

Dated: December 20, 2006.

P. Michael Payne,

*Chief, Permits, Conservation and Education
Division, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. E6-22332 Filed 12-28-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Determination under the African Growth and Opportunity Act

December 22, 2006.

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

ACTION: Directive to the Commissioner
of Customs and Border Protection.

SUMMARY: The Committee for the
Implementation of Textile Agreements
(CITA) has determined that certain
textile and apparel goods from Mali
shall be treated as “handloomed,
handmade, folklore articles, or ethnic
printed fabrics” and qualify for
preferential treatment under the African
Growth and Opportunity Act. Imports of
eligible products from Mali with an
appropriate visa will qualify for duty-
free treatment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 16, 2007.

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

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Sections 112(a) and 112(b)(6) of
the African Growth and Opportunity Act
(Title I of the Trade and Development Act of
2000, Pub. L. No. 106-200) (“AGOA”), as
amended by Section 7(c) of the AGOA
Acceleration Act of 2004 (Pub. L. 108-274)
 (“AGOA Acceleration Act”) (19 U.S.C. §§
 3721(a) and (b)(6)); Sections 2 and 5 of
 Executive Order No. 13191 of January 17,
 2001; Sections 25-27 and Paras. 13-14 of
 Presidential Proclamation 7912 of June 29,
 2005.

AGOA provides preferential tariff
treatment for imports of certain textile
and apparel products of beneficiary sub-
Saharan African countries, including
hand-loomed, handmade, or folklore
articles of a beneficiary country that are
certified as such by the competent
authority in the beneficiary country.
The AGOA Acceleration Act further
expanded AGOA by adding ethnic
printed fabrics to the list of textile and
apparel products made in the
beneficiary sub-Saharan African
countries that may be eligible for the
preferential treatment described in

section 112(a) of the AGOA. In
Executive Order 13191 (January 17,
2001) and Presidential Proclamation
7912 (June 29, 2005), the President
authorized CITA to consult with
beneficiary sub-Saharan African
countries and to determine which, if
any, particular textile and apparel goods
shall be treated as being hand-loomed,
handmade, folklore articles, or ethnic
printed fabrics. (66 FR 7271-72 and 70
FR 37959, 37961 & 63)

In a letter to the Commissioner of
Customs dated January 18, 2001, the
United States Trade Representative
directed Customs to require that
importers provide an appropriate export
visa from a beneficiary sub-Saharan
African country to obtain preferential
treatment under section 112(a) of the
AGOA (66 FR 7837). The first digit of
the visa number corresponds to one of
nine groupings of textile and apparel
products that are eligible for preferential
tariff treatment. Grouping “9” is
reserved for handmade, hand-loomed,
folklore articles, or ethnic printed
fabrics.

CITA has consulted with Malian
authorities and has determined that
hand-loomed fabrics, hand-loomed
articles (e.g., hand-loomed rugs, scarves,
place mats, and tablecloths), handmade
articles made from hand-loomed fabrics,
the folklore articles described in Annex
A, and ethnic printed fabrics described
in Annex B to this notice, if produced
in and exported from Mali, are eligible
for preferential tariff treatment under
section 112(a) of the AGOA, as
amended. After further consultations
with Malian authorities, CITA may
determine that additional textile and
apparel goods shall be treated as
folklore articles or ethnic printed
fabrics. In the letter published below,
CITA directs the Commissioner of
Customs and Border Protection to allow
duty-free entry of such products under
U.S. Harmonized Tariff Schedule
subheading 9819.11.27 if accompanied
by an appropriate AGOA visa in
grouping “9”.

Philip J. Martello,

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

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

December 22, 2006.

