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Chinese translation of this Notice to Exporters will be sent to traders separately. Traders may also collect the Chinese translation of this Notice to Exporters at the Customer Service Centre of the Textiles Controls Branch at 2/F, Trade and Industry Department Tower at a later date.

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Dear Sirs,

Notice to Exporters: Series 1 (USA) No. 16/02

Export of Textiles to the USA

Classification Guidelines for Certain Textile Products

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Part I : Introduction

The Department has updated the classification guidelines for certain textile products for export to the USA under the World Trade Organisation Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC). Traders are advised to follow these guidelines when they apply for export licences to cover the relevant textile products for export to the USA. This Notice to Exporters supersedes Notice to Exporters: Series 1 (USA) No.23/98 dated 15 April 1998 on the same subject.

2. Traders should note the classification system in use and ensure proper licensing of a textile product in the correct category when it is exported. Please refer to paragraphs 3-5 below regarding the coverage of products for which a correct category has to be declared on the export licence application.

Part II : Coverage

3. Textile and clothing products currently subject to quota restriction for export to the USA are :
- (a) Group I - being products other than apparel (including yarn, fabric, and other made-up and miscellaneous products) of cotton, wool and/or man-made fibre [Specific Limit Categories : 200, 219, 218/225/317/326, 226/313, 314, 315, 369(1), 604, 611 and 617. Basket Categories : 201, 220, 224, 227, 300, 301, 360, 361, 362, 363, 369, 400, 410, 414, 469, 603, 613, 614, 615, 618, 619, 620, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629 and 666].
 - (b) Group II - being apparel of cotton, wool and/or man-made fibre and made-to-measure suits of wool and man-made fibre [Specific Limit Categories : 237, 331, 333/334, 335, 336, 338/339, 338/339(1), 340, 341, 342, 345, 347/348, 351, 352, 359(1), 359(2), 433, 434, 435, 436, 438, 442, 443, 444, 445/446, 447/448, 631, 633/634/635, 636, 638/639, 640, 641, 642, 644, 645/646, 647, 648, 651, 652, 659(1), 659(2) and 443/444/643/644/843/844(1). Basket Categories : 239, 332, 359, 440, 459, 643 and 659].
 - (c) Group III - being apparel, other than sweaters, of silk blend or non-cotton vegetable fibres (Basket Category : 852).
 - (d) Sweaters of silk blend or non-cotton vegetable fibres [Specific Limit Categories : 845(1), 845(2), 846(1) and 846(2)].

App. I A list showing categories that are subject to quota restraint is at Appendix I. Please refer to relevant Notices to Exporters for details of the relevant licensing arrangements.

4. Certain textile products have been integrated under the Stages 2 and 3 Integration Programme of the ATC. Lists of the integrated categories are at Appendices II(a) and (b). The quantitative restrictions on these products have been removed/partially removed as a result of the Stages 2 and 3 Integration Programme. Traders are advised to refer to Notice to Exporters : Series 1 (USA) No. 64/01 dated 20 December 2001 for details of the relevant licensing arrangements.

App. II(a) &
(b)

5. Textile products under Category 863 [(unit of measure : number) towels, silk blend and non-cotton vegetable fibers] which were previously subject to the Surveillance Export Authorisation (SIEA) System are not subject to quota restriction but visa is still required. Please refer to Notices to Exporters : Series 1 (USA) No.34/96 dated 25 June 1996, No.77/97 dated 22 December 1997 and No.39/00 dated 9 August 2000 for details of the relevant licensing arrangements.

Part III : Categorization

6. The determination of whether a textile or textile product is of cotton, wool, man-made fibre, silk blend or non-cotton vegetable fibres shall be made in accordance with the following guidelines :

- (a) Tops, yarns, piece goods, made-up articles, garments and other textile manufactured products, all being products which derive their chief characteristics from their textile components of

cotton, wool, man-made fibre, silk, non-cotton vegetable fibres, or blends thereof, in which any or all of those fibres in combination represent the chief weight of the product, are subject to the ATC.

- (b) For the purpose of the ATC, textile products covered by sub-paragraph 6(a) above shall be classified as :
- (i) Man-made fibre textiles, if the product is in chief weight of man-made fibres, unless :-
 - (A) the product is knitted or crocheted apparel in which wool equals or exceeds 23 percent by weight of all fibres, in which case the product will be a wool textile; or
 - (B) the product is apparel, not knitted or crocheted, in which wool equals or exceeds 36 percent by weight of all fibres, in which case the product will be a wool textile;
 - (C) the product is a woven fabric in which wool equals or exceeds 36 percent by weight of all fibres, in which case the product will be a wool textile.
 - (ii) Cotton textiles, if not covered by 6(b)(i) and if the product is in chief weight of cotton, unless the product is a woven fabric in which wool equals or exceeds 36 percent by weight of all fibres, in which case the product will be a wool textile.
 - (iii) Wool textiles, if neither of the foregoing applies, and the product is in chief weight of wool.
 - (iv) Silk blend or non-cotton vegetable fibre textiles, if none of the foregoing applies and the product is in chief weight of silk or non-cotton vegetable fibre, unless :
 - (A) cotton with wool and/or man-made fibres in the aggregate equal or exceed 50 percent by weight of the component fibres thereof and the cotton component equals or exceeds the weight of each of the total wool and/or man-made fibre components, in which case the product will be a cotton textile.
 - (B) if not covered by 6(b)(iv) (A) and wool exceeds 17 percent by weight of all component fibres, in which case the product will be considered a wool textile.
 - (C) if not covered by 6(b)(iv) (A) or (B) and man-made fibres in combination with cotton and/or wool in the aggregate equal or exceed 50 percent by weight of the component fibres thereof and the man-made fibre component exceeds the weight of the total wool and/or total cotton component, in which case the product will be considered a man-made fibre textile.
- (c) Notwithstanding the above, garments which contain 70 percent or more by weight silk (unless they also contain over 17 percent by weight wool), and products other than garments which contain 85 percent or more by weight silk, are currently not subject to quantitative restriction for export to the USA. Silk blend or non-cotton vegetable fibre sweaters, as determined above, shall be divided into "silk blend" sweaters and "non-cotton vegetable fibre" sweaters. For the purpose of this division, sweaters shall be classified as "silk blend" if the silk component exceeds by weight the non-cotton vegetable fibre component (if any). Sweaters not classified as "silk blend" sweaters in accordance with the foregoing shall be classified as "non-cotton vegetable fibre" sweaters. Garments containing 70 percent or more by weight silk and over 17 percent by weight wool shall be classified as wool textiles, under sub-paragraph 6(b)(iv)(B).
- (d) For textile products covered by the Agreement but for which a chief weight determination cannot be made pursuant to sub-paragraph 6(b) above because two or more fibres are of equal weight, then products with wool as one of the fibres of equal weight shall be classified in accordance with the provisions for wool determination for the respective products specified in sub-paragraph 6(b) above, and products not classified as wool textiles in accordance with the

foregoing shall be classified as non-cotton vegetable fibre, silk, man-made fibre, cotton and wool in that order of preference.

