

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

JAN 28 2009

The Honorable Shara L. Aranoff
Chairman
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E St., SW
Washington, DC 20436

DOCKET NUMBER 2649 ----- Office of the Secretary Int'l Trade Commission

Dear Chairman Aranoff:

Chapter Three and Annex 3-A of the United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (USSFTA) set out rules of origin for textiles and apparel that indicate the tariff treatment applicable to those products under that Agreement. General Note 25 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) reflects these rules.

Section 202(o)(2)(B)(i) of the United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (the Act) authorizes the President, subject to the consultation and layover requirements of section 103 of the Act, to proclaim such modifications to the rules of origin as are necessary to implement an agreement with Singapore pursuant to Article 3.18.4(c) of the Agreement. Section 103(a)(1)(B) requires the President to obtain advice regarding the proposed action from the U.S. International Trade Commission (the Commission).

On April 8, 2005, the Government of the United States received a request from the Government of Singapore requesting consultations on the rules of origin for certain products that have been the subject of prior determinations made by the Committee on Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA) between April 6, 2004 and January 18, 2005 pursuant to the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA) and the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act (ATPDEA). The Government of Singapore requested that the Government of the United States consider whether the USSFTA rules of origin for these products should be modified to allow the use of certain yarns and fabrics that do not originate in the territory of the United States or Singapore.

Our negotiators have recently reached agreement in principle with representatives of the Government of Singapore regarding modifications to the USSFTA rules of origin. The proposed changes are reflected in the attached document. These changes are the result of determinations that producers in the United States and Singapore are not able to produce certain yarns and fabrics in commercial quantities in a timely manner.

Under authority delegated by the President, and pursuant to sections 103(a)(1)(B) and 202(o)(2)(B)(i) of the Act, I request that the Commission provide advice on the probable effect of the modifications reflected in the enclosed proposals on U.S. trade under the USSFTA, total U.S. trade, and on domestic producers of the affected articles. I request that the Commission provide this advice at the earliest possible date, but in any event not later than seven months

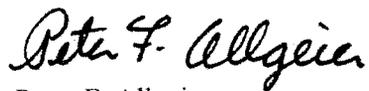
The Honorable Shara L. Aranoff

Page Two

after the date of this letter. The Commission should issue, as soon as possible thereafter, a public version of its report with any business confidential information deleted.

We greatly appreciate the Commission's assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter F. Allgeier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "P" and "A".

Peter F. Allgeier

Acting

Enclosure

Attachment
Proposals Under Paragraph 4 of Article 3.18 of the U.S.-Singapore
Free Trade Agreement (USSFTA)

The products covered by this request are:

(1) Certain viscose rayon filament yarns, of the specifications detailed below, classified in subheading 5403.10.60¹ of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS), for use in apparel articles;

Specifications:

1. Viscose Filament Yarn

DTEX 166/40 Bright Centrifugal

Tenacity, cN/tex, min. - 142.0

Elongation at rupture, % - 18.0 - 24.0

Elongation at rupture variation factory, % max. - 8.1

Twist direction - S

2. Viscose Filament Yarn

DTEX 330/60 Bright Centrifugal

Tenacity, cN/tex, min. - 142.0

Elongation at rupture, % - 18.0 - 24.0

Elongation at rupture variation factor, % max. - 8.1

Twist direction - S

(2) Certain fabrics, classified in subheading 5210.11 of the HTSUS, not of square construction, containing more than 70 warp ends and filling picks per square centimeter, of average yarn number exceeding 70 metric, used in the production of women's and girls' blouses;

¹Singapore's original request indicated that the HTSUS product classification for this product was 5403.41.0000. The U.S. and Singapore have subsequently agreed that the correct product classification is 5403.10.60.

