

# **Importing into the United States**

## ***A Guide for Commercial Importers***

### A NOTE TO OUR READERS

The 2002 edition of *Importing Into the United States* contains material brought about pursuant to the Customs Modernization Act (Title VI of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act [P.L. 103-182, 107 Stat. 2057], which became effective on December 8, 1993). These modernization provisions have fundamentally altered the relationship between importers and the Customs Service by shifting to the importer the legal responsibility for declaring the value, classification, and rate of duty applicable to entered merchandise.

A prominent feature of the Mod Act, as it is known, is a relationship between Customs and importers characterized by "informed compliance," discussed in section three of this book, which starts on page 18. A key component of informed compliance is the shared responsibility between Customs and the import community, wherein Customs communicates its requirements to the importer, and the importer, in turn, uses reasonable care to assure that Customs is provided accurate and timely data pertaining to his or her importations.

This publication provides an overview of the importing process and contains general information about import requirements. We have made every effort to include essential importing requirements, but it is not possible for a book this size to cover all Customs laws and regulations. Importers should also be aware that this publication does not supersede or modify any provision of those laws and regulations. Legislative and administrative changes are always under consideration and can occur at any time. Similarly, quota limitations on commodities are also subject to change.

The facts and circumstances surrounding every import transaction differ, from the experience of the importer to the nature of the imported articles. For this reason, it cannot be overemphasized that although the information in this publication is provided to promote enhanced compliance with Customs laws and regulations, the information provided is for general information purposes only. Reliance solely on the information in this publication may not be considered reasonable care.

Because a publication this size also cannot cover all the laws and regulations governing the importation of specific products, we urge interested parties to contact their nearest Customs office for information on specific issues or questions. Customs offices not listed here can be found in local telephone directories under Department of the Treasury listings. Federal agencies whose laws Customs helps to enforce are listed in the Appendix.

Importers may also wish to obtain guidance from private-sector experts who specialize in Customs matters, for example, licensed customs brokers, attorneys, or consultants. Interested parties who wish to learn more about import and export regulations, procedures and requirements, or who are interested in other Customs publications, are invited to visit our Web site at: **[www.customs.gov](http://www.customs.gov)**.

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# CUSTOMS MISSION AND ORGANIZATION

## 1. ORGANIZATION

### MISSION

The major responsibility of the U.S. Customs Service is to administer the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended. The Customs Service is one of the nation's major border enforcement agencies, so it also has responsibility for enforcing some 400 laws and regulations on international traffic and trade for 40 other government agencies. The Customs Service's mission includes: protecting the nation's revenue by assessing and collecting duties, taxes and fees incident to international traffic and trade; controlling, regulating, and facilitating the movement of carriers, people, and commodities between the United States and other nations; protecting the American consumer and the environment against the introduction of hazardous or noxious products into the United States; protecting domestic industry and labor against unfair foreign competition; and detecting, interdicting, and investigating smuggling and other illegal practices aimed at illegally entering narcotics, drugs, contraband or other prohibited articles into the United States. Customs is also responsible for detecting, interdicting, and investigating fraudulent activities intended to avoid the payment of duties, taxes and fees, or activities meant to evade the legal requirements of international traffic and trade; and for detecting, interdicting, and investigating illegal international trafficking in arms, munitions, currency, and acts of terrorism at U.S. ports of entry.

### ORGANIZATION

The field organization consists of 20 Customs Management Centers (CMCs), each of which is divided into service ports, area ports, and ports of entry. These organizational elements are headed, respectively, by CMC directors, service and area port directors, and port directors. Import transactions are conducted at service ports, area ports, and ports of entry, so these locations will be of primary interest to the trade community. The Customs Service is also responsible for administering the customs laws of the Virgin Islands of the United States.

### SERVICE/AREA PORTS

PORT	ADDRESS	PHONE	FAX
Anchorage, AK 99501	605 W. Fourth Ave.	907-271-2675	907-271-2684
Atlanta, GA 30354	700 Doug Davis Dr.	404-763-7020	404-763-7038
Baltimore, MD 21202	40 S. Gay St.	410-962-2666	410-962-9335
Baton Rouge, LA 70809	5353 Essen Lane	504-389-0261	504-389-0260
Blaine, WA 98230	9901 Pacific Highway	360-332-5771	360-332-4701

Boston, MA 02222-1059	10 Causeway St., Ste. 603	617-565-6147	617-565-6137
Buffalo, NY 14202	111 W. Huron St.	716-646-3 400	716-551-5011
Calais, ME 04619	One Main St.	207-454-3621	207-454-7122
Calexico, CA 92231	P.O. Box 632	760-768-2300	760-768-2301
Champlain, NY 12919	198 West Service Rd.	518-298-8311	518-298-8314
Charleston, SC 29401	200 E. Bay St.	843-579-6500	843-579-6611
Charlotte, NC 28217	1901-K Cross Beam Drive	704-329-6100	704-329-6103
Charlotte/Amalie, VI	Main Post Office-Sugar Estate/St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00801	340-774-2510	340-776-3489
Chicago, IL 60607-4523	610 S. Canal St.	312-353-6100	312-353-2337
Christiansted, VI	P.O. Box 249/St. Croix, Virgin Islands 00820	809-773-1490	809-778-7419
Cleveland, OH 44130	6747 Engle Rd. Middleburg Heights	440-891-3800	440-891-3836
Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX 75261	P.O. Box 619050 DFW Airport	972-574-2170	972-574-4818
Denver, CO 80239	4735 Oakland St.	303-361-0712	303-361-0722
Derby Line, VT 05830	Interstate 91	802-873-3489	802-873-3628
Detroit, MI 48226	477 Michigan Ave., Suite 200	313-226-3177	313-226-3179
Douglas, AZ 85607	First St. & Pan American Ave.	520-364-8486	520-364-2313
Duluth, MN 55801	515 W. First St.	218-720-5201	218-720-5216
El Paso, TX 79907	797 S. Zaragosa Rd.	915-872-5721	915-872-5723
Grand Rapids, MI 49512	Kent County Airport	616-456-2515	616-285-0188
Great Falls, MT 59401	21 Third Street North, Ste 201	406-453-7631	406-453-7069
Greenville/Spartansburg, SC 29650	150-A West Phillips Road Greer, SC	864-877-8006	864-848-3454
Harrisburg, PA	Harrisburg Int'l Arpt, Bldg #135 Middletown, PA 17057-5035	717-782-4510	717-948-9294
Hartford, CT 06103	135 HighH St.	860-240-4306	860-240-4309
Highgate Springs, VT	RR 2, BOX 170 Swanton, VT 05488	802-868-2778	802-868-2373
Honolulu, HI 96813	101 Bishop St. Pacific Tower 25 <sup>th</sup> Floor	808-522-8060	808-522-8081
Houlton, ME 04730	RR 3 Box 5300	207-532-2131	207-532-6622
Houston/Galveston, TX	2350 N. Sam Houston Pkwy. E., Ste.1000 Houston, TX 77032	281-985-6700	281-985-6706
Jacksonville, FL 32206	2831 Talleyrand Ave.	904-232-3476	904-232-1992
Kansas City, MO 64116	4100 North Mulberry Drive Room 110	816-584-1994	816-584-8431
Laredo/Colombia, TX	P.O. Box 3130 Laredo, TX 78044	956-726-2267	956-726-2948
Los Angeles Airport Area, CA	11099 S. La Cienega Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90045	310-215-2618	310-215-2013
Los Angeles/Long Beach Seaport Area, CA	300 S. Ferry St. Terminal Island, CA 90731	310-514-6003	310-514-6769
Louisville, KY 40202	601 W. Broadway	502-582-5186	502-625-7224
Miami Airport, FL	6601 N.W., 25th St. Miami, FL 33102	305-869-2800	305-869-2822
Miami Seaport, FL	1500 Port Blvd. Miami, FL 33132	305-536-5261	305-536-5282

Milwaukee, WI	6269 Ace Industrial Dr. Cudahy, WI 53110	414-571-2860	414-762-0253
Minneapolis, MN 55401	Second Ave., South, Ste. 560	612-348-1690	612-348-1630
Mobile, AL 36602	150 N. Royal St., Rm. 3004	334-441-5106	334-441-6061
Nashville, TN 37227	P.O. Box 270008	615-736-5861	615-736-5331
New Orleans, LA 70130	423 Canal St.	504-670-2391	504-670-2123
New York, NY 10119	One Penn Plaza	201-443-0367	201-443-0595
New York/JFK Area	Bldg. #77, JFK Jamaica, NY 11430	718-553-1542	718-553-0077
New York/Newark Area	1210 Corbin St. Elizabeth, NJ 07201	201-443-0200	201-443-0550
Nogales, AZ 85621	9 N. Grand Ave.	520-287-1410	520-287-1421
Norfolk, VA 23510	200 Granby St., Ste. 839	757-441-3400	757-441-6630
Ogdensburg, NY 13669	127 N. Water St.	315-393-0660	315-393-7472
Orlando, FL 32827	5390 Bear Road	407-825-4300	407-648-6827
Oroville, WA 98844	Route 1, Box 130	509-476-2955	509-476-2465
Otay Mesa, CA	9777 Via De La Amistad San Diego, CA 92173	619-661-3305	619-661-3049
Pembina, ND 58271	112 W. Stutsman St.	701-825-6201	701-825-6473
Philadelphia, PA 19106	2nd & Chestnut Sts.	215-597-4606	215-597-8370
Phoenix, AZ 85034	3002 E. Old Tower Rd., Ste 400	602-914-1400	602-914-1409
Port Huron, MI 48060	526 Water St.	810-985-7125	810-985-3516
Portland, ME 04101	312 Fore St.	207-780-3327	207-780-3420
Portland, OR 97238	P.O. Box 55580	503-326-2865	503-326-3511
Providence, RI 02905	49 Pavilion Ave.	401-941-6326	401-941-6628
Raleigh/Durham, NC	120 Southcenter Ct., Ste. 500 Morrisville, NC 27560	919-467-3552	919-467-0706
Richmond, VA 23231	4501 Wmsburg Rd, Ste. G	804-226-9675	804-226-1197
San Antonio, TX 78216	9800 Airport Blvd.	210-821-6965	210-821-6968
San Francisco, CA 94111	555 Battery St.	415-782-9200	415-705-1226
San Juan, PR 00901	Number One La Puntilla	787-729-6850	787-729-6678
San Luis, AZ 85349	P.O. Box H	520-627-8854	520-627-9850
San Ysidro, CA 92073	720 E. San Ysidro Blvd.	619-662-7201	619-622-7374
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783	Intl. Bridge Plaza	906-632-7221	906-632-6171
Savannah, GA 31401	1 East Bay St.	912-652-4256	912-652-4435
Seattle, WA 98104- 1049	1000 2nd Ave, Ste. 2100	206-553-0770	206-553-2940
St. Albans, VT 05478	P.O. Box 1490	802-524-6527	802-527-1338
St. Louis, MO 63134	4477 Woodson Rd.	314-428-2662	314-428-2889
Syracuse, NY	4034 S. Service Rd. N. Syracuse, NY 13212	315-455-8446	315-454-8224
Tacoma, WA 98421	2202 Port of Tacoma Rd.	253-593-6336	253-593-6351
Tampa, FL 33605	1624 E. Seventh Ave., Ste. 101	813-228-2385	813-225-7309
Tucson, AZ 85706	7150 S. Tucson Blvd.	520-670-6461	520-670-6648
Washington, DC 20041	P.O. Box 17423	703-318-5900	703-318-6706
Wilmington, NC 28401	One Virginia Ave.	910-815-4601	910-815-4581

