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# ❖ SPC&B Textile Report ❖

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A Newsletter for Clients of Sharretts, Paley, Carter & Blauvelt, P.C.

September 25, 2012

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## ***I. DR-CAFTA Fixes to be Effective October 13, 2012***

## ***II. FTC Seeks Comments on Proposed Care Labeling Changes***



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**I.** As previously reported, Congress passed legislation in August implementing certain “fixes” to the DR-CAFTA rules of origin; however, the fixes would not become effective until the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) announced that they would be effective in all of the parties. The USTR announcement is scheduled to be published in tomorrow’s *Federal Register*, effective for goods entered on and after October 13, 2012.

Among other things, the fixes include :

- Allowing the use of non-originating Spandex in the production of short supply garments;
- Including women’s sleepwear separates in the single transformation rule for pajamas and sleepwear;
- Expanding the coverage of sewing thread used in the production of originating garments that must be originating; and
- Allowing non-originating rib knit waistbands in short supply garments under certain circumstances.

**II.** The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is seeking comments on proposed changes to the care labeling rules. Written comments must be submitted on or before November 16, 2012. The proposed changes include the following:

- Allowing the inclusion of care instructions for professional wetcleaning. The FTC’s proposal would allow companies to choose whether or not to provide wetcleaning instructions; however, companies that currently state “Dry Clean Only” would have to substantiate that wetcleaning is not an appropriate cleaning method, or to simply state “Dry Clean.”
- Continuing to allow the use of ASTM care symbols in lieu of terms, and permitting the use of ISO

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symbols as well, with the caveat that companies would have to disclose that they were using the ISO symbols.

- Updating the definition of “dryclean” to include newer solvents used in cleaning without water.

If you would like more information on importing garments under DR-CAFTA or wish to file comments on the FTC’s proposed care labeling changes, either alone or in a joint effort with other companies, please contact Gail Cumins at [gcumins@spcblaw.com](mailto:gcumins@spcblaw.com) or Donna Shira at [dshira@spcblaw.com](mailto:dshira@spcblaw.com), or call us at 212-425-0055.