The National Textile and Apparel Team Newsletter

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http://otexa.ita.doc.gov
www.export.gov
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The National Textile and Apparel Team of the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Commercial Service, supports the U.S. textile and apparel industries export initiatives by offering a portfolio of international trade and counseling services.

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Bush Administration Officials Honor North Carolina Textile Companies for Export Achievement

Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Trade Development, Linda Conlin, and Deputy Assistant Secretary with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Jim Leonard, recently visited North Carolina in order to present local companies with Export Achievement Awards. The Export Achievement Award acknowledges companies for successful export initiatives.

Linda Conlin presented the Export Achievement Award to Unifi Inc., a Greensboro-based company. Unifi was presented the Export Achievement Award for their use of the Caribbean Basin Initiative, as an initiative that allows U.S.-made fibers and yarns to be transported to participating Caribbean Basin countries to be manufactured and then returned to the United States tariff-free. Unifi's fiscal year 2002 export volume to participating Caribbean Basin countries grew by 112 percent compared to fiscal year 2001. Their year-to-date fiscal year 2003 volume is already 165 percent ahead of last year. "The future of the domestic textile industry depends on taking full advantage of favorable trade legislation, and we are pleased that our efforts and success have been recognized by the Department of Commerce," said Flanagan, "We look forward to continuing to work with the Bush Administration to create an enhanced climate for success that will allow domestic textile manufacturers to compete, grow, and prosper."

Jim Leonard presented the Export Achievement Award to Asheboro Elastics Corporation. Asheboro Elastics Corporation

is a manufacturer of narrow elastic fabrics and currently sells products in approximately 20 countries, accounting for over 30 percent of total sales. Asheboro Elastics Corporation has been especially successful in export sales to Mexico and the Caribbean. The presentation of the award took place in front of workers representing all three shifts from all three Asheboro Elastics plants. "What I think is significant is that we make elastic here in Asheboro and we're shipping it to a lot of places – a lot of places", Keith Crisco said, adding that it would not be possible without the ongoing support of all the company's employees.

Making America's Trade Agreements Work for You
The Trade Compliance Center
http://export.gov/tcc

What is the TCC?
The Trade Compliance Center (TCC) is the U.S. Government's one-stop shop that helps American exporters facing foreign trade barriers and works to insure that "U.S. exporters receive the full benefits negotiated for them in our trade agreements with foreign nations. Our job is making America's trade agreements work for you!"

- *The TCC monitors compliance with U.S. trade agreements*
- *The TCC helps American companies facing unfair trade barriers overseas*

How do I use the TCC?
It's simple! Just one phone call, fax, or email does it. Tell them about your market barrier problem, and they will begin working on it.

The fastest way to use the hotline is on the web: http://www.export.gov/tcc
Or…Email the TCC at tcc@ita.doc.gov
Or…Fax the TCC at 202.482.6097
Or…Call the TCC at 202.482.1191

You may also report trade complaints to the TCC via the Public / Private Sector Partnership Program with local District Export Councils (DECs) or your trade association.

How can the TCC help you?
If you believe you are being treated unfairly in a foreign market or if you are encountering a foreign trade barrier that is limiting your ability to sell overseas, the TCC can help.

By contacting the TCC with one email, fax, or phone call, you are getting access to the entire trade expertise of the U.S. Government:

- Commerce Department
  - International Trade Administration
  - Patent and Trademark Office
  - National Institute of Standards and Technology
- State Department
- Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
- Agriculture Department
- Treasury Department
- U.S. Embassies around the world
- …And more!!!

How does the TCC work?
Once you call the TCC with a problem, the specialists there examine it and determine if one of the 290+ U.S. trade agreements, including the World Trade Organization agreements and the North American Free Trade Agreement, may give the U.S. trade rights in your situation.

The TCC then puts a team of experts to work on your problem. They work with the foreign government to ensure that you get the full rights that the U.S. Government bargained for.

