

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Announcement of Public Comment Period on the Elimination of the Paper Visa Requirement with the Hong Kong Special Administrative Regime of the People's Republic of China (HKSAR)

June 26, 2001.

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

ACTION: Seeking public comments on the elimination of the paper visa requirement with the HKSAR.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lori Mennitt, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-3400.

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 Electronic Visa Information System (ELVIS) allows foreign governments to electronically transfer shipment information to the U.S. Customs Service on textile and apparel shipments. On November 9, 1995, a notice was published in the **Federal Register** (61 FR 56576) seeking public comments on the implementation of ELVIS. Subsequently, a document published on December 29, 1998 (63 FR 71621) announced that, starting on January 1, 1999, the HKSAR would implement the ELVIS system. This implementation did not eliminate the requirement for a valid paper visa to accompany each shipment for entry into the United States.

As a result of successful use of the dual visa system, preparations are under way to move beyond the current dual system to the paperless ELVIS system with Hong Kong.

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements is requesting interested parties to submit comments on the elimination of the paper visa requirement for Hong Kong and utilization of the ELVIS system exclusively. Comments must be received on or before *insert date 60 days from publication*. Comments may be mailed to D. Michael Hutchinson, Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, room 3001, U.S. Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20230.

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements has determined that this action falls within the foreign affairs exception of

the rulemaking provisions of 5 U.S.C.553(a)(1).

D. Michael Hutchinson,

Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc.01-16590 Filed 6-29-01; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Cancellation of Certain Export Visa Requirements for Certain Cotton, Wool, Man-Made Fiber, Silk Blend and Other Vegetable Fiber Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Lesotho

June 26, 2001.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs canceling certain export visa requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 20, 2001.

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

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.

On December 9, 1992, the Governments of the United States and the Kingdom of Lesotho agreed to establish an export visa arrangement for certain textiles and textile products, produced or manufactured in Lesotho and exported from Lesotho. CITA directed the U.S. Customs Service to prohibit entry of textile and textile products covered by the arrangement for which the Government of Lesotho had not issued an appropriate export visa. (See 58 FR 26121, published on April 30, 1993).

The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) provides that eligible textile and apparel articles enter free of duty and free of quantitative limitation, provided, inter alia, that the country has adopted an effective visa system to prevent unlawful transshipment of the articles and the use of counterfeit documents relating to importation of the articles into the United States. Pursuant to this requirement, the Governments of the United States and Lesotho agreed to a new, AGOA visa system, which entered into effect on April 23, 2001.

(See 66 FR 21192, published on April 27, 2001)

As a result of the new, AGOA visa system, the Governments of the United States and Lesotho have agreed to terminate the 1992 visa arrangement, effective August 20, 2001. On and after this date, textiles and textile products will not be subject to the requirements of the 1992 visa arrangement. However, importers claiming preferential tariff treatment under the AGOA for entries of textile and apparel articles should ensure that those entries meet the requirements of the new, AGOA visa system. (See 66 FR 7837, published on January 25, 2001).

D. Michael Hutchinson,

Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

June 26, 2001.

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

Dear Commissioner: This directive cancels and supersedes the directive issued to you on April 23, 1993, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive directs 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 Lesotho which were not properly visaed by the Government of Lesotho.

The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) provides that eligible textile and apparel articles enter free of duty and free of quantitative limitation, provided, inter alia, that the country has adopted an effective visa system to prevent unlawful transshipment of the articles and the use of counterfeit documents relating to importation of the articles into the United States. Pursuant to this requirement, the Governments of the United States and Lesotho agreed to a new, AGOA visa system, which entered into effect on April 23, 2001. (See 66 FR 21192, published on April 27, 2001)

As a result of the new, AGOA visa system, the Governments of the United States and Lesotho have agreed to terminate the 1992 visa arrangement, effective August 20, 2001. On and after this date, textiles and textile products will not be subject to the requirements of the 1992 visa arrangement. However, importers claiming preferential tariff treatment under the AGOA for entries of textile and apparel articles should ensure that those entries meet the requirements of the new, AGOA visa system. (See 66 FR 7837, published on January 25, 2001).

Therefore, effective on August 20, 2001, you are directed to terminate the textile visa requirement set forth in the April 23, 1993 directive. Importers claiming preferential tariff treatment under the AGOA for entries of textile and apparel articles must continue to meet the requirements of the new, AGOA visa system. (See 66 FR 7837, published on January 25, 2001)

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements has determined that these actions fall within the foreign affairs exception of the rulemaking provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(1).

Sincerely,
D. Michael Hutchinson,
*Acting Chairman, Committee for the
Implementation of Textile Agreements.*

[FR Doc. 01-16591 Filed 6-29-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness).

ACTION: Notice.

In compliance with section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) announces the following proposed reinstatement of a public information collection and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is a necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by August 31, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection should be sent to the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) (Force Management Policy/Military

Personnel Policy/Compensation), ATTN: Thomas R. Tower, 4000 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-4000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instruments, please write to the above address or call (703) 693-1059.

Title, Associated Form, and OMB Control Number: Application for Annuity Certain Military Surviving Spouses, Form #: DD Form 2769, OMB Number: 0704-0402.

Needs and Uses: This information collection requirement is necessary to identify and pay surviving spouses who meet the criteria established for benefits under the provisions of The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998, Public Law 105-85, Section 644, as amended. The DD Form 2769, "Application for Annuity—Certain Military Surviving Spouses," used in this information collection, provides a vehicle for the surviving spouse to apply for the annuity benefit. The Department will use this information to determine if the applicant is eligible for the annuity benefit and make payment to the surviving spouse. The respondents of this information collection are a never-remarried surviving spouse of a member of a Uniformed Service who (1) died before March 21, 1974, and was entitled to retired or retainer pay on the date of death, or (2) was a member of a Reserve Component of the Armed Forces who died before October 1, 1978 and on the date of death would have been entitled to retired pay except for not yet being 60 years of age.

Affected Public: Individuals.

Annual Burden Hours: 200.

Number of Respondents: 200.

Responses Per Respondent: 1.

Average Burden per Response: 1 hour.

Frequency: On occasion.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Summary of Information Collection

The National Defense Authorization Act of FY 1998, Public Law 105-85,

section 644, requires the Secretary of Defense to pay an annuity to qualified surviving spouses. As required by the Act, no benefit shall be paid to any person under this section unless an application for such benefit is filed with the Secretary concerned by or on behalf of such person. This information collection is needed to obtain the necessary data so that the Department can determine if the applicant is eligible for the annuity benefit and make payment to the surviving spouse.

Dated: June 25, 2001.

Patricia L. Toppings,

*Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison
Officer, Department of Defense.*

[FR Doc. 01-16537 Filed 6-29-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-08-M

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Transmittal No. 01-20]

36(b)(1) Arms Sales Notification

AGENCY: Department of Defense, Defense Security Cooperation Agency.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Defense is publishing the unclassified text of a section 36(b)(91) arms sales notification. This is published to fulfill the requirements of section 155 of P.L. 104-164 dated 21 July 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. J. Hurd, DSCA/COMPT/RM, (703) 604-6575.

The following is a copy of a letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, transmittal 01-20 with attached transmittal, policy justification, and Sensitivity of Technology.

Dated: June 25, 2001.

L.M. Bynum,

*Alternative OSD Federal Register Liaison
Officer, Department of Defense.*

BILLING CODE 5001-10-M