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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Customs Service

Wool Manufacturer Payment Clarification and Technical Corrections Act

AGENCY: Customs Service, Treasury.

ACTION: General notice.

SUMMARY: On August 6, 2002, President Bush signed into law the Trade Act of 2002. Section 5101 of the Trade Act of 2002 amends section 505 of the Trade and Development Act of 2000, which entitled U.S. manufacturers of certain wool articles to a limited refund of duties paid on imports of select wool products. The amendments concern the maximum amount manufacturers are eligible to receive and include a definition of the term "manufacturer" for purposes of determining eligibility. The amendments also authorize a new class of claimants as being eligible to receive a payment, establish new deadlines for the submission and payment of claims for all claimants, and generally simplify the claims process. Section 5102 of the Trade Act of 2002 authorizes Customs to make two additional payments to eligible manufacturers. As sections 5101 and 5102 are self-effectuating, Customs will not be issuing regulations to implement the program as amended. Manufacturers are directed to follow the statutory procedures to claim a payment. For ease of reference, this document describes the changes to the wool duty payment program as set forth in section 505 of the Trade Act of 2002, as amended. The document also sets forth the address to which all wool duty payment documentation should be sent.

DATES: Claims by eligible U.S. manufacturers of men's or boys' suits, suit-type jackets and trousers, and by eligible U.S. importing-manufacturers of wool fabric and wool yarn, must be submitted to Customs postmarked no later than August 21, 2002. Claims by eligible U.S. non-importing manufacturers of wool fabric and wool yarn must be received by Customs no later than September 20, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Claims for payments pursuant to section 505 of the Trade and Development Act, as amended, should be sent to the U.S. Customs Service,

Office of Field Operations, Wool Duty Payment Unit, 5th Floor, Attention: Debbie Scott, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., 5th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20229.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Debbie Scott (202) 927-1962 or Sherri Lee Hoffman (202) 927-0542.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On May 18, 2000, President Clinton signed into law the Trade and Development Act of 2000 ("the Act"), Pub. L. 106-200, 114 Stat. 251. Title V of the Act concerns imports of certain wool articles and sets forth provisions intended to provide tariff relief to U.S. manufacturers of specific wool products. Within Title V, section 505 permits eligible U.S. manufacturers to claim a limited refund of duties paid on imports of select wool articles.

Section 505 was implemented in the Customs Regulations at § 10.184 (19 CFR 10.184).

On August 6, 2002, President Bush signed into law the Trade Act of 2002, H.R. 3009 (the Public Law citation is unavailable at the time of this document's filing for public inspection at the Office of the Federal Register. Division E of the Trade Act of 2002 contains miscellaneous provisions. Within Division E, Title L sets forth miscellaneous trade benefits with Subtitle A pertaining specifically to wool provisions. Within Subtitle A, section 5101, entitled the "Wool Manufacturer Payment Clarification and Technical Corrections Act," amends section 505. Specifically, section 5101 amends section 505 regarding the maximum payment amount manufacturers are eligible to receive, defines the term "manufacturer" for purposes of section 505, authorizes a new class of claimants as eligible to receive a payment, establishes new deadlines for the submission and payment of claims, and simplifies the claims process. Section 5102(c) is a related statutory provision that authorizes Customs to make two additional payments to eligible manufacturers in years 2004 and 2005.

Explanation of Amendments to Section 505 Effected by Section 5101

Section 5101 amends 505 in several key aspects, as discussed below.

I. Payment Amounts and Simplified Claim Procedures

The original terms of section 505 authorized certain manufacturers to claim a limited refund of duties paid in each of calendar years 2000, 2001 and 2002 on imports of select wool

products. The maximum amount eligible to be refunded in each claim year was limited to an amount not to exceed one-third of the amount of duties actually paid on such wool products imported in calendar year 1999. In order to receive a refund, manufacturers had to substantiate their claim to Customs by submitting relevant entry summary documentation.