The TCC can also work with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to initiate enforcement action under dispute settlement procedures if necessary.

For more information on the TCC, please contact Jennifer Boger at 202.482.0929 or email her at Jennifer.Boger@ita.doc.gov.

THE CANCUN MINISTERIAL: THE DOHA DEVELOPMENT ROUND AT MID-POINT

The Trade Ministers and other officials from the 146 World Trade Organization (WTO) Members will meet in Cancun, Mexico, on Sept. 10-14. The Fifth WTO Ministerial, as this meeting is formally known, will mark the mid-point in the current WTO negotiations, launched in Nov. 2001 and scheduled to conclude by the end of 2004. Why should U.S. business care about this event? What will happen there? Much is at stake in the current WTO negotiations, referred to as the Doha Development Agenda or DDA, for the U.S. and other WTO member countries. At the most basic level, moving forward boldly at Cancun and in the DDA negotiations as a whole will help determine whether the WTO can continue to serve as a forum for trade liberalization that promotes economic growth.

Trade is a vital component of the American economy. Considerable barriers continue to impede the ability of U.S. firms, large and small, to export agricultural, consumer and industrial goods as well as services. Bringing down those barriers could provide substantial benefits for U.S. exporters, who account for about a quarter of the country's economic growth and support about 12 million jobs—jobs that pay wages 13-18 percent higher than the U.S. average. One in three acres of American farms, representing over $56 billion in annual sales—are planted for export. Improved access to imported production inputs will help U.S. firms stay competitive with foreign producers. Consumers also benefit because of higher incomes and lower prices. Overall, success in the DDA negotiations could mean considerable annual savings for the average American family, which in turn means more disposable income and greater growth for the U.S. economy. The U.S. has ambitious goals for the DDA. The core of these negotiations is market access. We seek to significantly reduce or eliminate tariffs on all industrial trade, dramatically reform the agriculture sector, lower transaction costs by increasing transparency and promoting fair procedures in customs administration and government procurement.

The DDA negotiations are difficult and have reached a critical juncture. Deadlines for various aspects of the negotiations have come and gone over the past year. For instance, WTO Members missed internal targets for agriculture, non-agricultural market access and dispute settlement. A number of other important details WTO Members hoped to have concluded before Cancun, including those relating to developing country interests, remain unresolved. At Cancun, Ministers will have to take these issues on along with decisions on certain aspects of intellectual property protection and on whether to launch negotiations on transparency in government procurement, trade facilitation, competition, and investment. With such a full plate, will Cancun be a success?

The key area to watch is agricultural reform that has been named by developing and developed countries alike as a "must see" in the negotiations. Without progress on liberalizing agriculture trade, other issues likely will remain stalled. Importantly, the European Union (EU) in late June announced reform of its Common Agricultural Program. But it is unclear how far the EU will be able to move in the agriculture negotiations to reform its domestic supports, export subsidies and agriculture tariffs. With regard to industrial and consumer goods, the proposal issued by Chairman Girard contains many of the elements that will need to be in the final mix, but will require a significantly greater level of ambition to result in commercially meaningful market access improvements. In services, negotiations are on track, and need to be broadened and intensified.

So, what will happen at Cancun? In order to move the negotiation process forward, Ministers will seek broad agreement on the desired level of ambition for the negotiations and establishing milestones and deadlines for the time remaining. While it would be ideal for the Ministers also to agree on specifics, given the number of issues that remain undecided, this may not be possible in all areas of Cancun. After Cancun, then what? With the framework set by Ministers, specific details, such as the precise components of the tariff-cutting formula and specific sectors for tariff elimination or harmonization, can be negotiated this fall by

the established negotiating groups. This will leave a little over a year to complete the negotiations. With an ambitious mandate and clear guidance set by Ministers at Cancun, this still should be time enough to get the job done well.

For more information, call Eileen Hill, DOC/ITA/MAC/OMA at 202-482-5276. The World Trade Organization web site, www.wto.org, is also a good source of information.