



# communiqué

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## FOOTWEAR IMPORT QUOTAS

The Honourable Gerald Regan, Minister of State (International Trade), announced today that effective December 31, 1982 a further allocation of 1,900,000 pairs of leather footwear import quota is being made on a pro-rata basis to companies already holding quota to import leather footwear. Mr. Regan noted that this allocation, together with previously announced allocations, means that the total quota allotments to the footwear trade are now at the announced restraint level of 11.4 million pairs for the December 1, 1982 to November 30, 1983 period.

Mr. Regan stated that with this final allocation he expected that the import trade would now be in a position to ensure that consumers' footwear needs are met within the overall quota restraint on leather footwear imports. Individual importers would be advised of their specific allocations within 15 days.

Mr. Regan also announced that effective December 31, 1982 leather shoes and sandals valued for duty at \$45.00 Canadian and more per pair and leather boots valued for duty at \$75.00 Canadian and more per pair are exempt from the quota on imports of leather footwear. Those goods will continue to require import permits, but permits will be issued without restraint. In the recent past, imports of footwear above those price points have totalled approximately 500,000 pairs annually. The overall yearly level of the leather footwear quota remains unchanged at 11,400,000 pairs.

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As well, Mr. Regan announced that effective immediately, separate categories for boot imports have been established, so that timely information will be available on boot imports, as distinct from imports on shoes and sandals. This information will enable the government to determine whether separate quotas need be established for imports of boots, as opposed to the present system of allocating quota for boots, shoes and sandals together.

In announcing these changes in the quota administration Mr. Regan indicated both domestic and international considerations had been reviewed. The changes were made in accordance with Canada's rights and obligations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and followed meetings Mr. Regan has had with various trade, consumer and union groups representing the footwear sector.

Mr. Regan indicated the importance he attached to working closely with all participants in the footwear sector on questions relating to footwear import quotas, and advised he had invited representatives from the footwear sector to come forward to form an advisory group to whom he could turn for counsel and advice on an ongoing basis.