

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 032598A]

Release of Stranded Marine Mammals to the Wild: Background, Preparation and Release Criteria

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Interior, have prepared draft guidance on the release of rehabilitated marine mammals to the wild. NMFS and FWS are requesting comments on this document before it is finalized.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before June 8, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the (Draft) *Release of Stranded Marine Mammals to the Wild: Background, Preparation and Release Criteria* may be obtained from, and written comments submitted to, the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Coordinator, Marine Mammal Division, Office of Protected Resources, 1315 East West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. A copy of the draft release guidelines is also available at www.nmfs.gov/tmcintyr/prot_res. Comments submitted via email or the internet will not be accepted.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Teri Rowles, phone 301-713-2322 or fax 301-713-0376.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 402 (a) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) requires the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Marine Mammal Commission, the Secretary of Interior, and other experts to develop objective criteria and guidance for determining at what point a rehabilitated marine mammal is releasable to the wild. This document provides a discussion of the current rules and regulations involving release of stranded animals, background information on rehabilitation and ethics of rehabilitation. The guidelines are divided into four sections: pinnipeds (seals, sea lions and walruses), cetaceans (whales and dolphins), sea otters, and sirenians (manatees). These are discussed separately so that the unique aspects of each can be addressed.

Within each section, four areas of consideration are presented: natural history, medicine, behavior, and release.

These areas of consideration identify specific criteria that should be addressed when considering an animal's release candidacy. Some of the criteria, if not met, dictate that an animal should not be released. However, many of the release criteria do not easily translate into yes-no release determinations. These issues must be evaluated together on a case-by-case basis, to determine if the animal's release satisfies the agencies' two fundamental criteria: the animal poses no threat to wild populations if released, and the animal is physically and behaviorally healthy and likely to survive.

Within each area of consideration, there are discussions of required treatment actions, strongly recommended actions, and suggested actions, which are based on current rules and regulations or on medical considerations. Data gap, suggested research and potential new evaluation techniques are also discussed. The agencies recognize that this field may be changing and plan to periodically update these guidelines as new information becomes available or new rules and regulations apply.

Dated: April 1, 1998.

Patricia A. Montanio,
Deputy Director, Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries.

[FR Doc. 98-9259 Filed 4-7-98; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Establishment of a New Export Visa Arrangement for Certain Cotton, Wool, Man-Made Fiber, Silk Blend and Other Vegetable Fiber Textiles and Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

April 2, 1998.

AGENCY: Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA).

ACTION: Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs establishing export visa requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 1, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Roy Unger, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Authority: Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854);

Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended.

The Governments of the United States and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia agreed to establish a new Export Visa Arrangement for certain cotton, wool, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textiles and textile products, produced or manufactured in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and exported from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on and after May 1, 1998. Products exported during the period May 1, 1998 through May 31, 1998 shall not be denied entry for lack of a visa. All products exported after May 31, 1998 must be accompanied by an appropriate export visa.

In the letter published below, the Chairman of CITA directs the Commissioner of Customs to prohibit entry of certain textile products, produced or manufactured in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and exported from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for which the Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has not issued an appropriate export visa.

A facsimile of export visa stamp is on file at the U.S. Department of Commerce in Room 3100.

A description of the textile and apparel categories in terms of HTS numbers is available in the CORRELATION: Textile and Apparel Categories with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (see **Federal Register** notice 62 FR 66057, published on December 17, 1997).

Interested persons are advised to take all necessary steps to ensure that textile products that are entered into the United States for consumption, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, will meet the visa requirements set forth in the letter published below to the Commissioner of Customs.

Troy H. Cribb,

Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

April 2, 1998.

Commissioner of Customs,
Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20229.

Dear Commissioner: Pursuant to section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1854); Executive Order 11651 of March 3, 1972, as amended; and the Bilateral Textile Agreement of November 7, 1997, between the Governments of the United States and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, you are directed to prohibit, effective on May 1, 1998, entry into

the Customs territory of the United States (i.e., the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico) for consumption and withdrawal from warehouse for consumption of cotton, wool, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable fiber textiles and textile products in Categories 200–239, 300–369, 400–469, 600–670 and 800–899, produced or manufactured in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and exported from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on and after May 1, 1998 for which the Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has not issued an appropriate export visa fully described below. Should merged categories or part categories become subject to import quota, the merged or part category(s) automatically shall be included in the coverage of this arrangement. Merchandise in the merged or part category(s) exported on or after the date the merged or part category(s) is added to the agreement or becomes subject to import quotas shall require a visa. Products exported during the period May 1, 1998 through May 31, 1998 shall not be denied entry for lack of an export visa.

