ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs establishing limits and guaranteed access levels.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jennifer Aldrich, 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); Uruguay Round Agreements Act.

The import restraint limits and Guaranteed Access Levels (GALs) for textile products, produced or manufactured in Costa Rica and exported during the period January 1, 1997 through December 31, 1997 are based on limits notified to the Textiles Monitoring Body pursuant to the Uruguay Round Agreements Act and 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 limits and guaranteed access levels for 1997.

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).

Requirements for participation in the Special Access Program are available in Federal Register notices 51 FR 21208, published on June 11, 1986; 52 FR 26057, published on July 10, 1987; 54 FR 50425, published on December 6, 1989; 55 FR 21047, published on May 22, 1990, and 61 FR 49439, published on September 20, 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 Uruguay Round Agreements Act and the ATC, but are designed to assist only in the implementation of certain of their provisions.

Philip J. Martello,

Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

December 24, 1996.

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), the Uruguay Round Agreements Act and the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC); and in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended, you are directed to prohibit, effective on January 1, 1997, entry into the United States for consumption and withdrawal from warehouse for consumption of cotton, wool and man-made fiber textile products in the following categories, produced or manufactured in Costa Rica and exported during the twelve-month period beginning on January 1, 1997 and extending through December 31, 1997, in excess of the following restraint limits:

Category	Twelve-month limit
340/640	955,921 dozen.
342/642	352,884 dozen.
347/348	1,610,938 dozen.
443	211,766 numbers.
447	11,418 dozen.

Imports charged to these category limits for the period January 1, 1996 through December 31, 1996 shall be charged against those levels of restraint to the extent of any unfilled balances. In the event the limits established for that period have been exhausted by previous entries, such goods shall be subject to the levels set forth in this directive.

The limits set forth above are subject to adjustment in the future according to the provisions of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act, the ATC, and any administrative arrangements notified to the Textiles Monitoring Body.

Also pursuant to the Uruguay Round Agreements Act and the ATC; and under the terms of the Special Access Program, as set forth in 51 FR 21208 (June 11, 1986), 52 FR 26057 (July 10, 1987) and 54 FR 50425 (December 6, 1989), you are directed to establish guaranteed access levels for properly certified cotton, wool and man-made fiber textile products in the following categories which are assembled in Costa Rica from fabric formed and cut in the United States and re-exported to the United States from Costa Rica during the period beginning on January 1, 1997 and extending through December 31, 1997:

Category	Guaranteed access level
340/640	650,000 dozen.
342/642	250,000 dozen.
347/348	1,500,000 dozen.
443	200,000 numbers.
447	4,000 dozen.

Any shipment for entry under the Special Access Program which is not accompanied by a valid and correct certification and Export Declaration in accordance with the provisions of the certification requirements established in the directive of May 15, 1990 shall be denied entry unless the Government of Costa Rica authorizes the entry and any charges to the appropriate specific limit. Any shipment which is declared for entry under the Special Access Program but found not to qualify shall be denied entry into the United States.

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 U.S.C.553(a)(1).

Sincerely,

Philip J. Martello,

Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc.96–33204 Filed 12–30–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DR–F

Consolidation and Amendment of Export Visa Requirements to Include the Electronic Visa Information System for Certain Cotton, Wool, Man-Made Fiber, Silk Blend and Other Vegetable Fiber Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Korea

December 24, 1996.

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

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 1997.

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

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); Uruguay Round Agreements Act.

In exchange of notes dated November 12, 1996 and December 11, 1996, the Governments of the United States and the Republic of Korea agreed to amend the existing visa arrangement for textile products, produced or manufactured in Korea and exported on and after January

1, 1997. The amended arrangement consolidates existing and new provisions of the export visa arrangement, including provisions for the Electronic Visa Information System (ELVIS). In addition to the ELVIS requirements, shipments will continue to be accompanied by an original visa stamped on the front of the original commercial invoice issued by the Government of the Republic of Korea. Goods which currently require an exempt certificate shall not require an ELVIS transmission, but will continue to require the exempt certificate.

In the letter published below, the Chairman of CITA directs the Commissioner of Customs to amend the existing visa requirements for textile products produced or manufactured in Korea and exported on and after January 1, 1997.

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 60 FR 65299, published on December 19, 1995). Also see 56 FR 18574, published on April 23, 1991. Information regarding the 1997 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 requirements set forth in the letter published below to the Commissioner of Customs.

