

# The Office of Textiles and Apparel (OTEXA)



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Office of Textiles and Apparel  
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 homepage of the Office of Textiles and Apparel (OTEXA). At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Contact Us', 'About OTEXA', 'Site Map', and 'Home'. The main header features the U.S. Trade Representative's logo and the text 'INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION' and 'OFFICE OF TEXTILES AND APPAREL (OTEXA)'. The date and time 'Monday Nov. 4, 2013 4:02:08 PM' are displayed in the top right. The main content area is divided into several sections: '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, QIZs), 'Export Information' (Export Opportunities, Made in USA database), 'Announcements' (listing several public comment requests and updates from 10/23/2013 to 08/12/2013), 'Free Trade Agreements' (Summary of the Agreements, Legal Texts and Documents, Trade Data, Safeguards, Commercial Availability), 'Export Information' (Export Opportunities, Going Global Guide, OTEXA Trade Events, Market Reports/Tariffs, Hot Issues), 'Trade Preference Programs', and 'Trade Data'. A 'Past Announcements' link is also visible.





# 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> 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 interface for the Office of Textiles and Apparel (OTEXA). The header includes the U.S. Department of Commerce logo, the text 'INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADMINISTRATION', and navigation links for 'Contact Us', 'About OTEXA', 'Site Map', and 'Home'. 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 list of links. Two red arrows point to 'Earned Import Allowance Program: Interim Procedures' and 'Earned Import Allowance: Online System'. A red circle highlights the 'Earned Import Allowance' link in the left sidebar.

**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  
Haiti Imports/Reg.  
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  
Panama TPA  
Peru TPA  
Singapore FTA  
AGOA/ATPDEA/CBTPA  
Wool TRQ  
QIZs

**Export Information**  
Export Opportunities  
Made in U.S.A. database  
OTEXA Trade Events  
Market Reports/Tariffs  
Hot Issues

**Reference Material**

**OFFICE OF TEXTILES AND APPAREL (OTEXA)**

**Haiti Earned Import Allowance Program**

The Earned Import Allowance Program (EIAP) provides duty-free entry for certain apparel from Haiti into the United States. For every two or three (depending on the date of the inquiry) square meter equivalents (SME) of qualifying fabric, one SME may enter the U.S. duty-free using third party yarn and fabric. Currently, OTEXA's Interim Procedures for the EIAP reflect the original program under HOPE II, with a "3 for 1" allowance. However, on May 24, 2010, HELP modified the EIAP by allowing one SME to enter duty-free for every two SMEs of qualifying fabric. OTEXA's forthcoming final procedures for the EIAP will reflect this modification.

Qualifying producers and their designated proxies can only access the EIAP through OTEXA's online system. The online system allows qualifying producers to request a new account, submit a request for a deposit into an existing account, redeem credits for import certificates, and review account balances and activity.

[Earned Import Allowance Program: Interim Procedures](#) (issued 9/15/2008)

[Earned Import Allowance: Frequently Asked Questions](#)

**Earned Import Allowance Program: Webinar hosted by OTEXA** (pre-HELP, reflecting "3 for 1" allowance)

[Recording - September 26, 2008](#)  
[Download Adobe Acrobat presentation](#)

**Earned Import Allowance: Online System**

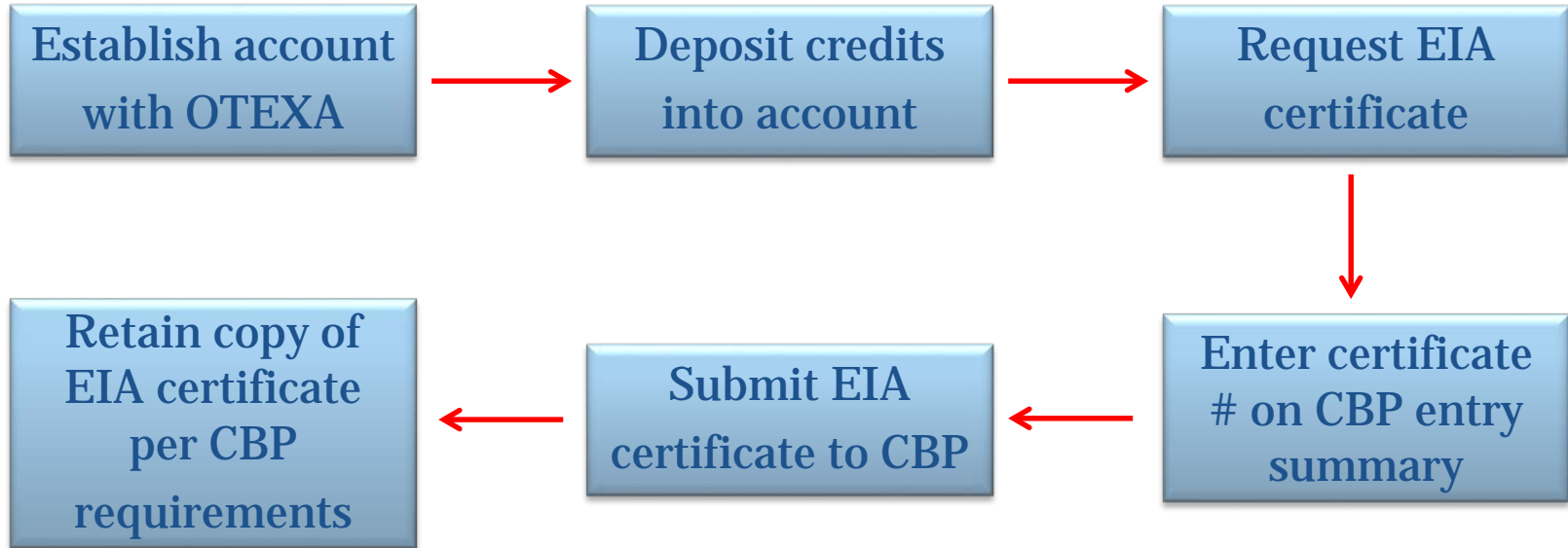
- » [Request a new account](#)
- » [Request a deposit into an existing account](#)
- » [Request an import certificate](#)
- » [Review account balances and activity](#)