(3) Certain combed compact yarns, of wool or fine animal hair, classified in subheadings 5107.10, 5107.20, or 5108.20 of the HTSUS, for use in apparel articles;

(4) 100 percent cotton yarn-dyed woven flannel fabrics, made from 14 through 41 NM single ring-spun yarns, classified in 5208.43.00 of the HTSUS, of construction 2 X 1 twill weave, weighing 200 grams per square meter or less, for use in apparel articles excluding gloves;

(5) Certain woven, 100 percent cotton, flannel fabrics, of the specifications detailed below, classified in the indicated subheadings of the HTSUS, for use in shirts, trousers, nightwear, robes, dressing gowns, and woven underwear:

Specifications:

Fabric 1:

HTS Subheading: 5208.42.30.00
 Fiber Content: 100% Cotton
 Weight: 152.6 g/m²
 Width: 150 centimeters cuttable
 Thread Count: 24.4 warp ends per centimeter; 15.7 filling picks per centimeter; total: 40.1 threads per square centimeter
 Yarn Number: Warp: 40.6 metric, ring spun; filling: 20.3 metric, open end spun; overall average yarn number: 39.4 metric
 Finish: Of yarns of different colors; napped on both sides, sanforized

Fabric 2:

HTS Subheading: 5209.41.60.40
 Fiber Content: 100% Cotton
 Weight: 251 g/m²
 Width: 160 centimeters cuttable
 Thread Count: 22.8 warp ends per centimeter; 17.3 filling picks per centimeter; total: 40.1 threads per square centimeter
 Yarn Number: Warp: 40.6 metric, ring spun; filling: 8.46 metric, open end spun; overall average yarn number: 24.1 metric
 Finish: Of yarns of different colors; napped on both sides, sanforized

Fabric 3:
 HTS Subheading: 5209.41.60.40
 Fiber Content: 100% Cotton
 Weight: 251 g/m²
 Width: 160 centimeters cuttable
 Thread Count: 20.1 warp ends per centimeter; 16.5 filling picks per centimeter; total: 36.6 threads per square centimeter
 Yarn Number: Warp: 27.07 metric, ring spun; filling: 10.16 metric, open end spun; overall average yarn number: 23.3 metric
 Finish: Of yarns of different colors; napped on both sides, sanforized

(6) Certain woven, 100 percent cotton, flannel fabrics, of the specifications detailed below, classified in the indicated subheadings of the HTSUS, for use in shirts, trousers, nightwear, robes, dressing gowns, and woven underwear:

Specifications:

Fabric 1:
 HTS Subheading: 5208.32.30.40
 Fiber Content: 100% Cotton
 Weight: 152.6 g/m²
 Width: 150 centimeters cuttable
 Thread Count: 24.4 warp ends per centimeter; 15.7 filling picks per centimeter; total: 40.1 threads per square centimeter
 Yarn Number: Warp: 40.6 metric, ring spun; filling: 20.3 metric, open end spun; overall average yarn number: 39.4 metric
 Finish: (Piece) dyed; napped on both sides, sanforized

Fabric 2:
 HTS Subheading: 5209.31.60.50
 Fiber Content: 100% Cotton
 Weight: 251 g/m²
 Width: 160 centimeters cuttable
 Thread Count: 22.8 warp ends per centimeter; 15 filling picks per centimeter; total: 37.8 threads per square centimeter
 Yarn Number: Warp: 40.6 metric, ring spun; filling: 8.46 metric, open end spun; overall average yarn number: 24.1 metric
 Finish: (Piece) dyed; napped on both sides, sanforized

Fabric 3:

HTS Subheading: 5209.31.60.50
Fiber Content: 100% Cotton
Weight: 203 g/m²
Width: 150 centimeters cuttable
Thread Count: 20.5 warp ends per centimeter; 17.3 filling picks per centimeter; total: 37.8 threads per square centimeter
Yarn Number: Warp: 40.6 metric, ring spun; filling: 13.5 metric, open end spun; overall average yarn number: 27.9 metric
Finish: (Piece) dyed; napped on both sides, sanforized

Fabric 4:

HTS Subheading: 5209.31.60.50
Fiber Content: 100% Cotton
Weight: 291.5 g/m²
Width: 160 centimeters cuttable
Thread Count: 23.2 warp ends per centimeter; 15 filling picks per centimeter; total: 38.2 threads per square centimeter
Yarn Number: Warp: 27.07 metric, ring spun; filling: 8.46 metric, open end spun; overall average yarn number: 20.1 metric
Finish: (Piece) dyed; napped on both sides, sanforized