PORTS OF ENTRY BY STATE  
(Including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands)

ALABAMA

Birmingham  
Huntsville  
Mobile

ALASKA

Alcan  
Anchorage  
Dalton Cache  
Fairbanks  
Juneau  
Ketchikan  
Sitka  
Skagway  
St. Paul  
Valdez  
Wrangell

ARIZONA

Douglas  
Lukeville  
Naco  
Nogales  
Phoenix  
San Luis  
Sasabe  
Tucson

ARKANSAS

Little Rock-N. Little Rock

CALIFORNIA

Andrade  
Calexico  
Eureka  
Fresno  
Hueneme  
Los Angeles-Long Beach  
Palm Springs  
Port San Luis  
San Diego

San Jose  
San Francisco-Oakland  
Tecate  
San Ysidro-Otay Mesa

COLORADO

Broomfield  
Denver  
Englewood

CONNECTICUT

Bridgeport  
Hartford  
New Haven  
New London

DELAWARE

Wilmington/Chester

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Dulles Airport

FLORIDA

Daytona Beach  
Fernandina Beach  
Ft. Myers  
Jacksonville  
Key West  
Melbourne  
Miami  
Ocala  
Orlando  
Panama City  
Pensacola  
Port Canaveral  
Port Everglades  
Port Manatee  
Sanford  
Sarasota  
St. Petersburg  
Tampa  
West Palm Beach

GEORGIA

Atlanta  
Brunswick  
Savannah

HAWAII

Honolulu  
Hilo  
Kahului  
Nawiliwili-Port Allen

IDAHO

Boise  
Eastport  
Porthill

ILLINOIS

Chicago  
Decatur  
Dupage  
Peoria  
Rockford  
Rock Island-Moline\*  
Waukegan  
Wheeling  
(See Davenport, Iowa)

INDIANA

Evansville/Owensboro, Ky.  
Ft. Wayne  
Indianapolis  
Lawrenceburg/Cincinnati, Ohio

IOWA

Davenport-Rock Island-Moline\*  
Des Moines

KANSAS

Wichita

KENTUCKY

Lexington  
Louisville  
Owensboro/Evansville, Ind.

LOUISIANA

Baton Rouge  
Gramercy  
Lake Charles  
Morgan City  
New Orleans  
Shreveport/Bossier City

MAINE

Bangor  
Bar Harbor  
Bath  
Belfast  
Bridgewater  
Calais  
Eastport  
Fort Fairfield  
Fort Kent  
Houlton  
Jackman  
Jonesport  
Limestone  
Madawaska  
Portland  
Rockland  
Van Buren  
Vanceboro

MARYLAND

Baltimore/Annapolis/Cambridge/Crisfield

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston  
Fall River  
Gloucester  
Lawrence  
New Bedford  
Plymouth  
Salem  
Springfield  
Worcester

MICHIGAN

Battle Creek

Detroit  
Grand Rapids  
Muskegon  
Port Huron  
Saginaw-Bay City/Flint  
Sault Ste. Marie  
Ypsilanti

MINNESOTA

Baudette  
Crane Lake  
Duluth and Superior, Wis.  
Ely  
Grand Marais  
Grand Portage  
International Falls-Ranier  
Isle Royal  
Minneapolis-St. Paul  
Noyes  
Pinecreek  
Rochester  
Roseau  
Warroad

MISSISSIPPI

Greenville  
Gulfport  
Jackson  
Pascagoula  
Vicksburg

MISSOURI

Kansas City  
St. Joseph  
St. Louis  
Springfield

MONTANA

Butte  
Del Bonita  
Great Falls  
Morgan  
Opheim  
Piegan

Raymond  
Roosville  
Scobey  
Sweetgrass  
Turner  
Whitetail  
Whitlash

NEBRASKA

Omaha

NEVADA

Las Vegas  
Reno

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Lebanon  
Portsmouth

NEW JERSEY

Atlantic City  
Morristown  
Perth Amboy (See New York/Newark)

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque  
Columbus  
Santa Teresa

NEW YORK

Albany  
Alexandria Bay  
Binghamton  
Buffalo-Niagara Falls  
Cape Vincent  
Champlain-Rouses Point  
Clayton  
Massena  
New York  
    Kennedy Airport Area  
    Newark Area  
    New York Seaport Area  
Ogdensburg  
Rochester/Sodus Point

Syracuse/Utica/Oswego  
Trout River/Chateaugay/Fort Covington

NORTH CAROLINA

Beaufort-Morehead City  
Charlotte  
Durham  
Raleigh/Durham  
Wilmington  
Winston-Salem

NORTH DAKOTA

Ambrose  
Antler  
Carbury  
Dunseith  
Fargo  
Fortuna  
Hannah  
Hansboro  
Maida  
Nече  
Noonan  
Northgate  
Pembina  
Portal  
Sarles  
Sherwood  
St. John  
Walhalla  
Westhope

OHIO

Ashtabula/Conneaut  
Cincinnati  
Cleveland  
Columbus  
Dayton  
Toledo/Sandusky  
Wilmington

OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma City  
Tulsa

OREGON

Astoria\*  
Coos Bay  
Medford  
Newport  
Portland\*

PENNSYLVANIA

Erie  
Harrisburg  
Lehigh Valley  
Philadelphia  
Pittsburgh  
Wilkes-Barre/Scranton

PUERTO RICO

Aguadilla  
Fajardo  
Guanica  
Humacao  
Jobos  
Mayaguez  
Ponce  
San Juan

RHODE ISLAND

Newport  
Providence

SOUTH CAROLINA

Charleston  
Columbia  
Georgetown  
Greenville-Spartanburg  
Myrtle Beach

SOUTH DAKOTA

Sioux Falls

TENNESSEE

Blountville  
Chattanooga  
Knoxville  
Memphis

Nashville

TEXAS

Addison  
Amarillo  
Austin  
Brownsville/Los Indios  
Corpus Christi  
Dallas/Ft. Worth  
Del Rio/Amistad Dam  
Eagle Pass  
El Paso  
Fabens  
Freeport  
Ft. Worth  
Hidalgo/Pharr  
Houston/Galveston  
Laredo/Columbia  
Lubbock  
Midland  
Port Arthur/Sabine\*  
Port Lavaca-Point Comfort  
Presidio  
Progreso  
Rio Grande City/Los Ebanos  
Roma/Falcon Dam  
San Antonio

UTAH

Salt Lake City

VERMONT

Beecher Falls  
Burlington  
Derby Line  
Highgate Springs  
Norton  
Richford  
St. Albans

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas  
Christiansted  
Coral Bay

Cruz Bay  
Frederiksted

#### VIRGINIA

Alexandria  
Dublin  
Dulles Airport (See Washington D.C.)  
Front Royal  
Norfolk-Newport News  
Richmond  
Roanoke Airport

#### WASHINGTON

Aberdeen  
Anacortes\*  
Bellingham\*  
Blaine  
Boundary (Frontier)  
Danville  
Everett\*  
Ferry  
Friday Harbor\*  
Frontier  
Laurier  
Longview\*  
Lynden  
Metaline Falls  
Moses Lake  
Neah Bay\* (Port Angeles)  
Nighthawk  
Olympia\* (Tacoma)  
Oroville  
Point Roberts  
Port Angeles\*  
Port Townsend\*  
Seattle\*  
Spokane  
Sumas  
Tacoma\*

#### WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

#### WISCONSIN

Ashland  
Green Bay  
Manitowoc (Milwaukee)  
Marinette (Milwaukee)  
Milwaukee  
Racine  
Sheboygan (Milwaukee)

\* Consolidated Ports:

Columbia River port includes Longview, WA, and Astoria and Portland, OR.  
Beaumont, Orange, Port Arthur, Sabine port of entry includes ports of the same name.  
Port of Puget Sound includes Tacoma, Seattle, Port Angeles, Port Townsend, Neah Bay, Friday Harbor, Everett, Bellingham, Anacortes, and Olympia in the State of Washington.  
Port of Rock Island includes Moline and Davenport, IA.  
Port of Shreveport includes Bossier City, LA.  
Designated user-fee airports: Fargo, ND; Ft. Myers, FL; Ft. Wayne, IN; Jackson, MS; Klamath County, OR; Lebanon, NH; Lexington, KY; Midland, TX; Morristown, NJ; Oakland-Pontiac, MI; Rockford, IL; Sanford, FL; St. Paul, AK; Waukegan, IL; Wilmington, OH; Yakima, WA.