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

Dear Commissioner: The Committee for the
Implementation of Textiles Agreements
 (“CITA”), pursuant to Sections 112(a) and
 (b)(6) of the African Growth and Opportunity
 Act (Title I of the Trade and Development
 Act of 2000, Pub. L. No. 106-200) (“AGOA”),

as amended by Section 7(c) of the AGOA
Acceleration Act of 2004 (Pub. L. 108-274)
 (“AGOA Acceleration Act”) (19 U.S.C. §§
 3721(a) and (b)(6)), Executive Order No.
 13191 of January 17, 2001, and Presidential
 Proclamation 7912 of June 29, 2005, has
 determined, effective on January 16, 2007,
 that the following articles shall be treated as
 “handloomed, handmade, folklore articles,
 and ethnic printed fabrics” under the AGOA:
 (a) handloomed fabrics, handloomed articles
 (e.g., handloomed rugs, scarves, placemats,
 and tablecloths), and hand-made articles
 made from handloomed fabrics, if made in
 Mali from fabric handloomed in Mali; (b) the
 folklore articles described in Annex A; and
 (c) ethnic printed fabrics described in Annex
 B, if made in Mali. Such articles are eligible
 for duty-free treatment only if entered under
 subheading 9819.11.27 and accompanied by
 a properly completed visa for product
 grouping “9”, in accordance with the
 provisions of the Visa Arrangement between
 the Government of Mali and the Government
 of the United States Concerning Textile and
 Apparel Articles Claiming Preferential Tariff
 Treatment under Section 112 of the Trade
 and Development Act of 2000. After further
 consultations with Malian authorities, CITA
 may determine that additional textile and
 apparel goods shall be treated as folklore
 articles or ethnic printed fabrics.

Sincerely,

Philip J. Martello,
*Acting Chairman, Committee for the
Implementation of Textile Agreements.*

ANNEX A: Malian Folklore Products

CITA has determined that the following
textile and apparel goods shall be treated as
folklore articles for purposes of the AGOA if
made in Mali. Articles must be ornamented
in characteristic Malian or regional folk style.
An article may not include modern features
such as zippers, elastic, elasticized fabrics,
snaps, or hook-and-pile fasteners (such as
velcro or similar holding fabric). An article
may not incorporate patterns that are not
traditional or historical to Mali, such as
airplanes, buses, cowboys, or cartoon
characters and may not incorporate designs
referencing holidays or festivals not common
to traditional Malian culture, such as
Halloween and Thanksgiving.

Eligible folklore articles:

- (a) **Hand-woven Blanket/Tapestry:** Strips of
handloomed cotton or wool or wool-
cotton blend fabric, 3-10 inches wide,
hand or machine sewn together to make
a larger piece of fabric. Dimensions and
designs depend on use. Uses include
scarves, body wrap, blankets,
bedspreads, and interior room decoration
accessory. Designs are woven into the
fabric using dyed yarns or painted,
stenciled or printed after assembly.
- (b) **Women's Boubou:** A loose-fitting garment
with large open armholes made of bright
solid colored machine-made African
brocade (also called basin) or hand-
woven fabric. It is accompanied by a
matching wrap skirt and head wrap. The
garment is decorated with hand or
machine-sewn embroidery around a
round or U-shaped neckline.

(c) **Ladies' Long Traditional Boubou:** This ladies' dress is a loose-fitting garment with matching scarf and head wrap of bright colored machine-made fabric characteristic of ethnic printed fabrics, or of hand-woven fabrics. Garment is decorated with lace attached around the neckline, bottom hem, and sleeves.

(d) **Men's Boubou of Ethnic Printed Fabrics:** This loose-fitting two-piece set is an ankle-length pullover outer tunic with matching trousers. The tunic has oversized armholes and an asymmetrical neckline with a center chest pocket. The garment is embroidered around the neckline. The trousers are secured at the waist by a drawstring and may be baggy with extra-fullness at the thighs and may contain side seam pockets.

(e) **Men's Boubou of African Brocade (Basin) Fabric:** This loose fitting three-piece set contains an ankle length pullover outer tunic, and inner tunic, and matching trousers. The outer tunic has oversized armholes and an asymmetrical neckline with a center chest pocket and is embroidered around the neckline. The inner tunic is embroidered around the neckline and may have pockets. The trousers are secured at the waist by a drawstring and are baggy with extra-fullness at the thighs and may contain pockets.

