

# GENERAL AGREEMENT ON

## TARIFFS AND TRADE

RESTRICTED

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Special Distribution

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Textiles Surveillance Body

Original: English/  
French

### ARRANGEMENT REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TEXTILES

#### Notification under Articles 7 and 11:2

#### Canada Textile and Clothing Categorisation

The Textiles Surveillance Body received a notification from Canada of the conversion of Canada's product categories to the Harmonised System. The new categorisation became effective on 1 January 1993.

The TSB is forwarding the text of the notification, received under Articles 7 and 11:2, to participating countries for their information.

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\* English and French only/Anglais et français seulement/Inglés y francés solamente

**NOTICE TO IMPORTERS**

Serial No.: 440  
Date: 12 November 1992

**TEXTILES AND CLOTHING**

**CONVERSION OF PRODUCT CATEGORIES TO THE HARMONIZED SYSTEM**

**Coverage**

1. This Notice applies to imports of all textiles and clothing included in the Import Control List from all sources.

**Authority**

2. Under the authority of Paragraph 5(1)(e) of the Export and Import Permits Act (EIPA), import permits are required to import goods that are included in the Import Control List. Pursuant to Sections 8 and 10 of the EIPA, the Secretary of State for External Affairs may issue, amend, suspend, cancel or reinstate import permits.

**Restraint System**

3. Importers are advised that, effective 1 January 1993, the current category structure of Canada's restraints on imports of textiles and clothing will be replaced by a category structure based on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (generally known as the Harmonized System/HS). The objective of this conversion is to align the restraint system more closely with the HS classification system which is used internationally for trade classification purposes, and which is also used to develop domestic market statistics.

4. The HS conversion has been the focus of consultations with countries subject to bilateral restraint arrangements. As a consequence, these countries will administer their arrangements with Canada on the basis of the new category structure, beginning 1 January 1993. Restraints administered by Canada will also be converted to the HS, and importers will be advised of their allocations.

5. Canadian importers will need to refer to the relevant HS codes when applying for permits for the importation of textiles and clothing in 1993, irrespective of whether the product is to be imported from a restrained or non-restrained source.

6. A fundamental objective of the HS conversion has been to minimise changes in restraint levels and amendments of product descriptions. The conversion, itself, is designed to be neutral in its overall effects on trade flows. Product coverage will remain essentially the same as that which is currently in effect for most categories.

7. There are two major modifications imposed by the HS:

- (a) the elimination of unmatched coordinates; and
- (b) the creation of a category for babies' garments.

8. Unmatched coordinates are not recognised in the HS. Each component needs to be classified separately. The restraint levels for the respective component categories have been adjusted to reflect historical trade levels. Babies' garments (defined as being for a body height not exceeding 86 cm - sizes 0 to 24 months) will be established as new restraint Category 14. The 3 for 5 swing from adults into children's and babies' garments will be retained where it is currently applied. Garments of indeterminate gender, including unisex garments, will be treated as female garments.

9. In addition, ensembles (matching sets) will be separated by gender, with male ensembles grouped with male fine suits, jackets and blazers as Category 3, and female suits, ensembles, jackets and blazers grouped under Category 4. Woven shirts, blouses and similar articles will be distinguished from knitted items (including athletic wear) as Categories 7 and 8, respectively. In these cases, agreements have been reached with exporting countries to address problems which arise because of this distinction through special provisions for swing or mergers of new categories so as to replicate the existing restraint structure.

10. Under the HS, worsted fabrics will be defined as woven fabrics of combed wool or fine animal hair, or other woven fabrics mixed mainly or solely with combed wool or fine animal hair. Polyester/cotton fabrics will be defined as woven fabrics of cotton containing less than 85 per cent by weight of cotton mixed mainly or solely with polyester staple fibres, or woven fabrics of polyester staple fibres containing less than 85 per cent by weight of polyester mixed mainly or solely with cotton. Where these products are already under restraint, levels under the HS will be adjusted to take these changes into account.

