

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 071599E]

Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Atlantic Tuna Fisheries; Exempted Fishing Permits (EFPs)

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Applications for EFPs; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: On November 4, 1999, NMFS requested comments on applications for EFPs. If issued, these EFPs would authorize the retention of Atlantic tunas (other than bluefin tuna) by vessels participating in the coastal driftnet fishery for Atlantic bonito. Comments were requested by December 6, 1999. NMFS is extending the comment period until January 21, 2000, in response to a request from the public and to allow for maximum opportunity to provide comments before the fishery starts in the spring of 2000.

DATES: Written comments on NMFS' consideration to issue such EFPs must be received on or before January 21, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Rebecca Lent, Chief, Highly Migratory Species Management Division (F/SF1), NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Copies of the EFP applications and the regulations governing issuance of EFPs are available from this address upon request.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sarah McLaughlin, 978-281-9260; fax: 978-281-9340.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On November 4, 1999, NMFS announced the receipt of applications for EFPs (64 FR 60173). If issued, these EFPs would authorize the retention of Atlantic tunas (other than bluefin tuna) by vessels participating in the coastal driftnet fishery for Atlantic bonito. NMFS anticipates the receipt of several more EFP applications for this same purpose. If EFPs are issued for the coastal driftnet fishery, NMFS would collect information on target catch and bycatch and assess the potential impacts of authorizing driftnet gear for certain Atlantic Highly Migratory Species fisheries. While this information is being collected, issuance of EFPs will reduce regulatory discards of Atlantic tunas. NMFS is seeking public comment on the potential impacts of issuing EFPs for the purpose of landing Atlantic tunas (other than bluefin tuna)

incidentally caught in the coastal driftnet fishery. Background and rationale were provided with the document published on November 4, 1999 (64 FR 60173), and are not repeated here.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.* and 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: December 1, 1999.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 99-31671 Filed 12-6-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**Patent and Trademark Office****Request/Petition for Specialized Concurrent Handling Procedure**

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (DoC), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on this new information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before February 7, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5027, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230 or via the Internet at LEngelme@doc.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information should be directed to the attention of Magdalen Greenlief, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Office of the Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Patent Policy and Projects, Crystal Park 2, Suite 910, Washington, DC 20231, by telephone at (703) 305-8813, by facsimile transmission to (703) 305-8825, or by e-mail to mgreenlief@uspto.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Abstract**

The Patent and Trademark Office (PTO), in cooperation with the European Patent Office (EPO) and the Japanese Patent Office (JPO) is conducting a pilot program for concurrent searches to be performed on corresponding applications that are filed in the Trilateral Offices (PTO, EPO, and JPO). The emphasis of this pilot program is to promote: (1) Greater

mutual understanding and further technical cooperation among the Trilateral Offices; (2) increased sharing of information among the Trilateral Offices; and (3) enhanced knowledge transfer with respect to both working methods and search tools. The Trilateral Offices agreed to limit the number of applications for the pilot program to 200 applications. The Trilateral Offices are evaluating the program to determine whether it should be expanded to include other types of applications. Prior to June of 2000, the pilot program will be evaluated by the Trilateral Offices to determine whether it should be modified or expanded.

To assist applicants in requesting participation in the concurrent search pilot program, the PTO has created a form for this purpose. The form may be used in the PTO. The form, "Request/Petition for Specialized Concurrent Handling Procedure", permits the applicant to indicate the application numbers and filing dates of the corresponding applications filed in the EPO and the JPO, to indicate when the set of claims for concurrent search will be filed, and to authorize whether the PTO can communicate with the EPO and the JPO concerning any subject matter of the U.S. application and whether the patent examiners may use e-mail to communicate with each other regarding the applications referenced in this form.

II. Method of Collection

By mail, facsimile, and hand carry when the individual desires to participate in the information collection.

III. Data

OMB Number: None.

Form Number: PTO Form No. (form number not yet assigned).

Type of Review: New information collection.

Affected Public: Individuals or households, businesses or other for-profit, not-for-profit institutions, farms, Federal state, local or tribal government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 200 responses per year.

Estimated Time Per Response: It is estimated to take approximately 12 minutes to complete a request/petition for specialized concurrent handling procedure for a particular application.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 40 hours per year.

Estimated Total Annual Cost Burden: \$0 (no capital start-up/maintenance costs expenditures are required). \$7,000 per year is estimated for salary costs associated with respondents.

Title of form	Estimated time for response	Estimated annual burden hours	Estimated annual responses
Request/Petition for Specialized Concurrent Handling Procedure	0.20	40	200
Totals	40	200

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, e.g., the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: December 1, 1999.

Linda Engelmeier,

Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Office of Management and Organization.

[FR Doc. 99-31644 Filed 12-6-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Announcement of Import Restraint Limits for Certain Cotton, Man-Made Fiber, Silk Blend and Other Vegetable Fiber Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Bangladesh

December 1, 1999.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs establishing limits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2000.

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 the quota

status of these limits, refer to the Quota Status Reports posted on the bulletin boards of each Customs port, call (202) 927-5850, or refer to the U.S. Customs website at <http://www.customs.ustreas.gov>.

For information on embargoes and quota reopenings, call (202) 482-3715.

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.

The import restraint limits for textile products, produced or manufactured in Bangladesh and exported during the period January 1, 2000 through December 31, 2000 are based on the limits notified to the Textiles Monitoring Body pursuant to the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC).

In the letter published below, the Chairman of CITA directs the Commissioner of Customs to establish the limits for the 2000 period. The 2000 limits for certain categories have been reduced for carryforward applied to the 1999 limits.

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.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

December 1, 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 Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC), you are directed to prohibit, effective on January 1, 2000, entry into the United States for consumption and

withdrawal from warehouse for consumption of cotton, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textile products in the following categories, produced or manufactured in Bangladesh and exported during the twelve-month period beginning on January 1, 2000 and extending through December 31, 2000, in excess of the following levels of restraint:

Category	Twelve-month restraint limit
237	556,803 dozen.
331	1,491,902 dozen pairs.
334	179,654 dozen.
335	322,569 dozen.
336/636	545,802 dozen.
338/339	1,581,129 dozen.
340/640	3,780,151 dozen.
341	2,960,936 dozen.
342/642	541,800 dozen.
347/348	2,664,841 dozen.
351/651	860,491 dozen.
352/652	12,837,641 dozen.
363	30,326,998 numbers.
369-S ¹	2,032,841 kilograms.
634	628,526 dozen.
635	407,211 dozen.
638/639	2,120,677 dozen.
641	1,239,827 dozen.
645/646	498,017 dozen.
647/648	1,676,002 dozen.
847	941,161 dozen.

¹ Category 369-S: only HTS number 6307.10.2005.

The limits set forth above are subject to adjustment pursuant to the provisions of the 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 November 3, 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.

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. 99-31628 Filed 12-6-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-F