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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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FEB 27 2002
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February 25, 2002

Ms. Marcia Y. Kinter
Vice President – Government Affairs
Screenprinting & Graphic Imaging
Association International
10015 Main Street
Fairfax, Va. 22031-3489

Re: Request for opinion about apparel firms that perform silk screenprinting, RO-02-0011

Dear Ms. Kinter:

Thank you for your query about the above-captioned matter. The Department of Labor requires all apparel firms to register with the Department under Section 341 of the Labor Law if they employ production workers to do silk screenprinting or use other graphic imaging technologies on shirts, jackets, caps or other apparel items.

Section 340.c defines “apparel industry” to mean “the making, cutting, sewing, finishing, assembling, pressing or otherwise producing by any of the foregoing apparel industry services, any....apparel designed or intended to be worn by an individual which is to be sold or offered for sale.....[emphasis added].” Webster’s Third World Dictionary (1967) defines the term “produce” as “to cause to have existence.....or make [something] economically valuable.”

Because silk screening printing or using graphic imaging technologies on garments changes the nature of these garments and increases their value, such activities fall within the definition of “producing” apparel. Accordingly, employers who are engaged in the above mentioned activities must be required to register under Section 341 of the Labor Law. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours truly,

Charles Horwitz
Senior Attorney

cc: Thomas Glubiak, Chief, Apparel Industry Task Force