

Dated: September 15, 2008.

**Donna Wieting,**

*Deputy Director, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

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## COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

### Limitations of Duty- and Quota-Free Imports of Apparel Articles Assembled in Beneficiary ATPDEA Countries from Regional Country Fabric

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

**ACTION:** Publishing the New 12-Month Cap on Duty and Quota Free Benefits.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2008.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Richard Stetson, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-3400.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Authority:** Section 3103 of the Trade Act of 2002, P.L. 107-210; Title VII of the Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006 (TRHCA 2006), P.L. 109-432; H.R. 1830, 110th Cong. (2007) (H.R. 1830); Presidential Proclamation 7616 of October 31, 2002 (67 FR 67283, November 5, 2002).

Section 3103 of the Trade Act of 2002 amended the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA) to provide for duty and quota-free treatment for certain textile and apparel articles imported from designated Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act (ATPDEA) beneficiary countries. Section 204(b)(3)(B)(iii) of the ATPA, as amended, provides duty- and quota-free treatment for certain apparel articles assembled in ATPDEA beneficiary countries from regional fabric and components. More specifically, this provision applies to apparel articles sewn or otherwise assembled in one or more ATPDEA beneficiary countries from fabrics or from fabric components formed or from components knit-to-shape, in one or more ATPDEA beneficiary countries, from yarns wholly formed in the United States or one or more ATPDEA beneficiary countries (including fabrics not formed from yarns, if such fabrics are classifiable under heading 5602 and 5603 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) and are formed in one or more ATPDEA beneficiary countries). Such apparel articles may also contain certain other

eligible fabrics, fabric components, or components knit-to-shape.

The TRHCA of 2006 extended the expiration of the ATPA to June 30, 2007. See section 7002(a) of the TRHCA 2006. H.R. 1830 further extended the expiration of the ATPA to February 29, 2008. H.R. 5264 further extended the expiration of the ATPA to December 31, 2008.

For the period beginning on October 1, 2008 and extending through December 31, 2008, preferential tariff treatment is limited under the regional fabric provision to imports of qualifying apparel articles in an amount not to exceed 5 percent of the aggregate square meter equivalents of all apparel articles imported into the United States in the preceding 12-month period for which data are available. For the purpose of this notice, the 12-month period for which data are available is the 12-month period that ended July 31, 2008. In Presidential Proclamation 7616 (published in the Federal Register on November 5, 2002, 67 FR 67283), the President directed CITA to publish in the Federal Register the aggregate quantity of imports allowed during each period.

For the period beginning on October 1, 2008 and extending through December 31, 2008, the aggregate quantity of imports eligible for preferential treatment under the regional fabric provision is 1,222,785,719 square meters equivalent. Apparel articles entered in excess of this quantity will be subject to otherwise applicable tariffs.

This quantity is calculated using the aggregate square meter equivalents of all apparel articles imported into the United States, derived from the set of Harmonized System lines listed in the Annex to the World Trade Organization Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC), and the conversion factors for units of measure into square meter equivalents used by the United States in implementing the ATC.

Dated: September 22, 2008.

**R. Matthew Priest,**

*Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.*

[FR Doc. E8-22575 Filed 9-24-08; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Army

#### Preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment at Fort Bliss, Texas and New Mexico

**AGENCY:** Department of the Army, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent (NOI).

**SUMMARY:** This announces the intention of the U.S. Army to prepare an EIS analyzing the impacts of Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment at Fort Bliss. The Fort Bliss Army Growth EIS will tier from the Final Programmatic EIS for Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment, for which a Record of Decision (ROD) was signed in December 2007. That ROD directed stationing of two Infantry Brigade Combat Teams (IBCTs) at Fort Bliss, and the stationing of Heavy Brigade Combat Teams (HBCTs) (returning from Germany) at Fort Bliss and White Sands Missile Range (WSMR). Army BCTs consist of approximately 3,500–4,000 soldiers. The HBCT at WSMR will leverage training infrastructure and range modernization that has taken place at Fort Bliss. These actions are scheduled over the next five years.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be forwarded to: Mr. Walter J. Christensen, Attention: FB GTA EIS; IMWE-BLS-PWE; Fort Bliss, TX 79916 6812; or faxed to (915) 568-3548.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jean Offutt, Fort Bliss Public Affairs Office; IMWE-BLS-PA; Fort Bliss, Texas, 79916-6812; phone: (915) 568-4505.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Actions proposed to be taken at Fort Bliss in support of Army growth have the potential to significantly impact the natural and human environment in and around Fort Bliss as a result of facility construction and new and different uses of the Fort Bliss Training Complex (FBTC). The study area for the environmental analysis will be the Fort Bliss installation and surrounding communities. The objective of this analysis is to provide a comprehensive EIS that will serve as a planning tool and public information source. Several categories of alternatives will be considered:

(1) *Stationing/Training:* Known and reasonably foreseeable stationing and training actions will be analyzed. This includes additional units and use of any element of the Army's equipment inventory (e.g., Stryker).

(2) *Land Use:* Various land use changes in support of the Fort Bliss