## CUSTOMS MANAGEMENT CENTERS

### ARIZONA

4740 North Oracle Rd.  
Tucson, AZ 85705  
520-670-5900  
Fax 670-5911

### CARIBBEAN AREA

#1 La Puntilla St.  
San Juan, PR 00901  
787-729-6950  
Fax 729-6978

### EAST GREAT LAKES

4455 Genesee St  
Buffalo, NY 14225  
716-626-0400  
Fax 626-1164

### EAST TEXAS

2323 S. Shepherd St.  
Houston, TX 77019  
713-387-7200  
Fax 387-7202

### GULF

423 Canal St.  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
504-670-2404  
Fax 670-2286

### MID AMERICA

610 S. Canal St.  
Chicago, IL 60607  
312-983-9100  
Fax 886-4921

### MID ATLANTIC

103 S. Gay St.  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
410-962-6200  
Fax 962-2449

MID PACIFIC

33 New Montgomery St.  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
415-744-1530  
Fax 744-7005

NEW YORK

One Penn Plaza, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10119  
201-443-0367  
Fax 443-0595

NORTH ATLANTIC

10 Causeway St.  
Boston, MA 02222  
617-565-6210  
Fax 565-6277

NORTH FLORIDA

1624 E. Seventh Ave.  
Tampa FL 33605  
813-228-2381  
Fax 225-7110

NORTH PACIFIC

P.O. Box 55700  
Portland, OR 97238  
503-326-7625  
Fax 326-7629

NORTHWEST GREAT PLAINS

1000 Second Ave.  
Seattle, WA 98104  
206-553-4678  
Fax 553-1401

SOUTH ATLANTIC

1691 Phoenix Blvd.  
College Park, GA 30349  
770-994-4100  
Fax 994-4122

SOUTH FLORIDA

909 SE First Ave.  
Miami, FL 33131  
305-810-5120  
Fax 810-5143

SOUTH PACIFIC  
One World Trade Center  
P.O. Box 32639  
Long Beach, CA 90815  
562-980-3100  
Fax 980-3107

SOUTH TEXAS  
P.O. Box 3130  
Lincoln-Juarez Bridge, Admin Bldg #2  
Laredo, TX 78044  
956-718-4161  
Fax 794-1015

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
610 W. Ash St., Ste. 1200  
San Diego, CA 92101  
619-557-5360  
Fax 557-5394

WEST GREAT LAKES  
613 Abbott St.  
Detroit, MI 48226  
313-226-2955  
Fax 226-3118

WEST TEXAS/NEW MEXICO  
9400 Viscount Blvd.  
El Paso, TX 79925  
915-633-7300  
Fax 633-7392

## U.S. CUSTOMS OFFICERS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

### Austria

Customs Attaché  
American Embassy  
Boltzmanngasse 16  
A-1091 Vienna  
Tel: 43-1-313-39-2112

### Belgium

U.S. Mission to the  
European Communities  
40 Blvd. Du Regent  
B-1000  
Brussels  
Tel: 011-322-209-9334

### Canada

Customs Attaché  
U.S. Customs Service  
490 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1N 1G8  
Tel: (613) 238-4470 Ext. 322

### China

Customs Attaché  
American Embassy  
XIV SHUI BE1 JIE2  
Beijing, 100600  
Peoples' Republic of China  
Tel: 011-86-10-6500-3012

### France

Customs Attaché  
American Embassy  
58 bis Rue la Boetie  
75008 Paris  
Tel: 331-4312-7400

Germany

American Embassy  
U.S. Customs Service  
Customs Attaché  
Clayalle 170  
14195 Berlin  
Tel: 011-49-30-8305-1470

U.S. Customs Service  
American Consulate  
Platenstrasse 9  
60320 Frankfurt AM Main  
Tel: 011-49-69-7535-3630

Hong Kong

American Consulate General  
11/F., St. John's Building  
33 Garden Road  
Room 221  
Central, Hong Kong  
Tel: 011-852-2230-5100

Italy

Customs Attaché  
American Embassy  
Via Veneto 119  
00187 Rome  
Tel: 011-39-06-4674-2475

Japan

Customs Attaché  
American Embassy  
10-5, Akasaka 1-Chome  
Minato-ku  
Tokyo 107-8420  
Tel: 011-813-3224-5433

Korea

Customs Attaché  
American Embassy  
82 SeJong-Ro

Chongro-Ku  
Seoul 110-050  
Tel: 011-822-397-4644

Mexico

Sr. Customs Representative  
American Consulate General  
Monterrey 141 Poniente  
Hermosillo, Sonora  
Tel: 011-52-62-12-39-71

Customs Attaché  
American Embassy  
Paseo de la Reforma 305  
Colonia Cuauhtemoc  
Mexico City, D.F.  
Tel: 011-525-209-9100

U.S. Customs Service  
185 W. F Street, Suite 600  
San Diego, CA 92101  
Attn: Sr. Customs Representative  
Tel: (619) 74-4802

Sr. Customs Representative  
American Consulate General  
Avenida Constitucion  
411 Poniente  
Monterrey Mexico, N.L. 6430  
Tel: 011-52-8-342-7972

Panama

Customs Attaché  
American Embassy  
Calle 38 & Avenida Balboa  
Panama, City  
Tel: 011-507-225-7562

Russia

Customs Attaché  
American Embassy

19-23 Novinsky Blvd.  
Moscow 121099  
Tel: 011-7-095-728-5050

Singapore

Customs Attaché  
American Embassy  
27 Napier Road  
Singapore 258508  
Tel: 011-65-476-9020

South Africa

Customs Attaché  
American Embassy  
877 Pretorius  
Arcadia, Pretoria 0001  
Tel: 011-27-12-342-8062

Thailand

Customs Attaché  
Sindhorn Building  
130-132 Wireless Road  
Tower 2, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Bangkok 10330  
Tel: 011-66-2-205-5015

United Kingdom

Customs Attaché  
American Embassy  
24/31 Grosvenor Square  
London, W1A 1AE  
Tel: 011-44-207-409-1293

Uruguay

Customs Attaché  
American Embassy  
1776 Lauro Muller  
Montevideo  
Tel: 011-598-2-411-1835

Venezuela

Customs Attaché  
American Embassy  
Calle B con Calle F

Colinas de Valle Arriba  
Caracas  
Tel: 001-58-212-975-9110

Colombia

Customs Attaché  
American Embassy  
Carrera 45 #22D  
Santafe De Bogota, Colombia  
Tel: 011-571-315-2162

## SUGGESTIONS TO THE EXPORTER

### FOR FASTER CUSTOMS CLEARANCE:

1. Include all information required on your Customs invoices.
2. Prepare your invoices carefully. Type them clearly. Allow sufficient space between lines. Keep the data within each column.
3. Make sure that your invoices contain the information that would be shown on a well-prepared packing list.
4. Mark and number each package so it can be identified with the corresponding marks and numbers appearing on your invoice.
5. Show a detailed description on your invoice of each item of merchandise contained in each individual package.
6. Mark your goods legibly and conspicuously with the country of origin unless they are specifically exempted from country-of-origin marking requirements, and with such other marking as is required by the marking laws of the United States. Exemptions and general marking requirements are detailed in Chapters 29 and 30.
7. Comply with the provisions of any special laws of the United States that may apply to your goods, such as laws relating to food, drugs, cosmetics, alcoholic beverages, radioactive materials, and others. (See Chapters 33, 34 and 35.)
8. Observe the instructions closely with respect to invoicing, packaging, marking, labeling, etc., sent to you by your customer in the United States. He or she has probably made a careful check of the requirements that will have to be met when your merchandise arrives.
9. Work with U.S. Customs to develop packing standards for your commodities.
10. Establish sound security procedures at your facility and while transporting your goods for shipment. Do not give narcotics smugglers the opportunity to introduce narcotics into your shipment.
11. Consider shipping on a carrier participating in the Automated Manifest System.
12. If you use a licensed customs broker for your transaction, consider using a firm that participates in the Automated Broker Interface (ABI).

# ENTRY OF GOODS

## 2. ENTRY PROCESS

When a shipment reaches the United States, the importer of record (i.e., the owner, purchaser, or licensed customs broker designated by the owner, purchaser, or consignee) will file entry documents for the goods with the port director at the goods' port of entry. Imported goods are not legally entered until after the shipment has arrived within the port of entry, delivery of the merchandise has been authorized by Customs, and estimated duties have been paid. It is the importer of record's responsibility to arrange for examination and release of the goods.

Pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1484, the importer of record must use reasonable care in making entry.

**NOTE:** In addition to contacting the U.S. Customs Service, importers should contact other agencies when questions arise about particular commodities. For example, questions about products regulated by the Food and Drug Administration should be forwarded to the nearest FDA district office (check local phone book under U.S. government listings) or to the Import Division, FDA Headquarters, 301.443.6553. The same is true for alcohol, tobacco, firearms, wildlife products (furs, skins, shells), motor vehicles, and other products and merchandise regulated by the other federal agencies for which Customs enforces entry laws. Appropriate agencies are identified in Chapter 360.

Addresses and phone numbers for these agencies are listed in the appendix.

Goods may be entered for consumption, entered for warehouse at the port of arrival, or they may be transported in-bond to another port of entry and entered there under the same conditions as at the port of arrival. Arrangements for transporting the merchandise in-bond to an in-land port may be made by the consignee or by a customs broker or by any other person with an interest in the goods for that purpose. Unless your merchandise arrives directly at the port where you wish to enter it, you may be charged additional fees by the carrier for transportation to that port unless other arrangements have been made. Under some circumstances, your goods may be released through your local Customs port even though they arrive at another port from a foreign country. Prior to the goods' arrival, arrangements for entry must be made at the Customs port where you intend to file your duties and documentation.

Goods to be placed in a foreign trade zone are not entered at the customhouse. See Chapter 41 for more information on foreign trade zones.

## EVIDENCE OF RIGHT TO MAKE ENTRY

Goods may only be entered by their owner, purchaser, or a licensed customs broker. When the goods are consigned “to order,” the bill of lading, properly endorsed by the consignor, may serve as evidence of the right to make entry. An air waybill may be used for merchandise arriving by air.

In most instances, entry is made by a person or firm certified by the carrier bringing the goods to the port of entry. This entity (i.e., the person or firm certified) is considered the “owner” of the goods for customs purposes.

The document issued by the carrier for this purpose is known as a “Carrier’s Certificate.” An example of this certificate is shown in the Appendix. In certain circumstances, entry may be made by means of a duplicate bill of lading or a shipping receipt. When the goods are not imported by a common carrier, possession of the goods by the importer at the time of arrival shall be deemed sufficient evidence of the right to make entry.

## ENTRY FOR CONSUMPTION

Entering merchandise is a two-part process consisting of: (1) filing the documents necessary to determine whether merchandise may be released from Customs custody, and (2) filing the documents that contain information for duty assessment and statistical purposes. Both of these processes can be accomplished electronically via the Automated Broker Interface program of the Automated Commercial Systems.

## ENTRY DOCUMENTS

Within 15 calendar days of the date that a shipment arrives at a U.S. port of entry, entry documents must be filed at a location specified by the port director, unless an extension is granted. These documents are:

- Entry Manifest (Customs Form 7533) or Application and Special Permit for Immediate Delivery (Customs Form 3461) or other form of merchandise release required by the port director.
- Evidence of right to make entry.
- Commercial invoice or a pro forma invoice when the commercial invoice cannot be produced.
- Packing lists, if appropriate.
- Other documents necessary to determine merchandise admissibility.

