Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming, as well as the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

DATES: The meeting will be held on May 29, 1997 from 9 am until 12 pm.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the National Research Center for Coal and Energy at the West Virginia University in Morgantown, West Virginia. Individuals wishing to attend the meeting should contact Maureen Wood, Office of the Deputy Under Secretary for Technology, at (202) 482–1091 by close of business May 27, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Marc Cummings, Technology Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce at (202) 482–8323.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Technology Administration (TA) is proposing a new, competitive, matching grant program called the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Technology (EPSCoT) to foster the development of indigenous technology assets in states that traditionally have been under represented in the distribution of Federal R&D expenditures.

Technology is the engine of economic growth and, as such, its development, deployment, and diffusion are critical to U.S. competitiveness. Although it is often said that nations do not compete, companies do, it is apparent that sub-national units—regions within states and clusters of states—do compete, not simply with one another, but also internationally. This is because in a global economy, capital, labor, and technology are increasingly mobile and they are attracted to regions with the most promising opportunities. To this end, regional policies and infrastructures play a large role in determining both where companies locate and their ability to be competitive in a global marketplace.

Commerce Department research shows that firms that adopt advanced technologies create more jobs at higher wages than those that do not. Furthermore, regions that boast concentrations of high-tech industries enjoy high growth rates and standards of living. Regions thus compete to attract federal research facilities, private investment, and skilled labor. Recent research suggests that a region's technological infrastructure is among the most important factors that businesses consider when making location decisions. Accordingly, regions are searching for strategies to attract and retain high-tech firms and the jobs that they bring. These strategies may involve building on existing strengths at research universities, providing extension services to local businesses, or integrating existing business assistance resources, but ultimately their success is contingent upon an institutional capacity to support technology-based economic development.

In the Federal government's efforts to foster competitiveness, it must ensure that all regions of the nation develop the necessary infrastructure to support indigenous technology development. Most less populated states, whose manufacturers tend to be small- and medium-sized, are at a competitive disadvantage because there is generally no research base on which local businesses can build. The EPSCoT seeks to remedy this disadvantage.

The EPSCoT seeks to build on the NSF's successful Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) which was established in 1979 to stimulate sustainable improvements in the quality of the academic science and technology infrastructure of states that traditionally have been under represented in receiving federal R&D funds. Within these states, the EPSCoR's primary emphasis is on improving the competitive performance of major research universities. By focusing on building the science base of these regions, primarily in universities, the EPSCoR has successfully strengthened the research capacity of universities in these states; yet, there remains a technology ''gap.''

Improving the competitive performance of universities, which is an essential component of a successful technology-based economy, is often not sufficient to establish new companies, develop new job opportunities or raise the standard of living.

That is why the Department of Commerce proposes to create an EPSCoT—the technology counterpart to the EPSCoR. EPSCoT would help to bridge the gap between university research and the local economy. It would develop essential economic development tools to foster regional technology-based economic growth. The program would stimulate the development of indigenous technological infrastructure and institutional capabilities of states through a variety of means, including outreach activities, technology development and deployment, technology transfer, education and training, and better linking universities, firms, and state and local governments.

Dated: April 28, 1997.

Mary Good,

Under Secretary for Technology.

[FR Doc. 97–11617 Filed 5–2–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–18–M

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Amendment of an Import Restraint Period and Limit for Certain Wool Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Russia

April 30, 1997.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs amending an import restraint period and limit.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 7, 1997.

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 quota status of this limit, refer to the Quota Status Reports posted on the bulletin boards of each Customs port or call (202) 927–5850. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, call (202) 482–3715.

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).

In exchange of letters dated March 18, 1997 and March 26, 1997, the Governments of the United States and the Russian Federation agreed to amend their Bilateral Textile Agreement, effected by exchange of notes dated August 13, 1996 and September 9, 1996. The new restraint periods shall be October 1, 1996 through December 31, 1997, followed by three consecutive twelve-month periods beginning on January 1, 1998 through December 31, 2000.

