

ATC and administrative arrangements notified to the Textiles Monitoring Body.

Products in the above categories exported during 1999 shall be charged to the applicable category limits for that year (see directive dated October 6, 1998) to the extent of any unfilled balances. In the event the limits established for that period have been exhausted by previous entries, such products shall be charged to the limits set forth in this directive.

In carrying out the above directions, the Commissioner of Customs should construe entry into the United States for consumption to include entry for consumption into the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements has determined that these actions fall 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. 99-25066 Filed 9-24-99; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Request for Public Comments on Bilateral Textile Consultations with the Government of Belarus

September 21, 1999.

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

ACTION: Notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Naomi Freeman, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212. For information on the category for which consultations have been requested, call (202) 482-3740.

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, under Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, the Government of the United States requested consultations with the Government of Belarus with respect to glass fiber fabric in Category 622, produced or manufactured in Belarus.

The purpose of this notice is to advise the public that, if no solution is agreed upon in consultations with the Government of Belarus, the Government of the United States reserves its right to establish a twelve-month limit for the period beginning on September 17, 1999 and extending through September 16, 2000 of not less than 6,480,552 square

meters for the entry and withdrawal from warehouse for consumption of glass fiber fabric in Category 622, produced or manufactured in Belarus.

A summary statement of serious damage, actual threat of serious damage or the exacerbation of serious damage concerning Category 622 follows this notice.

Anyone wishing to comment or provide data or information regarding Category 622 or to comment on domestic production or availability of products included in this category 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: Becky Geiger. The comments received will be considered in the context of the consultations with the Government of Belarus.

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 commentary or information received from the public which the Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements considers appropriate for further consideration.

This solicitation of comments 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 this category. Should such a solution be reached in consultations with the Government of Belarus, 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 63 FR 71096, published on December 23, 1998). Information regarding the 2000

CORRELATION will be published in the **Federal Register** at a later date.

Troy H. Cribb,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

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

Belarus

Glass Fiber Fabric—Category 622

Import Situation and Conclusion

U.S. imports of glass fiber fabric, Category 622, from Belarus surged to 6,480,552 square meters during the year ending May 1999, over 14 times the 456,093 square meters imported during the year ending May 1998. During the first five months of 1999, Belarus shipped 4,864,218 square meters, nearly 20 times the January-May 1998 level and over two and a half times the total calendar year 1998 level. In 1999, Belarus became the second largest supplier of glass fiber fabric to the United States, accounting for 10 percent of total Category 622 imports. In calendar year 1997, Belarus was the seventh largest supplier and accounted for less than one percent of total Category 622 imports. Imports from Belarus were 1.3 percent of U.S. production of Category 622 in year ending March 1999 and only 0.1 percent in 1997.

U.S. imports of glass fiber fabric, Category 622, from Belarus entered the U.S. at an average landed duty-paid value of \$0.81 per square meter during the first five months of 1999, 23 percent below the average landed duty-paid value for all glass fiber fabric imports into the U.S., and 39 percent below the average U.S. producers' price for glass fiber fabrics.

The sharp and substantial increase of low-valued Category 622 imports from Belarus threatens to cause disruption to the U.S. glass fiber fabric market and industry.

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

U.S. production of glass fiber fabric, Category 622, fell to 388,849,000 square meters in 1998, 6 percent below the 1997 production level. Production continued downward in 1999, falling to 92,555,000 square meters during January-March 1999, 16 percent below the first quarter 1998 level. Imports of category 622 increased to 54,741,000 square meters in 1998, 15 percent above the 1997 level, and reached 65,657,000 square meters for the year ending May 1999, 38 percent higher than the level of imports for the same period a year earlier. Imports surged in 1999, increasing 52 percent during January-

May 1999 from the January-May 1998 level.

The ratio of imports to domestic production increased from 11 percent in 1997 to 14 percent in 1998 and reached 20 percent in the first quarter of 1999. The domestic manufacturers' share of the U.S. market for glass fiber fabrics fell two percentage points in 1998, dropping from 89 percent in 1997 to 87 percent in 1998 and fell an additional 4 percentage points to 83 percent in the first quarter 1999.

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CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Civil Penalties; Notice of Adjusted Maximum Amounts

AGENCY: Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Notice of adjusted maximum civil penalty amounts.

