

The Office of Textiles and Apparel (OTEXA)



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U.S. Department of Commerce



The Office of Textiles and Apparel

- Trade Agreement Negotiation and Implementation
- Trade Data Publication
- Industry Research and Analysis
- Promote Made in USA
- Monitor Foreign Trade Concerns and Problems
- Information on Foreign Import Requirements

<http://otexa.trade.gov>

The screenshot shows the OTEXA website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Contact Us', 'About OTEXA', 'Site Map', and 'Home'. The main header features the 'INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION' logo and the title 'OFFICE OF TEXTILES AND APPAREL (OTEXA)'. A date stamp indicates 'Monday Nov. 4, 2013 4:02:08 PM'. The left sidebar contains a menu with categories: 'Trade Data' (Textiles and Apparel, Footwear, Leather & Travel Goods, The Textile Correlation), 'Trade Agreements' (Free Trade Agreements, CAFTA-DR, TPLs, Cumulation, Trade Preference Programs, AGOA, ATPDEA, CBTPA, Haiti, U.S. Imports/TRQs, Earned Import Allowance, Dom. Rep. 2 x 1, Haiti 2 x 1, Commercial Availability, Australia FTA, Bahrain FTA, CAFTA-DR, Colombia TPA, Korea FTA, NAFTA, Peru TPA, Singapore FTA, AGOA/ATPDEA/CBTPA, Wool TRQ, QUIZS), and 'Export Information' (Export Opportunities, Made in U.S.A. database). The main content area is titled 'Announcements' and lists several recent updates with dates and brief descriptions, such as public comments requested by November 15, 2013, and applications for 2014 Wool Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) licenses. A 'Past Announcements' link is also present. At the bottom, there are sections for 'Free Trade Agreements', 'Export Information', 'Trade Preference Programs', and 'Trade Data'.





Statutory Programs



- Dominican Republic (DR) Earned Import Allowance Program (EIAP)
 - A benefit for eligible apparel articles wholly assembled in the DR; for every 2 square meter equivalents (SMEs) of qualifying U.S.-made fabric, producers may use 1 SME of foreign (3rd party) fabric
 - Restricted to imports of certain apparel of bottom weight twill classified in HTSUS Chapter 62
 - Denim apparel does NOT qualify
- Haiti EIAP
 - For every 2 SMEs of qualifying U.S. fabric shipped to Haiti for production of apparel, producers may earn a 1 SME credit to be used for duty-free imports of apparel manufactured in Haiti using non-qualifying fabric
- The DR & Haiti EIAPs are administered by OTEXA, which reviews applications for the programs and issues accounts to eligible companies.





Haiti EIAP Website

The screenshot shows the website for the Office of Textiles and Apparel (OTEXA). The header includes the Department of Commerce logo and the text 'INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION'. Navigation links for 'Contact Us', 'About OTEXA', 'Site Map', and 'Home' are present. The date and time 'Tuesday June 30, 2015 4:40:58 PM' are displayed in the top right.