- (e) Metallised yarn is treated as a single textile material the weight of which is to be taken as the aggregate of the weights of its components. In determining the fibre content of a product containing metallised yarn, the weights of the components of the metallised yarn should be taken into account. For example, if a garment is made of 35% cotton, 10% wool and 55% metallised yarn (with a breakdown of 25% polyester and 30% metal substance) by weight, the garment should be classified as a cotton garment because cotton, wool and man-made fibre (in this case polyester) taken together exceed 50% by weight of all the component fibres, and the cotton fibre (35%) exceeds the weight of each of the other fibres (being 25% for polyester and 10% for wool).
- (f) In the event of a question regarding whether a product is covered by the ATC by virtue of being in chief weight of cotton, wool, man-made fibre, silk, or non-cotton vegetable fibre, the chief value of the fibres may be considered.

Part IV : General Classification Principles

(A) Classification by Chief Weight and Outer shell

7. Textiles and textile products are normally classified into the appropriate fibre category by reference to the component fibres which constitutes the predominant weight. Classification of garments composed of different materials is however an exception to this rule (see paragraph 8 below). Classification is made on the basis of the weight and fibre content of the outer shell of a textile product. In this regard, collar, cuffs and bottom of a garment are excluded in arriving at the overall percentage by weight of the garment, unless they constitute a substantial part of the entire garment. The weight and fibre content of linings, trims, parts and accessories will normally not be considered.

(B) Garments composed of different materials

8. Garments composed of different materials (i.e. partly knitted and partly woven garments, garments made up of parts of same construction but of different fibre composition, garments made up of coarsely knitted and finely knitted parts and garments made up of textile and non-textile parts) are classified by reference to the fibre composition and construction of the component part which determines the essential character of such garments. In general, a component part is considered to constitute the essential character of a garment if the component part takes up 50% or more of the visible surface area. That said, in some cases the essential character of a garment is determined by the component part which constitutes the entire front of the garment. As the determination of the essential character of a garment is highly subjective, traders are strongly advised to consult the Department on classification of garments composed of different materials.

(C) Determination of Gender

9. Garments designed for left over right closure at the front shall be regarded as men's or boys' garments, and those designed for right over left closure at the front as women's or girls' garments. These provisions do not apply where the cut of the garment clearly indicates that it is designed for one or other of the sexes. The following should also be considered for the purpose of determining whether a garment is for men or boys or women or girls :

- (a) sizing;
- (b) construction;
- (c) styling; and
- (d) factors such as packaging and labelling.

10. Unisex garments are commonly worn by either sex and cannot be identified as being intended exclusively for one or the other sex. For the purpose of categorization, such garments are classified in the "women's and girls'" categories.

(D) Garment Parts

11. Except as provided in paragraph 12 below, parts for trousers, slacks, shorts, sweaters, coats, shirts, blouses, skirts, dresses are classifiable under the appropriate garment categories irrespective of whether they are shipped together or separately.

12. Parts for garments other than those identified in paragraph 11 above are classifiable under Categories 359/459/659/859 as appropriate. Parts such as collar, cuff, waistband and beltloops of trousers/slacks/shorts/sweaters/coats/shirts/blouses/skirts/dresses are classifiable in Categories 359/459/659/859, as appropriate. Brassiere parts consisting of straps are classified in Categories 359/459/659/859 as appropriate.

(E) Garment Composed of Component Garments

13. Except for certain types of garments such as suits [Sub-section (21)] and two-piece physically connected entireties [Sub-section (27)], garments that are composed of component garments are in general classified according to the category of each and every component garment even if the components are designed to match and to be worn together (e.g. ensembles). That is to say, each component garment has to be classified and licensed separately. In case of doubt, traders are encouraged to approach the Department for advice.

(F) Stitch Count

14. Stitch count determines whether a knitted garment is classifiable in the knitted shirt/blouse category or the knitted sweater category. Except for garments made wholly of cashmere which are classified as sweaters irrespective of stitch count, garments finer than 9 stitches per 2 centimeters measured in a horizontal direction are excluded from the sweater categories. The finished garment should be placed in the most relaxed situation when taking the measurement. The stitch count of a finished garment should not be arrived at by reference to the number of needles per 2 centimeters on the knitting machine used to produce the knitted fabric or the knitted panels making up the garment. The rules regarding stitch count are also applicable to crocheted garments if they consist of a basic stitch construction which can be counted. (See also paragraph 73 below.)

15. In general, for rib-knitted garments, both the wale and purl stitches have to be counted. For double-knitted garments, only the purl stitches have to be counted. The counting principles for some common knitting constructions are given below for illustration purpose :

	<u>Knitting Construction</u>	<u>Stitches to be counted</u>
(i)	Pineapple	both wale and purl stitches
(ii)	2x2 Ribs	both wale and purl stitches
(iii)	Full Milano	only wale stitches
(iv)	Half Milano	only wale stitches
(v)	Jersey	only wale stitches
(vi)	Full Needle	both wale and purl stitches
(vii)	Full Cardigan	both wale and purl stitches
(viii)	Half Cardigan	both wale and purl stitches

Traders should note that the above is for indicative purpose only. In case of doubt, traders are strongly advised to consult the Department as regard the proper stitch counting method for a particular garment.

Part V : Specific Classification Guidelines
for Certain Textile Products

16. The classification guidelines detailed in the subsequent paragraphs cover the following products :

<u>Sub-section</u>	<u>Brief Description</u>
(1)	Abbreviated garments, women's (para. 17)
(2)	Bib top overalls (paras. 18-20)
(3)	Bodysuits and Bodyshirts (paras. 21-22)
(4)	Capes (paras. 23-24)
(5)	Cardigan-like garments, fine-knitted (paras. 25-27)
(6)	Costumes (para. 28)
(7)	Cotton fishing vest, hunting vests and gaming vests (paras. 29-30)
(8)	Culottes (para. 31)
(9)	Detachable garments accessories (paras. 32-33)
(10)	Dresses (paras. 34-35)
(11)	Hosiery (paras. 36-37)
(12)	Infants' garments (paras. 38-39)
(13)	Jackets/coats (paras. 40-45)
(14)	Luggages, handbags and flat goods (paras. 46-47)
(15)	Outervests (paras. 48-49)
(16)	Overalls, coveralls and jumpsuits (paras. 50-53)
(17)	Playsuits, sunsuits, washsuits, creepers, rompers and shortalls (para. 54)
(18)	Pullover jackets (para. 55)
(19)	Shirts and blouses, knitted (paras. 56-57)
(20)	Shirts and blouses, woven (paras. 58-59)
(21)	Suits (paras. 60-65)
(22)	Suit-type coats, men's and boys' (paras. 66-68)
(23)	Sweaters (paras. 69-80)
(24)	Tank-tops, knitted (paras. 81-82)
(25)	Tennis dress sets and golf dress sets, women's (para. 83)
(26)	Tops, knitted (paras. 84-85)
(27)	Two-piece physically connected entireties (para. 86)
(28)	T-shirts, knitted (paras. 87-88)
(29)	Underwear (paras. 89-91)

(1) Abbreviated garments, women's - Categories 237, 459 and 859

17. Women's abbreviated garments joined between the legs, which are intended to be worn without other attire, are classified in Category 237, 459 or 859, depending on fibre composition. [See also sub-section (25) for the classification of women's tennis and golf dress sets.]