A visa must accompany each commercial shipment of the aforementioned textile products. A circular stamped marking in blue ink will appear on the front of the original commercial invoice or successor document. The original visa shall not be stamped on duplicate copies of the invoice. The original invoice with the original visa stamp will be required to enter the shipment into the United States. Duplicates of the invoice and/or visa may not be used for this purpose.

Each visa stamp shall include the following information:

1. The visa number. The visa number shall be in the standard nine digit letter format, beginning with one numeric digit for the last digit of the year of export, followed by the two character alpha country code specified by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) (the code for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is "MK"), and a six digit numerical serial number identifying the shipment; e.g., 8MK123456.

2. The date of issuance. The date of issuance shall be the day, month and year on which the visa was issued.

3. The original signature of the issuing official and the printed name of the issuing official of the Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

4. The correct category(s), merged category(s), part category(s), quantity(s) and unit(s) of quantity of the shipment as set forth in the U.S. Department of Commerce Correlation and in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, annotated or successor documents shall be reported in the spaces provided within the visa stamp (e.g., "Cat. 340–510 DOZ").

Quantities must be stated in whole numbers. Decimals or fractions will not be accepted. Merged category quota merchandise may be accompanied by either the appropriate merged category visa or the correct category visa corresponding to the actual shipment (e.g., Categories 347/348 may be visaed as 347/348 or if the shipment consists solely of 347 merchandise, the

shipment may be visaed as "Cat. 347," but not as "Cat. 348"). If, however, a merged quota category such as 340/640 has a quota sublimit on Category 340, then there must be a "Category 340" visa for the shipment if it includes Category 340 merchandise.

U.S. Customs shall not permit entry if the shipment does not have a visa, or if the visa number, date of issuance, signature, printed name of the signer, category, quantity or units of quantity are missing, incorrect or illegible, or have been crossed out or altered in any way. If the quantity indicated on the visa is less than that of the shipment, entry shall not be permitted. If the quantity indicated on the visa is more than that of the shipment, entry shall be permitted and only the amount entered shall be charged to any applicable quota.

The complete name and address of a company actually involved in the manufacturing process of the textile product covered by the visa shall be provided on the textile visa document.

If the visa is not acceptable then a new correct visa or a visa waiver must be presented to the U.S. Customs Service before any portion of the shipment will be released. A visa waiver may be issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce at the request of the Embassy of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in Washington, DC, for the Government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The waiver, if used, only waives the requirement to present a visa with the shipment. It does not waive the quota requirement.

If the visaed invoice is deficient, the U.S. Customs Service will not return the original document after entry, but will provide a certified copy of that visaed invoice for use in obtaining a new correct original visaed invoice, or a visa waiver.

If import quotas are in force, U.S. Customs Service shall charge only the actual quantity in the shipment to the correct category limit. If a shipment from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has been allowed entry into the commerce of the United States with either an incorrect visa or no visa, and redelivery is requested but cannot be made, the shipment will be charged to the correct category limit whether or not a replacement visa or waiver is provided.

Merchandise imported for the personal use of the importer and not for resale, regardless of value, and properly marked commercial sample shipments valued at U.S.\$250 or less do not require an export visa for entry and shall not be charged to existing quota levels.

A facsimile of the visa stamp is enclosed.

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements has determined that these actions fall within the foreign affairs exception to the rulemaking provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(1). This letter will be published in the **Federal Register**.

Sincerely,

Troy H. Cribb,
Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

[FR Doc. 98–9122 Filed 4–7–98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

[OMB Control Number 0704–0232]

Information Collection Requirements; Contract Pricing

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice and request for comments regarding a proposed extension of an approved information collection requirement.

SUMMARY: In compliance with Section 3506(c)(2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), DoD announces the proposed extension of a public information collection requirement, and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology. This information collection requirement is currently approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for use through September 30, 1998. DoD proposes that OMB extend its approval for use through September 30, 2001.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by June 8, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed information collection requirement should be sent to: Defense Acquisition Regulations Council, Attn: Ms. Amy Williams, PDUSD(A&T)DP(DAR), IMD 3D139, 3062 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301–3062. Telefax (703) 602–0350.

E-mail comments submitted over the Internet should be addressed to: dfars@acq.osd.mil.

Please cite OMB Control Number 0704–0232 in all correspondence related to this issue. E-mail comments should cite OMB Control Number 0704–0232 in the subject line.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Amy Williams, at (703) 602–0131. A copy of this information collection requirement is available electronically via the Internet at: <http://www.dtic.mil/dfars/>

Paper copies may be obtained from Ms. Amy Williams,