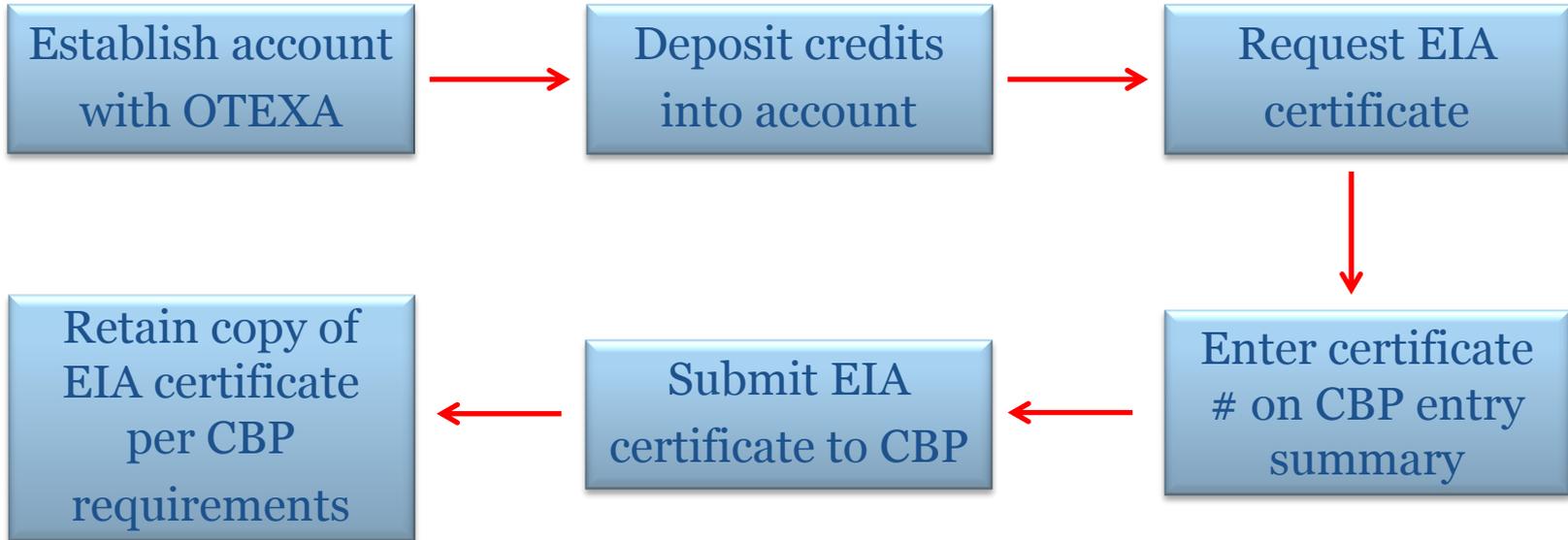
The main content area is titled 'Haiti Earned Import Allowance Program'. It contains a paragraph explaining the program's purpose and a section for 'Earned Import Allowance Program: Interim Procedures (issued 9/15/2008)'. Below this is a 'Frequently Asked Questions' section and a 'Webinar hosted by OTEXA' section with links for recording and presentation download.

The left sidebar contains a 'Trade Data' menu with various categories. Two red arrows point to 'Earned Import Allowance' and 'Panama TPA' in this menu. A red circle highlights the 'Earned Import Allowance' link, which has sub-links for 'Dom. Rep. 2 x 1' and 'Haiti 2 x 1'.

The bottom of the page includes a 'Return to Trade Preference Programs for Haitian Textiles and Apparel' link and contact information for Maria Dybczak or Laurie Mease.



Current EIAP Process Flow





Transition to ITDS/ACE

- OTEXA/CBP will implement new business rules with automated system validations. ACE will automatically check EIA certificate numbers and quantities against database of valid certificates issued by OTEXA.
- Automated checks: Possible errors
 - Failure to provide a certificate number when one is required
 - Attempting to use the same certificate number more than once
 - Invalid EIA certificate number
 - Imports in excess of the quantity authorized for a particular EIA certificate
- Sample condition codes for errors
 - 688 (informational): LIC/CERT/PERM FOR HTS MISSING (When an OTEXA EIA certificate is required, but not submitted)
 - 693 (fatal): MATCHING LIC/CERT/PERM NUMBER NOT FOUND (When the provided EIA certificate number is not found in OTEXA's database of valid EIA certificates)

