

exception of the rulemaking provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(1).

Sincerely,
D. Michael Hutchinson,
*Acting Chairman, Committee for the
Implementation of Textile Agreements.*
[FR Doc. 02-28120 Filed 11-5-02; 8:45 a.m.]

BILLING CODE 3510-DR-S

COMMITTEE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

Determination under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)

October 31, 2002.

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

ACTION: Determination.

SUMMARY: The Committee for the
Implementation of Textile Agreements
(CITA) has determined that handloomed
fabric and handmade articles made from
such handloomed fabric that are
produced in and exported from
Botswana qualify for preferential
treatment under Section 112(a) of the
African Growth and Opportunity Act.
Therefore, imports of eligible products
from Botswana with an appropriate
AGOA Visa will qualify for duty-free
treatment under the AGOA.

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 18, 2002.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Anna Flaaten, International Trade
Specialist, Office of Textiles and
Apparel, U.S. Department of Commerce,
(202) 482-3400.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The
African Growth and Opportunity Act
(Title I of the Trade and Development
Act of 2000, Pub. L. No. 106-
2000)(AGOA) provides preferential tariff
treatment for imports of certain textile
and apparel products of beneficiary sub-
Saharan African countries. In a letter to
the Commissioner of Customs dated
January 18, 2001, the United States
Trade Representative directed Customs
to require that importers provide an
appropriate export visa from a
beneficiary sub-Saharan African country
to obtain preferential treatment under
section 112(a) of the AGOA (66 FR
7837). The first digit of the visa number
corresponds to one of 9 groupings of
textile and apparel products that are
eligible for preferential tariff treatment.
Grouping "9" is reserved for Handmade,
handloomed, or folklore articles.

In Section 2 of Executive Order 13191
of January 17, 2001, CITA is authorized
to "consult with beneficiary sub-
Saharan African countries and to
determine which, if any, particular

textile and apparel goods shall be
treated as being handloomed,
handmade, or folklore articles" (66 FR
7272). Consultations were held on
October 9, 2002, and CITA has now
determined that handloomed fabrics
and handmade articles made from such
handloomed fabrics produced in and
exported from Botswana are eligible for
preferential tariff treatment under
section 112(a) of the AGOA. In the letter
published below, CITA directs the
Commissioner of Customs to allow entry
of such products of Botswana under
Harmonized Tariff Schedule provision
9819.11.27, when accompanied by an
appropriate export visa in grouping "9."

James C. Leonard III,
*Chairman, Committee for the Implementation
of Textile Agreements.*

Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements

October 31, 2002.

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

Dear Commissioner: Department of the
Treasury, Washington, DC 20229. Dear
Commissioner: The Committee for the
Implementation of Textiles Agreements
(CITA), pursuant to Sections 112(a) of the
African Growth and Opportunity Act (Title I
of Pub. L. No. 106-200) (AGOA) and
Executive Order 13101 of January 17, 2001,
has determined that, effective on November
18, 2002 handloomed fabric produced in
Botswana and handmade articles produced
in Botswana from such handloomed fabric
shall be treated as being handloomed,
handmade, or folklore articles under the
AGOA, and that an export visa issued by the
Government of Botswana for Grouping "9" is
a certification by the Government of
Botswana that the article is handloomed,
handmade, or folklore. CITA directs you to
permit duty-free entry of such articles
accompanied by the appropriate visa and
entered under heading 9819.11.27 of the
Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United
States.

Sincerely,
James C. Leonard III,
*Chairman, Committee for the
Implementation of Textile Agreements.*
[FR Doc. 02-28195 Filed 11-5-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

TRICARE; Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services (CHAMPUS); Fiscal Year 2003 Diagnosis Related Group (DRG) Updates

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of DRG revised rates.

SUMMARY: This notice describes the
changes made to the TRICARE DRG-
based payment system in order to
conform to changes made to the
Medicare Prospective Payment System
(PPS).

It also provides the updated fixed loss
cost outlier threshold, cost-to-charge
ratios and the Internet address for
accessing the updated adjusted
standardized amounts and DRG relative
weights to be used for FY 2003 under
the TRICARE DRG-based payment
system.

DATES: The rates, weights and Medicare
PPS changes which affect the TRICARE
DRG-based payment system contained
in this notice are effective for
admissions occurring on or after
October 1, 2002.

ADDRESSES: TRICARE Management
Activity (TMA), Medical Benefits and
Reimbursement Systems, 16401 East
Centretech Parkway, Aurora, CO 80011-
9066.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Marty Maxey, Medical Benefits and
Reimbursement Systems, TMA,
telephone (303) 676-3627.

Questions regarding payment of
specific claims under the TRICARE
DRG-based payment system should be
addressed to the appropriate contractor.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The final
rule published on September 1, 1987 (52
FR 32992) set forth the basic procedures
used under the CHAMPUS DRG-based
payment system. This was subsequently
amended by final rules published
August 31, 1988 (53 FR 33461), October
21, 1988 (53 FR 41331), December 16,
1988 (53 FR 50515), May 30, 1990 (55
FR 21863), October 22, 1990 (55 FR
42560), and September 10, 1998 (63 FR
48439).

An explicit tenet of these final rules,
and one based on the statute authorizing
the use of DRGs by TRICARE, is that the
TRICARE DRG-based payment system is
modeled on the Medicare PPS, and that,
whenever practicable, the TRICARE
system will follow the same rules that
apply to the Medicare PPS. The Centers
for Medicare and Medicaid Services
(CMS) publishes these changes annually
in the **Federal Register** and discusses in
detail the impact of the changes.

In addition, this notice updates the
rates and weights in accordance with
our previous final rules. The actual
changes we are making, along with a
description of their relationship to the
Medicare PPS, are detailed below.