(2) Bib top overalls - Categories 237, 239, 359(1), 439, 459, 659(1), 839 and 859

18. Bib top overalls are trouser-type garments with permanently attached front bibs extending more than six inches above the natural waistline for adult sizes. The 'bib rise' would be proportionately smaller for small sizes of overalls for boys, girls and infants. The bib front of the garment must be permanently stitched in place. In this connection, tack stitching and snap-on, zip-on and button-on methods of attachment are not considered sufficient to create a permanent bib front.

19. The presence of bib back alone on trousers would not qualify the garment as an overall and such a garment is classified as trousers. Suspender pants which are trousers continuing above the natural waistline for a short distance (including self-fabric strap extensions) are not considered as overalls but are classified as trousers.

20. Overalls are classified in Categories 237, 239, 359(1), 439, 459, 659(1), 839 and 859 as appropriate depending on fibre composition and sizes of the garments in question. [See sub-section (16) below for detailed guidelines on categorization.]

(3) Bodysuits and Bodyshirts - Categories 359, 459, 659 and 859

21. Bodysuits are one-piece garments constructed of finely knitted fabric which usually includes lycra or spandex yarns. They cover the wearer's torso and may have elastic around the neck, arm and leg openings. They are designed to be form-fitting and they may be intended for use during exercise, dance or similar athletic activity. Bodysuits also include unitards with arm and leg coverings. Also included in these categories are knitted bodyshirts which resemble blouses/shirts but with a long tail which snaps between the legs. They are usually less form-fitting than bodysuits.

22. Classification of bodysuit-like garments made of woven materials is usually determined by reference to the character of the upper portion of the garment. Exporters are advised to consult the Department on categorization of this type of garment.

(4) Capes - Categories 333/334, 335, 359, 434, 435, 459, 633/634, 635, 659, 834, 835 and 859

23. Capes which are made of heavy material that impart warmth to the wearer are classifiable in the jacket/coat categories, i.e. Categories 333/334, 335, 434, 435, 633/634, 635, 834 and 835, depending on the fibre composition and gender. Capes which are not made of heavy fabric, such as salon cover-up, are classified in Categories 359, 459, 659 and 859 as appropriate.

24. Exporters applying for export licences covering export of capes in the jacket/coat categories should declare the garments as capes and not as jackets/coats in the description of goods column on the licence applications.

(5) Cardigan-like garments, fine-knitted : Categories 338/339, 438, 638/639 and 838

25. Fine-knitted cardigan-like garments are classified in the knitted shirt and blouse categories, i.e. Categories 338/339, 438, 638/639 and 838, depending on the fibre composition. Fine-knitted cardigan-like garments are garments of more than 9 stitches per 2 centimetres measured in the horizontal direction and are made of light weight fabric. Such garments feature full front opening with or without any means of closure and with or without ribbings at the bottom. They may have collar treatment. They also possess sleeves of any length. Those without sleeves are classified instead as knitted shirts/blouses [see sub-section (19)] or as outervests [see sub-section (15)]. The Department has received information that there has been a change in US classification practice involving ladies' knit garments commonly known as "sweatercoats". These "sweatercoats" refer to ladies' cardigan-like garments or sweaters with length extending below mid-thigh. These "sweatercoats" are worn and used more akin to a cardigan-like garment or a sweater and do not possess features that provide the wearer with protection against weather. According to the US Customs, these "sweatercoats"

would be classified as women's knit garments rather than coats. This change in US classification would affect goods entered into the USA or withdrawn from warehouses for consumption on or after 8 April 2002.

26. The presence of features such as lining, quilted lining, pronounced lapels, shawl collar, double breasted styling, polar fleece (i.e. heavy double side napping) may preclude a garment from being classified as a fine-knitted cardigan-like garment. In short, whether a garment is classifiable as a fine-knitted cardigan-like garment has much to depend on the style and features of the garment. Exporters are advised to consult the Department on categorisation of the garment if in doubt.

27. Heavy weight cardigans and jacket/coat-like cardigan-like garments are classifiable under the jacket/coat categories. Where a fine-knitted cardigan is made of fluffy, fleece-like and thick looking materials, it is classifiable in the appropriate jacket/coat category, taking into account the overall style and construction of the garment.

(6) Costumes

28. The US has recently announced a change in classification practice involving costumes which are usually flimsy, non-durable and not normal articles of wearing apparel. These products which are currently imported into the US as non-textile articles outside quota restraint would require quotas once the classification change takes effect. Please refer to Notice to Exporters : Series 1 (USA) No.13/02 dated 12 March 2002 for details of the change.

(7) Cotton fishing vests, hunting vests and gaming vests - Categories 359(2) and 359

29. Cotton fishing vests, hunting vests and gaming vests which do not possess impregnation, lamination or coating that can be seen with the naked eyes are classified in Category 359(2). Fishing vests, hunting vests and gaming vests of cotton which possess impregnation, lamination or coating that can be seen with the naked eyes are classified in Category 359.

30. Exporters applying for export licences covering the export of cotton fishing vests, hunting vests and gaming vests in Category 359(2) should declare these garments as fishing/hunting/gaming vests as appropriate on the licence applications.

(8) Culottes - Categories 342, 442, 642 and 842

31. Culottes are garments which, while retaining the frontal appearance of a skirt with regard to silhouette and fullness, are constructed so that the garment is cut up in the middle and each leg is individually surrounded by fabric. When worn, the leg separation of the garment is not apparent when viewed from the front. Gaucho pants which have a construction similar to culottes but without the fullness are not considered as culottes but are classified as pants.

(9) Detachable garment accessories - Categories 359, 459, 659 and 859

32. Except as provided for in paragraph 33 below, all detachable garment accessories are considered as individual textile items and are separately classified and licensed in Categories 359, 459, 659 and 859 depending on the fibre composition.

