

Dated: December 9, 1999.

Gary C. Matlock,

*Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-32322 Filed 12-13-99; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Amendment of the Export Visa Arrangement to Include the New Certification Stamp for Outward Processed Goods for Certain Wool Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

December 9, 1999.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the
Commissioner of Customs amending the
export visa and certification
requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Naomi Freeman, International Trade
Specialist, Office of Textiles and
Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce,
(202) 482-4212.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 204 of the Agricultural
Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854);
Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as
amended.

On September 17, 1999, the
Governments of the United States and
the Former Yugoslav Republic of
Macedonia agreed to amend the Export
Visa Arrangement for certain wool
textile products exported under the
Outward Processing Program in
Categories 433, 434, 435, 443 and 448
(see related notice concerning
implementation of the Outward
Processing Program published
elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal
Register**), produced or manufactured in
the Former Yugoslav Republic of
Macedonia and exported from the
Former Yugoslav Republic of
Macedonia on and after January 1, 2000.
All products exported on and after
January 1, 2000 must be accompanied
by an appropriate export visa or
certification. This directive amends, but
does not cancel the directive published
in the **Federal Register** on April 8, 1998
(see 63 FR 17156).

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 63 FR 71096,
published on December 23, 1998).
Information regarding the 2000
CORRELATION will be published in the
Federal Register at a later date.

Interested persons are advised to take
all necessary steps to ensure that textile
products that are entered into the
United States for consumption, or
withdrawn from warehouse for
consumption, will meet the visa and
certification requirements set forth in
the letter published below to the
Commissioner of Customs.

The visa stamp has not been changed;
a facsimile of the new certification
stamp for the Outward Processing
Program is on file at the U.S.
Department of Commerce, 14th and
Constitution Avenue, NW, room 3104,
Washington, DC.

Troy H. Cribb,

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

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

December 9, 1999.

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

Dear Commissioner: Pursuant to section
204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as
amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order
11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended; and the
Bilateral Textile Agreement of November 7,
1997, this directive amends, but does not
cancel, the directive dated April 2, 1998 (63
FR 17156, published on April 8, 1998) which
established the Export Visa Arrangement
between the Governments of the United
States and the Former Yugoslav Republic of
Macedonia.

Visa Requirements

Pursuant to the Visa Arrangement signed
on September 17, 1999, effective on January
1, 2000, you are directed to prohibit entry
into the Customs territory of the United
States (i.e., the 50 states, the District of
Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto
Rico) for consumption and withdrawal from
warehouse for consumption of wool textile
products in Categories 433, 434, 435, 443 and
448, produced or manufactured in the
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and
exported from the Former Yugoslav Republic
of Macedonia on and after January 1, 2000
for which the Government of the Former
Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has not
issued an appropriate export visa described
below unless they are subject to the Outward
Processing Program described below. Should
additional categories, merged categories or
part categories become subject to import
quota, the merged or part category(s)
automatically shall be included in the
coverage of this visa arrangement.
Merchandise in the category(s) exported on
or after the date the category(s) becomes
subject to import quotas shall require a visa.

A visa must accompany each commercial
shipment of the aforementioned textile
products. A circular stamped marking in blue
ink will appear on the front of the original
commercial invoice or successor document.
The original visa shall not be stamped on
duplicate copies of the invoice. The original
invoice with the original visa stamp will be
required to enter the shipment into the
United States. Duplicates of the invoice and/
or visa may not be used for this purpose.

Each visa stamp shall include the
following information:

1. The visa number. The visa number shall
be in the standard nine digit letter format,
beginning with one numeric digit for the last
digit of the year of export, followed by the
two character alpha code specified by the
International Organization for
Standardization (ISO) (the code for the
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is
"MK"). these two codes shall be followed by
the number "1" and a five digit serial number
identifying the shipment, (e.g., 0MK112345).

2. The date of issuance. The date of
issuance shall be the day, month and year on
which the visa was issued.

3. The original signature and the printed
name of the issuing official authorized by the
Government of the Former Yugoslav
Republic of Macedonia.

4. The correct category(s), merged
category(s), part category(s), quantity(s) and
unit(s) of quantity of the shipment in the
unit(s) of quantity provided for in the U.S.
Department of Commerce Correlation and in
the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the
United States. Annotated or successor
documents shall be reported in the spaces
provided within the visa stamp (e.g., "Cat.
340—510 DOZ").

Quantities must be stated in whole
numbers. Decimals or fractions will not be
accepted. Visaed quantities are rounded to
the closest whole number if the quantity
exported exceeds one whole unit, but is less
than the next whole unit. Half units are
rounded up. If the quantity visaed is less
than one unit, the shipment is rounded
upwards to one unit. Merged category quota
merchandise may be accompanied by either
the appropriate merged category visa or the
correct category visa corresponding to the
actual shipment. For example, quota
Category 347/348 may be visaed as "Category
347/348" or if the shipment consists solely
of Category 347 merchandise, the shipment
may be visaed as "Category 347" but not as
"Category 348." If, however, a merged quota
category such as 340/640 has a quota
submit on Category 340, then there must be
"Category 340" visa for the shipment if it
includes Category 340 merchandise.