Philip J. Martello,

Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

December 24, 1996.

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 April 17, 1991, as amended, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, that directed you to prohibit entry of certain cotton, wool, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textiles and textile products, produced or manufactured in Korea for which the Government of the Republic of Korea has not issued an appropriate export visa or exempt certification.

Under the terms of section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); pursuant to the Export Visa Arrangement, effected by exchange of notes dated November 12, 1996 and December 11, 1996, between the Governments of the United States and the Republic of Korea; and in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended, you are directed to prohibit, effective on January 1, 1997, 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 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, including part categories and merged categories (see Annex A), produced or manufactured in Korea and exported on and after January 1, 1997 for which the Government of the Republic of Korea has not issued an appropriate export visa or Electronic Visa Information System (ELVIS) transmission fully described below. Should additional categories, part categories or merged categories become subject to import quota the entire category(s), part category(s) or merged category(s) shall be included in the coverage of this arrangement.

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. 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 country code specified by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) (the code for Korea is ''KR''), and a six digit numerical serial number identifying the shipment; e.g., 7KR123456.

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 of the issuing official of the Government of the Republic of Korea.

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 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. Merged category quota merchandise may be accompanied by either the appropriate merged category visa or the correct category visa corresponding to the actual shipment (e.g., Categories 347/348 may be visaed as 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'').

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 or 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.

If the visa is not acceptable then a new visa must be obtained from the appropriate export association through their Korean suppliers, or a visa waiver may be issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce at the request of the Government of the Republic of Korea in Washington, DC, and presented to the U.S. Customs Service before any portion of the shipment will be released. The waiver, if used, only waives the requirement to present a visa with the shipment. It does not waive the quota requirement.

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 a shipment from Korea 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.

ELVIS Requirements:

A. Each ELVIS message will include the following information:

I. 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 country code specified by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) (the code for Korea is ''KR''), and a six digit numerical serial number identifying the shipment; e.g., 7KR123456.

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

III. 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 in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, annotated or successor documents.

IV. The quantity of the shipment in the correct units of quantity.

V. The manufacturer ID code.

B. Entry of a shipment shall not be permitted:

I. if an ELVIS transmission has not been received for the shipment from the country of origin;

II. if the ELVIS transmission for that shipment is missing any of the following:

a. visa number
b. category or part category
c. quantity
d. unit of measure
e. date of issuance
f. manufacturer ID number

III. if the ELVIS transmission for the shipment does not match the information supplied by the importer or the Customs Broker acting as an agent on behalf of the importer, with regard to any of the following:

a. visa number

b. category or part category

c. unit of measure

IV. if the quantity being entered is greater than the quantity transmitted.

V. if the visa number has previously been used, except in the case of a split shipment, or cancelled, except when an entry has been made using the visa number.

C. A new, correct ELVIS transmission from the country of origin is required before a shipment that has been denied entry for one of the circumstances mentioned in paragraph 3.B.I–V will be released.

D. A new, correct ELVIS transmission from the country of origin is required for entries made using a visa waiver under the procedures as previously described. Visa waivers will only be considered for paragraph 3.B.I., if the shipment qualifies as a one-time special purpose shipment that is not part of an ongoing commercial enterprise, or legitimate classification disputes.

E. Shipments will not be released for forty-eight hours in the event of a system failure. If system failure exceeds forty-eight hours, for the remaining period of the system failure the U.S. Customs Service will release shipments on the basis of the paper visaed document.

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 Korea has been allowed entry into the commerce of the United States with either an incorrect ELVIS transmission, or no ELVIS transmission, 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 or a new ELVIS message is transmitted.

Annex B lists all products exempt from quantitative levels of the agreement with the Government of the Republic of Korea.

Other Provisions.

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.$250 or less, do not require a visa, exempt certification, or ELVIS transmission for entry and shall not be charged to agreement levels, if applicable. All other commercial shipments of the above mentioned require a visa or exempt certification for entry.

The visa and certification stamps remain unchanged.

The actions taken concerning the Government of the Republic of Korea with respect to imports of textiles and textile products in the foregoing categories have been determined by the Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements to involve foreign affairs functions of the United States. Therefore, these directions to the Commissioner of Customs, which are necessary for the implementation of such actions, fall within the foreign affairs exception to the rulemaking provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(1). This letter will be published in the Federal Register.