33. Exports of the following types of detachable garment accessories need not be separately classified if they are exported and packed together with the accompanying garments to which these accessories are attached :

- (a) textile belts and sashes exported, packaged and designed to be used and sold as a unit with the accompanying garments;
- (b) neckties and pin-on flowers affixed to garments;
- (c) detachable liners to trench coats and raincoats unless they can be worn separately; and
- (d) detachable bibs on trousers.

These detachable accessories will be classified under the same category to which the garments belong. If the detachable accessories are attached to a textile product controlled by weight, for example, belts attached to overalls, the weight of the textile product has to include the weight of the detachable accessories.

(10) Dresses (including uniform dresses) - Categories 336, 436, 636 and 836

34. Dresses are one-piece garments for the female which have the following features :

- (a) they cover the top of the body and extend to somewhere from below the mid-thigh to the feet;
- (b) they are appropriate for wear without other outer garments;
- (c) their lower ends enclose both legs in a single 'tube'.

35. Tennis dress, by virtue of their short length are not considered as dress. They are classified as shirts or blouses. Dresses with matching or coordinating jackets, vests, boleros, or similar components (sometimes called "two-piece dresses") are classified separately, the dress in the dress category and the other component part in its relevant category. [See also sub-section (25) below.]

(11) Hosiery - Categories 332, 359, 432, 459, 632, 659, 832 and 859

36. Except as provided for in paragraph 37 below, hosiery is classified in Categories 332, 432, 632 and 832 depending on the fibre composition.

37. The following types of hosiery are classified in Categories 359, 459, 659 and 859 as appropriate, depending on the fibre composition :

- (a) panty hose and tights (panty-hose type) of cotton;
- (b) panty hose and tights (panty-hose type) of wool;
- (c) tights (panty-hose type) of synthetic fibre;
- (d) panty hose of synthetic fibres measuring per single yarn 67 decitex or more (see Note¹);
- (e) panty hose and tights (panty-hose type) of silk blend and other non-cotton vegetable fibres.

(12) Infants' garments - Categories 239, 439 and 839

38. Except for infants' hats and capes of silk-blend and other non-cotton vegetable fibres (which are classified under Category 859), all knitted and woven apparel and clothing accessories for infants of 24 months or below, or of a body height not exceeding 86 centimeters are classifiable in the following categories, depending on the fibre composition of the garments :

- (a) Category 239 for cotton and man-made fibre infants' garments;
- (b) Category 439 for wool infants' garments; and
- (c) Category 839 for silk blend and/or non-cotton vegetable fibre infants' garments.

39. Exporters applying for export licences to cover the export of infants' wear are requested to state clearly the size range of such garments in the description of goods column of the licence.

(13) Jackets/coats - Categories 333/334, 335, 434, 435, 633/634, 635, 834 and 835

Note¹: Decitex System is a system of expressing the linear density (i.e. mass per length) of fibre, filaments, silvers and yarns or other linear textile material. Decitex is the mass in decigram of one kilometre of the product.

40. A jacket/coat is an outerwear garment which covers either the upper part of the body or both the upper and lower parts of the body. It may be characterized by the fact that it is worn for protection against weather. It is normally worn over another garment (other than underwear), the presence of which is sufficient for the wearer to be considered modestly and conventionally dressed for appearance in public, either indoors or outdoors or both. Jackets/coats may be made of heavy or more weather-resistant fabric, and have a full front opening, with or without means of closure, and have sleeves of any length. This type of garment may also possess the following features :

- (a) pockets at or below the waist;
- (b) back vents or pleats; also side vents in combination with back seams;
- (c) a full or partial lining;
- (d) a belt or simulated belt or elasticized waist on hip length or longer garments;
- (e) large jacket/coat style buttons, toggles or snaps, a heavy-duty zipper or other heavy-duty closure, or buttons fastened with reinforcing thread for heavy-duty use;
- (f) lapels;
- (g) long sleeves without cuffs;
- (h) elasticized or rib-knitted cuffs;
- (i) drawstring, elastic or rib-knitted waistband;
- (j) fabric weight equal to or exceeding 10 ounces per square yard.

(Note : For knitted garments, items (h) and (i) above are counted as one feature)

41. Garments having features of both jackets/coats and shirts may be classified in the jacket/coat category if they possess at least three of the above listed features and do not have marketing or other physical attributes which render them more appropriately classified elsewhere. Garments possessing fewer than 3 of the above listed features will be considered on an individual basis, depending on their style, marketing and other physical attributes. Exporters are advised to consult the Department on categorisation of these types of garments.

42. Ladies' knitted outerwear garments with body length extended below mid-thigh may be classified in the jacket/coat category if they possess features which provide the wearer with protection against weather and provided they do not have marketing or other physical attributes which render them more appropriately classified elsewhere. Such garments that are worn and used more like a cardigan-like garment or a sweater and cannot provide the wearer with protection against weather should respectively be classified in cardigan-like garment or sweater categories having regard to the stitch count [see sub-sections (5) and (23)].

43. The following types of cardigans are classifiable in the jacket/coat categories, taking into account the overall style and construction of the garment :

- (a) cardigans with a sherpa lining, or a heavy weight fiberfill lining, including quilted linings, used to provide extra warmth to the wearer;
- (b) cardigans made of fluffy, fleece-like and thick-looking materials; and
- (c) cardigans which are tailored. (Tailoring is the shaping of a fabric into a garment to neatly fit the contours of the body by means of cutting, seaming and finishing. Garments made from fabrics with a high degree of elasticity such as sweater knits, which are capable of shaping themselves to the contours of the body of the wearer without additional work and require minimal cutting and sewing are not considered to be tailored.)

44. Knitted garments having a stitch count of 9 or fewer stitches per 2 centimeters measured in the horizontal direction though possessing features as given in paragraph 40 above may sometimes be excluded from jacket/coat categories if the fabric making up the garment :

- (a) has a greater degree of elasticity; and/or
- (b) renders the garment less weather-resistant.

They will normally be considered under sweaters categories. [See sub-section (23) for classification of sweaters.] Exporters are advised to consult the Department on categorization of these types of garments.

45. Men's and boys' suit-type coats of wool and non-cotton vegetable fibre are separately classified under Categories 433 and 833, depending on fibre composition, whereas those of cotton and man-made fibre are classified under Categories 333/334 and 633/634 respectively. [See sub-section (22) below.]