Section 5101 amends section 505 regarding the amount of payment an eligible manufacturer may receive. Specifically, section 5101 authorizes eligible manufacturers to receive a *pro rata* share of a statutorily designated amount. Section 5101(2) appropriates \$36,251,000 out of amounts in the General Fund of the Treasury to carry out the amendments to section 505 made by section 5101(1). This amount is divided into six separate accounts which are established for the purposes of funding payments to different types of eligible manufacturers.

A claimant is no longer required to submit entry summary documentation to substantiate a claim. Rather, a claimant must make a claim for each claim year by submitting a signed affidavit to Customs, with return address clearly marked, that attests to the affiant's status as an eligible manufacturer. Claimants must submit affidavits by specific dates designated in the statute. Eligible U.S. manufacturers of men's or boys' suits, suit-type jackets and trousers, and eligible U.S. importing-manufacturers of wool fabric and wool yarn, must submit their 4 claims to Customs postmarked so that they are received by Customs no later than August 21, 2002. Eligible U.S. non-importing manufacturers of wool fabric and wool yarn must submit their claims so that Customs receives them no later than September 20, 2002.

II. Definition of "Manufacturer" Added to Section 505

Section 5101 adds a new paragraph (g) to section 505 that sets forth the definition of manufacturer for purposes of the statute. The definition authorizes the party that owns specified types of wool imports at the time the imports are processed into designated products in the United States to be eligible to receive a payment. This definition permits manufacturers who either import the specified wool products directly or purchase the specified imports to be eligible. Additionally, the definition includes manufacturers who perform their own processing operations in the United States, as well as manufacturers who contract the work out to a U.S. processing facility, so long as in both instances the manufacturer

retains ownership of the wool imports at the time of processing.

III. New Class of Manufacturer Eligible to Receive Payment

The original terms of section 505(b) and (c) required that a manufacturer of wool fabric or yarn be the importer of the wool inputs used in the manufacturer of the finished product in order to receive a refund. Therefore, non-importing manufacturers of wool fabric and yarn were ineligible for a refund.

Pursuant to section 505(g)(2) and (3), non-importing manufacturers of wool fabric and yarn are now eligible to receive a payment. In order to be eligible to claim a payment, Customs must receive documentation from a non-importing manufacturer of wool fabric or yarn by September 20, 2002, that establishes the amount the manufacturer paid for eligible wool products in 1999. This information will be used by Customs to determine the non-importing manufacturer's *pro rata* share of the fund established for this class of claimant.

New Address To Send Documentation Pertaining to Wool Payments

As sections 5101 and 5102 are detailed and clear, Customs will not issue regulations to implement the wool duty payment program as amended (and 19 CFR 10.184 is superseded by statute). Accordingly, manufacturers are directed to follow the statutory procedures to claim a payment. While self-effectuating, section 505, as amended, does not state where claims and other documentation are to be sent. This document provides notice that claimants must send all statutorily required documentation pertaining to wool duty payments, including any additional information deemed necessary by Customs, to the U.S. Customs Service, Office of Field Operations, Wool Duty Payment Unit, 5th Floor, Attention: Debbie Scott, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20229.

Additional Wool Duty Payments

Section 5102(c) of the Trade Act of 2002 authorizes Customs to pay each eligible manufacturer that receives a payment for calendar year 2002 under section 505, as amended, two additional payments. To claim the additional payments, a manufacturer must submit a signed affidavit to the U.S. Customs Service, Office of Field Operations, Wool Duty Payment Unit, 5th Floor, Attention: Debbie Scott, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20229, for each

additional claim year, attesting that the affiant remains a manufacturer in the United States as of January 1 of the additional claim year for which a payment is being sought. Each additional payment will be in an amount equal to the amount received by the claimant for calendar year 2002. The additional payments will be paid out in two installments: the first installment will be made by Customs after January 1, 2004, but on or before April 15, 2004, and; the second installment will be paid by Customs after January 1, 2005, but on or before April 15, 2005.