U.S. Customs shall not permit entry if the
shipment does not have a visa, or if the visa
number, date of issuance, signature, category,
quantity or units of quantity are missing,
incorrect, illegible, or have been crossed out
or altered in any way. If the quantity
indicated on the visa is less than that of the
shipment, entry shall not be permitted. If the
quantity indicated on the visa is more than
that of the shipment, entry shall be permitted
and only the amount entered shall be charged
to any applicable quota.

The complete name and address of a
company(s) actually involved in the

manufacturing process of the textile product covered by the visa shall be provided on the textile visa document.

If the visa is not acceptable then a new correct visa or a visa waiver must be presented to the U.S. Customs Service before any portion of the shipment will be released. A visa waiver may be issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce at the request of the Embassy of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in Washington, DC. The waiver, if used, only waives the requirement to present a visa with the shipment at entry. It does not waive the quota requirements. Visa waivers will only be issued for classification purposes or for one-time special purpose shipments that are not part of an ongoing commercial enterprise.

If the visaed invoice is deficient, the U.S. Customs Service will not return the original document after entry, but will provide a certified copy of that visaed invoice for use in obtaining a new correct original visaed invoice, or a visa waiver.

If import quotas are in force, U.S. Customs Service shall charge only the actual quantity in the shipment to the correct category limit. If a shipment from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has been allowed entry into the commerce of the United States with either an incorrect visa or no visa, and redelivery is requested but cannot be made, the shipment will be charged to the correct category limit whether or not a replacement visa or waiver is provided.

Certification Requirements for Outward Processing Program

Each shipment of wool apparel products in Categories 433, 434, 435, 442, 443, 444, 447 and 448 which has been either assembled in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia from components cut in the United States from U.S. formed fabric or cut and assembled in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia from U.S. formed fabric and is eligible for the Outward Processing Program, shall be so certified by the Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in order to qualify under this program. This certification shall be presented to the U.S. Customs Service before qualifying goods may enter or be withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, into the customs territory of the United States (the 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico).

A certification must accompany each commercial shipment of qualifying goods. A square stamped marking in blue ink will appear on the front of the original commercial invoice. The original certification shall not be stamped on duplicate copies of the invoice. The original invoice with the original certification stamp will be required to enter the shipment into the United States as qualifying goods. Duplicates of the invoice and/or certification may not be used for this purpose.

Each certification shall include the following information:

1. The certification number. The certification number shall be in the standard nine digit letter format, beginning with one numerical digit for the last digit of the year of export, followed by the two character alpha country code specified by the International Organization for

Standardization (ISO)(the code for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is "MK"). These two codes shall be followed by the number "2" and a five-digit serial number identifying the shipment, (e.g., 0MK212345).

2. The date of issuance. The date of issuance shall be the day, month and year on which the certification was issued.

3. The original signature of the issuing official.

4. The correct category(s), merged category(s), part category(s), quantity(s) and unit(s) of quantity in the shipment as set forth in the U.S. Department of Commerce Correlation and the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States Annotated (HTSUSA), as amended.

U.S. Customs shall not permit entry as qualifying goods if the shipment does not have a valid certification including certification number, date of issuance, signature, category, quantity or units of quantity are missing, incorrect or illegible, or have been crossed out or altered in any way. If the quantity indicated on the certification is less than that of the shipment, entry shall not be permitted. If the quantity indicated on the certification is more than that of the shipment, entry shall be permitted. The categories and quantities shall be those determined by the U.S. Customs Service.

If the certification is not acceptable, then a new certification must be obtained and presented to the U.S. Customs Service before any portion of the shipment will be released.

Any shipment which is not accompanied by a valid and correct certification in accordance with the foregoing provisions shall be denied entry by the Government of the United States as qualifying goods unless the Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia authorizes, by the issuance of a visa, the entry and any changes to the appropriate agreement levels. If U.S. Customs determines that the certification is invalid because of an error, and the remaining documentation fulfills requirement for entry under the Outward Processing Program, then a new certification from the Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia must be obtained or a visa waiver issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce at the request of the Embassy of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in Washington, DC must be obtained and presented to the U.S. Customs Service before any portion of the shipment will be released.

General Provisions

The date of export is the actual date the merchandise finally leaves the country of origin. For merchandise exported by carrier, this is the day on which the carrier last departs the country of origin.

Merchandise imported for the personal use of the importer and not for resale, regardless of value, and properly marked commercial sample shipments valued at U.S. \$800 or less do not require an export visa for entry and shall not be charged to existing quota levels.

The visa stamp has not been changed; a facsimile of the new certification stamp is enclosed with this letter.

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.

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Establishment of a New Export Visa Arrangement and New Certification Stamp for Outward Processed Goods for Certain Cotton, Wool, Man-Made Fiber, Silk Blend and Other Vegetable Fiber Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Romania

December 9, 1999.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs establishing new export visa and certification requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Naomi Freeman, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended.

On October 10, 1999, the Governments of the United States and Romania agreed to establish a new Export Visa Arrangement for certain cotton, wool, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textiles and textile products in Categories 200-239, 300-369, 400-469, 600-670 and 800-899, and for products exported under the Outward Processing Program (see related notice concerning implementation of the Outward Processing Program published elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**), produced or manufactured in Romania and exported from Romania on and after January 1, 2000. All products exported on and after January 1, 2000 must be accompanied by an appropriate export visa or certification. This directive supersedes the directive published in the **Federal Register** on January 4, 1984 (see 49 FR 493).

A description of the textile and apparel categories in terms of HTS numbers is available in the