(14) Luggage, handbags and flat goods - Categories 369, 469, 670, 870 and 871

46. Handbags (including partially beaded ones), luggage and flat goods are classified under Categories 369, 469, 670, 870 or 871 as appropriate. For the purpose of classification :

- (a) The term "luggage" includes travel goods (such as trunks, suitcase, wardrobe cases, travelling bags, knapsacks, kitebags and like articles) designed to contain clothing or other personal effects during travel; and brief cases, portfolios, school bags, photographic equipment bags, golf bags, camera cases, binocular cases, gun cases and like containers and cases designed to be carried with the person.
- (b) The term "handbags" includes pocket book bags, purses, shoulder bags, clutch bags and all similar articles designed to be carried with the person.
- (c) The term "flat goods" includes small flat-ware designed to be carried with the person, such as banknote cases, bill cases, card cases, cigarette cases, coin purses, key cases, letter cases, licence cases, money cases, powder cases, spectacle cases and similar articles.

47. Luggage, handbags and flat goods are classified by reference to the outer surface textile material. Where the product has an outer surface of different textile materials, classification is based on the predominant outer surface textile material which predominates over each other single outer surface material.

(15) Outervests - Categories 359(2), 459, 659 and 859

48. Outervests are sleeveless upper garment with oversized armholes or exceptionally deep necklines which are designed to be worn over another outer garment. They may take the form of a pullover or have frontal opening. Garments not possessing the above features distinctively may also be considered outervests if they have one or more of the following features :

- (a) waist pockets;
- (b) back vent;
- (c) back waist strap;
- (d) detachable or non-detachable lining.

49. It should however be noted that knitted outervests of 9 or fewer stitches per 2 centimetre measured in the horizontal direction of the garments are classified under sweater categories.

(16) Overalls, coveralls and jumpsuits - Categories 237, 239, 359(1), 439, 459, 659(1), 839 and 859

50. Overalls, coveralls and jumpsuits for infants up to 24 months are classifiable in Categories 239, 439 or 839. [See paragraph 38 above.] Except as provided for in paragraph 52 below, overalls, coveralls and jumpsuits of cotton (knit and not knit) or of man-made fibres (not knit) are to be classified in the following categories :

- (a) girls' sizes 2-14 and boys' sizes 2-7 -

Category 237;

(b) boys' sizes 8-20 and adult sizes -

Category 359(1) or 659(1), depending on fibre composition.

51. Except as provided for in paragraph 52 below, overalls, coveralls and jumpsuits of man-made fibre (knit), wool or silk blend and/or non-cotton vegetable fibre of size 2 and above are classified in Category 659(1), 459 or 859, depending on the fibre composition.

52. Overalls, coveralls and jumpsuits of cotton or man-made fibre which are water resistant or insulated for cold weather protection are classified in Category 359 or 659 as appropriate. However, cotton or man-made fibre overalls, coveralls and jumpsuits made of water resistant knit fabrics but are not insulated for cold weather protection should be classified in Category 359(1) or 659(1) as appropriate.

53. Exporters are requested to declare on export licence applications covering overalls, coveralls and jumpsuits the sizes of the garments in question.

(17) Playsuits, sunsuits, washsuits, creepers, rompers and shortalls - Categories 237, 459 and 859

54. Playsuits, sunsuits, washsuits, creepers, rompers, shortalls and similar apparels for girls' sizes 2-14 and boys' sizes 2-7 are classified in Category 237, 459 or 859 as appropriate. Exporters are requested to declare on export licence applications covering such garments the sizes of the garments in question.

(18) Pullover jackets - Categories 333/334, 335, 459, 633/634, 635 and 859

55. Like jackets/coats described in sub-section (13), pullover jackets are outerwear garments which possess partial or no frontal openings. They are designed to be worn over another garment (other than underwear). This type of garment may possess the following features :

- (a) waist pockets or kangaroo pockets;
- (b) long sleeves;
- (c) elastic/ribbed cuffs;
- (d) hood with drawstring;
- (e) hemmed bottom with drawstring or ribbed bottom.

Exporters are advised to consult the Department on the classification of these types of garments.

(19) Shirts and blouses, knitted - Categories 338/339, 438, 638/639 and 838

56. Garments included in these categories are generally of the type which are normally worn against the body or over underwear for appearance in public. They have the following features :

- (a) a length reaching from the neck area to the vicinity of the waist but may extend as far down to the area of the mid-thigh;
- (b) may have collar treatment of any type, including a hood or no collar;
- (c) may have a full frontal opening or back opening, partial opening in front or back, mock opening or no opening (full opening generally requires some means of closure for the sake of modesty);
- (d) may have sleeves of any length or no sleeves;
- (e) the bottoms are usually hemmed. However, they may be finished otherwise to prevent ravelling;
- (f) construction may be tailored, full-fashioned etc; and

- (g) stitch count of more than 9 stitches per 2 centimetres measured in the horizontal direction. (See also paragraph 14 above.)

57. Also included in the knitted shirt and blouse categories are fine-knitted cardigan-like garments (except those made wholly of cashmere) of more than 9 stitches per 2 centimetres measured in the horizontal direction [see sub-section (5)] and knitted tops irrespective of the stitch count [see sub-section (26)].

(20) Shirts and blouses, woven - Categories 340, 341, 440, 640, 641 and 840

58. Categories 340, 440, 640 and 840 cover woven outer garments for men and boys which extend from the neck and shoulder areas to or below the waist. A shirt for men and boys should have a full or partial front opening which closes left side over right side. These garments are worn over underwear or the skin and are considered conventional attire indoors and outdoors without other garments over them; they suffice the wearer except where circumstances dictate that a further degree of formality is required or where weather conditions necessitates additional protection. Shirts in these categories may either have sleeves or may be sleeveless.

59. Categories 341, 440, 641 and 840 cover woven blouses and shirts for women and girls. Blouses are outer garments usually extending from the neck or shoulders to the vicinity of the waistline. However, also included in the category are overblouses and similar garments which may extend to the mid-thigh area, and which are frequently slit up at the leg. Blouses may have a collar treatment of any type or no collar, and must have adequate shoulder coverage. The closure may be positioned on the front, back, or side, or the garment may even be without closure as in a pullover. Women's and girls' shirts are the feminine counterpart of men's and boys' shirts, from which they may be distinguished by size, style, and usually, fastenings. (See also paragraph 9 above.) Outerwear garments known as camisoles, bandeaus and similar garments which may be described as tops, are excluded from these categories.

(21) Suits - Categories 643, 644, 443, 444, 843 and 844

60. All components of a suit must be of identical fabric as to construction, style, color, and composition and of corresponding or compatible size. Suits may have the following combinations :

(a) For men's and boys' suits

- (i) a suit coat or jacket and a pair of trousers, breeches or shorts;
- (ii) a suit coat or jacket, a tailored waistcoat(vest) and a pair of trousers, breeches or shorts.

(b) For women's and girls' suits

- (i) a suit coat or jacket together with a pair of trousers, breeches, or shorts; or a skirt or a divided skirt;
- (ii) a suit coat or jacket, a tailored waistcoat (vest) together with a pair of trousers, breeches or shorts; or a skirt or a divided skirt.