In the letter published below, the Chairman of CITA directs the Commissioner of Customs to amend the current restraint period to end on December 31, 1997 at an increased level.

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). Also

see 61 FR 50279, published on September 25, 1996.

The letter to the Commissioner of Customs and the actions taken pursuant to it are not designed to implement all of the provisions of the bilateral agreement, but are designed to assist only in the implementation of certain of its provisions.

Troy H. Cribb,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

April 30, 1997.

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

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directive issued to you on September 19, 1996, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of wool textile products in Category 435, produced or manufactured in Russia and exported during the twelve-month period which began on October 1, 1996 and extends through September 30, 1997.

Effective on May 7, 1997, pursuant to exchange of letters dated March 18 and March 26, 1997 between the Governments of the United States and the Federation of Russia, you are directed to amend the current restraint period for Category 435 to end on December 31, 1997. Also, the limit shall be increased to 64,005 dozen [1].

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements has determined that this action falls 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.97–11652 Filed 5–2–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DR–F

[1] The limit has not been adjusted to account for any imports exported after September 30, 1996.

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Public Information Collection Requirement Submitted to Office of Management and Budget for Review

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice of submission of information collection #3038–0035.

SUMMARY: The Commodity Futures Trading Commission has submitted information collection 3038–0035, Rules Relating to the Offer and Sale of Foreign Futures and Foreign Options, to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, (Pub. L. 104–13). The information collected pursuant to the this rule provides a basis for detecting fraud in the offer and sale of foreign futures and options to people located in this United States.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to comment on this information collection should do so within the next 30 days by contacting the Desk Officer, CFTC, Office of Management and Budget, Room 3228, NEOB, Washington, DC 20502, (202) 395–7340. Copies of the submission are available from the Agency Clearance Officer, (202) 418–5160.

Title: Rules Relating to the Offer and Sale of Foreign Futures and Foreign Options.

Control Number: 3038–0035.

Action: Extension.

Respondents: FCMs, IBs, CPOs, CTAs and APs.

Estimated Annual Burden: 3186 hours.

Respondents	Regulation (17 CFR)	Estimated no. of respondents	Annual responses	Estimate average hours per response
FCMs, IBs, CPOs, CTAs, and APs	30.4	560	560	1.00
	30.5	136	136	1.00
	30.6	440	440	.50
	30.7	120	120	.50
	30.8	120	1,440	1.00
	30.10	120	120	4.00

Issued in Washington, D.C. on April 29, 1997.

Jean A. Webb,

Secretary to the Commission.

[FR Doc. 97–11549 Filed 5–2–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6351–01–M

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Agricultural Advisory Committee Seventh Renewal

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission has determined to renew again for a period of two years its advisory committee designated as the ''Commodity Futures Trading Commission Agricultural Advisory Committee.'' The Commission certifies that the renewal of the advisory committee is in the public interest in connection with duties imposed on the Commission by the Commodity Exchange Act, 7 U.S.C. § 1, *et seq.*, as amended.

The objectives and scope of activities of the Agricultural Advisory Committee are to conduct public meetings and submit reports and recommendations on issues affecting agricultural producers, processors, lenders and others interested in or affected by agricultural commodities markets, and to facilitate communications between the Commission and the diverse agricultural and agriculture-related organizations represented on the Committee.

Commissioner Joseph B. Dial serves as Chairman and Designated Federal Official of the Agricultural Advisory Committee. The Committee's membership represents a cross-section of interested and affected groups including representatives of producers, processors, lenders and other interested agricultural groups.

Interested persons may obtain information or make comments by writing to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street, NW, Washington, DC 20581.

Issued in Washington, D.C. on April 28, 1997, by the Commission.

Jean A. Webb,

Secretary of the Commission.

[FR Doc. 97–11516 Filed 5–2–97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6351–01–M