

# Development of a Textile Tracer System for U.S. Textile Industry

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## *Problem Statement:*

Foreign textile firms will use U.S. produced raw materials to manufacture their finished goods to avoid paying import tariffs when their products are exported to America for sale. Thus, foreign manufacturers will routinely falsify country-of-origin certifications to avoid paying these taxes. This deceptive practice results in millions of dollars in lost revenue annually.

## *Technical Approach:*

The application of micro tagging techniques to identify the source of imported textile material is a novel approach to controlling the import of such goods. They produced a cost-effective near-IR tagging system that can be covertly imprinted on raw textiles, has no impact on textile quality, & can be detected on finished goods.

## *Benefit:*

The Department of the Treasury - US Customs Service has a prototype system to identify the origin of imported textile products & thereby enforce US trade agreements.