



Ottawa, August 1, 2003

CUSTOMS NOTICE N-530

Importation of Textile and Apparel Goods From Least Developed Countries

1. To determine whether the Least Developed Country Tariff (LDCT) applies to the textile and apparel goods mentioned in chapters 50 to 63 of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (Harmonized System), you have to take the following steps.

(a) First, the imported goods must meet one of the LDCT rules of origin set out in the *General Preferential Tariff and Least Developed Country Tariff Rules of Origin Regulations*. You can find information on the rules of origin in Interim Memorandum D11-4-4A, dated December 23, 2002.

(b) Second, if the imported goods meet one of the rules of origin, the exporter of the goods has to complete Form B255, *Certificate of Origin - Textile and Apparel Goods Originating in a Least Developed Country*. Importers must have the completed certificate in their possession at the time they make an LDCT claim. You can find more information on the certificate of origin in Interim Memorandum D11-4-4B, dated December 23, 2002.

(c) Third, as textile and apparel goods are on the Import Control List, importers must obtain an LDC import permit from the Export and Import Controls Bureau (Bureau) at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT). You will find a summary of the requirements for obtaining LDC permits for restrained and unrestrained goods in Column 1 of the Appendix. If you want more information on import permits and restrained or unrestrained goods, contact the Bureau at:

Export and Import Controls Bureau
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
Box 481, Station A
Ottawa ON K1N 9K6
Telephone: (613) 996-3711
Facsimile: (613) 995-5137
www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/trade/eicb/eicbintro-en.asp

(d) Fourth, importers should make sure that the *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Least Developed Countries Initiative* between the Government of Canada and the government of the least developed country from which the goods were exported has been signed by the exporting country and Canada. For more information on the MOU, see Backgrounder 2 on the DFAIT Web site at:

www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac/social-en.asp

(e) Finally, importers should be sure that the direct shipment conditions set out in the *General Preferential Tariff and Least Developed Country Tariff Rules of Origin Regulations* are met.

2. As of the date of this notice, the following countries have signed the MOU:

| | |
|------------|----------|
| Bangladesh | Laos |
| Benin | Mali |
| Cambodia | Nepal |
| Cape Verde | Niger |
| Gambia | Tanzania |
| Haiti | Zambia |

DFAIT is maintaining a list of countries that have signed the MOU. The list can be found at:

www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac/DS/mou-en/asp

3. Textile and apparel goods that do not meet the LDCT rules of origin can be imported under the Most-Favoured-Nation Tariff (MFN) or General Preferential Tariff (GPT) if they are entitled to the GPT. To obtain regular import permits for such goods, you have to meet the conditions listed in Column 2 of the Appendix. You should be aware that you need an Exporter's Licence provided by the exporting country if you are applying for a permit for restrained goods. Importers must have a completed *Form A Certificate of Origin* or the Exporter's Statement of Origin in their possession if they are claiming the GPT at the time of accounting. You can find more information on the GPT and MFN at:

www.ccr.ca/customs/general/publications/tariff2003/table-e.html

or in Memorandum D11-4-4 *Rules of Origin Respecting the General Preferential Tariff and the Least Developed Country Tariff* and Memorandum D11-4-3 *Rules of Origin Respecting the Most-Favoured-Nation Tariff* at:

www.ccr.ca/menu/EmenuKCL.html

4. If you have any questions about this notice, contact the following:

Origin and Valuation Division
 Trade Policy and Interpretation Directorate
 Customs Branch
 Canada Customs and Revenue Agency
 10th floor, 150 Isabella Street
 Ottawa ON K1A 0L5
 Facsimile: (613) 952-4074

5. Contact persons:

David Sheehan, Manager
 (613) 941-5499

Penny Rae-Keyes, Senior Policy Advisor
 (613) 957-4351

APPENDIX

Requirements to obtain import permits for textile and apparel goods

Column 1

Column 2

| LDC Import Permits * | Regular Import Permits ** |
|---|---|
| An LDC import permit will be issued for restrained goods provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the certificate of origin [Form B255] is presented; and • the MOU is signed. | A regular import permit will be issued for restrained goods provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an Exporter's Licence is provided. |
| An LDC import permit will be issued for unrestrained goods provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the certificate of origin [Form B255] is presented. | A regular import permit will be issued for unrestrained goods. [No other documents are required.] |

* Least Developed Tariff Treatment may be claimed at time of accounting

** Least Developed Tariff Treatment may not be claimed at time of accounting

