

Karen Ann Lunde

January 23, 2012

Federal Trade Commission
Office of the Secretary
Room H-113 (Annex G)
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580

RE: Textile Rules, 16 CFR Part 303, Project No. P948404

The purpose of this comment is to inform you of the situation that I am finding myself in at this time. About three weeks ago I received a certified mail letter from an attorney in Washington, D.C. stating that it appears my company is ""promoting, designing, manufacturing, and selling apparel that bears unauthorized reproductions ("Infringing Item") of one of"" her clients copyright-protected designs. She (the attorney) states "The Infringing Item bears a necktag with your RN number". Furthermore they want to be and are entitled to be compensated for this. Having to defend ourselves against this claim is very upsetting and very costly, all because the garment had our RN number on its label. The garment in question was not manufactured or sold by us. The garments that we imported and sold were hand knit and machine knit 100% wool sweaters and our last sale was in 1995.

Our RN number, according to the attorney, was on the garment's necktag. We have no knowledge as to who stole, or is using our RN number and/or who put it on the garment; however, of course we have to defend ourselves against this claim. I have not now used or ever used her clients design and I do not know or have any knowledge about this incidence. I have never even heard of her client.

We feel very strongly that something is wrong with the current system which allows this to go on without any consequences. We therefore would like to make the following suggestions:

- 1) The RN numbers should have a penalty clause attached to it with monetary fines for failure to comply with the regulations.
- 2) When obtaining or renewing the RN number it should require a signature under laws of perjury.
- 3) RN numbers should have renewal dates (2 to 5 years)
- 4) There should be swift enforcement action for violators.

- 5) Retailers/Wholesalers/Jobbers should be held responsible for checking and verifying that RN numbers are accurate and not stolen.
- 6) A database easily available for everyone to check and verify that RN numbers are correct and actually are from the suppliers of the garments.
- 7) The owner of the RN number should be able to recover all costs in defending themselves against fraudulent claims.

As a small business we hope that our experience in dealing with the theft and fraudulent use of our RN number will help you in making the rules stricter in this area. The cost of dealing with the legal issues involved in defending ourselves as law abiding citizens can be devastating. Punish the criminal who is the rule breaker.

Sincerely,

Karen A. Lunde