



U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) recognizes the importance of textile trade and the critical need for enforcement in this sector. The enforcement of trade laws and regulations governing textiles is vital to keeping the U.S. economy strong. The United States' domestic textile industry employs approximately 594,000 U.S. workers and is the second largest exporter of textiles and apparel goods globally.

Textile and apparel goods have some of the highest duty rates of all commodities imported into the United States.

- In Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, textile and apparel imports generated \$15.9 billion in duties, or 23 percent of all duties collected by CBP in the amount of \$72 billion
- Higher duty rates make textiles susceptible to fraud and a top priority for CBP enforcement efforts.
- Schemes designed to circumvent textile tariff and trade laws include:
 - Illegal transshipment/origin fraud
 - Invalid Importers of Record
 - Inaccurate description
 - Undervaluation
 - Smuggling / Overstuffing
 - De minimis misuse of trade preference programs and free trade agreements
- Implementation of Section 301 trade remedies may increase existing textile duty rates for specific goods by 10 to 25%, respectively.

CBP maintains a robust and comprehensive enforcement strategy.

- Capacity building with industry partners, development of actionable trade intelligence, and international verifications and enforcement operations.
- Manage the enforcement of trade agreements and legislated preference programs, which allow eligible textile goods to enter the United States free of duty or at preferential duty rates.
- Collaborate with the trade community, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations, and other stakeholders to ensure textile imports fully comply with applicable laws.

In FY 2019, CBP's Textile Production Verification Team (TPVT) visited 76 factories in six countries to verify production and compliance with U.S. trade preference programs.

- CBP's TPVT program is key to trade preference program enforcement and verifying compliance of imported shipments claiming preferential duty treatment.
- In FY 2019, the TPVT program found a non-compliance rate of 34 percent.
- CBP works with foreign governments by supporting verifications of U.S. manufacturers to review compliance with trade preference programs claimed on exports of textiles and apparel.

Apparel, Footwear and Textile (AFT) Center of Excellence and Expertise (CEE)

The AFT CEE is one of 10 CBP CEEs that processes trade nationally using account-based principles within an industry sector.

The AFT CEE has employees located nationwide that process and review textile shipments regardless of the port of entry.

This allows CBP to manage workload efficiency, increase uniformity of practices, facilitate legitimate trade, and focus enforcement efforts to high risk and non-compliant areas.

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