

June 1999. For a more complete description of the trade mission, obtain a copy of the mission statement from the Project Officer indicated below. The recruitment and selection of private sector participants for these missions will be conducted according to the Statement of Policy Governing Department of Commerce Overseas Trade Missions announced by Secretary Daley on March 3, 1997.

U.S. Corporate Executive Office at Interpack '99, Dusseldorf, Germany, May 6-12, 1999.

Recruitment closes March 31, 1999  
For further information contact: April Stockfleet, Department of Commerce, Tel: 202-482-1599 Fax: 202-482-3159

U.S. Biotechnology Mission to Germany, Hamburg and Berlin/Brandenburg, June 7-11, 1999

Recruitment closes April 12, 1999  
For further information contact: April Stockfleet, Department of Commerce, Tel: 202-482-1599 Fax: 202-482-3159

Franchising Trade Mission to South America, Brazil, Argentina, and Chile, June 9-17, 1999

Recruitment closes April 15, 1999  
For further information contact: Richard Boll, Department of Commerce, Tel: 202-482-1135 Fax: 202-482-2669 or Bruce Harsh, Department of Commerce, Tel: 202-482-4582 Fax: 202-482-2669

Dated: March 5, 1999.

**Tom Nisbet,**

*Director, Promotion Planning and Support Division, Office of Export Promotion Coordination.*

[FR Doc. 99-6081 Filed 3-11-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-U

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Institute of Standards and Technology

#### Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program Center Performance Reporting

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or existing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1996, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506 (c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before May 11, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5327, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20230. Her "e" mail address is LEngel@doc.gov.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument and instructions should be directed to: Margaret Phillips, Manufacturing Extension Partnership, Building 301, Room C-100, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Stop 4800, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899; phone: (301) 975-4350, and fax: (301) 926-4340.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Abstract

This submission under the Paperwork Reduction Act represents a request for a new collection by the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology. The NIST MEP Center Performance Reporting is a series of data obtained from recipients of MEP center cooperative agreements to monitor and review past performance, analyze client results for reporting to local, state, and national stakeholders, and review and assess validity of future plans and objectives.

The Manufacturing Extension Partnership is a nationwide system of services and support for smaller manufacturers giving them unprecedented access to new technologies, resources, and expertise. Sponsored by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the MEP is comprised of a network of locally based manufacturing extension centers working with small manufacturers to help them improve their manufacturing competitiveness.

Obtaining specific information from centers about the center performance levels, client results, and proposed future actions is essential for National Institute of Standards and Technology officials to evaluate center and program strengths and weaknesses and plan improvements in center and program effectiveness and efficiency.

##### Method of Collection

Data will be gathered using a combination of Web-based submission, electronic submission, and submission of written documents.

##### Data

OMB Number: N/A.  
Form Number: N/A.

*Type of Review:* Regular Submission.  
*Affected Public:* Businesses or other for-profit organizations, state or local government.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 75.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours:* 3,000 hours.

*Estimated Time Per Response (total for all submissions):* 40 hours.

*Estimated Annual Cost:* There is no cost to respondents other than their time to respond to the survey.

## IV. Requests for Comments

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 shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 8, 1999.

**Linda Engelmeier,**

*Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 99-6103 Filed 3-11-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE: 3510-13-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 030899A]

#### International Whaling Commission; Meetings

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** NOAA makes use of a public Interagency Committee to assist in preparing for meetings of the International Whaling Commission (IWC). This notice sets forth guidelines for participating on the Committee and a tentative schedule of meetings and of important dates.

**DATES:** The April 7, 1999, Interagency Meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for tentative 1999 meeting schedules.

**ADDRESSES:** The April 7, 1999, meeting will be held in Room 1863, Herbert C. Hoover Building, Department of Commerce, 14th and Constitution, Washington, DC 20230.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Catherine Corson, (301) 713-2322.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The April 7, 1999, Interagency Committee meeting will review recent events relating to the IWC and issues that will arise at the 1999 IWC annual meeting.

