

feature of the language as specified in the language standard. A conforming implementation is one which adheres to and implements all of the language specifications contained in ANSI/IEEE 1076-1993 except where the language standard permits deviations and which specifies conspicuously in a separate section in the conforming implementation description all such permitted variations. Also, such conformance shall be with default language processor system option settings.

The ANSI/IEEE 1076-1993 document does not specify limits on the size or complexity of programs, the results when the rules of the standard fail to establish an interpretation, the means of supervisory control programs, or the means of transforming programs for processing.

11. Implementation. The implementation of this standard involves three areas of consideration: acquisition of VHDL processors, interpretation of FIPS VHDL, and validation of VHDL processors.

11.1 Effective Date. This revised standard becomes effective May 1, 1995. VHDL processors acquired for Federal use after the effective date shall implement FIPS Pub 172-1. Prior to that date requirements of FIPS Pub 172 apply to Federal VHDL procurements. This delayed effective date is intended to give implementations that conform to FIPS Pub 172 time to make the enhancements necessary to enable conformance to FIPS Pub 172-1.

A transition period provides time for industry to produce VHDL language processors conforming to the FIPS Pub 172-1. The transition period begins on the effective date and continues for 12 months thereafter. The provisions of FIPS Pub 172-1 apply to orders placed after the effective date of this publication; however a processor conforming to the FIPS Pub 172-1, if available, may be acquired for use prior to the effective date. If, during the transition period, a processor conforming to FIPS Pub 172-1 is not available, a processor conforming to FIPS Pub 172 may be acquired for interim use during the transition period.

11.2 Acquisition of VHDL Processors. Conformance to FIPS VHDL should be considered whether VHDL processors are developed internally, acquired as part of an ADP system procurement, acquired by separate procurement, used under an ADP leasing arrangement, or specified for use in contracts for hardware description services. Recommended terminology for procurement of FIPS VHDL is contained in the U.S. General Services

Administration publication Federal ADP & Telecommunications Standards Index, Chapter 4 Part 1.

11.3 Interpretation of FIPS VHDL. The National Institute of Standards and Technology provides for the resolution of questions regarding the specifications and requirements, and issues official interpretations as needed. All questions about the interpretation of this standard should be addressed to: Director, Computer Systems Laboratory, ATTN: FIPS VHDL Interpretation, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, Voice: 301-975-2490, FAX: 301-948-6213, dashiell@alpha.ncsl.nist.gov e-mail.

11.4 Validation of VHDL Processors: The validation of VHDL processors for conformance to this standard applies when NIST VHDL validation procedures are available. At the present time NIST does not have procedures for validating VHDL processors. NIST is currently investigating methods which may be considered for validating processors for conformance to this standard.

For further information contact: Director, Computer Systems Laboratory, Attn: FIPS VHDL Validation, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899, Voice: 301-975-2490, FAX: 301-948-6213, dashiellalpha.ncsl.nist.gov e-mail.

12. Waivers.

Under certain exceptional circumstances, the heads of Federal departments and agencies may approve waivers to Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS). The head of such agency may redelegate such authority only to a senior official designated pursuant to section 3506(b) of Title 44, U.S. Code. Waivers shall be granted only when:

a. Compliance with a standard would adversely affect the accomplishment of the mission of an operator of a Federal computer system, or

b. Cause a major adverse financial impact on the operator which is not offset by Government-wide savings.

Agency heads may act upon a written waiver request containing the information detailed above. Agency heads may also act without a written waiver request when they determine that conditions for meeting the standard cannot be met. Agency heads may approve waivers only by a written decision which explains the basis on which the agency head made the required finding(s). A copy of each such decision, with procurement sensitive classified portions clearly identified, shall be sent to: National Institute of Standards and Technology, ATTN: FIPS Waiver Decisions, Technology Building, Room B-154, Gaithersburg, MD 20899.

In addition, notice of each waiver granted and each delegation of authority to approve waivers shall be sent promptly to the Committee on Government Operations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Governmental Affairs of the Senate and shall be published promptly in the **Federal Register**.

When the determination on a waiver applies to the procurement of equipment and/or services, a notice of the waiver determination must be published in the *Commerce Business Daily* as a part of the notice of solicitation for offers of an acquisition or, if the waiver determination is made after that notice is published, by amendment to such notice.

A copy of the waiver, any supporting documents, the document approving the waiver and any supporting and accompanying documents, with such deletions as the agency is authorized and decides to make under 5 U.S.C. Section 552(b), shall be part of the procurement documentation and retained by the agency.