[Return to Trade Preference Programs for Haitian Textiles and Apparel.](#)

If you have any questions regarding the Haiti EIAP, please contact Maria Dybczak or Laurie Mease at the U.S. Department of Commerce Office of Textiles and Apparel at 202-482-3400 or by [e-mail](#).



# 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)

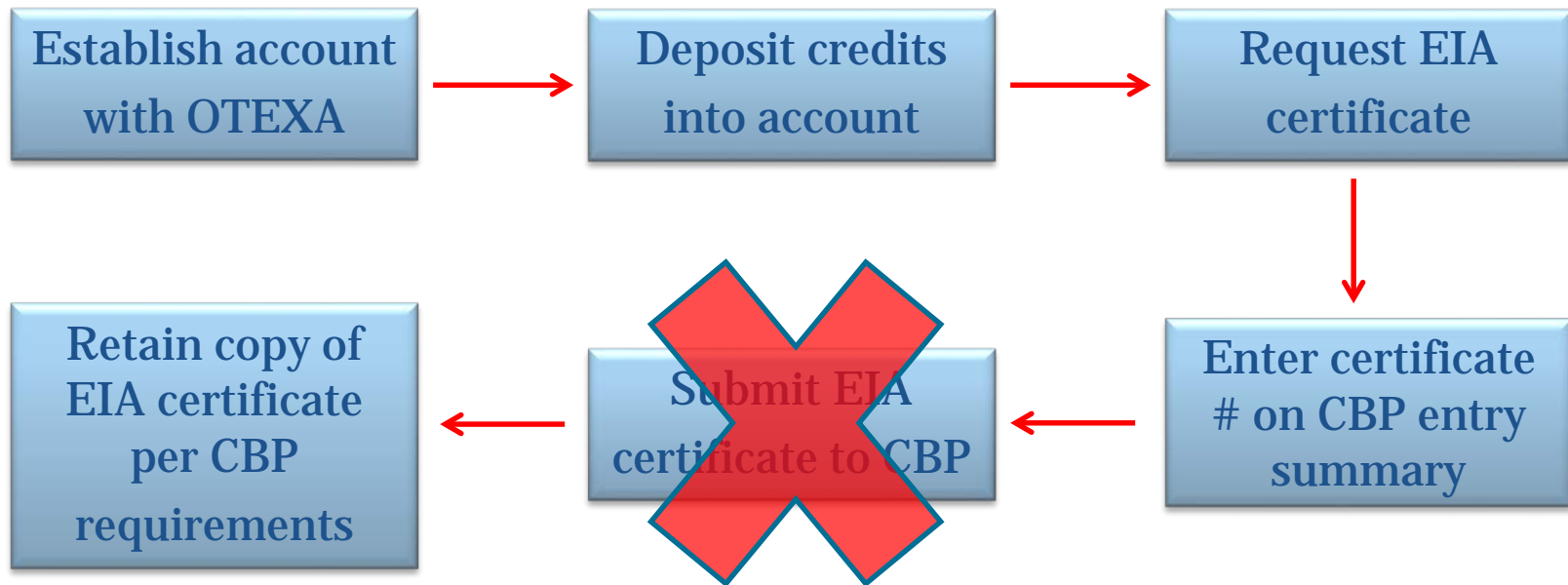
# Transition to ITDS/ACE (cont.)

- 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.

**[otexa.haiti@trade.gov](mailto:otexa.haiti@trade.gov)**

**[otexa.dr2for1@trade.gov](mailto:otexa.dr2for1@trade.gov)**



# 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](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!**  
Ευχαριστώ!