If the goods are to be released upon entry from Customs custody, an entry summary for consumption must be filed and estimated duties deposited at the port of entry within 10 working days of the goods' entry.

## SURETY

The entry must be accompanied by evidence that a bond has been posted with Customs to cover any potential duties, taxes, and charges that may accrue. Bonds may be secured through a resident U.S. surety company, but may be posted in the form of United States currency or certain United States government obligations. In the event that a customs broker is employed for the purpose of making entry, the broker may permit the use of his bond to provide the required coverage.

## ENTRY SUMMARY DOCUMENTATION

Following presentation of the entry, the shipment may be examined, or examination may be waived. The shipment is then released if no legal or regulatory violations have occurred. Entry summary documentation is filed and estimated duties are deposited within 10 working days of the entry of the merchandise at a designated customhouse. Entry summary documentation consists of:

- Return of the entry package to the importer, broker, or his authorized agent after merchandise is permitted release.
- Entry summary (Customs Form 7501).
- Other invoices and documents necessary to assess duties, collect statistics, or determine that all import requirements have been satisfied. This paper documentation can be reduced or eliminated by using features of the ABI.

## IMMEDIATE DELIVERY

An alternate procedure that provides for immediate release of a shipment may be used in some cases by applying for a special permit for immediate delivery on Customs Form 3461 prior to arrival of the merchandise. Carriers participating in the Automated Manifest System can receive conditional release authorizations after leaving the foreign country and up to five days before landing in the United States. If the application is approved, the shipment will be released expeditiously after it arrives. An entry summary must then be filed in proper form, either on paper or electronically, and estimated duties deposited within 10 working days of release. Immediate-delivery release using Form 3461 is limited to the following types of merchandise:

- Merchandise arriving from Canada or Mexico, if it is approved by the port director and an appropriate bond is on file.
- Fresh fruits and vegetables for human consumption arriving from Canada or Mexico and removed from the area immediately contiguous to the border and placed within the importer's premises within the port of importation.
- Shipments consigned to or for the account of any agency or officer of the U.S. government.
- Articles for a trade fair.

- Tariff-rate quota merchandise and, under certain circumstances, merchandise subject to an absolute quota. Absolute-quota items require a formal entry at all times.
- In very limited circumstances, merchandise released from warehouse followed within 10 working days by a warehouse withdrawal for consumption.
- Merchandise specifically authorized by Customs Headquarters to be entitled to release for immediate delivery.

## ENTRY FOR WAREHOUSE

If one wishes to postpone release of the goods, they may be placed in a Customs bonded warehouse under a warehouse entry. The goods may remain in the bonded warehouse up to five years from the date of importation. At any time during that period, warehoused goods may be re-exported without paying duty, or they may be withdrawn for consumption upon paying duty at the duty rate in effect on the date of withdrawal. If the goods are destroyed under Customs supervision, no duty is payable.

While the goods are in the bonded warehouse, they may, under Customs supervision, be manipulated by cleaning, sorting, repacking, or otherwise changing their condition by processes that do not amount to manufacturing. After manipulation, and within the warehousing period, the goods may be exported without the payment of duty, or they may be withdrawn for consumption upon payment of duty at the rate applicable to the goods in their manipulated condition at the time of withdrawal. Perishable goods, explosive substances, or prohibited importations may not be placed in a bonded warehouse. Certain restricted articles, though not allowed release from custody, may be warehoused.

Information regarding bonded manufacturing warehouses is contained in section 311 of the Tariff Act (19 U.S.C. 1311).

## UNENTERED GOODS

If no entry has been filed for the goods at the port of entry, or at the port of destination for in-bond shipments, within 15 calendar days after their arrival, the goods may be placed in a general-order warehouse at the importer's risk and expense. If the goods are not entered within six months from the date of importation, they can be sold at public auction. Perishable goods, however, and goods subject to depreciation and explosive substances may be sold sooner.

Storage charges, expenses of sales, internal revenue or other taxes, duties, fees, and amounts for the satisfaction of liens must be taken out of the money obtained from the sale of the unentered goods. Any surplus remaining after these deductions are taken is ordinarily payable to the holder of a duly endorsed bill of lading. This bill of lading must, however, cover those goods, and the claim must be made within 10 days of the sale. Carriers, not port directors, are required to notify a bonded warehouse of unentered

merchandise. Once notified, the bonded warehouse operator/manager shall arrange for the unentered merchandise to be transported to his or her premises for storage at the consignee's risk and expense. If the goods are subject to internal revenue taxes, but will not bring enough to pay the taxes if sold at public auction, they are subject to destruction.

## MAIL ENTRIES

Importers have found that in some cases it is to their advantage to use the national postal service — that is, a country's mail system, rather than courier services — to import merchandise into the United States. Some benefits to be gained are:

- Ease in clearing shipments through Customs. The duties on parcels valued at \$2,000 or less are collected by the letter carrier who delivers the parcel to the addressee (see note below).
- Savings on shipping charges. Smaller, low-valued packages can often be sent less expensively through the mails.
- No formal entry required on duty-free merchandise not exceeding \$2,000 in value.
- No need to clear shipments personally if under \$2,000 in value.

Joint Customs and postal regulations provide that all parcel post packages must have a Customs declaration securely attached to the outer wrapping giving an accurate description of the contents and their value. This declaration can be obtained at post offices worldwide. Commercial shipments must also be accompanied by a commercial invoice enclosed in the parcel bearing the declaration.

Each mail parcel containing an invoice or statement of value should be marked on the outer wrapper, on the address side, "Invoice enclosed." If the invoice or statement cannot be conveniently enclosed within the sealed parcel, it may be securely attached to the parcel. Failure to comply with any of these requirements will delay clearance of the shipment through Customs.

Packages other than parcel post — for example, letter-class mail, commercial papers, printed matter, or samples of merchandise — must bear on the address side a label, Form C1, provided by the Universal Post Union, or the endorsement "May be opened for customs purposes before delivery," or similar words definitely waiving the privacy of the seal and indicating that Customs officers may open the parcel without recourse to the addressee. Parcels not labeled or endorsed in this manner and found to contain prohibited merchandise, or containing merchandise that is subject to duty or tax, are subject to forfeiture.

A Customs officer prepares the Customs entry (a form) for mail importations not exceeding \$2,000 in value, and the letter carrier at the destination delivers the parcel to

the addressee upon payment of duty. If the value of a mail importation exceeds \$2,000, the addressee is notified to prepare and file a formal Customs entry (also called a consumption entry) for it at the Customs port nearest him. A commercial invoice is required with the entry.

A Customs processing fee of \$5.00 will be assessed on each item of dutiable mail for which a Customs officer prepares documentation. The postal carrier will collect this nominal fee on all dutiable or taxable mail along with the duty owed. There is also a postal fee (in addition to prepaid postage) authorized by international postal conventions and agreements as partial reimbursement to the Postal Service for its extra work in clearing packages through Customs and delivering them.

NOTE: The following general exceptions apply to the \$2,000 limit:

Articles classified in Subchapters III  
and IV, Chapter 99, HTSUS  
Billfolds and other flat goods  
Feathers and feather products  
Flowers and foliage, artificial or preserved  
Footwear  
Fur, articles of  
Gloves  
Handbags  
Headwear and hat braids  
Leather, articles of  
Luggage  
Millinery ornaments  
Pillows and cushions  
Plastics, miscellaneous articles of  
Rawhides and skins  
Rubber, miscellaneous articles of  
Textile fibers and products  
Toys, games, and sports equipment  
Trimmings

The limit for these articles is \$250, except for textiles (fibers and products). Virtually all commercial shipments of textiles require formal entry, regardless of value. Unaccompanied shipments of made-to-measure suits from Hong Kong, a category that includes single suits for personal consumption, also require a formal entry regardless of the suit's value.

## TRANSPORTATION OF MERCHANDISE IN BOND

Not all merchandise imported into the United States and intended for domestic commerce is entered at the port where it arrives. The importer may prefer to enter the

goods at a different location in the United States, in which case the merchandise will have to be further transported to that location. In order to protect United States revenue in these cases, the merchandise must travel in a bonded status from the port of arrival to the intended port of entry. This process is referred to as *traveling under Immediate Transportation procedures* and is accomplished by the execution of Customs Form 7512 (Transportation Entry and Manifest of Goods Subject to Customs Inspection and Permit). The merchandise is then placed with a carrier who accepts it under its bond for transportation to the intended destination, where the normal merchandise entry process will occur.

### 3. RIGHT TO MAKE ENTRY

#### ENTRY BY IMPORTER

Merchandise arriving in the United States by commercial carrier must be entered by the owner, purchaser, his or her authorized regular employee, or by the licensed customs broker designated by the owner, purchaser, or consignee. U.S. Customs officers and employees are not authorized to act as agents for importers or forwarders of imported merchandise, although they may give all reasonable advice and assistance to inexperienced importers.

Customs brokers are the only persons who are authorized by the tariff laws of the United States to act as agents for importers in the transaction of their customs business. Customs brokers are private individuals or firms licensed by the Customs Service to prepare and file the necessary Customs entries, arrange for the payment of duties found due, take steps to effect the release of the goods in Customs custody, and otherwise represent their principals in customs matters. The fees charged for these services may vary according to the customs broker and the extent of services performed.

Every entry must be supported by one of the forms of evidence of the right to make entry outlined in this chapter. When entry is made by a customs broker, a Customs power of attorney is made in the name of the customs broker. This power of attorney is given by the person or firm for whom the customs broker is acting as agent. Ordinarily, the authority of an employee to make entry for his or her employer is established most satisfactorily by a Customs power of attorney.

#### ENTRIES MADE BY OTHERS

Entry of goods may be made by a nonresident individual or partnership, or by a foreign corporation through a U.S. agent or representative of the exporter, a member of the partnership, or an officer of the corporation.

The surety on any Customs bond required from a nonresident individual or organization must be incorporated in the United States. In addition, a foreign corporation in whose name merchandise is entered must have a resident agent in the state where the port of entry is located who is authorized to accept service of process in the foreign

corporation's behalf.

A licensed customs broker named in a Customs power of attorney may make entry on behalf of the exporter or his representative. The owner's declaration made by a nonresident individual or organization which the customs broker may request must be supported by a surety bond providing for the payment of increased or additional duties found due. Liability for duties is discussed in Chapter 13. An owner's declaration executed in a foreign country is acceptable, but it must be executed before a notary public and bear the notary's seal. Notaries public will be found in all American embassies around the world and in most of the larger consulates.

