

**350/650: cotton and man-made fiber dressing gowns****A. Imports from China and the world (1998-5/03): dozens**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	YTD 5/02	YTD 5/03	May 03	YE 5/02	YE 5/03
World	4,556,431	4,823,239	5,937,490	6,645,827	8,538,081	2,442,504	3,587,282	674,912	6,942,734	9,682,859
DMS - China	298,561	289,913	259,868	339,171	2,171,896	434,850	1,246,066	240,491	685,023	2,983,112
DMS - China Share	7%	6%	4%	5%	25%	18%	35%	36%	10%	31%

**B. U.S. production data: dozens**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
US Production	1,791,000	1,662,000	1,987,000	1,185,000	963,000
Change		-7%	20%	-40%	-19%
Domestic market share - All Imports	72%	74%	75%	85%	90%
DMS - Chinese imports	5%	5%	3%	4%	23%
DMS - U.S. production	28%	26%	25%	15%	10%

NOTE: Prices for imports of Chinese cotton dressing gowns fell by 44 percent in 2002, dropping from \$2.03/square meter to \$1.13/square meter. Prices for imports of man-made fiber dressing gowns fell by 43 percent, dropping from \$2.88/square meter to \$1.64/square meter. Prices for Chinese imports continued to drop sharply into 2003.

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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 brassieres and other body supporting garments (Category 349/649).

**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 brassieres and other body supporting garments

(Category 349/649) 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 brassieres and other body supporting garments. The Committee hereby solicits public comments on this request, in particular with regard to whether imports from China of brassieres and other body supporting garments 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, NW., Washington, DC 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