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Quality study finds most Chinese-made down garments up to standard

DATE: 2008/01/14

BEIJING, Jan. 8 -- Sample results released by the country's quality supervisor on Monday indicated that 99.1 percent of the down garments made in China are up to standard.

The sample inspection, conducted recently by the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of China (AQSIQ), mainly measured shell and lining fabric, filling, formaldehyde content, pH value and cleanliness. The survey covered 50 categories of down garments from 50 manufacturers in various areas. All major brands and "national quality-inspection-free products" passed various stringent tests, AQSIQ said. Bosideng, Eral and Yalu were the most popular brands with the highest qualities.

China is the world's top textile and garment producer and exporter. The export value of textiles and garments hit 160.7 billion U.S. dollars in the first 11 months of 2007, up 20 percent year-on-year, to account for 15 percent of the country's total exports, said the China National Textile and Apparel Council last Friday. Down garments made by Shanghai Mingrui Clothing Ltd. and Chongqing Huayu Clothing Ltd. failed inspections due to substandard shells and filling, respectively. They were asked by the AQSIQ to upgrade their quality within a given time.

Source: MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

Monthly Textile Indexes Show Improvement in December

DATE: 2008/01/18

China's monthly textile indexes for December showed improvement in most areas, with the gross index rising 1.37 percent to 1,214.86. The market sub-index rose 1.91 percent to 807.20, while the production sub-index increased 1.11 percent to 1,622.49. The only decline of any index occurred in the export sub-index, with the export price index falling 11.67 percent to 89.76. The export business index rose 21.58 percent to 1,394.88.

Source: globecotnews

CNEX:Total Export Quotas of Textile Products in 2008

DATE: 2008/01/17

Announcement No.90, 2007 of the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China, Releasing the Total Export Quotas of Agricultural Products, Industrial Products and Textile Products in 2008

In accordance with Regulations for Administration on Commodity Import and Export of the People's Republic of China and Measures for Administration on Quotas of Export Commodity, the total export quotas of agricultural products, industrial products and textile products are now announced. All qualified quotas applicants may, in line with relevant regulations, put forward applications to Ministry of Commerce through Economic and Trade Commission (office, bureaus) of the provinces, autonomous regions municipalities or cities specially designated in the state plan or directly put forward applications to Ministry of Commerce. Ministry of Commerce accepts applications from Nov 1, 2007 to Nov 15, 2007.

Total Export Quotas of Textile Products in 2008

Silk 26,000 tons

Pod 300 tons

*Source: Ministry of Commerce
Oct 23, 2007*

January-November 2007 Textile/Apparel Exports to EU are Flat

DATE: 2008/01/15

China exported 160.651 billion U.S. dollars (USD) worth of textiles and apparel during the January through November 2007 period. Nearly half of all exports or 71.654 billion USD has moved to Asian destinations, which represented a 17.12 percent year-on-year increase. The fastest-growing export destination was the ASEAN trade block, with January through November exports soaring 49.74 percent to 9.755 billion USD. Shipments to Italy surged 47.94 percent to 2.731 billion USD, while exports were up to the larger markets of Japan (3.48 percent to 18.675 billion USD) and Hong Kong (2 percent to 16.727 billion USD).

Exports to Europe, as a trade block, increased 17.61 percent to 40.175 billion USD; however shipments to the European Union, itself, declined .50 percent to 26.471 billion USD. Much more robust growth was noted in shipments to the U.S., which grew 19.95 percent to 24.568 million USD, while exports to Canada jumped 45.18 percent to 4.293 billion USD.

Cotton product exports gained 31.05 percent to 66.145 billion USD.

Source: globecotnews

The Rupp Report: News From The Cotton World

DATE: 2008/01/16

World cotton production is forecast at 33.9 million hectares in 2008-09. This is a less-than-1-percent increase despite the 14-percent increase in international cotton prices projected for 2007-08. Cotton prices are not increasing as much as prices of most competing crops in 2007-08, and these price relationships will affect planting decisions in 2008-09. Production is expected to increase slightly in mainland China and India, remain stable in Pakistan, and decline further in the United States.

Increase In The World Average Yield

Cotton production in the rest of the world is projected to rise by 5 percent to 11 million hectares. A projected 4-percent increase in the average yield could lead world cotton production to increase by 5 percent to 26.9 million tons in 2008-09. Global cotton mill use is projected at 27.5 million tons in 2008-09, only 1-percent higher than in 2007-08 because of the expectation that cotton prices will remain firm. As a result, a significant gap between world cotton production and mill use is expected to persist next season, resulting in a possible further decline in world cotton stocks to 10.7 million tons - a decrease of 5 percent - at the end of July 2009.

World Cotton Trade

World cotton trade is forecast to be quite stable at 8.7 million tons in 2008-09. A small increase in mainland Chinese imports could offset a decline in imports by the rest of the world. The Chinese Ministry of Finance announced at the end of December 2007 that the duty applied to sliding-scale duty import quotas - quotas supplementary to the regular 894,000-ton import quota associated with the 1-percent duty - would vary from 5 to 40 percent in 2008, versus 6 to 40 percent in 2007. However, no openings of sliding-scale duty quotas for 2008 have been announced yet.