The Statute as Amended

Section 505, as amended, is set forth below in its entirety for ease of reference.

SEC. 505.

(a) *Worsted Wool Fabrics.*—For each of the calendar years 2000, 2001, and 2002, a manufacturer of men's or boys' suits, suit-type jackets, or trousers (not a broker or other individual acting on of the manufacturer to process the import) of imported worsted wool fabrics of the kind described in heading 9902.51.11 or 9902.51.12 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States shall be eligible for a payment equal to an amount determined pursuant to subsection (d)(1).

(b) *Wool Yarn.*—(1) *Importing Manufacturers.*—For each of the calendar years 2000, 2001, and 2002, a manufacturer of worsted wool fabrics who imports wool yarn of the kind described in heading 5107.10 or 9902.51.13 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States shall be eligible for a payment equal to an amount determined pursuant to subsection (d)(2).

(2) *Nonimporting Manufacturers.*—For each of the calendar years 2001 and 2002, any other manufacturer of worsted wool fabrics of imported wool yarn of the kind described in heading 5107.10 or 9902.51.13 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States shall be eligible for a payment equal to an amount determined pursuant to subsection (d)(2).

(c) *Wool Fiber and Wool Top.*—(1) *Importing Manufacturers.*—For each of the calendar years 2000, 2001, and 2002, a manufacturer of wool yarn or wool fabric who imports wool fiber or wool top of the kind described in heading 5101.11, 5101.19, 5101.21, 5101.29, 5101.30, 5103.10, 5103.20, 5104.00, 5105.21, 5105.29, or 9902.51.14 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States shall be eligible for a payment equal to an amount determined pursuant to subsection (d)(3).

(2) *Nonimporting Manufacturers.*—For each of the calendar years 2001 and 2002, any other manufacturer of wool yarn or wool fabric of imported wool fiber or wool top of the kind described in heading 5101.11, 5101.19, 5101.21, 5101.29, 5101.30, 5103.10, 5103.20, 5104.00, 5105.21, 5105.29, or 9902.51.14 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States shall be eligible for a payment equal to an amount determined pursuant to subsection (d)(3).

(d) *Amount of Annual Payments to Manufacturers.*—(1) *Manufacturers of men's suits, etc., of imported worsted wool fabrics.*—

(A) *Eligible to receive more than \$5,000.*—Each annual payment to manufacturers described in subsection (a) who, according to the records of the Customs Service as of September 11, 2001, are eligible to receive more than \$5,000 for each of the calendar years 2000, 2001, and 2002, shall be in an amount equal to one-third of the amount determined by multiplying \$30,124,000 by a fraction—

(i) The numerator of which is the amount attributable to the duties paid on eligible wool products imported in calendar year 1999 by the manufacturer making the claim, and

(ii) The denominator of which is the total amount attributable to the duties paid on eligible wool products imported in calendar year 1999 by all the manufacturers described in subsection (a) who, according to the records of the Customs Service as of September 11, 2001, are eligible to receive more than \$5,000 for each such calendar year under this section as it was in effect on that date.

(B) *Eligible wool products.*—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term "eligible wool products" refers to imported worsted wool fabrics described in subsection (a).

(C) *Others.*—All manufacturers described in subsection (a), other than the manufacturers to which subparagraph (A) applies, shall each receive an annual payment in an amount equal to one-third of the amount determined by dividing \$1,665,000 by the number of all such other manufacturers.

(2) *Manufacturers of worsted wool fabrics of imported wool yarn.*—

(A) *Importing manufacturers.*—Each annual payment to an importing manufacturer described in subsection (b)(1) shall be in an amount equal to one-third of the amount determined by multiplying \$2,202,000 by a fraction—

(i) The numerator of which is the amount attributable to the duties paid on eligible wool products imported in calendar year 1999 by the importing manufacturer making the claim, and

(ii) The denominator of which is the total amount attributable to the duties paid on eligible wool products imported in calendar year 1999 by all the importing manufacturers described in subsection (b)(1).

