



23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017

**Mr. Stephen Vaughn**  
**Acting United States Trade Representative**  
**Washington, D. C. 20508**  
**United States of America**

**Subject: Request to Modify the Rule of Origin under the U.S.-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement**

**Dear Mr. Vaughn,**

On behalf of the Kingdom of Bahrain, I am writing to request your assistance in taking appropriate action under the terms of the U.S.-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement ("FTA") to modify the applicable rules of origin for certain apparel articles using specific third-country fabrics due to a lack of commercial availability in the territory of the two parties.

In this regard, we request immediate consultations to amend the rules of origin, in accordance with the provisions of Article 3.2.3 of the FTA.

With the expiry of the Tariff Preference Level ("TPL") on July 31, 2016, the Bahrain textile and garment industry lost the benefit granted by this arrangement. This expiration impeded the apparel industry, which employed some 5000 people (mostly women), in our country with a population of just over 1 million people. Indeed, the loss of these jobs will be harmful for the Bahrain economy as a whole.

This request is being made with regard to a list of thirty five fabrics that we understand are not available within the United States or Bahrain within the terms of Article 3.2.4. This request for immediate consultations are based on the commercial needs of producers in Bahrain, including MRS, Ambattur and Noble. The specific list of fabrics for which we are requesting consultations, including item description, Fabric HTSUS & End Use HTSUS, are found in the Annex enclosed with this letter.

As mentioned above, given the impeded expiry of the TPL on July 31, 2016, we request that consultations under Article 3.2.3 be conducted in a timely manner, and that they take no longer than the 60 days specified in Article 3.2.5. This is of critical importance to the Kingdom of Bahrain, as we endeavor to revive the big influence of the apparel industry to our national economy from the loss of the TPL benefits.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and I am available to discuss with you anything related to this request for consultations to change the rule of origin related to these fabrics.

**With kind regards**

**Yours Sincerely,**



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**Zayed R. Alzayani**  
**Minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism**  
**Kingdom of Bahrain**

**Attached: Fabric Annex**

## CONSOLIDATED LIST OF FABRICS

No.	Item Description	FABRIC HTSUS	END USE HTSUS
1	Two-way stretch woven fabric of polyester (57-76%)/rayon (18-37%)/elastomeric (1-11%), classified in tariff item 5515.19.	5515.19	6204 6203
2	Dyed rayon blend (65-75% rayon/25-35% polyester) herringbone twill fabric, classified in subheading 5516.92, weighing more than 200 g/m <sup>2</sup>	5516.92	6204 6203
3	Two-way stretch woven fabric of polyester (50-85%)/viscose rayon (13-47%)/elastomeric (1-10%)	5515.11	6204 6203
4	One-way stretch woven fabric of polyester (50-85%)/viscose rayon (13-47%)/elastomeric (1-10%)	5515.11	6204 6203
5	Woven Polyester/Rayon/Elastomeric Fabric. 60-90% polyester, 10-40% rayon, 0-6% elastomeric, in subheadings 5407, 5512 and 5515	5407.52 5407.53 5407.61 5407.69 5407.72 5407.73 5407.92 5407.93 5512.19 5512.99 5515.12 5515.19	6204 6203
6	Woven indigo dyed fabrics of 95-100% cotton and 0-5% elastomeric	5208.39.6090 5208.39.8090	6204 6203
7	Cotton corduroy fabrics	5801.22	6204 6203
8	Polyester corduroy fabrics	5801.32	6204 6203
9	Dyed sateen fabrics of 93%-100% cotton / 0-7% elastomeric.	5209.39.0020	6204 6203
10	Dobby weave fabrics of 93-99% cotton / 1-7% elastomeric	5209.39.0080	6204 6203
11	Dobby Weave Fabrics 100% cotton	5209.39	6204 6203
12	Woven Modal-Polyester-Elastomeric Fabric. 50 - 95% spun modal rayon; 5 - 48% filament polyester; 0-5% elastomeric	5516.12 5516.13 5516.22 5516.23	6204 6203

