

Sincerely,  
James C. Leonard III,  
Chairman, Committee for the Implementation  
of Textile Agreements.  
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## COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

### Establishment of an Export Visa Arrangement for Certain Cotton, Wool and Man-Made Fiber Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Vietnam

July 24, 2003.

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

**ACTION:** Issuing a directive to the  
Commissioner, Bureau of Customs and  
Border Protection establishing export  
visa requirements.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** August 11, 2003.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Shikha Bhatnagar, 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 11651 of March 3, 1972, as  
amended.

Pursuant to Annex C of the Bilateral  
Textile Agreement, dated July 17, 2003,  
the Governments of the United States  
and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam  
agreed to establish a new Export Visa  
Arrangement for certain cotton, wool  
and man-made fiber textiles and textile  
products subject to specific quota limits,  
as detailed in the notice and letter to the  
Commissioner, Bureau of Customs and  
Border Protection, published in the  
**Federal Register** on May 16, 2003 (see  
68 FR 26575), produced or  
manufactured in Vietnam and exported  
from Vietnam on and after August 11,  
2003.

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).

Interested persons are advised to take  
all necessary steps to ensure that textile  
products that are entered into the  
United States for consumption, or  
withdrawn from warehouse for  
consumption, on and after August 11,  
2003 will meet the visa requirements set

forth in the letter published below to the  
Commissioner, Bureau of Customs and  
Border Protection.

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

#### Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

July 24, 2003.

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

Dear Commissioner: Pursuant to section  
204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as  
amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order  
11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended; and the  
Export Visa Arrangement in Annex C of the  
Bilateral Textile Agreement, dated July 17,  
2003, between the Governments of the  
United States and the Socialist Republic of  
Vietnam, you are directed to prohibit,  
effective on August 11, 2003, entry into the  
Customs territory of the United States (i.e.,  
the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the  
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico) for  
consumption and withdrawal from  
warehouse for consumption of cotton, wool  
and man-made fiber textiles and textile  
products subject to specific quota limits, as  
detailed in the directive dated May 12, 2003,  
produced or manufactured in Vietnam and  
exported from Vietnam on and after August  
11, 2003, for which the Government of  
Vietnam has not issued an appropriate export  
visa fully described below. Should additional  
categories, merged categories or part  
categories become subject to import quota,  
the additional, merged or part category(s)  
automatically shall be included in the  
coverage of this visa arrangement.  
Merchandise in the additional, merged or  
part category(s) exported on or after the date  
the category(s) becomes subject to import  
quotas shall require a visa.

A visa must accompany each commercial  
shipment of the aforementioned textile  
products, in the form of a circular stamped  
marking in blue ink appearing on the front  
of the original commercial invoice or  
successor document. The original visa shall  
not be stamped on duplicate copies of the  
invoice. The original invoice with the  
original visa stamp will be required to enter  
the shipment into the United States.  
Duplicates of the invoice and/or visa may not  
be used for this purpose.

#### Each visa stamp shall include the following information:

1. The visa number. The visa number shall  
be in the standard nine digit letter format,  
beginning with one numeric digit for the last  
digit of the year of export, followed by the  
two character alpha code specified by the  
International Organization for  
Standardization (ISO) for Vietnam (the code  
for the Vietnam is "VN"), and a six digit  
numerical serial number identifying the  
shipment; e.g., 3VN123456.

2. The date of issuance. The date of  
issuance shall be the day, month and year on  
which the visa was issued.

3. The original signature and the printed  
name of the issuing official authorized by the  
Government of Vietnam.

4. The correct category(s), merged  
category(s), part category(s), quantity(s) and  
unit(s) of quantity of the shipment in the  
unit(s) of quantity provided for in the U.S.  
Department of Commerce Correlation and in  
the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the  
United States (HTSUS), annotated, or  
successor documents shall be reported in the  
spaces provided within the visa stamp (e.g.,  
"Cat. 340-510 DOZ").

Quantities must be stated in whole  
numbers. Decimals or fractions will not be  
accepted. Visaed quantities are rounded to  
the closest whole number if the quantity  
exported exceeds one whole unit, but is less  
than the next whole unit. Half units are  
rounded up. If the quantity visaed is less  
than one unit, the shipment is rounded  
upwards to one unit. Merged category quota  
merchandise may be accompanied by either  
the appropriate merged category visa or the  
correct category visa corresponding to the  
actual shipment. For example, quota  
Category 340/640 may be visaed as "Category  
340/640" or if the shipment consists solely  
of Category 340 merchandise, the shipment  
may be visaed as "Category 340" but not as  
"Category 640."

The Bureau of Customs and Border  
Protection shall not permit entry if the  
shipment does not have a visa, or if the visa  
number, date of issuance, signature, category,  
quantity or units of quantity are missing,  
incorrect, illegible, or have been crossed out  
or altered in any way. If the quantity  
indicated on the visa is less than that of the  
shipment, entry shall not be permitted. If the  
quantity indicated on the visa is more than  
that of the shipment, entry shall be permitted  
and only the amount entered shall be charged  
to any applicable quota.

The complete name and address of the  
company(s) actually involved in the  
manufacturing process of the textile product  
covered by the visa shall be provided on the  
textile visa document.

If the visa is not acceptable then a new  
correct visa or a visa waiver must be  
presented to Customs before any portion of  
the shipment will be released. A visa waiver  
may be issued by the U.S. Department of  
Commerce at the request of the Government  
of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam through  
its Embassy in Washington, DC. The waiver,  
if used, only waives the requirement to  
present a visa with the shipment. It does not  
waive the quota requirements. Visa waivers  
will only be issued for classification  
purposes or for one-time special purpose  
shipments that are not part of an ongoing  
commercial enterprise.

If the visaed invoice is deficient, Customs  
will not return the original document after  
entry, but will provide a certified copy of that  
visaed invoice for use in obtaining a new  
correct original visaed invoice, or a visa  
waiver.

If a shipment from Vietnam has been  
allowed entry into the commerce of the  
United States with either an incorrect visa or  
no visa, and redelivery is requested but  
cannot be made, the shipment shall be  
charged to any applicable category limit  
whether or not a replacement visa or waiver  
is provided.