruce Raynor
General President
UNITE HERE

Table 1: U.S. Production, Imports, and Domestic Market Share for Cotton and Man-Made Fiber Brassieres (Category 349/649) 1999-2003.

Time Period	U.S. Production	U.S. Imports	Imports from China	Domestic Market Share	Import Market Share	China Market Share
	(Thousand Dozen)			(Percent)		
1999	32,079	38,861	3,943	45.22	54.78	5.56
2000	28,360	39,216	4,084	41.97	58.03	6.04
2001	24,334	36,903	3,185	39.74	60.26	5.20
2002	17,121	44,641	10,580	27.72	72.28	17.13
2003	13,681	44,254	16,062	23.61	76.39	27.72
YE Jun 03	15,178	47,823	14,690	24.09	75.91	23.32
YE Jun 04	13,542	45,307	16,278	23.01	76.99	27.66
YTD Jun 03	7,231	23,447	8,011	23.57	76.43	26.11
YTD Jun 04	7,093	24,500	8,232	22.45	77.55	26.06

Source: U.S. Imports, Production, Markets, Import Production Ratios and Domestic Market Shares for Textile and Apparel Product Categories and U.S. Imports of Textiles and Apparel by Month (OTEXA/ITA/U.S. Department of Commerce)

Table 2: U.S. Imports of Cotton and Man-Made Fiber Brassieres (Category 349/649) 1999-2004, YE January 2004 and 2005, January 2004 and 2005, First Quarter 2004 and (preliminary) 2005, and YE March 2004 and (preliminary) 2005 from the World and China: Quantity (Dozen), Percent Change, and China's Percent Share of the World.

Time Period	U.S. Imports-Category 349/649 from:				
	World:		China:		
	Quantity (Thousand Dozen)	Percent Change	Quantity (Thousand Dozen)	Percent Change	Percent Share
1999	38,861		3,943		10.15%
2000	39,215	0.91%	4,084	3.58%	10.41%
2001	36,916	-5.86%	3,185	-22.01%	8.63%
2002	44,640	20.92%	10,580	232.18%	23.70%
2003	44,260	-0.85%	16,062	51.81%	36.29%
2004	50,353	13.77%	17,736	10.42%	35.22%
YE 1/04	44,212		16,366		37.02%
YE 1/05	50,572	14.38%	17,881	9.26%	35.36%
YTD 1/04	3,997		1,830		45.79%
YTD 1/05	4,215	5.47%	1,975	7.93%	46.86%
1st Qtr 04	11,531		4,080		35.38%
1st Qtr 05(p)	12,833	11.29%	5,489	34.53%	42.77%
YE 3/04	44,192		16,437		37.19%
YE 3/05(p)	51,655	16.89%	19,145	16.47%	37.06%

Source: The Major Shippers Report and Preliminary Data Report (OTEXA/ITA/U.S. Department of Commerce)

[FR Doc.05-8902 Filed 4-29-05; 4:15 pm]
BILLING CODE 3510-DS-C

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Solicitation of Public Comments on Request for Textile and Apparel Safeguard Action on Imports from China

April 28, 2005.

AGENCY: The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (the Committee)

ACTION: Solicitation of public comments concerning a request for safeguard action on imports from China of cotton and man-made fiber dressing gowns and robes (Category 350/650).

SUMMARY: On April 6, 2005, the Committee received a request from the American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition, the National Council of Textile Organizations, the National Textile Association, and UNITE HERE requesting that the Committee limit imports from China of cotton and man-made fiber dressing gowns and robes (Category 350/650). They request that a textile and apparel safeguard action, as

provided for in the Report of the Working Party on the Accession of China to the World Trade Organization (the Accession Agreement), be taken on imports of such dressing gowns and robes. The Committee hereby solicits public comments on this request, in particular with regard to whether imports from China of such dressing gowns and robes are, due to market disruption, threatening to impede the orderly development of trade in this product. Comments must be submitted by June 3, 2005 to the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, Room 3001A, United States Department of Commerce,