

COSTUMES - 2005

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has issued a new informed compliance publication (ICP) entitled, "What Every Member of the Trade Community Should Know About: Textile Costumes under the HTSUS."

According to CBP, this new ICP is a study of the classification of textile costumes based on the determination of what is a Flimsy, Non-Durable Costumes (of Chapter 95) and the Well-Made Costumes (of Chapters 61 and 62) CBP's new ICP contains the following table which compares the features of an HTS Chapter 95 costume with the features of an HTS Chapter 61 or 62 costume:

Features	Chapter 95 (Flimsy)	Chapter 61 or 62 (Well-Made)
Styling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple pull-on design with no front/back opening, no zippers, buttons, inset panels, darts, tucks, or other tailoring elements that create a fitted shape • Absence of unique design features such as an expandable hoop or shaped/decorative panels sewn to the costume 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tailoring elements such as darts, tucks, gathers, that create a fitted shape • Wire hoop at base of garment which is encased by a fabric sleeve and secured by a durable interior seam • Multiple shaped panels sewn into seams and/or body of garment • Sheer/decorative panels sewn into seams of garment • Fabric cut on the bias
Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loose stitching at neck, waist, seams • Single layer collar with raw edge • Thin elastic sewn directly to the fabric with a single straight stitch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capping at neck or other exposed edges • Overlock stitching of a tight and uniform gauge on all interior seams • Collars made with front and back layers of fabric and/or constructed with facing for durability

<p>Finishing Touches</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tie closures or hook and loop fasteners which fail to sufficiently close the opening • Exposed, raw edges on fabrics that fray easily or on necklines, waistlines, cuffs, which receive significant wear • Split, raw edged opening, with only a tie closure or single hook and loop fastener. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Button closure with finished button holes • Zipper closure constructed with a fold of fabric that covers the zipper making it less visible on the garment's exterior • Overlock stitching on exterior edges/hem which increase the costume's durability on fabric that frays easily • Turned hems on edges which have been secured by single seam or overlock stitching
<p>Embellishments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loose overlock stitching used on raw edge at neck, waist, or other exposed edges • Ornamentation which has been glued or otherwise insufficiently attached to the costume 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embroidery, trimmings, appliqués, that have been sewn to garment