thorough evaluation under the National Environmental Policy Act.

The major issues of concern, as indicated by the Council, environmental organizations, and individuals, included: (1) the applicant made false statements in connection with the application; (2) which vessel would be used for transporting feed and fish to and from the cages; (3) who would conduct the DNA fingerprinting that would allow tracking of the aquaculture fish throughout their sale; (4) possible escapement and its impact on wild stocks; (5) the type of food used for feeding; (6) possible transfer of diseases to wild fish; (7) timing of cage placement offshore; (8) timing of acquiring fingerlings; (9) the expertise and ability of the applicant to undertake the endeavor; (10) associated penalties for violating the EFP; (11) who is responsible for any environmental damage; (12) staff expertise on treating disease; (13) how disease outbreaks would be treated; (14) liability and environmental insurance; (15) paper trail on aquacultured fish throughout the marketing chain; (16) possible conflicts or impacts on or with other fishing activities; (17) possible interactions of wild fish or other organisms with the cages; (18) response to storm events; (19) why a smaller number of cages will not be used if this is a feasibility study; and (20) the range of species for possible stocking.

Given the inexperience of the applicant and the false information in the application, it appears that the applicant lacks the capability to comply with the conditions of the EFP. It is likely that the project could impact significantly the surrounding habitat and marine fishery resources. Virtually all of the agencies and environmental organizations stated that the proposed action required either an EIS or a thorough analysis of the environmental impacts. Given the precedent setting nature of the action, NMFS concurs that the proposed action warrants an EIS.

The Council is developing a generic amendment and an EIS to determine the feasibility of conducting and regulating aquaculture projects in Federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico. This effort is expected to be completed within 2 years. This process will result in extensive public input and appears necessary to ensure that no unanticipated consequences will result from proposed future aquaculture projects. NMFS will work with the Council and support the development of the generic amendment and EIS.

Given the precedent setting nature of the project and the need for full public input into the process, especially the need for an EIS, NMFS believes that it is premature to grant an EFP at this time. Rather, applicants should work closely with the Council to develop appropriate procedures for establishing and maintaining future aquaculture projects in Federal waters. Thus, NMFS denies the application for an EFP.

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

Dated: December 17, 2003.

Bruce C. Morehead,

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

[FR Doc. 03–31611 Filed 12–22–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Notice, Establishment of a Frequency Assignment Coordination Web Site

AGENCY: National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), as part of an agreement with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in its Allocations and Service Rules for the 71–76 GHz, 81–86 GHz and 92–95 GHz Bands Report and Order, plans to establish a Web-based coordination system to facilitate frequency assignment coordination between federal and non-federal operations within the 70, 80, and 90 GHz bands.[1] Until the complete web-based coordination system is operational, NTIA and the federal agencies will continue to process private sector assignments for coordination within 14 working days of the FCC providing those assignment requests to NTIA. Although the automated coordination system will not be ready for use for several months, NTIA is publicly announcing that the following Web site <*http://ntiacsd.ntia.doc.gov/webcoord/status.cfm*> can be accessed by non-federal applicants to determine the status of their frequency assignment applications for these bands at any point in time.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Karl B. Nebbia, Office of Spectrum Management, Deputy Associate Administrator, at (202) 482–1850, or electronic mail: *knebbia@ntia.doc.gov;* or Thomas Woods, Office of Spectrum Management, Frequency Assignment Branch Chief, at (202) 482–1132, or electronic mail: *twoods@ntia.doc.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: New technologies are making widespread beneficial use of the 70, 80, and 90 GHz bands possible for the first time. These bands, which are shared between federal and non-federal users, can now be used to offer a broad range of new products and services, such as high-speed wireless local area networks, and to increase access to broadband services, including access systems for the Internet. In order to accelerate the introduction of these technologies, NTIA and the FCC have agreed to use an innovative Web-based frequency coordination mechanism to coordinate use between the federal and non-federal sectors. The FCC's recent Allocations and Service Rules Order for the 71–76 GHz, 81–86 GHz, and 92–95 GHz bands, set in motion the steps necessary to implement these technologies. The NTIA/FCC agreement calls for the formulation of a plan for the web-based frequency coordination mechanism within four months of the release of the Allocations and Service Rules Order.[2] Within another four months, the interactive system would be operational. This new system will allow non-federal users to use a Web site to determine whether they have any potential conflict with federal users. Non-federal user applicants will be required to input certain information into a database. Once that information has been submitted, it will be processed within minutes and a determination will be made on whether or not the applicant can move forward in planning for their system's operational use within those bands of spectrum.