World Cotton Production In 2007-08

The world production is estimated at 25.7 million tons in 2007-08, down 4 percent from last season, whereas world cotton mill use is forecast up 2 percent to 27.2 million tons. The projected gap between production and mill use of 1.5 million tons in 2007-08 implies an 11-percent reduction in world cotton stocks to 11.2 million tons by the end of July 2008. World cotton imports are forecast up 9 percent to 8.9 million tons, driven by expected larger Chinese imports than last season - 3.2 million tons versus 2.3 million tons.

Exports from the United States, India and Brazil are expected to increase, resulting in gains in market share for these countries. However, exports from Uzbekistan, the CFA zone in Africa, and Australia are expected to decline.

The Cotlook A Index - produced by Cotlook Ltd., an England-based cotton news group - averaged 69 US cents per pound in the first five months of 2007-08, 10 cents higher than during the same period of the previous year. The Bremen Cotton Report Secretariat, using the ICAC Price Model 2007, forecasts a season-average Cotlook A Index of 67 cents per pound in 2007-08 - the 95 percent confidence interval is between 61 and 72 cents per pound. The main variables in this model are the stocks-to-mill-use ratio in the world-excluding-China and the stocks-to-mill-use ratio in China. The projected price increase in 2007-08 is the result of an expected significant decrease in the stocks-to-mill-use ratio in the world-excluding-China from 58 percent in 2006-07 to 53 percent in 2007-08. This price forecast takes into account the average Cotlook A Index between August and December 2007.

Source: *Textile world*

Source: China Textile Network Company

US Textile Association Develops New Anti-Fraud Tool

DATE: 2008/01/16

The National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO) has developed a new online reporting system for textile and apparel companies to report fraud they encounter in the marketplace to US Customs and Border Protection. The program is designed to help improve the policing of illegal textile and apparel imports.

In announcing the program, NCTO Vice President Mike Hubbard said: "Customs fraud has risen to become the number-one issue we get calls about from our member companies. Our members are extremely frustrated because they see high levels of fraud without a corresponding increase in Customs activity."

Source: *Textile world*

Ticona To Add Capacity At Nanjing Complex

DATE: 2008/01/16

Florence, Ky.-based Ticona - the engineering polymers business of Celanese Corp., Dallas - will expand its production complex in Nanjing, China, with the addition of a 15,000-metric-ton compounding unit that will produce compounds for such Ticona engineering polymers as Fortron®, Vandar®, Riteflex®, Celanex®, Hostaform® and Vectra®. The expansion is expected to be complete in the first quarter of 2009.

The Nanjing complex is also home to a 600,000 metric ton acetic acid facility, a 300,000-metric-ton vinyl acetate monomer plant, a 100,000 metric ton acetic anhydride unit, and specialty acetyl derivatives units. In addition, a new Celstran® long fiber-reinforced thermoplastic facility is set to begin production at the complex early this year, while a 20,000-metric-ton GUR® ultra-high molecular weight polyethylene plant will begin production in the last half of 2008.

"Our Nanjing compounding unit will support our recently announced [Customer] Application Development Center in Shanghai," said Lindsey Deal, director, Asia business development, Ticona. "This will enable us to translate applications from other regions of the world, enhancing our ability to develop and expand regional applications based on advanced engineering polymers in the Ticona portfolio."

Set to open sometime this year, the Customer Application Development Center will offer Ticona customers support for product and mold design using computer-aided engineering, process optimization based on injection molding trials, material testing, troubleshooting and customer training.

Source: *Textile World*

Ever-Glory & La Chapelle to create LA GO GO Fashion

DATE: 2008/01/15

Ever-Glory International Group Inc a leading apparel manufacturer in the People's Republic of China announced it entered into a joint venture agreement with Shanghai La Chapelle Garment and Accessories Company Limited ("La Chapelle Garment") to begin the widescale launch of Ever-Glory's private-label clothing line. The agreement will create Shanghai LA GO GO Fashion

Source: China Textile Network Company

Co Ltd ("LA GO GO Fashion"), which will manufacture and market Ever-Glory's inaugural LA GO GO brand toward young, professional women.

"The development of LA GO GO is an important step for the new year, as we look to broaden our offerings to the domestic Chinese market and diversify our revenues by selling these higher-margin products," said Mr. Yihua (Edward) Kang, Ever-Glory's Chief Executive Officer. "The LA GO GO brand will provide high-quality, stylish fashions to our core customers - younger, professional women who love to shop and tend to spend more on clothing and accessories."

In conjunction with the agreement, Ever-Glory agreed to invest US \$1.4 million in La Chapelle Garment, for a 10% stake in La Chapelle. In turn, La Chapelle will use the proceeds to finance the joint venture. Under terms of the agreement, Ever-Glory, through its subsidiary Nanjing Goldenway Garments Co Ltd, will hold a 60% stake in LA GO GO Fashion, while La Chapelle Garment will hold the remaining 40% interest. La Chapelle Garment currently operates a network of 350 specialty counters in more than 40 cities in China, including Beijing, Chengdu, Nanjing, Shanghai, Suzhou and Tianjin.

Source: fibre2fashion