Fabric 5:

HTS Subheading: 5209.31.60.50
Fiber Content: 100% Cotton
Weight: 291.5 g/m²
Width: 160 centimeters cuttable
Thread Count: 26.8 warp ends per centimeter; 16.5 filling picks per centimeter; total: 43.3 threads per square centimeter
Yarn Number: Warp: 25.46 metric, ring spun; filling: 10.16 metric, open end spun; overall average yarn number: 23.8 metric
Finish: (Piece) dyed; napped on both sides, sanforized

Fabric 6:

HTS Subheading: 5209.31.60.50
Fiber Content: 100% Cotton
Weight: 254 g/m²

Width: 160 centimeters cuttable
 Thread Count: 20 warp ends per centimeter; 14.5 filling picks per centimeter; total: 34.5 threads per square centimeter
 Yarn Number: Warp: 28.8 metric, ring spun; filling: 8.46 metric, open end spun; overall average yarn number: 20.1 metric
 Finish: (Piece) dyed; napped on both sides, sanforized

Fabric 7:
 HTS Subheading: 5209.41.60.40
 Fiber Content: 100% Cotton
 Weight: 251 g/m²
 Width: 160 centimeters cuttable
 Thread Count: 22.8 warp ends per centimeter; 15 filling picks per centimeter; total: 37.8 threads per square centimeter
 Yarn Number: Warp: 40.6 metric, ring spun; filling: 8.46 metric, open end spun; overall average yarn number: 24.1 metric
 Finish: gingham check or plaid of yarns of different colors; napped on both sides, sanforized

Fabric 8: Style 4245
 HTS Subheading: 5209.41.60.40
 Fiber Content: 100% Cotton
 Weight: 251 g/m²
 Width: 160 centimeters cuttable
 Thread Count: 19.7 warp ends per centimeter; 11.8 filling picks per centimeter; total: 31.5 threads per square centimeter
 Yarn Number: Warp: 20.3 metric, ring spun; filling: 8.46 metric, open end spun; overall average yarn number: 20.1 metric
 Finish: Plaid of yarns of different colors; napped on both sides, sanforized

(7) Certain woven, 100 percent cotton, napped fabrics, of the specifications detailed below, classified in subheading 5209.31.60.50 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS), for use in shirts, trousers, nightwear, robes, dressing gowns, and woven underwear:

Specifications:

Fabric 1:

HTS Subheading: 5209.31.60.50
 Fiber Content: 100% Cotton
 Weight: 291.5 g/m²
 Width: 160 centimeters cuttable
 Thread Count: 24.41 warp ends per centimeter; 16.53 filling picks per centimeter; total: 40.94 threads per square centimeter
 Yarn Number: Warp: 25.4 metric, ring spun; filling: 10.16 metric, open end spun; overall average yarn number: 14.04 metric
 Finish: (Piece) dyed; napped on both sides, sanforized

Fabric 2:

HTS Subheading: 5209.31.60.50
 Fiber Content: 100% Cotton
 Weight: 305 g/m²
 Width: 160 centimeters cuttable
 Thread Count: 24.41 warp ends per centimeter; 18.11 filling picks per centimeter; total: 42.52 threads per square centimeter
 Yarn Number: Warp: 25.4 metric, ring spun; filling: 10.16 metric, open end spun; overall average yarn number: 13.95 metric
 Finish: (Piece) dyed; napped on both sides, sanforized

(8) Certain woven, 100 percent cotton, double-napped flannel fabric, of specifications detailed below, classified in HTSUS subheading 5209.31.6050, for use in shirts, trousers, nightwear, robes, dressing gowns, and woven underwear:

Specifications:

HTS Subheading: 5209.31.6050
 Fiber Content: 100% Cotton
 Weight: 203 g/m²
 Width: 150 centimeters cuttable
 Thread Count: 21 warp ends per centimeter; 18 filling picks per centimeter; total: 39 threads per square centimeter
 Yarn Number: Warp: 40.6 metric, ring spun; filling: 13.54 metric, open end spun; overall average yarn number: 19.2 metric
 Finish: (Piece) dyed; napped on both sides, sanforized