Until the complete Web-based system is operational, however, federal and non-federal users will continue to coordinate their assignments through NTIA's Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee (IRAC) Frequency Assignment Subcommittee (FAS). To help each applicant know the status of a particular application with respect to its FAS review, NTIA will provide status information at *http://ntiacsd.ntia.doc.gov/webcoord/status.cfm.* This site will identify when non-federal applications for these bands have been submitted to the FAS, when those applications completed federal agency review, and the final result.

While not a part of the agreement regarding the automated mechanism for the 70, 80, 90 GHz bands, the 21.2–23.6

[1] Allocations and Service Rules for the 71–76 GHz, 81–86 GHz, and 92–95 GHz Bands, WT Docket No. 02–146, Report and Order, FCC 03–248 at ¶54 (released, Nov. 4, 2003) (Allocations and Service Rules Order).

[2] *See id.* at ¶ 2.

GHz band is also shared between federal and non-federal users and presents similar coordination challenges. Accordingly, NTIA will also provide on this Web site status information regarding the processing of non-federal applications for that band.

Dated: December 17, 2003.

Kathy D. Smith,

Chief Counsel, National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

[FR Doc. 03–31511 Filed 12–22–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–60–P

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

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

December 17, 2003.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection adjusting limits.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 23, 2003.

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 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 Bureau of Customs and Border Protection Web site at *http://www.customs.gov*. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, refer to the Office of Textiles and Apparel Web site at *http://otexa.ita.doc.gov*.

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 current limits for certain categories are being adjusted for special shift.

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 68 FR 1599, published on January 13, 2003). Also *see* 67 FR 63632, published on October 15, 2002.

James C. Leonard III,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

December 17, 2003.

Commissioner,
Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, Washington, DC 20229.

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directive issued to you on October 8, 2002, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton, wool and man-made fiber textiles and textile products and silk blend and other vegetable fiber apparel, produced or manufactured in the Philippines and exported during the twelve-month period which began on January 1, 2003 and extends through December 31, 2003.

Effective on December 23, 2003, you are directed to adjust the limits for the following categories, as provided for under the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing:

Category	Adjusted twelve-month limit [1]
Levels in Group I	
335	310,668 dozen.
338/339	3,633,517 dozen.
635	434,602 dozen.
638/639	3,095,642 dozen.

[1] The limits have not been adjusted to account for any imports exported after December 31, 2002.

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,
James C. Leonard III,
Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc. E3–00612 Filed 12–22–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DR–S

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Adjustment of Import Limits for Certain Cotton, Wool and Man-Made Fiber Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

December 17, 2003.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 23, 2003.

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 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 Bureau of Customs and Border Protection Web site at *http://www.customs.gov*. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, refer to the Office of Textiles and Apparel Web site at *http://otexa.ita.doc.gov*.

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 current limits for certain categories are being adjusted for swing.

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 68 FR 1599, published on January 13, 2003). Also *see* 68 FR 26575, published on May 16, 2003.

James C. Leonard III,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

December 17, 2003.

Commissioner,
Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, Washington, DC 20229

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directive issued to you on May 12, 2003, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton, wool and man–made fiber textiles and textile products, produced or manufactured in Vietnam and exported during the eight-month period which began on May 1, 2003 and extends through December 31, 2003.

Effective on December 23, 2003, you are directed to adjust the limits for the following categories, as provided for under the terms of the current bilateral textile agreement between the Governments of the United States and Vietnam:

Category	Restraint limit [1]
301	405,533 kilograms.
332	2,667 dozen pairs.
333	5,440 dozen.
338/339	10,463,635 dozen.
435	18,267 dozen.
440	767 dozen.
447	36,827 dozen.
448	13,713 dozen.