11. Similar adjustments will be made in restraint levels for clothing to take into account that the fibre coverage of S-based restraints is based on the fibres that predominate in the weight of such garments.

12. In establishing this structure, the Export and Import Permits Bureau has devised a category numbering system that will apply uniformly across restraint agreements. While the category structure includes a number of sub-categories, as a rule the restraints will not be on a sub-category basis unless they are currently on that basis under an existing agreement. For instance, even though there are sub-categories within the winter outerwear category, this does not imply that there will be specific sub-restraints for most agreements. In most cases, the restraint will apply to winter outerwear, MBWGC.

13. A list of the new category structure is attached, along with an informal comparison of the current control description and of the HS-based categories which will come into effect in 1993.

14. Further details of the restraint arrangements with individual countries will be forthcoming upon completion of the bilateral HS conversion consultations. The revised Handbook of Import and Export Commodity Codes, incorporating the conversion, will be available shortly. Subscribers will be receiving a Notice with details on the procedures to follow to obtain the 1993 Handbook.

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SUMMARY OF CLOTHING CATEGORIESGROUP I

Short Description	Category	Sub-Category	Units
Coats, jackets and rainwear	1		NMB
- Coats		1.1	
- Jackets		1.2	
- Rainwear		1.3	
Winter outerwear	2		NMB
- Winter outerwear, MBWG		2.1	
- Winter outerwear, C		2.2	
Male casual and fine wear	3		NMB
- Fine suits, MBC		3.1	
- Ensembles, MBC		3.2	
- Jackets and blazers, MBC		3.3	
Female casual and fine wear	4		NMB
- Suits and ensembles WGC		4.1	
- Jackets and blazers, WGC		4.2	
- Dresses		4.3	
- Skirts		4.4	
Trousers, overalls and shorts	5		NMB
- Trousers, MB		5.1	
- Trousers, WG		5.2	
- Trousers, C		5.3	
- Overalls and coveralls		5.4	
- Shorts		5.5	
Tailored collar shirts, MBC	6		NMB
Woven shirts, blouses and similar articles	7		NMB
- Woven shirts and similar articles, MB		7.1	
- Woven blouses and similar articles, WG		7.2	
- Woven shirts, blouses and similar articles, C		7.3	

Short Description	Category	Sub-Category	Units
Athletic wear, k/c shirts, blouses and similar articles, T-shirts and sweatshirts	8		NMB
- k/c shirts, blouses and similar articles		8.1	
- T-shirts		8.2	
- Sweatshirts		8.3	
- Athletic wear		8.4	
Underwear	9		NMB
- Underwear, MB		9.1	
- Underwear, WG		9.2	
- Underwear, C		9.3	
Sleepwear, MBWG	10		NMB
- Sleepwear, MBWG		10.1	
- Bathrobes, MBWG		10.2	
- Sleepwear and bathrobes, C		10.3	
Sweaters	11		NMB
- Sweaters, MB		11.1	
- Sweaters, WG		11.2	
- Sweaters, C		11.3	
Swimwear	12		NMB
Foundation garments	13		DZN
Babies' garments	14		NMB
- Coats, jackets and rainwear		14.1	
- Trousers, overalls and shorts		14.2	
- Shirts, blouses and similar articles		14.3	
- T-shirts and sweatshirts		14.4	
- Dresses and skirts		14.5	
- Sleepwear		14.6	
- Underclothing		14.7	
- Sweaters		14.8	
- Other garments		14.9	

Short Description	Category	Sub-Category	Units
Other coated garments	15		NMB
Smocks and shop coats	16		NMB
Other garments	17		NMB

