

ROYAUME DU MAROC

Ministère de l'Industrie, de l'Investissement,
du Commerce et de l'Economie Numérique
Secrétariat d'Etat
chargé du Commerce Extérieur
DR41.01- 1032



المملكة المغربية
وزارة الصناعة والاستثمار
والتجارة والاقتصاد الرقمي
كتابة الدولة
المكلفة بالتجارة الخارجية

Ms. Terry LABAT,
Acting Chair
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

OCT 10 2017

Subject: Request to modify the rules of origin for certain apparel articles under the Morocco-United States Free Trade Agreement.

Dear Ms. LABAT,

On behalf of MODALINE HOLDING, located in Morocco, I hereby submit this request regarding the amendment of the rules of origin applicable for 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.

MODALINE HOLDING is a garment manufacturer specialized in smart wear products. The company is one of Talbots' biggest suppliers worldwide making no less than U.S. \$9.5 million turnover per year with this brand. Talbots' nominated third country fabric mills are based in Europe and Asia.

For the past 7 years, MODALINE HOLDING was producing for many other American brands such as Express, Chico's, White House Black Market and Banana Republic and was providing them all with high quality performance. The company exports more than 70% of its production to the United States. However, the expiry of the TPL provision has negatively affected its business and has caused loss of orders from American buyers.

MODALINE HOLDING's fabric concerned by the rule of origin change under the Morocco-USFTA is the one below. This fabric is not available in Morocco or the United States.

| No | Item description | HTS | End use |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 83-94% wool, 4-15% Nylon, 1-7% Spandex woven fabric of headings 5112.19 and 5112.20 | 5112.19, 5112.20 | - Pant with HTS code as 6204618010 - Skirt with HTS code as 6204510010 - Jacket with HTS code as 6204312010 |

We would appreciate the attention of your good offices to consider this request at an early opportunity and believe that by working cooperatively we can accelerate the process to ensure mutual benefit for both Moroccan and American companies.

Sincerely yours,

Rakiya EDDARHEM
Secretary of State in Charge of Foreign Trade
Ministry of Industry, Investment, Trade and Digital Economy
Kingdom of Morocco

RAKIYA EDDARHEM
SECRETARIE D'ETAT AUPRES DU MINISTRE
DE L'INDUSTRIE, DE L'INVESTISSEMENT
DU COMMERCE ET DE L'ECONOMIE NUMERIQUE
CHARGÉE DU COMMERCE EXTÉRIEUR