(B) *Eligible wool products.*—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term "eligible wool products" refers to imported wool yarn described in subsection (b)(1).

(C) *Nonimporting manufacturers.*—Each annual payment to a nonimporting manufacturer described in subsection (b)(2) shall be in an amount equal to one-half of the amount determined by multiplying \$141,000 by a fraction—

(i) The numerator of which is the amount attributable to the purchases of imported eligible wool products in calendar year 1999 by the nonimporting manufacturer making the claim, and

(ii) The denominator of which is the total amount attributable to the purchases of

imported eligible wool products in calendar year 1999 by all the nonimporting manufacturers described in subsection (b)(2).

(3) *Manufacturers of wool yarn or wool fabric of imported wool fiber or wool top.*—

(A) *Importing manufacturers.*—Each annual payment to an importing manufacturer described in subsection (c)(1) shall be in an amount equal to one-third of the amount determined by multiplying \$1,522,000 by a fraction—

(i) The numerator of which is the amount attributable to the duties paid on eligible wool products imported in calendar year 1999 by the importing manufacturer making the claim, and

(ii) The denominator of which is the total amount attributable to the duties paid on eligible wool products imported in calendar year 1999 by all the importing manufacturers described in subsection (c)(1).

(B) *Eligible wool products.*—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term ‘eligible wool products’ refers to imported wool fiber or wool top described in subsection (c)(1).

(C) *Nonimporting manufacturers.*—Each annual payment to a nonimporting manufacturer described in subsection (c)(2) shall be in an amount equal to one-half of the amount determined by multiplying \$597,000 by a fraction—

(i) The numerator of which is the amount attributable to the purchases of imported eligible wool products in calendar year 1999 by the nonimporting manufacturer making the claim, and

(ii) The denominator of which is the amount attributable to the purchases of imported eligible wool products in calendar year 1999 by all the nonimporting manufacturers described in subsection (c)(2).

(4) *Letters of intent.*—Except for the nonimporting manufacturers described in subsections (b)(2) and (c)(2) who may make claims under this section by virtue of the enactment of the Wool Manufacturer Payment Clarification and Technical Corrections Act, only manufacturers who, according to the records of the Customs Service, filed with the Customs Service before September 11, 2001, letters of intent to establish eligibility to be claimants are eligible to make a claim for a payment under this section.

(5) *Amount attributable to purchases by nonimporting manufacturers.*—

(A) *Amount attributable.*—For purposes of paragraphs (2)(C) and (3)(C), the amount attributable to the purchases of imported eligible wool products in calendar year 1999 by a nonimporting manufacturer shall be the amount the nonimporting manufacturer paid for eligible wool products in calendar year 1999, as evidenced by invoices. The nonimporting manufacturer shall make such calculation and submit the resulting amount to the Customs Service, within 45 days after the date of enactment of the Wool Manufacturer Payment Clarification and Technical Corrections Act, in a signed affidavit that attests that the information contained therein is true and accurate to the best of the affiant’s belief and knowledge. The nonimporting manufacturer shall retain the records upon which the calculation is based for a period of five years beginning on

the date the affidavit is submitted to the Customs Service.

(B) *Eligible wool product.*—For purposes of subparagraph (A)—

(i) The eligible wool product for nonimporting manufacturers of worsted wool fabrics is wool yarn of the kind described in heading 5107.10 or 9902.51.13 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States purchased in calendar year 1999; and

(ii) The eligible wool products for nonimporting manufacturers of wool yarn or wool fabric are wool fiber or wool top of the kind described in heading 5101.11, 5101.19, 5101.21, 5101.29, 5101.30, 5103.10, 5103.20, 5104.00, 5105.21, 5105.29, or 9902.51.14 of such Schedule purchased in calendar year 1999.