## POWER OF ATTORNEY

A nonresident individual, partnership, or foreign corporation may issue a power of attorney to a regular employee, customs broker, partner, or corporation officer to act in the United States for the nonresident employer. Any person named in a power of attorney must be a resident of the United States who has been authorized to accept service of process on behalf of the person or organization issuing the power of attorney. The power of attorney to accept service of process becomes irrevocable with respect to Customs transactions duly undertaken. Either the applicable Customs form (see Appendix) or a document using the same language as the form is acceptable. References to acts which the issuer has not authorized the agent to perform may be deleted from the form or omitted from the document. A power of attorney from a foreign corporation must be supported by the following documents or their equivalent when foreign law or practice differs from that in the United States:

- A certificate from the proper public officer of the country showing the legal existence of the corporation, unless the fact of incorporation is so generally known as to be a matter of common knowledge.
- A copy of that part of the charter or articles of incorporation which shows the scope of the corporation's business and its governing body.
- A copy of the document or part thereof by which the person signing the power of attorney derives his authority, such as a provision of the charter or articles of incorporation, a copy of the resolution, minutes of the board of directors' meeting, or other document by which the governing body conferred this authority. In this case, a copy is required of the bylaws or other document giving the governing board the authority to designate others to appoint agents or attorney.

A nonresident individual or partnership or a foreign corporation may issue a power of attorney to authorize the persons or firms named in the power of attorney to issue like powers of attorney to other qualified residents of the United States and to empower the residents to whom such powers of attorney are issued to accept service of process on behalf of the nonresident individual or organizations.

A power of attorney issued by a partnership must be limited to a period not to exceed two years from the date of execution and shall state the names of all members of the partnership. One member of a partnership may execute a power of attorney for the transaction of customs business of the partnership. When a new firm is formed by a change of membership, the prior firm's power of attorney is no longer effective for any customs purpose. The new firm will be required to issue a new power of attorney for the transaction of its customs business. All other powers of attorney may be granted for an unlimited period.

Customs Form 5291, or a document using the same language as the form, is also

used to empower an agent other than an attorney-at-law or customs broker to file protests on behalf of an importer under section 514 of the Tariff Act of 1930 as amended. (See 19 CFR 141.32.)

Foreign corporations may comply with Customs regulations by executing a power of attorney on the corporation's letterhead. A form of power of attorney used for this purpose is given below. A nonresident individual or partner may use this same form.

The X Corporation, \_\_\_\_\_  
(Address, city, and country)

organized under the laws of \_\_\_\_\_ hereby authorizes

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name or names of employee or officer in United States)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(and address or addresses)

to perform on behalf of the said corporation any and all acts specified in Customs Form 5291, Power of Attorney; to accept service of process in the United States on behalf of the X Corporation; to issue powers of attorney on Customs Form 5291 authorizing a qualified resident or residents of the United States to perform on behalf of the X Corporation all acts specified in Customs Form 5291; and to empower such resident or residents to accept service of process in the United States on behalf of the said X Corporation.

Because the laws regarding incorporation, notation, and authentication of documents vary from country to country, the agent to be named in the power of attorney should consult the port director of Customs at the port of entry where proof of the document's existence may be required as to the proper form to be used and the formalities to be met.

## 4. EXAMINATION OF GOODS AND ENTRY DOCUMENTS

Examination of goods and documents is necessary to determine, among other things:

- The value of the goods for customs purposes and their dutiable status.
- Whether the goods must be marked with their country of origin or require special marking or labeling. If so, whether they are marked in the manner required.
- Whether the shipment contains prohibited articles.
- Whether the goods are correctly invoiced.
- Whether the goods are in excess of the invoiced quantities or a shortage exists.
- Whether the shipment contains illegal narcotics.

Prior to the goods' release, the port director will designate representative quantities for examination by Customs officers under conditions that will safeguard the goods. Some kinds of goods must be examined to determine whether they meet special requirements of the law. For example, food and beverages unfit for human consumption would not meet the requirements of the Food and Drug Administration.

One of the primary methods of smuggling narcotics into the United States is in cargo shipments. Drug smugglers will place narcotics inside a legitimate cargo shipment or container to be retrieved upon arrival in the United States. Because smugglers use any means possible to hide narcotics, all aspects of the shipment are examined, including container, pallets, boxes, and product. Only through intensive inspection can narcotics be discovered.

Textiles and textile products are considered trade-sensitive and as such may be subject to a higher percentage of examinations than other commodities.

Customs officers will ascertain the quantity of goods imported, making allowances for shortages under specified conditions and assessing duty on any excess. The invoice may state the quantities in the weights and measures of the country from which the goods are shipped or in the weights and measures of the United States, but the entry must state the quantities in metric terms.

### EXCESS GOODS AND SHORTAGES

In order to facilitate duty allowances for goods that do not arrive and to determine whether excess goods are contained in the shipment, the importer (or foreign exporter) is advised to pack the goods in an orderly fashion; properly mark and number the packages in which the goods are contained; list each package's contents on the invoice; and place marks and numbers on the invoices that correspond to those packages.

If the Customs officer finds any package that contains an article not specified on the invoice, and there is reason to believe the article was omitted from the invoice by fraud, gross negligence, negligence on the part of the seller, shipper, owner, or agent, a monetary penalty may be imposed, or in some cases, the merchandise may be seized or forfeited. (See e.g., 19 U.S.C. 1592.)

If, during the examination of any package that has been designated for examination, the Customs officer finds a deficiency in quantity, weight or measure, he or she will make a duty allowance for the deficiency. An allowance in duty may be made for those packages not designated as long as the importer notifies the port director of the shortage before liquidation of the entry becomes final and establishes to the port director's satisfaction that the missing goods were not delivered.

## DAMAGE OR DETERIORATION

Goods that the Customs officer finds to be entirely without commercial value at the time of arrival in the United States because of damage or deterioration are treated as a "nonimportation." No duties are assessed on these goods. When damage or deterioration is present with respect to part of the shipment only, allowance in duties is not made unless the importer segregates, under Customs supervision, the damaged or deteriorated part from the remainder of the shipment. When the shipment consists of fruits, vegetables, or other perishable merchandise, allowance in duties cannot be made unless the importer, within 96 hours of unloading the merchandise and before it has been removed from the pier, files an application for an allowance with the port director. Allowance or reduction of duty for partial damage or loss as a result of rust or discoloration is precluded by law on shipments consisting of any article partially or wholly manufactured of iron or steel, or any manufacture of iron or steel.

## TARE

In determining the quantity of goods dutiable on net weight, a deduction is made from the gross weight for just and reasonable tare. Tare is the allowance for a deficiency in the weight or quantity of the merchandise caused by the weight of the box, cask, bag, or other receptacle that contains the merchandise and that is weighed with it. The following schedule tares are provided for in the Customs Regulations:

**Apple boxes.** 3.6 kilograms (8 lb.) per box. This schedule tare includes the paper wrappers, if any, on the apples.

**China clay in so-called half-ton casks.** 32.6 kilograms (72 lb.) per cask.

**Figs in skeleton cases.** Actual tare for outer containers plus 13 percent of the gross weight of the inside wooden boxes and figs.

**Fresh tomatoes.** 113 grams (4 oz.) per 100 paper wrappings.

**Lemons and oranges.** 283 grams (10 oz.) per box and 142 grams (5 oz.) per half-box for paper wrappings, and actual tare for outer containers.

**Ocher, dry, in casks.** Eight percent of the gross weight; in oil in casks, 12 percent of the gross weight.

**Pimentos in tins,** imported from Spain.

<b>Size can</b>	<b>Drained weights</b>
3 kilos	13.6 kilograms (30 lb.)—case of 6 tins
794 grams (28 oz.)	16.7 kilograms (36.7 lb.)—case of 24 tins
425 grams (15 oz.)	8.0 kilograms (17.72 lb.)—case of 24 tins
198 grams (7 oz.)	3.9 kilograms (8.62 lb.)—case of 24 tins
113 grams (4 oz.)	2.4 kilograms (5.33 lb.)—case of 24 tins

**Tobacco, leaf not stemmed.** 59 kilograms (13 lb.) per bale; Sumatra: actual tare for outside coverings, plus 1.9 kilograms (4 lb.) for the inside matting and, if a certificate is attached to the invoice certifying that the bales contain paper wrappings and specifying whether light or heavy paper has been used, either 113 grams (4 oz.) or 227 grams (8 oz.) for the paper wrapping according to the thickness of paper used.

For other goods dutiable on the net weight, an actual tare will be determined. An accurate tare stated on the invoice is acceptable for Customs purposes in certain circumstances.

If the importer of record files a timely application with the port director of Customs, an allowance may be made in any case for excessive moisture and impurities not usually found in or upon the particular kind of goods.

## 5. PACKING OF GOODS—COMMINGLING

### PACKING

Information on how to pack goods for the purpose of transporting them may be obtained from shipping manuals, carriers, forwarding agents, and other sources. This chapter, therefore, deals with packing goods being exported in a way which will permit U.S. Customs officers to examine, weigh, measure, and release them promptly.

Orderly packing and proper invoicing go hand in hand. You will speed up the clearance of your goods through Customs if you:

- Invoice your goods in a systematic manner.
- Show the exact quantity of each item of goods in each box, bale, case, or other package.
- Put marks and numbers on each package.
- Show those marks or numbers on your invoice opposite the itemization of goods contained in the package that bears those marks and numbers.

When packages contain goods of one kind only, or when the goods are imported in packages the contents and values of which are uniform, the designation of packages for examination and the examination for Customs purposes are greatly facilitated. If the contents and values differ from package to package, the possibility of delay and confusion is increased. Sometimes, because of the kinds of goods or because of the unsystematic manner in which they are packed, the entire shipment must be examined.

Pack and invoice your goods in a manner which makes a speedy examination possible. Always bear in mind that it may not be possible to ascertain the contents of your packages without full examination unless your invoice clearly shows the marks and numbers on each package (whether box, case, or bale) and specifies the exact quantity of each item of adequately described goods in each marked and numbered package.

Also, be aware that Customs examines cargo for narcotics that may, unbeknownst to the shipper or the importer, be hidden inside. This can be time-consuming and expensive for both the importer and the Customs Service. Narcotics inspections may require completely stripping a container in order to physically examine a large portion of the cargo. This labor-intensive handling of cargo, whether by Customs, labor organizations, or private individuals, results in added costs, increased delays, and possible damage to the product. Importers can expedite this inspection process by working with Customs to develop packing standards that will permit effective Customs examinations with a minimum of delay, damage, and cost.