SUMMARY: In 1990 Congress enacted statutory amendments that provided for periodic adjustments to the maximum civil penalty amounts authorized under the Consumer Product Safety Act, the Federal Hazardous Substances Act, and the Flammable Fabrics Act. As calculated in accordance with the amendments, the new amounts are \$7,000 for each violation and \$1,650,000 for any related series of violations.

DATES: The new amounts will become effective on January 1, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alan Shakin, Assistant General Counsel, CPSC, Washington, DC 20207; telephone 301-504-0980; e-mail "ashakin@cpsc.gov."

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 1990 (Improvement Act), Public Law 101-608, 104 Stat. 3110 (November 16, 1990), amended the Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA), the Federal Hazardous Substances Act (FHSA), and the Flammable Fabrics Act (FFA). First, the Improvement Act added civil penalty authority to the GHSA and FFA, which previously contained only criminal penalties. 15 U.S.C. §§ 1264(c) and 1194(e). Second, the Improvement Act increased the maximum civil penalty amounts applicable to civil penalties under the CPSA, and set the same maximum amounts for the newly-created FHSA and FFA civil penalties. 15 U.S.C. §§ 2069(a), 1264(c)(1), and 1194(e)(1)/

Third, the Improvement Act directed the Commission to adjust the maximum

civil penalty amounts periodically for inflation:

(A) The maximum penalty amounts authorized in paragraph (1) shall be adjusted for inflation as provided in this paragraph.

(B) Not later than December 1, 1994, and December 1 of each fifth calendar year thereafter, the Commission shall prescribe and publish in the **Federal Register** a schedule of maximum authorized penalties that shall apply for violations that occur after January 1 of the year immediately following such publication.

(C) The schedule of maximum authorized penalties shall be prescribed by increasing each of the amounts referred to in paragraph 91) by the cost-of-living adjustment for the preceding five years. Any increase determined under the preceding sentence shall be rounded to—

(i) In the case of penalties greater than \$1,000 but less than or equal to \$10,000, the nearest multiple of \$1,000;

(ii) In the case of penalties greater than \$10,000 but less than or equal to \$100,000, the nearest multiple of \$5,000;

(iii) In the case of penalties greater than \$100,000 but less than or equal to \$200,000, the nearest multiple of \$10,000; and

(iv) In the case of penalties greater than \$200,000, the nearest multiple of \$25,000.

(D) For purposes of this subsection:

(i) The term "Consumer Price Index" means the Consumer Price Index for all-urban consumers, published by the Department of Labor.

(ii) The term "cost-of-living adjustment for the preceding five years" means the percentage by which—

(I) the Consumer Price Index for the month of June of the calendar year preceding the adjustment; exceeds

(II) the Consumer Price Index for the month of June preceding the date on which the maximum authorized penalty was last adjusted/

15 U.S.C. 2069(a)(3), 1264(c)(6), and 1194(e)(5).

The Commission's Directorate for Economics has calculated that the cost-of-living adjustment increases the maximum civil penalty amounts to \$6,608 for each violation and to \$1,652,027 for any related series of violations. Rounding off these numbers in accordance with the statutory directions, the adjusted maximum amounts are \$7,000 for each violation and \$1,650,000 for any related series of violations.

These new amounts will apply to violations that occur after January 1, 2000.

Dated: September 21, 1999.

Sadye D. Dunn,
Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission.

[FR Doc. 99-24971 Filed 9-24-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6355-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

AGENCY: Department of Education.

SUMMARY: The Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer invites comments on the submission for OMB review as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before October 27, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be addressed to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Attention: Danny Werfel, Desk Officer, Department of Education, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street, N.W., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503 or should be electronically mailed to the internet address DWERFEL@OMB.EOP.GOV.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 3506 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) requires that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provide interested Federal agencies and the public an early opportunity to comment on information collection requests. 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 Leader, Information Management Group, Office of the Chief Information Officer, publishes that notice containing proposed information collection requests prior to submission of these requests to OMB. Each proposed information collection, grouped by office, contains the following: (1) Type of review requested, e.g. new, revision, extension, existing or reinstatement; (2) Title; (3) Summary of the collection; (4) Description of the need for, and proposed use of, the information; (5) Respondents and frequency of collection; and (6) Reporting and/or Recordkeeping burden. OMB invites public comment.

Dated: September 21, 1999.

William E. Burrow,
Leader, Information Management Group,
Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Office of the Under Secretary

Type of Review: New.