(6) *Amount attributable to duties paid.*—For purposes of paragraphs (1), (2)(A), and (3)(A), the amount attributable to the duties paid by a manufacturer shall be the amount shown on the records of the Customs Service as of September 11, 2001, under this section as then in effect.

(7) *Schedule of payments; Reallocations.*—

(A) *Schedule.*—Of the payments described in paragraphs (1), (2)(A), and (3)(A), the Customs Service shall make the first and second installments on or before the date that is 45 days after the date of enactment of the Wool Manufacturer Payment Clarification and Technical Corrections Act, and the third installment on or before April 15, 2003. Of the payments described in paragraphs (2)(C) and (3)(C), the Customs Service shall make the first installment on or before the date that is 120 days after the date of enactment of the Wool Manufacturer Payment Clarification and Technical Corrections Act, and the second installment on or before April 15, 2003.

(B) *Reallocations.*—In the event that a manufacturer that would have received payment under subparagraph (A) or (C) of paragraph (1), (2), or (3) ceases to be qualified for such payment as such a manufacturer, the amounts otherwise payable to the remaining manufacturers under such subparagraph shall be increased on a *pro rata* basis by the amount of the payment such manufacturer would have received.

(8) *Reference.*—For purposes of paragraphs (1)(A) and (6), the “records of the Customs Service as of September 11, 2001” are the records of the Wool Duty Unit of the Customs Service on September 11, 2001, as adjusted by the Customs Service to the extent necessary to carry out this section. The amounts so adjusted are not subject to administrative or judicial review.

(e) *Affidavits by Manufacturers.*—(1) *Affidavit Required.*—A manufacturer may not receive a payment under this section for calendar year 2000, 2001, or 2002, as the case may be, unless that manufacturer has submitted to the Customs Service for that calendar year a signed affidavit that attests that, during that calendar year, the affiant was a manufacturer in the United States described in subsection (a), (b), or (c).

(2) *Timing.*—An affidavit under paragraph (1) shall be valid—

(A) In the case of a manufacturer described in paragraph (1), (2)(A), or (3)(A) of subsection (d) filing a claim for a payment for

calendar year 2000 or 2001, or both, only if the affidavit is postmarked no later than 15 days after the date of enactment of the Wool Manufacturer Payment Clarification and Technical Corrections Act; and

(B) In the case of a claim for a payment for calendar year 2002, only if the affidavit is postmarked no later than March 1, 2003.

(f) *Offsets.*—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, any amount otherwise payable under subsection (d) to a manufacturer in calendar year 2001 and, where applicable, in calendar years 2002 and 2003, shall be reduced by the amount of any payment received by that manufacturer under this section before the enactment of the Wool Manufacturer Payment Clarification and Technical Corrections Act.

(g) *Definition.*—For purposes of this section, the manufacturer is the party that owns—

(1) Imported worsted wool fabric, of the kind described in heading 9902.51.11 or 9902.51.12 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, at the time the fabric is cut and sewn in the United States into men’s or boys’ suits, suit-type jackets, or trousers;

(2) Imported wool yarn, of the kind described in heading 5107.10 or 9902.51.13 of such Schedule, at the time the yarn is processed in the United States into worsted wool fabric; or

(3) Imported wool fiber or wool top, of the kind described in heading 5101.11, 5101.19, 5101.21, 5101.29, 5101.30, 5103.10, 5103.20, 5104.00, 5105.21, 5105.29, or 9902.51.14 of such Schedule, at the time the wool fiber or wool top is processed in the United States into wool yarn.

Dated: August 8, 2002.

Jayson P. Ahern,

Assistant Commissioner, Office of Field Operations.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Office of Foreign Assets Control

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Electronic License Application Form

AGENCY: Office of Foreign Assets Control, Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed an/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104–13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) within