

consultation with NMFS, and are implemented by regulations promulgated under the authority of the Secretary of Commerce. Public participation is an important part of the Council process, where a wide variety of viewpoints are considered when developing FMPs and FMP amendments.

NMFS considers the NPOA-S to be a clear statement of policy that provides guidance to the Councils and NMFS Regions to conduct seabird bycatch assessments and reduce seabird bycatch in U.S. longline fisheries. In those U.S. longline fisheries where seabird bycatch problems are already known to exist, including Alaska groundfish and halibut demersal longline fisheries and Hawaii pelagic longline fisheries, seabird bycatch regulations are already in place, are undergoing further refinement, or are under development. NMFS considers it inappropriate to include regulations in the NPOA-S that were not developed through the Council process.

NMFS notes, however, that the final NPOA-S does call on the Councils, in partnership with NMFS, to prescribe appropriate and effective mitigation measures and to develop regulations if a seabird bycatch problem exists. Additionally, the NPOA-S provides guidance to the Councils and NMFS to consider all existing information in determining whether development of precautionary seabird bycatch mitigation measures is warranted, even prior to completing formal seabird bycatch assessments. Such an approach is consistent with U.S. marine fisheries policy on using the precautionary approach for developing fisheries management actions in the face of scientific uncertainty.

Comment 9: The draft NPOA-S does not contain specific guidelines for education, outreach, and training on the seabird bycatch issues.

Response: NMFS considers outreach and education to be of utmost importance. The final NPOA-S states that the Councils and NMFS should engage longline fishermen in education and outreach activities that will increase awareness of seabird bycatch issues and the importance of employing seabird bycatch mitigation measures.

Changes from the Proposed NPOA-S

NMFS made a number of changes in the final NPOA-S pursuant to public comments that were submitted on the draft NPOA-S. The final NPOA-S requires that seabird bycatch be reduced to the maximum extent practicable. The final NPOA-S provides a time line for Council and NMFS action when a seabird bycatch problem is found to

exist, and requires that a fishery-specific plan be established within 1 year to develop seabird bycatch mitigation measures in that fishery within 2 years. The final NPOA-S also calls for additional NMFS observer training in seabird identification, cooperative research between the longline fishing industry and seabird scientists, and coordination of U.S. research with international research efforts to reduce seabird bycatch. The section describing efforts that should be taken by the United States to encourage other nations to develop individual NPOA-S is expanded. The annual report describing seabird bycatch research and mitigation efforts is explained in greater detail. Finally, Executive Order 13186, "Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds," is addressed.

Dated: February 22, 2001.

William T. Hogarth,

Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 01-4894 Filed 2-27-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Denying Entry to Textiles and Textile Products Produced in Certain Companies in Bangladesh

February 23, 2001.

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

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs directing Customs to deny entry to shipments manufactured in certain companies in Bangladesh.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 1, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Janet Heinzen, International Trade Specialist, 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 12475 of May 9, 1984, as amended.

The U.S. Customs Service has conducted on-site verification of textile and textile product production in a number of foreign countries. Based on information obtained through on-site verifications and from other sources, U.S. Customs has informed CITA that certain companies were illegally transshipping, were closed, or were

unable to produce records to verify production. The Chairman of CITA has directed the U.S. Customs Service to issue regulations regarding the denial of entry of shipments from such companies (see **Federal Register** notice 64 FR 41395, published on July 30, 1999). In order to secure compliance with U.S. law, including Section 204 and U.S. customs law, to carry out textile and textile product agreements, and to avoid circumvention of textile agreements, the Chairman of CITA is directing the U.S. Customs Service to deny entry to textiles and textile products manufactured by the following Bangladesh companies for two years: Eldest Garments, A.M. Inspection, Fashion International, Newtex Apparel and Runa Textile. Customs has informed CITA that these companies were found to have been illegally transshipping, closed, or unable to produce records to verify production.

Should CITA determine that this decision should be amended, such amendment will be published in the **Federal Register**.

D. Michael Hutchinson,

Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

February 23, 2001.

