

The Honorable Charlene Barshefsky
U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th street N.W.
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Barshefsky:

I refer to the letter from Mr. J. David Morrissy, the Executive Director: GSP program office of Trade and Development, to Mr. Samir Mansour, the Jordan Commercial Representative, dated November 21, 1996, concerning the certification arrangement to be established between our Government for the purpose of extending duty-free treatment to certain hand-loomed and folklore textile articles under the U.S Generalized System of Preferences.

On behalf of my Government I confirm that the procedure in you letter is acceptable to us. Accordingly, I enclose, in duplicate, the imprint of the official triangular stamp or seal to be used for these certifications and the name, signature, title and department of each of the government officials authorized to issue such certifications for purposes of the GSP program. My Government agrees to notify your Government promptly of any changes in the stamp or seal of authorized officials and to provide your Government with the originals of any new stamp or seal, or the newly authorized officials' names, signatures, titles and departments. My Government understands that the certification of shipments must be issued and dated prior to the date of export of the products to which it pertains and should accompany each GSP-eligible shipment of certified hand-loomed and folklore products.

My Government also understands that hand-loomed and folklore articles which are otherwise eligible for GSP treatment, but which do not qualify for such treatment under the procedures outlined in your letter, shall remain subject to the rates of duty otherwise applicable.

My Government agrees through Ministry of Industry & Trade / Jordan Export Development & Commercial Centers Corporation to verify the accuracy of the substance and procedures of the certification arrangement and recognizes the right of the U.S. Government, subsequent to consultation, to seek a mutually acceptable solution, to suspend in whole or in part, or to terminate, this certification arrangement, if the U.S. Government determines that it considers the certification arrangement unacceptable in substance or procedure.

My Government further agrees that for the purposes of the GSP program, "certified hand-loomed and folklore" products are defined as follows:

- (1) hand-loomed (i.e, not made on a power-driven loom) fabrics which are the product of a cottage industry;

- (2) hand-made (i.e, hand-cut, or hand sewn [i.e., not made on a treadle machine or any other type of sewing machine products of a cottage industry made from such hand-loomed fabrics; or
- (3) traditional folklore textile products, which have been made entirely by hand from such hand-loomed fabrics.

My Government concurs with your Government's proposal to afford one another an opportunity for consultations, as necessary, to resolve administrative difficulties, which may arise under this arrangement.

My government understands that the following six categories of articles may be made eligible for GSP treatment under the certified handcraft arrangement:

- (1) carpets and other textile floor coverings, knotted, whether or not made up, of wool or fine animal hair, in which the pile was hand-inserted or hand-knotted during weaving on knitting, with over 50 percent by weight of the pile being hair of the alpaca, guanaco, huarizo, misti, suri, or any combination of these hairs (HTS subheading 5701.10.13);
- (2) carpets and other textile floor coverings woven, not tufted or flocked, whether or not made up, including "Kelem", "Schumacks", "Karamanie" and similar hand-woven rugs (HTS subheading 5702.10.10);
- (3) carpets and other textile floor coverings, woven, not tufted or flocked, whether or not made up, including "Kelem", "Schumacks", "Karamanie" and similar hand-woven rugs, other, not of pile construction, made up, of wool or fine animal hair, woven, but not made on a power-driven loom (HTS subheading 5702.91.20);
- (4) Hand-woven tapestries of the type Gobelins, Flanders, Aubusson, Beauvais and the like, and needle-worked tapestries (for example, petit point, cross-stitch), whether or not made up, of wool or fine animal hair (HTS subheading 5805.00.20);
- (5) wall hangings of wool or fine animal hair, not knitted or crocheted (HTS subheading 6304.99.10); and
- (6) pillow covers of wool or fine animal hair (HTS subheading 6304.99.40).

My Government shall await notification by your Government establishing the date from which a certification arrangement for purposes of granting GSP duty-free treatment for certain hand-loomed and folklore textile articles will be in effect between our two Governments. My Government understands that such properly certified hand-loomed and folklore textile products from Jordan will be accorded GSP treatment, if they are entered, or withdrawn from warehouse, for consumption, on or after six weeks following the date on which notification is transmitted by your Government to my Government, provided that the articles concerned satisfy all other requirements normally applying to GSP-eligible products.

Sincerely,

Marwan J. Muasher
Ambassador