SUMMARY OF TEXTILE CATEGORIESGROUP II

Short Description	Category	Sub-Category	Units
Cotton yarn	21		KGM
Nylon yarn	22		KGM
- Nylon filament yarn		22.1	
- Nylon staple yarn		22.2	
Polyester yarn	23		KGM
- Polyester filament yarn		23.1	
- Polyester staple yarn		23.2	
Poly/cotton yarn	24		KGM
Acrylic staple yarn	25		KGM
Artificial yarn	26		KGM
- Viscose yarn		26.1	
- Other artificial filament yarn		26.2	
- Other artificial staple yarn		26.3	
Wool and wool blend fabric	31		KGM
- Combed wool fabric		31.1	
- Other wool fabric		31.2	
Cotton fabric	32		KGM
- Cotton fabric, unbleached		32.1	
- Cotton fabric, finished		32.2	
- Denim fabric		32.3	
Cut corduroy fabric	33		KGM
Nylon fabric	34		KGM
- Nylon fabric, unbleached		34.1	
- Nylon fabric, finished		34.2	
Polyester filament fabric	35		KGM



Short Description	Category	Sub-Category	Units
Poly/cotton fabric	36		KGM
- Poly/cotton fabric, unbleached		36.1	
- Poly/cotton fabric, finished		36.2	
Artificial fabric	37		KGM
- Poly/rayon fabric		37.1	
- Other artificial fabric		37.2	
Bed sheets and pillow cases	41		NMB
- Bed sheets		41.1	
- Pillow cases		41.2	
Toilet and kitchen linen	42		KGM
- Toilet and kitchen linen, cotton terry, woven		42.1	
- Toilet and kitchen linen, cotton terry, k/c		42.2	
- Toilet and kitchen linen, other		42.3	
Hosiery	43		PAR
- Hosiery, wool		43.1	
- Hosiery, non-wool		43.2	
Work gloves and liners	44		PAR
- Work gloves		44.1	
- Work glove liners		44.2	
Handbags	45		DZN
- Handbags, not coated		45.1	
- Handbags, coated		45.2	
Tablecloths	46		KGM

## APPAREL MIGRATION

Current Nomenclature		HS Based Nomenclature	
Control Description	Category	Short Description	
32 Winter outerwear	2.1	Winter outerwear, MBWG	
	2.2	Winter outerwear, C	
	14.0	Babies' garments	
37 Pants, overalls and outersHORTS	5.1	Trousers, MB	
	5.2	Trousers, WG	
	5.3	Trousers, C	
	5.4	Overalls and coveralls	
	5.5	Shorts	
	14.0	Babies' garments	
39 Shirts, blouses, T-shirts and sweatshirts	7.1	Woven shirts and similar articles, MB	
	7.2	Woven blouses and similar articles, WG	
	7.3	Woven shirts, blouses and similar articles, C	
	8.1	k/c Shirts, blouses and similar articles	
	8.2	T-shirts	
	8.3	Sweatshirts	
	14.0	Babies' garments	
40 Sleepwear and bathrobes	10.1	Sleepwear, MBWG	
	10.2	Bathrobes, MBWG	
	10.3	Sleepwear and bathrobes, C	
	14.0	Babies' garments	
41 Rainwear	1.3	Rainwear	
	14.0	Babies' garments	
	15.0	Other coated garments	

Current Nomenclature		HS Based Nomenclature	
Control Description		Category	Short Description
42    Sportswear		3.2	Ensembles, MBC
		4.1	Suits and ensembles, WGC
		4.2	Jackets and blazers, WGC
		4.3	Dresses
		4.4	Skirts
		8.4	Athletic wear
		14.0	Babies' garments
		*	Unmatched coordinates
43    Foundation garments		13.0	Foundation garments
44    Swimwear		12.0	Swimwear
		14.0	Babies' garments
45    Underwear		9.1	Underwear, MB
		9.2	Underwear, WG
		9.3	Underwear, C
		14.0	Babies' garments
46    Jackets and coats		1.1	Coats
		1.2	Jackets
		14.0	Babies' garments
		16.0	Smocks and shop coats
47    Fine suits and blazers, MBC		3.1	Suits, MBC
		3.3	Jackets and blazers, MBC
49    Shirts, tailored collar, MBC		6.0	Tailored collar shirts, MBC
50    Sweaters		11.1	Sweaters, MB
		11.2	Sweaters, WG
		11.3	Sweaters, C
		14.0	Babies' garments

\*Components of unmatched coordinates are apportioned among their respective categories.