A critical aspect in facilitating inspections is how the cargo is loaded. “Palletizing” cargo—loading it onto pallets or other consolidated units—is an effective way to expedite such examinations. Palletization allows for quick cargo removal in minutes using a forklift compared to the hours it would take manually. Another example is leaving enough space at the top of a container and an aisle down the center to allow access by a narcotic-detector dog.

Your cooperation in this respect will help Customs officers decide which packages must be opened and examined; how much weighing, counting, or measuring must be done, and whether the goods are properly marked. It will simplify the ascertainment of tare and reduce the number of samples to be taken for laboratory analysis or for other customs purposes. It will facilitate verification of the packages and contents, as well as the reporting by Customs officers of missing or excess goods. And it will minimize the possibility that the importer may be asked to resubmit for examination packages that were already released under the belief that the ones originally designated for examination were sufficient for that purpose.

It should thus be evident that packing which is in fact merely a combination or confusion of different types of goods makes it impracticable for Customs officers to determine the quantity of each type of product in an importation. Such packing can also lead to a variety of other complications in the entry process. No problem will arise, however, from the orderly packing of several different kinds of properly invoiced goods in a single package. It is indiscriminate packing that causes difficulty.

## COMMINGLING

Except as mentioned hereafter, whenever articles subject to different rates of duty are so packed together or mingled such that Customs officers cannot readily ascertain the quantity or value of each class of articles without physical segregation of the shipment or the contents of any package thereof, the commingled articles shall be subject to the highest rate of duty applicable to any part of the commingled lot, unless the consignee or his agent segregates the merchandise under Customs supervision.

The three methods of ready ascertainment specified by General Note 17, HTSUS, are: (1) sampling, (2) verification of packing lists or other documents filed at the time of entry, or (3) evidence showing performance of commercial settlements tests generally accepted in the trade and filed in the time and manner as prescribed in the Customs Regulations.

Segregation of merchandise is at the risk and expense of the consignee. It must be done within 30 days (unless a longer time is granted) after the date of personal delivery or the date of mailing a notice to the consignee by the port director that the goods are commingled. The compensation and expenses of the Customs officers supervising the segregation must be borne by the consignee.

Assessing duty on the commingled lot at the highest applicable rate does not apply to any part of a shipment if the consignee or his agent furnishes satisfactory proof that (1) such part is commercially negligible, is not capable of segregation without excessive cost, and will not be segregated prior to its use in a manufacturing process or otherwise; and (2) the commingling was not intended to avoid the payment of lawful duties.

Any article for which such proof is furnished shall be considered for all Customs

purposes as a part of the article, subject to the next lower rate of duty, with which it is commingled.

In addition, the highest-rate rule does not apply to any part of a shipment if satisfactory proof is furnished that (1) the value of the commingled articles is less than the aggregate value would be if the shipment were segregated; (2) the shipment is not capable of segregation without excessive cost and will not be segregated prior to its use in a manufacturing process or otherwise; and (3) the commingling was not intended to avoid the payment of lawful duties.

Any merchandise for which such proof is furnished shall be considered for all Customs purposes to be dutiable at the rate applicable to the material present in greater quantity than any other material.

The above rules do not apply if the tariff schedules provide a particular tariff treatment for commingled articles.

# INFORMED COMPLIANCE

## 6. DEFINITION

*Informed compliance* is a shared responsibility between Customs and the import community wherein Customs effectively communicates its requirements to the trade, and the people and businesses subject to those requirements conduct their regulated activities in accordance with U.S. laws and regulations. A key component of informed compliance is that the importer is expected to exercise reasonable care in his or her importing operations.

Informed compliance benefits both parties: When voluntary compliance is achieved, Customs resources need not be expended on redundant examinations or entry reviews for the importer's cargo found to be dependably compliant. From the trade perspective, when voluntary compliance is attained, compliant importers are less likely to have their shipments examined or their entries reviewed.

The Customs Service publishes a wealth of information to assist the import community in complying with Customs requirements. We issue rulings and informed compliance publications on a variety of technical subjects and processes. Most of these materials can be found on-line at [www.customs.gov](http://www.customs.gov).

We urge importers to make sure they are using the latest versions of any printed materials.

## 7. REASONABLE CARE CHECKLISTS

Reasonable care is an explicit responsibility on the part of the importer. Despite its seemingly simple connotation, the term reasonable care defies easy explanation because the facts and circumstances surrounding every import transaction differ, from the experience of the importer to the nature of the imported articles. Consequently, neither the Customs Service nor the importing community can develop a reasonable care checklist capable of covering every import transaction.

The Customs Service recommends that the import community examine the list of questions below. These questions may suggest methods that importers may find useful in avoiding compliance problems and in meeting the responsibilities of reasonable care.

These questions are intended to promote compliance with Customs laws and regulations, but be aware that the list is advisory, not exhaustive. The checklist is

intended as a guide and *has no legal, binding or precedential effect on Customs or the importing community.*

The questions apply whether the importer of record conducts the transactions(s) him- or herself, or whether the importer hires others to do it.

**General Questions for All Transactions:**

1. If you have not retained an expert (e.g., lawyer, customs broker, accountant, or customs consultant) to assist you in complying with Customs requirements, do you have access to the *Customs Regulations* (Title 19 of the Code of Federal Regulations), the *Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States*, and *Customs Bulletin and Decisions*? (All three are available from the Superintendent of Documents, Tel. 202-512-1800.) Do you have access to the Customs Web site at [www.customs.gov](http://www.customs.gov), **Customs Electronic Bulletin Board (CEBB)**, or other research service that provides the information to help you establish reliable procedures and facilitate compliance with Customs law and regulations?
2. Has a responsible, knowledgeable individual within your organization reviewed your customs documentation to assure that it is full, complete and accurate? If the documentation was prepared outside your organization, do you have a reliable method to assure that you receive copies of the information submitted to Customs, that it is reviewed for accuracy, and that Customs is apprised of needed corrections in a timely fashion?
3. If you use an expert to help you comply with Customs requirements, have you discussed your importations in advance with that person, and have you provided him or her with complete, accurate information about the import transaction(s)?
4. Are identical transactions or merchandise handled differently at different ports or Customs offices within the same port? If so, have you brought this fact to Customs officials' attention?

**Questions by Topic: Merchandise Description & Tariff Classification**

**Basic Question:** Do you know what you ordered, where it was made, and what it is made of?

1. Have you provided a complete, accurate description of your merchandise to Customs in accordance with 19 U.S.C. 1481? (Also, see 19 CFR 141.87 and 19 CFR 141.89 for special merchandise description requirements.)
2. Have you provided Customs with the correct tariff classification of your merchandise in accordance with 19 U.S.C. 1484?

3. Have you obtained a Customs ruling regarding the description of your merchandise or its tariff classification (see 19 CFR Part 177)? If so, have you followed the ruling and apprised appropriate Customs officials of those facts (i.e., of the ruling and your compliance with it)?
4. Where merchandise description or tariff classification information is not immediately available, have you established a reliable procedure for obtaining it and providing it to Customs?
5. Have you participated in a Customs preclassification of your merchandise in order to get it properly described and classified?
6. Have you consulted the tariff schedules, Customs informed compliance publications, court cases or Customs rulings to help you properly describe and classify the merchandise?
7. Have you consulted with an expert (e.g., lawyer, customs broker, accountant, customs consultant) to assist in the description and/or classification of the merchandise?
8. If you are claiming a conditionally free or special tariff classification or provision for your merchandise (e.g., GSP, HTS Item 9802, NAFTA), how have you verified that the merchandise qualifies for such status? Do you have the documentation necessary to support the claim? If making a NAFTA preference claim, do you have a NAFTA certificate of origin in your possession?
9. Is the nature of your merchandise such that a laboratory analysis or other specialized procedure is advised for proper description and classification?
10. Have you developed reliable procedures to maintain and produce the required entry documentation and supporting information?

## **Valuation**

**Basic Questions:** Do you know the “price actually paid or payable” for your merchandise? Do you know the terms of sale? Whether there will be rebates, tie-ins, indirect costs, additional payments? Whether “assists” were provided or commissions or royalties paid? Are amounts actual or estimated? Are you and the supplier “related parties”?

1. Have you provided Customs with a proper declared value for your merchandise in accordance with 19 U.S.C. 1484 and 19 U.S.C. 1401a?
2. Have you obtained a Customs ruling regarding valuation of the merchandise (see

- 19 CFR Part 177)? Can you establish that you followed the ruling reliably? Have you brought those facts to Customs attention?
2. Have you consulted the Customs valuation laws and regulations, *Customs Valuation Encyclopedia*, Customs informed compliance publications, court cases and Customs rulings to assist you in valuing merchandise?
  4. If you purchased the merchandise from a “related” seller, have you reported that fact upon entry? Have you assured that the value reported to Customs meets one of the “related party” tests?
  5. Have you assured that all legally required costs or payments associated with the imported merchandise (assists, commissions, indirect payments or rebates, royalties, etc.) have been reported to Customs?
  6. If you are declaring a value based upon a transaction in which you were/are not the buyer, have you substantiated that the transaction is a bona fide “sale at arm’s length” and that the merchandise was clearly destined to the United States at the time of sale?
  7. If you are claiming a conditionally free or special tariff classification or provision for your merchandise (GSP, HTS Item 9802, NAFTA), have you reported the required value information and obtained the documentation necessary to support the claim?
  8. Have you produced the required entry documentation and supporting information?

### **Country of Origin/Marking/Quota**

**Basic Question:** Have you ascertained the correct country of origin for the imported merchandise?

1. Have you reported the correct country of origin on Customs entry documents?
2. Have you assured that the merchandise is properly marked upon entry with the correct country of origin (if required) in accordance with 19 U.S.C. 1304 and any other applicable special marking requirements (watches, gold, textile labeling, etc)?
3. Have you obtained a Customs ruling regarding the proper marking and country of origin of the merchandise (see 19 CFR Part 177)? If so, have you followed the ruling and brought that fact to Customs attention?
4. Have you consulted with a customs expert regarding the correct country of

origin/proper marking of your merchandise?