The lower component part of a suit should not have braces or bibs. [See sub-section (22) below for suit-type coats.]

61. If several separate components to cover the lower part of the body are exported together with the suit coat or jacket (e.g. trousers and shorts; or a skirt/divided skirt and trousers), the constituent lower part for men's and boys' suits shall be the trousers and in the case of women's or girls' suits, the skirt or divided skirt. The other component garments have to be separately classified in their relevant categories.

62. All suit coats or jackets possess the following features :

- (a) must be tailored and consist of four or more panels (exclusive of sleeves), two in front and two in back and sewn together lengthwise;

- (b) must have a full-frontal opening (zippers not allowed);
- (c) must have sleeves of any length;
- (d) must be designed for wear over a shirt or blouse but not over another coat, jacket or blazer;
- (e) may be of waist length, or extend below the waist to any point slightly below the mid-thigh.

63. The following sets of garments for men and boys are also considered as suits :

- (a) morning dress, comprising a plain jacket (cutaway) with rounded tails hanging well down at the back, and striped trousers;
- (b) evening dress (tailcoat), generally made of black fabric, the jacket of which is relatively short at the front, does not close, and has narrow skirts cut in at the hips and hanging down behind;
- (c) dinner jacket suits, in which the jacket is similar in style to an ordinary jacket (though perhaps revealing more of the shirt front) but has shiny silk or imitation silk lapels.

64. Ensembles such as athletic suits, athletic uniforms, rain suits, ski suits, work uniforms, and matching shirt/blouse and pants sets are not considered as suits even though the components of the sets are of identical fabric.

65. There is no designated category for cotton suits. Exporters of cotton suits are required to cover each shipment of cotton suits by one single export licence and specify on the licence application the component categories concerned so that the shipment may be debited to quotas in the appropriate component categories.

(22) Suit-type coats, men's and boys' - Categories 333/334, 433, 633/634 and 833

66. Suit-type coats are outerwear garments designed for wear over a light outer garment. They have the following features :

- (a) must be tailored;
- (b) have a full-frontal button or snapped opening;
- (c) have sleeves of any length;
- (d) have waist pockets;
- (e) may be of waist length or may extend to mid-thigh; and
- (f) have three or more panels (excluding sleeves), of which two are at the front, sewn together lengthwise.

67. Coats with suit-type features which have piled or quilted linings over substantial parts of their bodies are not considered as suit-type coats but would be classified in the 'other coats' categories, i.e. Categories 333/334, 434, 633/634 and 834. However, the presence of quilting over small areas, such as elbow patches, will not preclude the classification of a coat with suit-type features in Categories 333/334, 433, 633/634 and 833.

68. Coats which form the upper part of ensembles known commercially as "suits", such as athletic suits, rainsuits, hunting suits, camouflage suits etc., are not considered as suit-type coats but are to be classified in the 'other coats' categories, i.e. Categories 333/334, 434, 633/634 and 834. [See also sub-section (21) above for guidelines on suits.]

(23) Sweaters - Categories 345, 445/446, 645/646, 845(1), 845(2), 846(1) and 846(2)

69. Included in the sweater categories are garments commercially known as cardigans, sweaters, pullovers, sweater vests, etc. They are knitted garments having 9 or fewer stitches per 2 centimetres measured

in a horizontal direction. (See also paragraph 14 above.) They usually cover the upper body from the neck or shoulders to the waist or below.

70. Sweaters possess the following features :
- (a) may have a collar treatment of any type, including a hood, or no collar;
 - (b) may be of pullover style or have full or partial front or back opening;
 - (c) may have any type of neckline;
 - (d) may be sleeveless or have sleeves of any length;
 - (e) may have any type of pocket treatment, including slanted waist pockets; and
 - (f) of 9 or fewer stitches per 2 centimetres measured in a horizontal direction. (See also paragraph 14 above.)

Sweaters having the above features and of length extending below mid-thigh may be classified in the sweater categories if they are worn and used in the same way of a sweater and do not possess features that provide the wearer with protection against weather [see also sub-section (13)].

71. Cardigan-like garments of more than 9 stitches per 2 centimetres measured in a horizontal direction are classifiable as fine-knitted cardigan-like garments. [See sub-section (5)].

72. Knitted shirts, blouses, and vests made wholly of cashmere are classified in Category 445/446 irrespective of the stitch count.

73. Crocheted garments, whether or not known as sweaters, cardigans, pullover or vests, constructing predominantly of openwork and consisting limited or no basic stitch construction that allows for counting of stitches in the horizontal direction from the body of the garments are classified in sweater categories irrespective of style. Companies/registered businesses applying for export licences covering this type of garments should declare 'stitch cannot be counted' under the "Full Description of Goods" column, in addition to other particulars pertaining to the description of the goods.

74. Cardigans with a sherpa lining or a heavy weight fiberfill lining, including quilted linings, both of which are used to provide extra warmth to the wearer, are excluded from the sweater category and are classified in the coat categories.

75. For the purpose of differentiating between silk blend sweaters [i.e. Categories 846(1) and 846(2)] and non-cotton vegetable fibre sweaters [i.e. Categories 845(1) and 845(2)], silk blend and non-cotton vegetable fibre (SBNCVF) sweaters shall be classified as silk blend sweaters if the silk component exceeds by weight the non-cotton vegetable fibre component. SBNCVF sweaters not classifiable as silk blend sweaters in accordance with the foregoing guideline are classified as non-cotton vegetable fibre sweaters.

76. For the purposes of the ATC, silk blend and non-cotton vegetable fibre sweaters are divided into two types, namely sweaters not made from knit-to-shape component parts knitted elsewhere [Categories 845(1) and 846(1)], and sweaters made from knit-to-shape component parts knitted elsewhere [Categories 845(2) and 846(2)].

77. Sweaters classifiable in Categories 845(1) and 846(1) include the following :
- (a) sweaters made from knit-to-shape component parts knitted in Hong Kong; or
 - (b) sweaters made from component parts which have been cut and sewn in Hong Kong from knitted fabric.

78. Sweaters classifiable in Categories 845(2) and 846(2) are sweaters made by assembling in Hong Kong knit-to-shape panels which have been knitted elsewhere, ready for assembly without further manufacturing processes other than minor trimming and/or cutting of the collar to shape.

79. Paragraphs 77 and 78 above notwithstanding, accessories and trim, e.g. belts, collars, cuffs, pockets, may be knitted in Hong Kong or elsewhere.

