

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

COM.TEX/SB/499

11 December 1979

Special Distribution

Textiles Surveillance Body

Original: English

ARRANGEMENT REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TEXTILES

Notification under Article 8:4

Agreement between the United States and Sri Lanka

The Textiles Surveillance Body has received a notification from the United States of an agreement relating to the establishment of an export visa system, concluded between the United States and Sri Lanka.

The TSB noted that the agreement does not contain any restraints nor consultation procedures, and agreed to transmit the notification to the participating countries for information.

44 Galle Road,
Colombo 3,
Sri Lanka.

12 March 1979

Dear Mr. Minister,

You will recall that during the recent visit of the United States Textile Delegation to Sri Lanka, Ambassador Michael B. Smith suggested a method to help eliminate the possible misuse of "Made in Sri Lanka" labels by garment manufacturers in other countries. Consequently, I wish to propose on behalf of my Government that the following visa system be established for exports to the United States of cotton, wool and man-made fibre apparel manufactured in Sri Lanka:

1. Each shipment shall be accompanied by an export visa issued by the Government of Sri Lanka. The export visa will be signed by an authorized official of the Government of Sri Lanka and will appear as a stamped marking in blue ink on the front of the Special Customs Invoice Form 5515, successor document or commercial invoice when such form is used.
2. The names and facsimile signatures of the officials authorized to issue export visas will be supplied by the Government of Sri Lanka. The Government of Sri Lanka will notify the Government of the United States of any changes of authorized officials, and will provide facsimiles of newly authorized officials' signatures. A minimum number of officials will be authorized to issue visas and certifications.
3. Shipments not accompanied by a valid visa in accordance with this letter, after the effective date of this requirement, shall be denied entry by the Government of the United States except upon specific request of the Government of Sri Lanka.
4. The United States Government shall publish in the Federal Register this visa system upon receipt of the authorized visa stamp and signatures from the Government of Sri Lanka. The visa stamp will be similar to the sample attached to this letter. The visa system will become effective thirty days after the date of publication for shipments exported from Sri Lanka on and after that date and ninety days after the date of publication for shipments exported from Sri Lanka before that date.

Mr. T. Wijayapala Mendis,
Minister of Textile Industries,
Independence Square,
Colombo 7

5. Either Government may terminate, in whole or in part, this administrative arrangement by giving ninety days' written notice thereof to the other.

If the foregoing proposal is acceptable to your Government, this letter and your letter of acceptance on behalf of the Government of Sri Lanka shall constitute an administrative arrangement between our two Governments.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely,

(signed) W. Howard Wiggins,
American Ambassador

Attachment:
as noted above

cc: Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali,
Minister of Trade

Mr. N. Balasubramaniam,
Director of West Division,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA

No:.....

TEXTILE EXPORT VISA

.....
Signature

.....
Title

.....
Date

Republic of Sri Lanka,
City of Colombo,
Embassy of the United States

I, the undersigned consular officer of the United States of America, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and faithful copy of the original this day exhibited to me, the same having been carefully examined by me and compared with the said original and found to agree therewith word for word and figure for figure.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Embassy at Colombo, Sri Lanka, this twelfth day of March 1979.

(Signed) Donald R. Ness
American Vice Consul

23 March 1979

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

I refer to your letter dated 12 March 1979, proposing the visa system which should be adopted regarding exports to the United States of cotton, wool and man-made fibre apparel manufactured in Sri Lanka. Your proposal is acceptable to me subject to the proposed visa stamp carrying the words "Ministry of Textile Industries" in the bottom half of the circle of the stamp corresponding to the words "Government of Sri Lanka" on top.

I shall convey to you within the next few days the names and facsimile signatures of the officials who will be authorized to issue these export visas along with a revised version of the visa stamp incorporating the amendment I have suggested. Once this is received, you could convey it to your Government, so that this could be published in the Federal Register and this system could thereafter come into operation in terms of item 4 of your letter under reference.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) T. Wijayapala Mendis,
Minister of Textile Industries.

His Excellency W. Howard Wriggins,
American Ambassador,
American Embassy,
Colombo.

23 April 1979

The names, designations and signatures of the two officers authorized to issue export visas are given below. The stamp which will be placed on the Special Customs Invoice Form 5515, successor document or commercial invoice is also given.

1. Miss P.G. Peiris,
Asst. Secretary (Exports) I,
Ministry of Textile Industries,
Torrington Square,
Colombo 7. Signature.

2. Mr. D.P. Balachandra,
Asst. Secretary (Exports) II,
Ministry of Textile Industries,
Torrington Square,
Colombo 7. Signature.

C E R T I F I E D

(Signed) Vincent Panditi