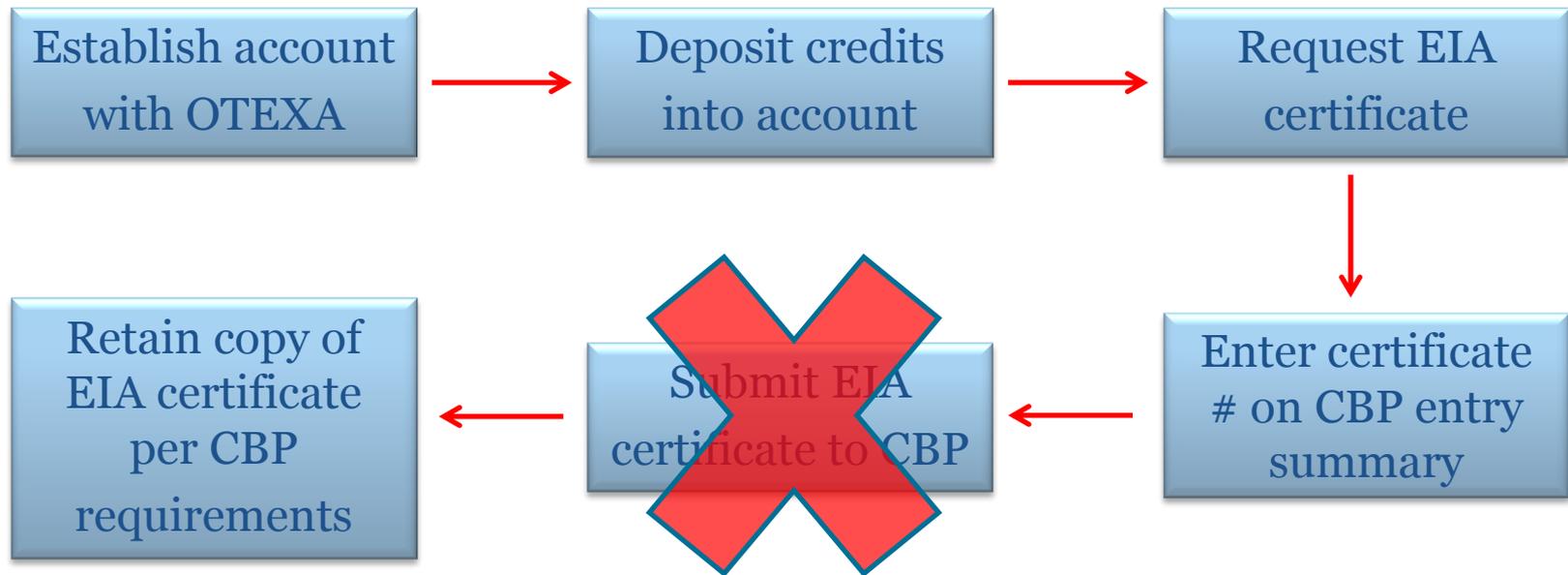
Transition to ITDS/ACE (cont.)

- Creation of new License/Permit/Certificate (LPC) codes for Haiti and Dominican Republic EIAPs
 - 13: Haiti Earned Import Allowance (Haiti 'Hope' Import Permit)
 - 25: Dominican Republic Earned Allowance Program
- Paper copies of EIA certificates will NOT need to be submitted to CBP **EXCEPT UPON REQUEST**. If CBP requests an EIA certificate, it will be transmitted via Document Imaging System (DIS).





Future EIAP Process Flow



Replaced with post-entry compliance reviews



Transition Milestones

- Quota entries must be filed in ACE as of July 23, 2016 – this includes all EIAP shipments
- Quota is currently available for testing in CERT
- Document Image System (DIS) will begin accepting electronic submission of EIA certificates in summer 2016
 - DIS Implementation Guide:
<http://www.cbp.gov/document/forms/dis-implementation-guide>
- New EIAP business rules will be in place by October 2016
- New communications interface between OTEXA and CBP is in place and final testing is being conducted



EIAPs: Key Things to Remember

- Account holders should continue to keep either paper or electronic copies of EIA certificates in accordance with CBP record-keeping requirements (5 years).
- In the course of a post-entry compliance review, CBP may request that importers provide a copy of the EIA certificate.
- OTEXA **CANNOT** provide duplicate copies of previously issued EIA certificates. Account holders (and/or their proxies) must be sure to properly maintain copies of all certificates.
- If account holders experience problems when requesting EIA certificates, they should contact OTEXA for assistance.

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Other Agency Requirements

- Other government agencies (PGAs) may have requirements that affect certain imports of textiles, apparel, footwear, and travel goods.
- Example: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) requirements related to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
 - May affect imports of certain goods containing leather and other animal skins, fur, mother of pearl buttons, etc.
 - Permits are required for import/export of these goods
 - More information:
 - <https://www.fws.gov/le/businesses.html>
 - https://help.cbp.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/64/~/-endangered-species,-cites,-endangered-wildlife,-plants,-exotic-skins-and-animals



Contact OTEXA

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Thank you!

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