5. Have you apprised your foreign supplier of Customs country-of-origin marking requirements prior to importation of your merchandise?
6. If you are claiming a change in the origin of the merchandise or claiming that the goods are of U.S. origin, have you taken required measures to substantiate your claim (e.g., do you have U.S. milling certificates or manufacturers' affidavits attesting to production in the United States)?
7. If importing textiles or apparel, have you ascertained the correct country of origin in accordance with 19 U.S.C. 3592 (Section 334, P.L. 103-465) and assured yourself that no illegal transshipment or false or fraudulent practices were involved?
8. Do you know how your goods are made, from raw materials to finished goods, by whom and where?
9. Have you ensured that the quota category is correct?
10. Have you checked the *Status Report on Current Import Quotas* (Restraint Levels), issued by Customs, to determine if your goods are subject to a quota category with "part" categories?
11. Have you obtained correct visas for those goods subject to visa categories?
12. For textile articles, have you prepared a proper country declaration for each entry, i.e., a single country declaration (if wholly obtained/produced) or a multi-country declaration (if raw materials from one country were transformed into goods in a second)?
13. Can you produce all entry documentation and supporting information, including certificates of origin, if Customs requires you to do so?

### **Intellectual Property Rights**

**Basic Question:** Have you determined whether your merchandise or its packaging use any trademarks or copyrighted material or are patented? If so, can you establish that you have a legal right to import those items into and/or use them in the United States?

1. If you are importing goods or packaging bearing a trademark registered in the United States, have you established that it is genuine and not restricted from importation under the "gray-market" or parallel-import requirements of United States law (see 198 CFR 133.21), or that you have permission from the trademark

- holder to import the merchandise?
2. If you are importing goods or packaging that contain registered copyrighted material, have you established that this material is authorized and genuine? If you are importing sound recordings of live performances, were the recordings authorized?
  3. Is your merchandise subject to an International Trade Commission or court-ordered exclusion order?
  4. Can you produce the required entry documentation and supporting information?

### **Miscellaneous**

1. Have you assured that your merchandise complies with other agencies' requirements (e.g., FDA, EPA, DOT, CPSC, FTC, Agriculture, etc.) and obtained licenses or permits, if required, from them?
2. Are your goods subject to a Commerce Department dumping or countervailing-duty investigation or determination? If so, have you complied with Customs reporting requirements of this fact (e.g., 19 CFR 141.61)?
3. Is your merchandise subject to quota/visa requirements? If so, have you provided a correct visa for the goods upon entry?
4. Have you assured that you have the right to make entry under the Customs Regulations?
5. Have you filed the correct type of Customs entry (e.g., TIB, T&E, consumption entry, mail entry)?

### **Additional Questions for Textile and Apparel Importers**

Section 333 of the Uruguay Round Implementation Act (19 U.S.C. 1592a) authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to publish a list of foreign producers, manufacturers, suppliers, sellers, exporters, or other foreign persons found to have violated 19 U.S.C. 1592 by using false, fraudulent or counterfeit documentation, labeling, or prohibited transshipment practices in connection with textiles and apparel products. Section 1592a also requires any importer of record who enters or otherwise attempts to introduce into United States commerce textile or apparel products that were directly or indirectly produced, manufactured, supplied, sold, exported, or transported by such named person(s) to show, to the Secretary's satisfaction, that the importer has exercised reasonable care to ensure that the importations are accompanied by accurate documentation, packaging and labeling regarding the products' origin. Under section

1592a, reliance solely upon information from a person named on the list does not constitute the exercise of reasonable care. Textile and apparel importers who have a commercial relationship with any of the listed parties must exercise reasonable care in ensuring that the documentation covering the imported merchandise, its packaging and its labeling accurately identify the importation's country of origin. This demonstration of reasonable care must rely upon more information than that supplied by the named party.

In order to meet the reasonable care standard when importing textile or apparel products and when dealing with a party named on this list, an importer should consider the following questions to ensure that the documentation, packaging and labeling are accurate regarding country-of-origin considerations. This list is illustrative, not exhaustive:

1. Has the importer had a prior relationship with the named party?
2. Has the importer had any seizures or detentions of textile or apparel products that were directly or indirectly produced, supplied, or transported by the named party?
3. Has the importer visited the company's premises to ascertain that the company actually has the capacity to produce the merchandise?
4. Where a claim of an origin-conferring process is made in accordance with 19 CFR 102.21, has the importer ascertained that the named party actually performed that process?
5. Is the named party really operating from the country that he or she claims on the documentation, packaging or labeling?
6. Have quotas for the imported merchandise closed, or are they near closing, from the main producer countries for this commodity?
7. Does the country have a dubious or questionable history regarding this commodity?
8. Have you questioned your supplier about the product's origin?
9. If the importation is accompanied by a visa, permit or license, has the importer verified with the supplier or manufacturer that the document is of valid, legitimate origin? Has the importer examined that document for any irregularities that would call its authenticity into question?

## 8. COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT/COMPLIANCE MEASUREMENT

Of primary interest to the trade community is the compliance assessment, which is the systematic evaluation of an importer's systems supporting his or her Customs-related operations. The assessment includes testing import and financial transactions, reviewing the adequacy of the importer's internal controls, and determining the importer's compliance levels in key areas. Compliance assessments are conducted in accordance with 19 U.S.C. 1509.

The assessment is conducted by an interdisciplinary team composed of a Customs auditor, import specialist, account manager, industry expert (highly knowledgeable of the electronics or auto parts or surgical equipment industries, for example), and possibly other Customs specialists (attorney, inspector, scientist). The compliance assessment utilizes professionally accepted statistical sampling and auditing techniques to review selected import transactions from the company's previous fiscal year.

Compliance assessments will evaluate the company's applicable customs operations such as:

- Record keeping
- Merchandise classification/trade statistics
- Merchandise quantities
- Antidumping/countervailing duty operations
- Quota conformity
- Merchandise value
- Warehouse or foreign trade zone operations
- Merchandise transshipment
- Special trade programs (GSP, CBI, others).

Companies found in compliance with Customs laws and regulations will get a report stating that fact. Companies whose systems are determined to be noncompliant will also get a report and will be asked to formulate, in cooperation with Customs advisors, a compliance improvement plan specifying corrective actions the company will take to increase compliance levels. Serious violations of law or regulation may result in Customs

referring the company for a formal investigation or other enforcement actions.

By law, Customs is required to provide the importer with advance notice of an intended assessment and an estimate of its duration. Importers are entitled to an entry conference, during which the assessment's purpose will be explained and its duration provided. Using information from Customs databases about the company or the importer's industry, the compliance assessment team may have prepared questionnaires seeking specific information about the importer's internal procedures; these questionnaires will also be distributed at the entry conference.

Upon completion of the assessment, Customs will schedule a closing conference, at which its preliminary findings will be explained. A closing conference may not be scheduled for companies found to have serious enforcement issues. If no enforcement action is taken, Customs will provide the company with a written report of the assessment's results.

The Importer Audit/Compliance Assessment Team Kit (also called the CAT Kit), which provides extensive details of the assessment procedure, can be found at Customs Web site, [www.customs.gov](http://www.customs.gov), or by calling the Customs Regulatory Audit Division office nearest you.

***Compliance Measurement*** is the primary tool Customs uses to assess the accuracy of port-of-entry transactions and to determine the compliance rate for all commercial importations. By using statistical sampling methods, a valid compliance level for all commercial importations can be obtained. One of the Customs Service's goals is to assure that at least 99 percent of the import revenues legally owed the United States government are collected. Cargo is sampled for compliance with international trade laws at the port of entry, at the time of entry into the United States. Importers should be aware that misclassification of merchandise, among other violations, will be detected through the compliance measurement process.

## 9. A NOTICE TO SMALL-BUSINESS IMPORTERS

The Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act was designed to create a more cooperative regulatory environment between federal agencies and small businesses.

*Your comments are important.* The Small Business and Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and 10 regional Fairness Boards were established to receive comments from small businesses about federal agency enforcement activities and to rate each agency's responsiveness to small business. If you wish to comment on the enforcement actions of the U.S. Customs Service, call 1.888.REG.FAIR (1.888.734.3247).

# INVOICES

## 10. COMMERCIAL INVOICE

A commercial invoice, signed by the seller or shipper, or his agent, is acceptable for customs purposes if it is prepared in accordance with Section 141.86 through 141.89 of the Customs Regulations, and in the manner customary for a commercial transaction involving goods of the kind covered by the invoice. Importers and brokers participating in the Automated Broker Interface may elect to transmit invoice data via the Automated Invoice Interface or EDIFACT and eliminate the paper document. The invoice must provide the following information, as required by the Tariff Act:

- The port of entry to which the merchandise is destined;
- If merchandise is sold or agreed to be sold, the time, place, and names of buyer and seller; if consigned, the time and origin of shipment, and names of shipper and receiver;
- A detailed description of the merchandise, including the name by which each item is known, the grade or quality, and the marks, numbers, and symbols under which it is sold by the seller or manufacturer to the trade in the country of exportation, together with the marks and numbers of the packages in which the merchandise is packed;
- The quantities in weights and measures;
- If sold or agreed to be sold, the purchase price of each item in the currency of the sale;
- If the merchandise is shipped for consignment, the value of each item in the currency in which the transactions are usually made, or, in the absence of such value, the price in such currency that the manufacturer, seller, shipper, or owner would have received, or was willing to receive, for such merchandise if sold in the ordinary course of trade and in the usual wholesale quantities in the country of exportation;
- The kind of currency;
- All charges upon the merchandise, itemized by name and amount including

freight, insurance, commission, cases, containers, coverings, and cost of packing; and, if not included above, all charges, costs, and expenses incurred in bringing the merchandise from alongside the carrier at the port of exportation in the country of exportation and placing it alongside the carrier at the first U.S. port of entry. The cost of packing, cases, containers, and inland freight to the port of exportation need not be itemized by amount if included in the invoice price and so identified. Where the required information does not appear on the invoice as originally prepared, it shall be shown on an attachment to the invoice;

- All rebates, drawbacks, and bounties, separately itemized, allowed upon the exportation of the merchandise;
- The country of origin;
- All goods or services furnished for the production of the merchandise not included in the invoice price.

If the merchandise on the documents is sold while in transit, the original invoice reflecting this transaction and the resale invoice or a statement of sale showing the price paid for each item by the purchaser shall be filed as part of the entry, entry summary, or withdrawal documentation.

The invoice and all attachments must be in the English language, or shall be accompanied by an accurate English translation.

Each invoice shall state in adequate detail what merchandise is contained in each individual package.

If the invoice or entry does not disclose the weight, gauge, or measure of the merchandise necessary to ascertain duties, the importer of record shall pay expenses incurred to obtain this information prior to the release of the merchandise from Customs custody.

