

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

DEPARTMENTAL REGULATION		Number: DR 1043-032
SUBJECT: Reestablishment of the Advisory Committee on Universal Cotton Standards	DATE: August 6, 2004	
	OPI: Agricultural Marketing Service	

1 PURPOSE

The Universal Cotton Standards Advisory Committee (Committee) was established on June 6, 1989 under provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended. The Committee was reestablished in 1991, 1994, 1997, and 2000 for two-year periods and is hereby reestablished. The purpose of the Committee is to review the American Upland Cotton Standards, which are prepared by the Department of Agriculture (USDA), and to make recommendations to USDA concerning establishment and revision of the cotton standards. The marketing of U.S. Upland cotton will be supported and abetted through recommendations from the worldwide cotton industry in the development of Standards for U.S. Upland cotton (the U.S. exported 11.3 million bales of cotton during the 2002-03 marketing year valued at \$2.4 billion, representing 68 percent of the U.S. crop.) This Committee provides for participation by domestic interest as well as the foreign cotton trade in making recommendations to USDA concerning changes in standards.

2 SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/CANCELLATIONS

The purpose of this Committee cannot be accomplished in less than 2 years, and reestablishment is in the public interest. No other existing

committee can complete the review function. Unless renewed, this regulation will expire 2 years from the date of filing.

This regulation supersedes Departmental Regulation 1043-32 dated June 19, 2000.

3 OFFICERS AND MEMBERSHIP

The Committee chairperson shall be selected from among its members. The Executive Secretary shall be the Deputy Administrator of the Cotton Program of the Agricultural Marketing Service of USDA.

The Secretary of Agriculture will appoint committee members from the domestic industry.

Equal opportunity practices in accordance with USDA policies will be followed in all appointments to the Committee. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by USDA, membership shall include to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

Committee membership will consist of the following:

a REPRESENTATION BY DOMESTIC INDUSTRY

The U.S. cotton industry's Committee membership will be comprised of 12 producers and ginners, 6 representatives of merchandising firms, and 6 representatives of textile manufacturers. Each member will have one vote. Accordingly, voting privileges will be divided as follows:

- (1) U.S. producers and ginners – 12 votes;
- (2) U.S. merchandising firms – 6 votes;
- (3) U.S. textile manufacturers – 6 votes.

b REPRESENTATION BY FOREIGN SIGNATORY ASSOCIATIONS

There will be two members from each of the foreign signatory associations. The respective signatory associations will designate these Committee members. Members will segregate into groups representing foreign signatory merchant associations and foreign signatory spinner associations with voting privilege divided as follows:

- (1) Foreign signatory merchant associations – 6 votes;
- (2) Foreign signatory spinner associations – 6 votes.

4 DUTIES

- a The Committee will review the Universal Standards for U.S. Upland cotton that are prepared by USDA and make recommendations to the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service regarding the establishment, revision, or change of the standards.
- b The vote of the committee and any recommendations received pertaining to the establishment, revision, or change of the standards will be published in the Federal Register. The disposition of recommendations, which pertain to policies, and programs of USDA shall be the sole responsibility of USDA, in accordance with Federal Laws and Regulations.

5 ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COST

All members shall serve without compensation, but may receive reimbursement of travel expenses and per diem in accordance with USDA travel regulations for the attendance of domestic industry members at meetings. The estimated average annual cost of operation for the term of the Committee is \$20,000 with .25 staff years or \$40,000 for the two-year term.

The estimate of costs is based on an assumption that two meetings will be held during the 2-year life of the Committee. These costs shall be paid from user fees collected under the U.S. Cotton Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 51-65).

6 NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

It is anticipated that two meetings will be held during the Committee's existence.

7 REPORTS/SUPPORT

- a Staff support essential to the execution of the committee's responsibilities shall be provided by the Agricultural Marketing Service.
- b The Committee reports to the Secretary of Agriculture through the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

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