

SUMMARY OF TEXTILE QUOTAS AND VISAS

Visas are used to control the exportation of textiles and textile products to the USA. A textile VISA is an endorsement in the form of a stamp on an invoice or EXPORT control license, which is executed by the foreign government. It also insures that both the foreign government and the USA count merchandise and charge quotas in the same way so that overshipments, incorrect quota charges and embargoes can be avoided. If a Visa has an incorrect category number, quantity or other incorrect or missing data, the shipment cannot be cleared until a new Visa or visa waiver is obtained.

As of 1996, a proper Visa is required for imports of Textile products from the countries listed in Table A. A Visa may cover either quota or non-quota merchandise. If the imported articles are governed by a quota, a Visa'd shipment does not guarantee Customs clearance of the merchandise as it may exceed Quota limitations. Without a Visa though, Customs clearance is precluded.

TABLE A			
Bahrain	India	Hungary*	Pakistan
Bangladesh	Indonesia	Panama	Philippines
Brazil	Jamaica	Peru	Singapore
China	Japan	Romania	Sri Lanka
Columbia*	Haiti	Macao	Taiwan
Costa Rica	Hong Kong	Malaysia	Thailand
Dom. Rep.	S. Korea	Nepal	Turkey
Egypt	Lesotho	Oman	Trinidad
Guam*	Maldives*	Tobago	UAE
Guatemala	Mexico		Uruguay

(Hong Kong does not have a Visa but rather issues export licenses that are monitored by the Department of Commerce.) All countries have a standardized Visa number except those with an *. The Standard Visa number is a nine-digit number. The first number of the VISA is the significant digit of the calendar year. E.g.; visa issued in 1994 would have 4 as the first digit.

TABLE B			
Countries with no VISA system but subject to Quota			
Myanmar	Canada**	Czech Rep.	Macedonia
Laos	Qatar	Lebanon	Slovakia
	Poland	El Salvador	Bulgaria

** Tariff preference levels (TPLS) on certain apparel fabric and made-ups.

Samples: The Commerce Department announced that effective 9/1/98, the dollar limit for 'sample' shipments of apparel that can be imported without a **textile visa** will be raised from \$250 - \$800. To qualify for the exemption, the garment must be marked 'Sample, in large letters.