No.	Item Description	FABRIC HTSUS	END USE HTSUS
13	Yarn-Dyed Woven Fabrics of Lyocell Staple Fiber and Cotton. 55-85% standard lyocell staple fiber; 15-45% cotton	5516.13 5516.43	6204 6203
14	Woven fabric of 67-80% rayon, 15-35% nylon, 2-6% elastomeric	5516.22.00 5516.23.00 5516.24.00	6204 6203
15	Bleached or dyed satin weave or twill weave fabric, of at least 60% lyocell, and up to 40% nylon, polyester, or elastomeric, of subheading 55.16, and does not meet the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 2112 or ASTM 1506 protective standards	5516	Woven Apparel in Chapter 62
16	Woven seersucker fabrics of cotton, of subheading 5208.42, 5208.52, or 5209.41	5208.42 5208.52	Woven Apparel in Chapter 62
17	Woven fabrics of 60-75% rayon, 30-35% nylon, and 1-5% elastomeric; of subheadings 5516.91, 5516.92, 5516.93, or 5516.94; bleached, dyed, printed or of yarns of different colors; weighing 200-350 g/m <sup>2</sup>	5516.91 5516.92 5516.93 5516.94	Woven Apparel in Chapter 62
18	Woven fabric of 50-84% rayon, 6-49% polyester, and 1-10% elastomeric, of heading 5408 or 5516; weighing less than 225 g/m <sup>2</sup>	5408 5516	Woven Apparel in Chapter 62
19	Woven fabric of 50-65% polyester, 34-49% rayon, and 1-10% elastomeric, of heading 5407, 5512, or 5515; weighing less than 225 g/m <sup>2</sup>	5407 5512 5515	Woven Apparel in Chapter 62
20	Woven fabric of 51-65% polyester and 35-49% rayon, of heading 5407, 5512, or 5515; weighing less than 225 g/m <sup>2</sup>	5407 5512 5515	Woven Apparel in Chapter 62
21	100% rayon woven fabric, of heading 5408 or 5516	5408 5516	Woven Apparel in Chapter 62
22	Woven jacquard fabrics of rayon staple fibers, of subheading 5516.13 or 5516.23, weighing 375 g/m <sup>2</sup> or less	5516.13 5516.23	Woven Apparel in Chapter 62

<b>No.</b>	<b>Item Description</b>	<b>FABRIC HTSUS</b>	<b>END USE HTSUS</b>
23	Woven two-way stretch twill fabric of 85-98% cotton, 2-15% elastomeric	5209.32	6203 6204
24	Woven two-way stretch twill fabric of 63-73% cotton, 20-30% polyester, 2-12% elastomeric	5211.43	6203 6204
25	Woven twill fabric of 77-87% cotton, 12-22% polyester, 0-6% elastomeric	5211.43	6203 6204
26	Knitted pile, lopped fabric Content : 90% Polyester 10% elastomeric Suede Yarn Court : Brushed P105x P50D+SP40D Weight: 300gsm Width CW57"	6001.22	Knit apparel of Chapter 60
27	Knit fabric of 85-97% polyester, 5-15% elastomeric	6004.10	Knit Apparel of Chapter 61
28	Knit fabric of 45-60% polyester, 35-50% cotton, 5-12% elastomeric	6004.10	Knit apparel of Chapter 61
29	Knit fabric of 59-75% rayon, 20-37% nylon, 0-10% elastomeric	6006.42	Knit Apparel of Chapter 61
30	Woven twill fabric of 51-61% viscose rayon, 34-44% cotton, 0-10% elastomeric	5516.42.0060	6203 6204
31	Woven two-way stretch twill fabric of 47-57% cotton, 36-46% rayon, 2-12% elastomeric	5211.32	6203 6204
32	Woven fabric of 92-100% cotton, 0-8% elastomeric	5209.31	6203 6204
33	Woven sateen fabric of 100% polyester	5407.69	6203 6204
34	Woven twill fabric of 40-50% polyester, 38-48% viscose rayon, 3-13% linen, 0-9% elastomeric	5515.11	6203 6204
35	Knit fabric of 68-78% polyester, 19-29% rayon, 0-8% elastomeric	6006.32	Knit apparel of Chapter 61