80. Companies/registered businesses are requested to note that in applying for export licences covering sweaters in Category 845(1), 845(2), 846(1) and 846(2), the following special statement codes should be made by the exporters in addition to other particulars pertaining to the description of goods :

<u>Category No.</u>	<u>Textual Meaning of the Special Statement</u>	<u>Special Statement Codes</u>
845(1)	Sweaters not made from knit-to-shape component parts knitted elsewhere	011
845(2)	Sweaters made from knit-to-shape component parts knitted elsewhere	014
846(1)	Sweaters not made from knit-to-shape component parts knitted elsewhere	011
846(2)	Sweaters made from knit-to-shape component parts knitted elsewhere	014

(24) Tank tops, knitted - Categories 338/339(1), 638/639 and 838

81. Tank tops are sleeveless garments with oversized armholes, with or without a significant drop below the arm. The front and the back may have a round, U, V, scoop, boat, square or other shaped neckline which must be below the nape of the neck. The body of the garment is supported by straps not over 2 inches in width reaching over the shoulder for adult sizes. The width of the shoulder straps would be proportionately smaller for small sizes of tank tops for boys, girls and infants. The straps must be attached to the garment and not easily detachable. Bottom hems may be straight or curved, side vented, or of any other type normally found on a blouse or shirt, including blouson or drawstring waists or an elastic bottom. The following features would preclude a garment from being classified as a tank top :

- (a) pockets, real or simulated, other than breast pockets;
- (b) any belt treatment, including simple loops;
- (c) any type of front or back neck openings (zipper, button, or otherwise).

82. A distinction must be made between men's tank-tops and singlets (athletic-type undershirts). Tank tops are of a fine-knitted construction with wider capping on armholes and neckline than singlets, which are made of fine-knitted light-weight fabric of rib-knitted construction.

(25) Tennis dress sets and golf dress sets, women's

83. Two-piece women's tennis dress sets and golf dress sets, consisting of an abbreviated dress-like upper garment and a pair of matching panties cannot be classified in Categories 237, 459 and 859 and should be separately classified in the appropriate component garment categories. [See also paragraph 35 above.]

(26) Tops, knitted - Categories 338/339(1), 438, 638/639 and 838

84. The following types of garments are classifiable as tops :

- (a) garments which cover the upper torso and have a length reaching from the neck area to below the breastline but do not extend down to the waist. Examples of such garments are midriffs, crop tops, halter tops and sun tops;
- (b) garments which have a length reaching from below the armpits to the waistline or beyond;

- (c) garments which cover the chest area only, do not cover the shoulders nor reach the waist. Examples of such garments are bandeau style garments ;
- (d) tube-like garments which may or may not be of waist length, with or without attached shoulder straps;
- (e) off-the-shoulder tops;
- (f) tabard type garments which are sleeveless and have fully open sides secured by ties or other means of closure at the sides; and
- (g) except as provided for in paragraph 25 above, garments with full front or back openings which might otherwise qualify as a shirt or a blouse, but do not have any means of closure.

The stitch count requirement applicable to shirts/blouses classifiable in the same categories ie. Categories 338/339(1), 438, 638/639 and 838 does not apply to knitted tops.

85. Bolero jackets, which are short jackets, usually worn with dresses, are not considered as tops. They are considered as jackets if they have a full front opening, sleeves of any length and cover the upper part of the body. Capes and ponchos are not considered as tops. Also garments worn on the upper part of the body over other wearing apparel, for example, vests or sleeveless jackets, are not considered as tops.

(27) Two-piece physically connected entireties - Categories 237, 459 and 859

86. Two-piece physically connected entireties for girls' sizes 2-14 and boys' sizes 2-7 are classifiable in Categories 237, 459 or 859, depending on the fibre composition. Garment sets such as shirts and shorts having matching buttons and buttonholes, or shoulder loops with suspender straps designed to join the two pieces, which are so manufactured that the use of one without the other is not practicable are considered as two-piece physically connected entireties. Button/buttonhole sets with pants that can reasonably be worn without the shirt are not considered as two-piece physically connected entireties and should be separately classified in the appropriate component categories.

(28) T-shirts, knitted - Categories 338/339, 638/639 and 838

87. Knitted T-shirts have the following features :

- (a) a close-fitting or lower neckline (round, square, boat-shaped or V-shaped);
- (b) may have decoration, other than lace, in the form of pictures, words, or letters, obtained by printing, knitting or other processes;
- (c) constructed of the underwear type and from light weight, knitted underwear type fabric, not napped, nor of pile or terry fabric;
- (d) the bottom is usually hemmed. A ribbed waistband, a drawstring, or other means of tightening at the waist is not allowed;
- (e) long or short close-fitting sleeves;
- (f) buttons or other means of fastenings, opening in the neckline and collars, are not allowed.

88. All men's and boys' white underwear-style T-shirts of cotton are classifiable in Category 352. Other T-shirts of cotton are classifiable in Category 338/339.

(29) Underwear - Categories 352, 459, 652 and 852

89. Underwear refers to garments which are ordinarily worn under other garments and are not exposed to view when the wearer is conventionally dressed for appearance in public, indoors or outdoors. However, whether or not a garment is worn next to the body of the wearer is not a determinant; babies' diapers, for example, are so worn as are bathing suits. Neither of these garments are customarily worn under other garments, and they are not underwear.

90. Body supporting garments, although having the characteristics indicated above for underwear, are excluded from the underwear categories. They are included in Categories 349, 459, 649 and 859.

91. Boxer shorts displaying more than one of the following features are presumptively not underwear :

- (a) fabric weight greater than 4.2 ounces per square yard;
- (b) an enclosed or turned over waistband;
- (c) lack of a fly or presence of a lining;
- (d) a single leg opening greater than the relaxed waist;
- (e) the presence of belt loops, inner or outer pockets or pouches;
- (f) multiple snaps at the fly opening;
- (g) the side length of a size medium exceeding 17 inches.

However, the presumption is rebuttable where it can be shown that criteria such as marketing or other physical attributes are determinative.

Part VI : Procedure to Seek Classification Advice
on Specific Textile Products

92. The Department provides a classification enquiry service to traders. Companies/registered businesses wishing to obtain classification advice from the Department on textile goods for export to the US are required to follow the procedures as set out in paragraphs 93 to 100 below.

93. All enquiries relating to the seeking of classification advice should be made in person to the Classification Unit of the Textiles Controls Branch (Americas) of the Trade and Industry Department on 11/F, Trade and Industry Department Tower, 700 Nathan Road, Mongkok, Kowloon. The contact telephone numbers are 2398 5597 and 2398 5598.

App. III
94. All enquiries must be made on a standard Classification Enquiry Form, a specimen of which is at Appendix III. The enquiry form is obtainable free of charge at the Classification Unit on 11/F, and at the Customer Service Centre of the Textiles Controls Branch on 2/F of Trade and Industry Department Tower. The form can also be downloaded from the Department's website at www.gov.hk/tid/e-index.htm or obtained by fax via the Department's 24-hour enquiry hotline at 23 922 922.

