

Category 222, knit fabric

A. Imports from China and the world (1998-5/03): kilograms

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	YTD 5/02	YTD 5/03	May-03	YE 5/02	YE 5/03
World	66,769,642	94,265,901	99,018,247	105,703,289	140,620,336	57,085,934	55,336,405	12,678,931	113,926,879	138,870,807
China	638,779	112,515	42,505	31,761	7,011,453	2,467,433	3,762,786	966,676	2,487,375	8,306,806
China Share	1%	0%	0%	0%	5%	4%	7%	8%	2%	6%

B. U.S. production data: kilograms

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
US Production	929,065,000	787,553,000	731,921,000	657,040,000	518,571,000	479,960,000
Change		-15%	-7%	-10%	-21%	-8%
DMS-All imports	6%	7%	11%	12%	14%	23%
DMS-Chinese imports	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%
DMS-U.S. Production	94%	93%	89%	87%	83%	76%

In 2002, prices for Chinese knit fabric fell from \$.77/square meter to \$.37/square meter, a decline of 52 percent. Prices have continued to decline into 2003.

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

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Solicitation of Public Comments on Request for Textile and Apparel Safeguard Action on Imports from China

August 13, 2003.

AGENCY: The Committee for the
Implementation of Textile Agreements
(the Committee)

ACTION: Solicitation of public comments
concerning a request for safeguard
action on imports from China of robes,
dressing gowns, etc. (Category 350/650).

SUMMARY: On July 24, 2003, the
Committee received a request from the
American Manufacturing Trade Action
Coalition, American Textile
Manufacturers Institute and the
National Textile Association alleging
that imports from China of robes,
dressing gowns, etc. (Category 350/650)
are, due to market disruption,
threatening to impede the orderly
development of trade in this product.
They request that a textile and apparel
safeguard action, as provided for in the
Report of the Working Party on the

Accession of China to the World Trade
Organization (the Accession
Agreement), be taken on imports of
robes, dressing gowns, etc. The
Committee hereby solicits public
comments on this request, in particular
with regard to whether imports from
China of robes, dressing gowns, etc. are,
due to market disruption, threatening to
impede the orderly development of
trade in this product. Comments must
be submitted by September 17, 2003 to
the Chairman, Committee for the
Implementation of Textile Agreements,
Room 3001, United States Department
of Commerce, 14th and Constitution
Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
William Dulka, Office of Textiles and
Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce,
(202) 482-4058.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 204 of the Agriculture
Act of 1956, as amended; Executive Order
11651, as amended.

Background

The Accession Agreement textile and
apparel safeguard allows the United
States and other World Trade
Organization Members that believe
imports of Chinese origin textile and
apparel products are, due to market
disruption, threatening to impede the
orderly development of trade in these
products to request consultations with
China with a view to easing or avoiding
such market disruption. Upon receipt of

the request, China has agreed to hold its
shipments to a level no greater than 7.5
percent (6 percent for wool product
categories) above the amount entered
during the first 12 months of the most
recent 14 months preceding the request
for consultations. The Member
requesting consultations may
implement such a limit. Consultations
with China will be held within 30 days
of receipt of the request for
consultations, and every effort will be
made to reach agreement on a mutually
satisfactory solution within 90 days of
receipt of the request for consultations.
If agreement on a different limit is
reached, the Committee will issue a
Federal Register Notice containing a
directive to the Bureau of Customs and
Border Protection that implements the
negotiated limit. The limit is effective
beginning on the date of the request for
consultations and ending on December
31 of the year in which consultations
were requested, or where three or fewer
months remained in the year at the time
of the request for consultations, for the
period ending 12 months after the
request for consultations. In order to
facilitate the implementation of the
Accession Agreement textile and
apparel safeguard, the Committee has
published procedures (the Procedures)
it will follow in considering requests for
Accession Agreement textile and
apparel safeguard actions (68 FR 27787,
published May 21, 2003).

On July 24, 2003, the Committee
received a request from the American