The Secretary of Commerce is charged with the responsibility of discharging the obligations of the United States under the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, 1946. This authority has been delegated to the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, who is also the U.S. Commissioner to the IWC. The U.S. Commissioner has primary responsibility for the preparation and negotiation of U.S. positions on international issues concerning whaling and for all matters involving the IWC. He is staffed by the Department of Commerce and assisted by the Department of State, the Department of the Interior, the Marine Mammal Commission, and by other interested agencies.

Each year, NOAA conducts meetings and other activities to prepare for the annual meeting of the IWC. The major purpose of the preparatory meetings is to provide input in the development of policy by individuals and non-governmental organizations interested in whale conservation. NOAA believes that this participation is important for the effective development and implementation of U.S. policy concerning whaling. Any person with an identifiable interest in United States whale conservation policy may participate in the meetings, but NOAA reserves the authority to inquire about the interest of any person who appears at a meeting and to determine the appropriateness of that person's participation. Foreign nationals and persons who represent foreign governments may not attend. These stringent measures are necessary to promote the candid exchange of information and to establish the necessary basis for the relatively open process of preparing for IWC meetings that characterizes current practices.

#### **Tentative Meeting Schedule**

The schedule of additional meetings and deadlines, including those of the

IWC, during 1999 follows. Specific locations and times will be published in the **Federal Register**.

*April 7, 1999 (Department of Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover Building, Room 1863, Washington, D.C.):*

Interagency Committee meeting to review recent events relating to the IWC and to review U.S. positions for the 1999 IWC annual meeting.

*April 30 to May 3, 1999 (Grenada):* IWC Scientific Committee Working Groups.

*May 3 to 15, 1999 (Grenada):* IWC Scientific Committee.

*May 17 to 19, 1999 (Grenada):* IWC Whale Killing Methods Workshop.

*May 19 to 21, 1999 (Grenada):* IWC Commission Committee, Sub-committees and Working Groups

*May 24 to 28, 1999 (Grenada):* IWC 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting.

#### **Special Accommodations**

Department of Commerce meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Catherine Corson at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: March 9, 1999.

**Hilda Diaz-Soltero,**

*Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 99-6144 Filed 3-11-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F

#### **COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS**

##### **Adjustment of an Import Limit for Certain Cotton and Man-Made Fiber Textile Products Produced or Manufactured in Laos**

March 5, 1999.

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

**ACTION:** Issuing a directive to the Commissioner of Customs reducing a limit.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** March 15, 1999.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Roy Unger, International Trade Specialist, Office of Textiles and Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce, (202) 482-4212. For information on the quota status of this limit, refer to the Quota Status Reports posted on the bulletin boards of each Customs port, call (202) 927-5850, or refer to the U.S. Customs website at <http://www.customs.ustreas.gov>. For information on embargoes and quota re-openings, call (202) 482-3715.

#### **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 current limit for Categories 340/640 is being reduced for carryforward applied to the 1998 limits.

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 63 FR 71096, published on December 23, 1998). Also see 63 FR 53878, published on October 7, 1998.

**Troy H. Cribb,**

*Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.*

#### **Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements**

March 5, 1999.

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

Dear Commissioner: This directive amends, but does not cancel, the directive issued to you on September 30, 1998, by the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements. That directive concerns imports of certain cotton and man-made fiber textile products, produced or manufactured in Laos and exported during the twelve-month period which began on January 1, 1999 and extends through December 31, 1999.

Effective on March 15, 1999, you are directed to reduce the current limit for Categories 340/640 to 157,941 dozen<sup>1</sup>, as provided for under the terms of the current bilateral textile agreement between the Governments of the United States and the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements has determined that this action falls within the foreign affairs exception of the rulemaking provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(1).

Sincerely,

Troy H. Cribb,

*Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.*

[FR Doc. 99-6097 Filed 3-11-99; 8:45 am]

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<sup>1</sup> The limit has not been adjusted to account for any imports exported after December 31, 1998.