95. Each Classification Enquiry Form should cover only one textile product.

96. An actual sample of a textile product and two colour photographs showing the front view and back view of the textile product sample should be provided together with the Classification Enquiry Form. The photographs should be properly affixed to the Form.

97. To facilitate the determination of the proper classification of a textile product, relevant information pertaining to the textile product has to be provided and indicated clearly on the Classification Enquiry Form. To further assist the Department in providing a proper classification of a textile product, additional information may be required for the following products :-

- (i) the percentage by surface area and the relative weight of each component part (excluding collar, cuffs and bottom unless they constitute a substantial part of the garment) of the following types of garments:

garments made up of parts of different construction i.e. of knitted and woven fabrics;

garments made up of coarsely knitted and fine-knitted parts;

garments made up of parts of the same construction but of different fibre composition; and

garments made up of parts of textile and non-textile materials;

- (ii) the percentage by value, in addition to that by surface area and by relative weight of each component part as referred to in paragraph 97(i) above, in case it is an one-pieced garment (for example: dress);
- (iii) the component, fabric construction and colour for upper and lower garments and whether the upper and lower garments are packed and shipped as a set for suits and ensembles;
- (iv) whether the garment is reversible if it is made of different types of fabric at the front and the back; and
- (v) for ladies' knitted outerwear garments with body length extending below mid-thigh, the fabric weight in ounces per square yard may be required if deemed necessary.

98. An official receipt will be issued to the enquirers. Enquirers can collect the written replies and the samples on 11/F Trade and Industry Department Tower, 700 Nathan Road, Kowloon after a period specified on the receipt.

99. Photographs affixed to the classification enquiry forms will be retained by the Department. The samples of textile products will normally be returned to the enquirers together with the written replies. In some circumstances the Department may wish to retain the samples for a longer period in which case the permission from the enquirer will be specifically sought.

100. The enquirer should collect the sample when he is advised to do so. Any sample which is not collected by the enquirer for six months is regarded as unclaimed and will be destroyed by the Department.

Part VII : Some Important Notes about Seeking Classification Advice

101. Companies/registered businesses are requested to note that the classification advice given in the written reply is on the basis of information provided in the Classification Enquiry Form in respect of the sample regarding product description, fibre content, size, gender, construction and any other particulars provided as well as traders' compliance with the relevant special licensing conditions applicable to the products concerned. Applicants should ensure that the information provided is complete and correct as the Department may not be able to verify all entries on the Classification Enquiry Form. The classification advice given represents the Department's view on classification of the textile products of Hong Kong origin for export to the USA market. In the event that the US authorities hold a different view on classification of the textile products in question, the Department may consider taking the matter up with the US authorities with a view to seeking a satisfactory resolution of the classification difference where appropriate. The foregoing notwithstanding, traders should note that the classification advice given is not in any way binding on the US authorities who may in some cases apply different classification criteria. Whilst the Department will make every endeavour to assist traders, no liability will be accepted by the Department in cases where the US authorities classify the textile products in question differently. Traders are also requested to note that failing resolution of the classification difference between the US authorities and the Department, quota will be required to be supplied by the exporter and/or manufacturer of the consignment concerned in the category deemed appropriate for import purposes to the US in cases where the exporter and/or manufacturer wish(es) to obtain customs clearance of the goods at the importing end.

102. Traders exporting sets of panels under Special Export Licence (Textiles) Form 8a for linking/stitching elsewhere should note that as the finished garments are intended for eventual exportation to the USA market under the cover of restrained export licences issued by this Department, proper classification of the garments in their finished forms should be made prior to the shipment of the knit-to-shape panels to places outside Hong Kong for assembly. In case of doubt, traders are advised to seek the Department's view on the classification of the garments concerned by following the procedures as detailed in Part VI above. In this connection, traders are required to provide sample and photos of the piece-knitted garments in their finished forms instead of the set of panels to be exported under Form 8a.

103. Traders are reminded that over time there may be changes in classification practice for export to the US. It is therefore in traders' own interest to take note of classification change introduced by the US from time to time for planning their production and shipment schedules. It is also advisable to seek an up-to-date classification advice of the textile product in question well in advance prior to exportation as requests for expeditious classification advice are normally not entertained by the Department.

Part VIII : Warning and Enquiries

Warning

104. Traders are reminded that the guidelines set out in this Notice to Exporters are not meant to be exhaustive. Further there may be changes in classification practice for export to the US over time. While the Department will, as far as possible, inform the trade in advance of any change in the classification practice by the US, it is the responsibility of traders to check the proper classification of their textile products prior to export. Failure to export a textile product in the correct category will result in the goods being denied entry by the US Customs. The Department may also take legal and/or administrative actions against companies/registered businesses found to have furnished incorrect or false information on the description of the products on export licences.

Enquiries

105. Should you require further information, please contact the following officers :

<u>Assistant Trade Officer</u>	<u>Tel No.</u>		
Miss Cherlane KAM	2398 5414)	Group I Categories
Miss Rita MAN	2398 5443)	Group II Cotton Garment Categories and Ex-SIEA Category
Ms Charmaine LO	2398 5648)	Group II Cotton Garment Categories
Miss Helen YUNG	2398 5415)	Group II Cotton Garment Categories
Miss Jenny TSANG	2398 5412)	Group II MMF Garment Categories
Ms Carmen SHIU	2398 5417)	Group II Wool and MMF Garment Categories
Miss Yanny CHUNG	2398 5411)	Group III Categories and Sweaters Categories of Silk Blend and Non-cotton vegetable fibre

106. You may also contact the Classification Unit at 2398 5597 or 2398 5598 for specific classification enquiry.

Yours faithfully,

(Ms Carmen SHIU)
for Director-General of Trade and Industry

EDI Service for Restrained Textiles Export Licence (RTEL) enables traders to make RTEL applications directly through their office computer faster and easier. EDI Service is also provided for Production Notification and Certificate of Origin. For details and enquiries, please call Tradelink at **2599 1700**.

For online access to selected Trade Information Circulars, please visit Trade and Industry Department's Internet Homepage at <http://www.tid.gov.hk>

For enquiries and complaints about factory audit check, factory inspection, production verification and consignment checks, please contact the Customs and Excise Department at the following telephone numbers:

Factory Audit Check Division	2398 5218
Consignment and Factory Inspection Division 1	2398 5240
Consignment and Factory Inspection Division 2	2417 6011
Complaint Hotline	8100 3553

Note : The Chinese text of this Notice to Exporters is for reference only. In case of discrepancies between the English and Chinese texts, the English text shall for all purposes be conclusive.