13. Where to Obtain Copies. Copies of this publication are for sale by the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, VA 22161, telephone (703) 487-4650. (Sale of the included specifications document is by arrangement with the American National Standards Institute.) When ordering, refer to Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 172-1 (FIPSPUB172-1), and title. Payment may be made by check, money order, or deposit account.

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Technology Administration

Metric Policy Interagency Council and Commerce Department; Metric Town Meeting

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce and the Interagency Council on Metric Policy will hold a Metric Town Meeting to listen to the concerns and ideas of the private sector for accelerating the transition to the metric system including actions that the Government can take to make it easier for industry to convert to metric use. Written submissions of views are welcome. All, however, are encouraged to participate in person at the Metric Town Meeting to benefit from sharing of views. Those wishing to speak should briefly describe their topic(s) and summarize their

remarks in writing. All written submissions and summaries should be received in the Metric Program Office by February 27, 1995.

DATES: The Metric Town Meeting will be held on Monday, March 27, 1995, and may extend into Tuesday, March 28, to accommodate additional responses and speakers.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Organizations and individuals interested in participating should contact the Director, Metric Program, U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899 as early as possible but before February 27, 1995. Phone (301-975-3690) and FAX (301-948-1416) messages are welcomed.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: World trade is geared toward to metric system of measurement. Industry in the United States is often at a competitive disadvantage when dealing in international markets if its designs or production measurement units differ from those used by the rest of the world. U.S. companies can be excluded from international markets when unable to deliver goods which are built to metric specifications. The Nation can not ignore these globalization pressures.

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the newly ratified General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) have expanded the opportunities for international trade and commerce. To take advantage of those opportunities and to enhance the acceptability of U.S. products, U.S. business must expedite the adoption of the metric system.

Under the provisions of the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988, which establishes the metric system as the preferred system of measurement for trade and commerce, the Federal government is required to assist industry, especially small business, in converting to the metric system. Pursuant to Executive Order 12770, the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Interagency Council on Metric Policy have been charged to explore ways to bring together the government, the private sector and the public to discuss the next steps in decision-making about metric conversion.

The Department of Commerce and the Interagency Council on Metric Policy will hold a Metric Town Meeting to listen to the concerns and ideas of the private sector for accelerating the transition to the metric system including actions that the Government

can take to make it easier for industry to convert to metric system use. Accordingly, the Town Meeting will seek views from businesses, trade and professional groups, educators, and state and local government entities on topics such as:

- How using the metric system contributes to key national goals such as U.S. global competitiveness, technology development and commercialization, enhanced labor skills, and U.S. education reform;

- How the effective implementation of trade agreements (e.g., NAFTA and GATT) will be influenced by industry's use or non-use of metric measures;

- What plans the Federal government and individual agencies should undertake to complete a smooth conversion to the metric system in U.S. trade and commerce;

- How industry and Federal, state, and local governments should inform small and mid-sized companies and their workers about how their economic prosperity may be tied, even if indirectly, to global markets, and involve them in more positive discussions on metrication;

- Identifying or eliminating Federal regulatory barriers to metrication;
- Identifying outdated Federal standards that may contribute to continued use of non-metric measures;

- How Federal procurement practices should support metrication efforts;

- What public education or awareness strategies government or industry should initiate to accelerate public understanding and acceptance of the transition to the metric system.

(15 U.S.C. 205(b) and (c))

Dated: January 23, 1995

Mary L. Good,

Under Secretary for Technology.

[FR Doc. 95-2046 Filed 1-26-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-18-M-M

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 the People's Republic of Bangladesh

January 24, 1995.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs establishing limits for the new agreement year.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 1, 1995.

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 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).

The Bilateral Textile Agreement of December 10, 1994 between the Governments of the United States and the People's Republic of Bangladesh establishes limits, pursuant to the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (URATC), for the period beginning on January 1, 1995 and extending through December 31, 1995. The limits have been reduced to account for carryforward used and special carryforward used during 1994.

A copy of the bilateral textile agreement is available from the Textiles Division, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, U.S. Department of State, (202) 647-1683.

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 59 FR 65531, published on December 20, 1994).

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 agreement, but are designed to assist only in the implementation of certain of its provisions.

Rita D. Hayes,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

January 24, 1995.

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

Dear Commissioner: Under the terms of section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854), and the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (URATC); pursuant to the Bilateral Textile Agreement of December 10, 1994 between the Governments of the United States and the People's Republic of Bangladesh; and in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended,