

ROYAUME DU MAROC

Ministère délégué auprès du Ministre de
l'Industrie, du Commerce, de l'Investissement
et de l'Economie numérique chargé du
Commerce extérieur



المملكة المغربية
الوزارة المنتدبة لدى وزير الصناعة
والتجارة والاستثمار والاقتصاد الرقمي
المكلفة بالتجارة الخارجية

22 JAN 2016

January 14, 2016

Mr. Joshua Teitelbaum,
Chairman
Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements
Room H3 100
U.S. Department of Commerce
14th Street and Constitution Avenue
Washington, DC 20230
United States of America

Subject: Request to Modify the Rules of Origin for Certain Apparel Articles under the United States-Morocco Free Trade Agreement

Dear Mr. Teitelbaum,

On behalf of HTL FASHION, company located in Morocco, I hereby submit this request regarding the amendment of rules of origin applicable to certain apparel Articles, to allow the use of certain third-country fabrics not commercially available in the countries of Morocco and the United states, in accordance with the provisions of Article 4.3 of our Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

HTL FASHION manufactures in Morocco and is one of the leaders of the best fashion brand and exports about 80% of the total production but 90% have been destined to the US market. As a fast fashion supplier, HTL Fashion has to ship the apparel good to the US market within a delay from one to two weeks and has to satisfy the highly-specialized commercial US client's requirements.

As you know, HTL Fashion, has been using the Tariff Preference Level "TPL" provision of the FTA with the United States to allow duty-free access for garment sector. However, knowing that this flexibility is set to expire on December 31st, 2015, the company will face serious difficulties and loss of employment in the sector.

According to the HTL Fashion, the fabric used by the company in its production is not commercially available in the territory of Morocco, neither in USA. That's why we request to allow importation from third countries, in accordance with the provisions of Article 4.3 of our free trade agreement.

The fabric subject to this request is composed of:

- 100% viscose classified under HTS subheading 5408.24 ; knowing that Viscose Crinkle fabric would be covered under the definition of fabric # 131 of the short supply list in the recently concluded



