



UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC 20436

April 14, 2003

TO: Interested Parties -- "Commercial Availability" Reviews

FROM: Jackie W. Jones, Program Manager for
Commercial Availability Reviews
(202-205-3466; jones@usitc.gov)

SUBJECT: New Commercial Availability (Formerly "Short Supply") Review on
Certain Apparel of Certain Cotton Velvet Fabrics

The U.S. International Trade Commission has commenced a review to provide advice in connection with a petition filed under the "commercial availability" provisions of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) on certain apparel of certain light- and medium-weight dyed warp pile cotton velvet fabrics, classified in subheading 5801.25.00 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS).

This review is being conducted under the Commission's investigation for all such requests during 2003, investigation No. 332-450, *Commercial Availability of Apparel Inputs (2003): Effect of Providing Preferential Treatment to Apparel Imported from Sub-Saharan African, Caribbean Basin, and Andean Countries*, which was requested by the United States Trade Representative (USTR).

The Commission's review concerns a petition received by the Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA) on April 8, 2003, from Crystal Apparel Limited of Hong Kong and Sinotex Mauritius Limited of Mauritius alleging that the subject fabrics cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner. (This is the second petition received by CITA from these companies concerning these fabrics. The first petition was subsequently withdrawn. The Commission withdrew its review concerning these fabrics covered by Investigation No. 332-450-003, as shown in the Commission's commercial availability status table found on the Commission's website.) The Commission will provide advice to the USTR concerning the probable economic effect on affected segments of the U.S. textile and apparel industries, workers in these industries, and consumers of granting duty-free and quota-free treatment to certain apparel made in eligible AGOA countries from the subject fabrics should CITA determine that the fabrics cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner. The Commission will submit its advice to the USTR in a classified report by May 20, 2003, and issue a public version of the report soon thereafter.

The Commission invites interested parties to submit written statements (original and 3 copies) concerning issues to be addressed by the Commission in this review, by May

6, 2003. Information on procedures for submitting written statements can be found in the Commission's notice of investigation published in the *Federal Register* of February 4, 2003 (68 F.R. 5651) and posted on its website at <http://www.usitc.gov/invfrn.htm#332>.

Further information on this review can be obtained from Cynthia Trainor (202-205-3354; trainor@usitc.gov). Information on the Commission's commercial availability investigation can be obtained from its Program Manager (see above) and from its website at <http://www.usitc.gov/332s/shortsup/shortsupintro.htm>. Information on commercial availability requests is also available from the U.S. Department of Commerce, which chairs CITA, on the website of its Office of Textiles and Apparel (OTEXA) at (http://otexa.ita.doc.gov/Commercial_Availability.htm).