Sincerely,

Philip J. Martello,

Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Annex A

Part Categories

224–V	Velvet: only HTS numbers 5801.21.0000, 5801.23.0000, 5801.24.0000, 5801.25.0010, 5801.25.0020, 5801.26.0010, 5801.26.0020, 5801.31.0000, 5801.33.0000, 5801.34.0000, 5801.35.0010, 5801.35.0020, 5801.36.0010 and 5801.36.0020.
224–O	Other than velvet: all HTS numbers except those in 224–V.
340–D	Dress shirts: only HTS numbers 6205.20.2015, 6205.20.2020, 6205.20.2025 and 6205.20.2030.
340	Other than dress shirts: all HTS numbers except those in 340–D.
359–H	Headwear: only HTS numbers 6505.90.1540 and 6505.90.2060.
359–O	Other: all HTS numbers except those in 359–H.
369–L	Luggage: only HTS numbers 4202.12.4000, 4202.12.8020, 4202.12.8060, 4202.92.1500, 4202.92.3015 and 4202.92.6090.
369–O	Other: all HTS numbers except those in 369–L.
459–W	Woven headwear: only HTS number 6505.90.4090.
459–O	Other: all HTS numbers except those in 459–W.
640–D	Dress shirts: only HTS numbers 6205.30.2010, 6205.30.2020, 6205.30.2030, 6205.30.2040, 6205.90.3030 and 6205.90.4030.
640–O	Other than dress shirts: all HTS numbers except those in 640–D.
641–Y	Blouses with two or more colors in the warp and/or filling: only HTS numbers 6204.23.0050, 6204.29.2030, 6206.40.3010 and 6206.40.3025.
641	Other: all HTS numbers except those in 641–Y.
659–H	Headwear: only HTS numbers 6502.00.9030, 6504.00.9015, 6504.00.9060, 6505.90.5090, 6505.90.6090, 6505.90.7090 and 6505.90.8090.
659–S	Swimwear: only HTS numbers 6112.31.0010, 6112.31.0020, 6112.41.0010, 6112.41.0020, 6112.41.0030, 6112.41.0040, 6211.11.1010, 6211.11.1020, 6211.12.1010 and 6211.12.1020.
659–O	Other: all HTS numbers except those in 659–H and 659–S.
669–P	Polypropylene bags: only HTS numbers 6305.32.0010, 6305.32.0020, 6305.33.0010, 6305.33.0020 and 6305.39.0000.
669–O	Other: all HTS numbers except those in 669–P.
670–L	Luggage: only HTS numbers 4202.12.8030, 4202.12.8070, 4202.92.3020, 4202.92.3030 and 4202.92.9025.
670–O	Other: all HTS numbers except those in 670–L.

Annex A—Continued

Merged Categories

300/301
317/326
613/614
619/620
625/626/627/628/629
333/334/335
338/339
342/642
347/348
351/651
353/354/653/654
445/446
633/634/635
638/639
645/646
647/648
369–L/670–L/870

Annex B

Exempt Products Requiring Exempt Certification (No Visa or ELVIS transmission required)

1. Chima—The long, formless and ample skirt portion of the traditional Korean chima-chogori dress set.
2. Chogori—The short halter-type blouse or top portion of the traditional Korean chima-chogori dress set.
3. Bosun—An ankle boot-type article, wholly of cloth, worn by Korean women indoors.
4. Fabrics—not to exceed 24x48 inches in size, containing hand embroidered or hand painted Korean scenes, and used primarily as decorations or art objects.
5. Handmade carpets—i.e., in which the pile was inserted, knotted by hand and classified by the U.S. Customs Service under HTS 5701.10.1600, 5701.10.4000 (formerly 5701.10.2010) or 5703.20.1000.
6. Korean-style handbags and other flatgoods of the type considered by the U.S. Customs Service to be classified as luggage— Women's and children's handbags, billfolds, card cases, coin purses, eyeglass cases and similar flatgoods.
7. Martial Arts Uniforms.
8. Toys for animals.

[FR Doc. 96–33201 Filed 12–30–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DR–F

Adjustment of Import Limits for Certain Cotton and Man-Made Fiber Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Sri Lanka

December 23, 1996.

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

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 31, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Helen L. LeGrande, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and