(f) **Bologan Poncho:** The "poncho" is loosely constructed made of several strips of narrow hand-woven fabrics hand or machine sewn together, with a slit for a neck opening. The garment is patterned with geometric-designed mud cloth.

(g) **Dogon Hunter's Tunic:** A loose-fitting upper garment made by hand or machine sewing several strips of narrow hand-woven fabrics together, it is decorated with metal staples forming geometric designs. The garment is dyed a solid dark blue or dark brown in color.

ANNEX B: Malian Ethnic Printed Fabrics

Each ethnic print must meet all of the criteria listed below:

- (A) selvedge on both edges
- (B) width of less than 50 inches
- (C) classifiable under subheading 5208.52.30¹ or 5208.52.40² of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States
- (D) contains designs, symbols, and other characteristics of African prints normally produced for and sold in Africa by the piece.
- (E) made from fabric woven in the U.S. using U.S. yarn or woven in one or more eligible sub-Saharan beneficiary countries using U.S. or African yarn
- (F) printed, including waxed, in one or more eligible sub-Saharan beneficiary countries

[FR Doc. E6-22328 Filed 12-28-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DS-S

¹ printed plain weave fabrics of cotton, 85% or more cotton by weight, weighing over 100g/m² but not more than 200 g/m², of yarn number 42 or lower

² printed plain weave fabrics of cotton, 85% or more cotton by weight, weighing over 100g/m² but not more than 200g/m², of yarn numbers 43-68

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 Socialist Republic of Vietnam

December 22, 2006.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 29, 2006.

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 U.S. Customs and Border Protection Web site (<http://www.cbp.gov>), or call (202) 344-2650. 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 Bilateral Textile Agreement of July 17, 2003, as amended, between the Governments of the United States and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, establishes limits, until the Socialist Republic of Vietnam's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO), for certain cotton, wool and man-made fiber textiles and textile products, produced or manufactured in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The current limits for certain categories are being increased for carryforward applied from the 2007 limits, and the limits for 2007 are being reduced to account for this carryforward being applied to the current limits.

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 (refer to the Office of Textiles and Apparel Web site at <http://otexa.ita.doc.gov>). See 70 FR 75156 (December 19, 2005), and 70

FR 76998 (December 22, 2006) respectively.

Philip J. Martello,

Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

December 22, 2006.

Commissioner,
U.S. Customs and Border Protection,
Washington, DC 20229

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directives issued to you on December 13, 2005 and December 19, 2006, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. These directives concern imports of certain cotton, wool, and man-made fiber textiles and textile products, produced or manufactured in Vietnam and exported during the twelve-month period which began on January 1, 2006 and extends through December 31, 2006, and the twelve-month period which begins on January 1, 2007 and extends through December 31, 2007, respectively.

Effective on December 29, 2006, you are directed to increase the 2006 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
200	151,132 kilograms.
332	241,370 dozen pairs.
334/335	903,044 dozen.
338/339	18,464,333 dozen.
340/640	2,697,101 dozen.
341/641	1,044,925 dozen.
342/642	774,271 dozen.
347/348	9,740,910 dozen.
359-S/659-S ²	720,326 kilograms.
440	2,945 dozen.
620	8,731,714 square meters.
632	405,529 dozen pairs.
638/639	1,637,741 dozen.
647/648	2,585,569 dozen.

¹ The limits have not been adjusted to account for any imports exported after December 31, 2005.

² Category 359-S: only HTS numbers 6112.39.0010, 6112.49.0010, 6211.11.8010, 6211.11.8020, 6211.12.8010 and 6211.12.8020; Category 659-S: 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.

Also, effective on December 29, 2006, you are directed to reduce the 2007 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
200	371,188 kilograms.
332	1,237,293 dozen pairs.
334/335	798,278 dozen.
338/339	16,238,783 dozen.