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

Dear Commissioner: The U.S. Customs Service has conducted on-site verification of textile and textile product production in a number of foreign countries. Based on information obtained through on-site verifications and from other sources, U.S. Customs has informed CITA that certain companies were illegally transshipping, were closed, or were unable to produce records to verify production. The Chairman of CITA has directed the U.S. Customs Service to issue regulations regarding the denial of entry of shipments from such companies (see directive dated July 27, 1999 (64 FR 41395), published on July 30, 1999). In order to secure compliance with U.S. law, including Section 204 and U.S. customs law, to carry out textile and textile product agreements, and to avoid circumvention of textile agreements, the Chairman of CITA directs the U.S. Customs Service, effective for goods exported on and after March 1, 2001 and extending through February 28, 2003, to deny entry to textiles and textile products manufactured by the following Bangladesh companies: Eldest Garments, A.M. Inspection, Fashion International, Newtex Apparel and Runa

Textile. Customs has informed CITA that these companies were found to have been illegally transshipping, closed, or unable to produce records to verify production.

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,
D. Michael Hutchinson,
Acting Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.
[FR Doc. 01-4856 Filed 2-27-01; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510-DR-F

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Adjustment of Import Restraint Limits for Certain Cotton and Man-Made Fiber Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in the Federative Republic of Brazil

February 23, 2001.

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

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

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 28, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roy Unger, 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 U.S. Customs website at <http://www.customs.gov>. For information on embargoes and quota reopenings, refer to the Office of Textiles and Apparel website 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 increased for carryover.

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 65 FR 82328, published on December 28, 2000). Also

see 65 FR 66718, published on November 7, 2000.

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

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

February 23, 2001.

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 October 27, 2000, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton, wool and man-made fiber textile products, produced or manufactured in Brazil and exported during the twelve-month period which began on January 1, 2001 and extends through December 31, 2001.

Effective on February 28, 2001, you are directed to increase the limits for the following categories, as provided for under the Uruguay Round Agreement on Textiles and Clothing:

Category	Adjusted twelve-month limit ¹
Sublevels with the aggregate	
338/339/638/639	2,386,678 dozen.
361	1,803,266 numbers.
363	38,486,052 numbers.

¹ The limits have not been adjusted to account for any imports exported after December 31, 2000.

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. 01-4857 Filed 2-27-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-F

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

National Assessment Governing Board; Meeting

AGENCY: National Assessment Governing Board; Education.

ACTION: Notice of full and partially closed meetings.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the schedule and proposed agenda of a forthcoming meeting of the National Assessment Governing Board. This notice also describes the functions of the Board. Notice of this meeting is

required under Section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. This document is intended to notify the general public of their opportunity to attend. This notice does not meet the 15 days requirement for publishing in the **Federal Register** because of administrative clearance issues. Individuals who will need accommodations for a disability in order to attend the meeting (*i.e.* interpreting services, assistive listening devices, materials in alternative format) should notify Munira Mwalimu at 202-357-6938 or Munira.Mwalimu@ed.gov by no later than February 26, 2001. We will attempt to meet requests after this date, but cannot guarantee availability of the requested accommodation. The meeting site is accessible to individuals with disabilities.

DATES: March 1-3, 2001.

Time: March 1—Executive Committee, 5-6:15 p.m. (open), 6:15-7 p.m. (closed). March 2—Full Board 8:30-10:15 a.m. (open); Assessment Development Committee 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., (open); Committee on Standards, Design and Methodology, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. (open); Reporting and Dissemination Committee, 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. (open); Full Board, 12:15-1:45 p.m., (closed); 1:45-3:30 p.m., (open); 3:30-5 p.m. (closed). March 3—Full Board, 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. (open).

Location: Omni Colonnade Hotel, 180 Aragon Avenue, Coral Gables, Florida.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Munira Mwalimu, Operations Officer, National Assessment Governing Board, 800 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 825, Washington, DC, 20002-4233, Telephone: (202) 357-6938.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The National Assessment Governing Board is established under section 412 of the National Education Statistics Act of 1994 (Title IV of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994) (Pub. L. 103-382).

The Board is established to formulate policy guidelines for the National Assessment of Educational Progress. The Board is responsible for selecting subject areas to be assessed, developing assessment objectives, identifying appropriate achievement goals for each grade and subject tested, and establishing standards and procedures for interstate and national comparisons. Under P.L. 105-78, the National Assessment Governing Board is also granted exclusive authority over developing the Voluntary National Tests pursuant to contract number RJ97153001.