

NOTICE 644 OF 2005
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

**AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT: HAND-LOOMED;
HANDMADE AND FOLKLORE ARTICLES AND ETHNIC PRINTED FABRICS**

The Department of Trade and Industry hereby advises South African business of the duty-free treatment of certified Hand-loomed, Handmade and Folklore Articles and Ethnic Fabrics under the auspices of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). Note though that it is the prerogative of the **U.S.** Government, in particular the **US** Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, to determine which particular products shall be designated as Hand-loomed, Handmade and Folklore Textiles and Clothing products, and therefore qualify for duty free treatment, after consultation with an AGOA eligible country.

Eligible goods must be either:-

- (a) hand-loomed fabrics;
- (b) hand-made goods made of such hand-loomed fabrics and certified folkloric goods;
- (c) traditional folklore goods; or
- (d) ethnic printed fabric.

“Folklore articles” are generally apparel, apparel accessories or decorative furnishings. This part of the provision is limited and is intended to benefit producers making uniquely traditional and historical folklore goods.

1. Each item of folklore should include the folklore article's name as **well as** a detailed description of the article. The comprehensive description should include the size, dimension, shape, pattern, color and/or any other specific ways of identifying the product as a traditional folklore good of that country/region and also including historical aspects and usage.

2. The Folkloric goods may not include “modern” features such as zippers, elastic, elasticized fabric, hook-and-pile fasteners (such as “Velcro” or similar holding fabric). As each item's design must be uniquely traditional and historical in nature, patterns such as airplanes, buses, cowboys, cartoon characters and holiday/festival designs not common to sub-Saharan African culture, such as Halloween and Thanksgiving, would not be permitted.

"Ethnic printed fabrics" qualified under this paragraph are:

1. Fabrics containing a selvedge on both edges, having a width of less than 50 inches, classifiable under subheading 5208.52.30 or 5208.52.40 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States;
2. of the type that contains designs, symbols, and other characteristics of African prints-
 - a. normally produced for and sold on the indigenous African Market; and
 - b. normally sold in Africa by the piece as opposed to being tailored into garments before being sold in indigenous African markets;
3. printed, including waxed, in one or more eligible beneficiary sub-Saharan countries; and
4. fabrics formed in the United States, from yarns formed in the United States, or from fabric formed in the United States, or from fabric formed in one or more beneficiary sub-Saharan country from yarn originating in either the United States or one or more beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries.

The Textiles, Clothing, Footwear, Leather Task Team of **NEDLAC** has nominated the following persons to compile the ***Hand-Loomed; Handmade And Folklore Articles And Ethnic Printed Fabrics*** list:

Mr M Viljoen
Satiec
Tel 021 959 4162
Fax 021 959 4157
email: martinv@sans.co.za

Mr J Kramer
Frame Textiles
Tel 031 450 9460
Fax 031 462 4822
email: jorg.kramer@frame.co.za

Mr M Toet
Da Gama Textiles
Tel 043 703 1800
Fax 043 745 1571
email: mtoet@dagama.co.za

Interested parties are invited to make optimal use of this opportunity by submitting their list which should contain details including contact information of the company, descriptions and samples of each **Hand-Loomed; Handmade And Folklore Articles And Ethnic Printed Fabrics** products to the above-mentioned officials in order that the applications for AGOA duty free treatment can be entered on their behalf. The deadline for submitting this information is until the 31st of May 2005. For further information please contact Mr. Thabo Chauke at the Department of Trade Industry, tel. 012 394 3053.

11 April 2005

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