

**GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE**

RESTRICTED

COM.TEX/SB/952*
5 July 1984

Special Distribution

Textiles Surveillance Body

Original: English

ARRANGEMENT REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TEXTILES

Notification under Articles 7 and 8

Visa Agreement between the United States and Thailand

The Textiles Surveillance Body has received a notification from the United States concerning a visa agreement between the United States and Thailand, for exports to the United States of cotton, wool and man-made fibre textile and apparel products from Thailand.

The TSB is forwarding the text of the notification to participating countries for their information.

¹The Article 4 bilateral agreement between the parties is contained in COM.TEX/SB/942.

*English only/anglais seulement/inglés solamente

UNITED STATES LETTER

September 7, 1982

Mrs. Oranuj Osatananda
Deputy Director-General
Department of Foreign Trade
Sanamchai Road
Bangkok 10200

Dear Dhun Oranuj:

I am writing with reference to paragraphs 12 and 13 of the Agreement between the United States and Thailand relating to trade in cotton, wool and man made fiber textiles and textile products, with annexes, effected by exchange of Notes dated October 4, 1978, as amended ("The Agreement"). On behalf of my Government, I would like to propose the following amendment to the existing visa agreement between our two Governments, established by exchange of Notes dated August 16, 1976 for exports to the United States of cotton, wool and man-made fiber textile and apparel products from Thailand:

1. Each commercial shipment of textile and apparel products subject to the terms of the Agreement and not covered by paragraphs two or three of this letter shall be visaed by the Government of Thailand before entry for consumption into the United States ("Entry").
2. Any shipment which is exempt from the quantitative levels of the Agreement shall be certified exempt by the Government of Thailand prior to the shipment's departure from Thailand. Exemption shall be based upon the provisions of paragraph 13 of the Agreement. The basis for exemption shall be stated on the certification by use of a description such as "less than 250 dollars", "handloomed fabric", "handmade cottage industry products of handloomed fabric", or the name of a particular traditional folklore handicraft product agreed to be exempt. Invoices for certified exempt items shall not include any non-exempt textile or apparel products.
3. Merchandise for the personal use of the importer, and not for resale, does not require a visa for entry.

4. A shipment shall be visaed or certified by the placing of original stamped marking (the visa or certification) in blue ink on the front of the invoice (special customs invoice Form 5515, successor document, or commercial invoice when such form is used). Each visa and certification shall include its number and date and the signature of the issuing official. A visa shall also state the correct category and quantity in the shipment in applicable category units. Attachments one and two are facsimiles of the visa and certification.

5. The Government of Thailand shall give the United States Government originals in duplicate of the visa stamped markings and of the signatures of the officials authorized to issue and sign them, which shall not exceed five. The Government of Thailand shall notify the Government of the United States in advance of any changes in the stamps or of authorized officials and shall provide originals in duplicate of the new stamped markings and of any newly authorized officials' signatures.

6. Upon receipt of the authorized visa stamps and signatures the Government of the United States shall publish a notice in the Federal Register regarding the visa system established herein. The Federal Register notice shall include the date the system becomes effective which shall be about six weeks following publication of the notice. The Government of the United States shall inform the Government of Thailand of the exact date as soon as it is determined.

7. Subject to paragraph 3, any shipment which is not accompanied by a valid and correct visa in accordance with the foregoing provisions or due to differences in category classification shall be denied entry by the Government of the United States on and after the effective date specified in the Federal Register notice unless the Government of Thailand specifically authorizes entry and appropriate charges to agreement levels. Notwithstanding this provision entry may be permitted if the quantity indicated on the export visa exceeds that of the shipment.

8. Where there is a serious divergence of opinion in regard to the classification of the product on the visa so issued in accordance with paragraph 4, both parties shall have recourse to paragraph 15 of the bilateral agreement regarding consultation.

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

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

Department of Foreign Trade
Ministry of Commerce
Bangkok

16 September 1982

Mr. Gary D. De Vight
First Secretary
Embassy of the United States of America
95 Wireless Road
Bangkok 4

Dear Mr. Gary D. De Vight,

We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 7 September 1982, which reads as follows:

UNITED STATES LETTER

We have further the honour to confirm our acceptance of the foregoing arrangement and to agree that your letter of 7 September 1982, and this letter shall constitute an administrative arrangement between our two governments.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Danai Tulalamba
Director-General