Each invoice shall set forth in detail, for each class or kind of merchandise, every discount from the list or other base price which has been or may be allowed in fixing each purchase price or value.

When more than one invoice is included in the same entry, each invoice with its attachments shall be numbered consecutively by the importer on the bottom of the face of each page, beginning with number 1. If an invoice is more than two pages, begin with number 1 for the first page of the first invoice and continue in a single series of numbers through all the invoices and attachments included in one entry. If an entry covers one invoice of one page and a second invoice of two pages, the numbering at the bottom of the page shall be as follows: Inv. 1, p.1; Inv. 2, p.2; Inv. 2, p.3, etc.

Any information required on an invoice may be set forth either on the invoice or on the attachment.

#### SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

**1. Separate Invoice Required for Each Shipment.** Not more than one distinct shipment from one consignor to one consignee by one commercial carrier shall be included on the same invoice.

**2. Assembled Shipments.** Merchandise assembled for shipment to the same consignee by one commercial carrier may be included in one invoice. The original bills or invoices covering the merchandise, or extracts therefrom, showing the actual price paid or agreed to be paid, should be attached to the invoice.

**3. Installment Shipments.** Installments of a shipment covered by a single order or contract and shipped from one consignor to one consignee may be included in one invoice if the installments arrive at the port of entry by any means of transportation within a

period not to exceed 10 consecutive days.

The invoice should be prepared in the same manner as invoices covering single shipments and should include any additional information which may be required for the particular class of goods concerned. If it is practical to do so, the invoice should show the quantities, values, and other invoice data with respect to each installment, and the identification of the importing conveyance in which each installment was shipped.

**4. Production “Assist.”** The invoice should indicate whether the production of merchandise involved costs for “assists” (e.g., dies, molds, tooling, printing plates, artwork, engineering work, design and development, financial assistance, etc.) which are not included in the invoice price. If assists were involved, state their value, if known, and by whom supplied. Were they supplied without cost, or on a rental basis, or were they invoiced separately? If the latter, attach a copy of the invoice.

Whenever U.S. Customs requires information on the cost of production of goods for customs valuation, the importer will be notified by the port director. Thereafter, invoices covering shipments of such goods must contain a statement on the cost of production by the manufacturer or producer.

**5. Additional Information Required.** Special information may be required on certain goods or classes of goods in addition to the information normally required on the invoice. Although the United States importer usually advises the exporter of these special situations, section 141.89 of the Customs Regulations, which covers the requirements for these goods, has been reproduced in the appendix.

**6. Rates of Exchange.** In general, no rate(s) of exchange may be used to convert foreign currency for customs purposes other than the rate(s) proclaimed or certified in 31 U.S.C. 5151. For merchandise imported from a country having a currency for which two or more rates of exchange have been certified by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the invoice will show the exchange rate or rates used in converting the United States dollars received for the merchandise into the foreign currency and the percentage of each rate if two or more rates are used. If a rate or combination of rates used to pay costs, charges, or expenses is different from those used to pay for the merchandise, state that rate or combination of rates separately. Where dollars have not been converted at the time the invoice is prepared, state that fact on the invoice, in which case the invoice shall also state the rate or combination of rates at which the dollars will be converted, or that it is not known what rate or rates will be used. Rates of exchange are not required for merchandise unconditionally free of duty or subject only to a specific rate of duty not depending on value.

## 11. OTHER INVOICES

## PRO FORMA INVOICE

If the required commercial invoice is not filed at the time the merchandise is entered, a statement in the form of an invoice (a *pro forma* invoice) must be filed by the importer at the time of entry. A bond is given for production of the required invoice not later than 120 days from the date of the entry summary, or entry if there is no entry summary. If the invoice is needed for statistical purposes, it must generally be produced within 50 days from the date on which the entry summary is required to be filed.

The exporter should bear in mind that unless he or she forwards the required invoice in time, the American importer will incur a liability under his bond for failure to file the invoice with the port director of Customs before the 120-day period expires.

Although a pro forma invoice is not prepared by the exporter, it is of interest to exporters as it gives a general idea of the kind of information needed for entry purposes. A pro forma invoice indicates what the importer may find necessary to furnish Customs officers at the time a formal entry is filed for a commercial shipment, if a properly prepared customs or commercial invoice is not available at the time the goods are entered. An acceptable format for a pro forma invoice is reproduced in the appendix.

Some of the additional information specified for the commodities under section 141.89 of the Customs Regulations may not be required when entry is made on a pro forma invoice. However, the pro forma invoice must contain sufficient data for examination, classification, and appraisal purposes.

## SPECIAL INVOICES

Special invoices are required for some merchandise. See 19 CFR 141.89.

# 12. FREQUENT ERRORS IN INVOICING

Foreign sellers or shippers must exercise care in preparing invoices and other documents used to enter goods into the commerce of the United States in order for their importers to avoid difficulties, delays, or possibly even penal sanctions. Each document must contain all information required by law or regulations, and every statement of fact contained in the documents must be true and accurate. Any inaccurate or misleading statement of fact in a document presented to a Customs officer in connection with an entry, or the omission from the document of required information, may result in delays in merchandise release, the detention of the goods, or a claim against the importer for domestic value. Even though the inaccuracy or omission was unintentional, the importer may be required to establish that he exercised due diligence and was not negligent, in order to avoid sanctions with consequent delay in obtaining possession of goods and closing the transaction. (See 19 U.S.C. 1592.)

It is particularly important that all statements relating to merchandise description,

price or value, and amounts of discounts, charges, and commissions be truthfully and accurately set forth. It is also important that the invoices set forth the true name of the actual seller and purchaser of the goods, in the case of purchased goods, or the true name of the actual consignor and consignee when the goods are shipped otherwise than in pursuance of a purchase. It is important, too, that the invoice otherwise reflect the real nature of the transaction pursuant to which the goods were shipped to the United States.

The fundamental rule is that both the shipper and importer must furnish Customs officers with all pertinent information with respect to each import transaction to assist Customs officers in determining the tariff status of the goods. Examples of omissions and inaccuracies to be avoided are:

- The shipper assumes that a commission, royalty, or other charge against the goods is a so-called “nondutiable” item and omits it from the invoice.
- A foreign shipper who purchases goods and sells them to a United States importer at a delivered price shows on the invoice the cost of the goods to him instead of the delivered price.
- A foreign shipper manufactures goods partly with the use of materials supplied by the United States importer, but invoices the goods at the actual cost to the manufacturer without including the value of the materials supplied by the importer.
- The foreign manufacturer ships replacement goods to his customer in the United States and invoices the goods at the net price without showing the full price less the allowance for defective goods previously shipped and returned.
- A foreign shipper who sells goods at list price, less a discount, invoices them at the net price, and fails to show the discount.
- A foreign shipper sells goods at a delivered price but invoices them at a price f.o.b. the place of shipment and omits the subsequent charges.
- A foreign shipper indicates in the invoice that the importer is the purchaser, whereas he is in fact either an agent who is receiving a commission for selling the goods or a party who will receive part of the proceeds of the sale of the goods sold for the joint account of the shipper and consignee.
- Invoice descriptions are vague, listing only parts of numbers, truncated or coded descriptions, or lumping various articles together as one when several distinct items are included.

# ASSESSMENT OF DUTY

## 13. DUTIABLE STATUS OF GOODS

### RATES OF DUTY

All goods imported into the United States are subject to duty or duty-free entry in accordance with their classification under the applicable items in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States. An annotated loose-leaf edition of the tariff schedule may be purchased from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. (See 19 U.S.C. 1202.)

When goods are dutiable, *ad valorem*, specific, or compound rates may be assessed. An *ad valorem* rate, which is the type of rate most often applied, is a percentage of the value of the merchandise, such as five percent *ad valorem*. A specific rate is a specified amount per unit of weight or other quantity, such as 5.9 cents per dozen. A compound rate is a combination of both an *ad valorem* rate and a specific rate, such as 0.7 cents per kilo plus 10 percent *ad valorem*.

### FREE OF DUTY OR DUTIABLE

Rates of duty for imported merchandise may also vary depending upon the country of origin. Most merchandise is dutiable under the most-favored-nation—now referred to as *normal trade relations*—rates in the General column under column 1 of the tariff schedule. Merchandise from countries to which these rates have *not* been extended is dutiable at the full or “statutory” rates in column 2 of the tariff schedule.

Free rates are provided for many subheadings in columns 1 and 2 of the tariff schedule. Duty-free status is also available under various conditional exemptions which are reflected in the *Special* column under column 1 of the tariff schedule. It is the importer’s burden to show eligibility for a conditional exemption from duty.

One of the more frequently applied exemptions from duty occurs under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP). GSP-eligible merchandise qualifies for duty-free entry when it is from a beneficiary developing country and meets other requirements as discussed in Chapter 17. Other exemptions are found under the subheadings in Chapter 98 of the tariff schedule. These subheadings include, among other provisions, certain personal exemptions, exemptions for articles for scientific or other institutional purposes, and exemptions for returned American goods.

### RULINGS ON IMPORTS

The Customs Service makes its decision on the dutiable status of merchandise when the entry is liquidated after the entry documents have been filed. When advance information is needed, do not depend on a small “trial” or “test” shipment since there is

no guarantee that the next shipment will receive the same tariff treatment. Small importations may slip by, particularly if they are processed under informal procedures that apply to small shipments or in circumstances warranting application of a flat rate. An exporter, importer, or other interested party may get advance information on any matter affecting the dutiable status of merchandise by writing to the port director where the merchandise will be entered or to the Director, National Commodity Specialist Division, U.S. Customs Service, One Penn Plaza, 11th Floor, New York, New York 10119, or to the U.S. Customs Service, Attention: Office of Regulations and Rulings, Washington, DC 20229. Detailed information on the procedures applicable to decisions on prospective importations is given in 19 CFR Part 177.

#### BINDING DECISIONS

While you will find that, for many purposes, Customs ports are your best sources of information, informal information obtained on tariff classifications is not binding. Under 19 CFR part 177, the importing public may obtain a binding tariff classification ruling, which can be relied upon for placing or accepting orders or for making other business determinations, under Chapters 1 through 97 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule, by writing to the National Commodity Specialist Division, U.S. Customs Service, One Penn Plaza, 11th Floor, New York, New York 10119. The ruling will be binding at all ports of entry unless revoked by the Customs Service's Office of Regulations and Rulings.

The following information is required in ruling requests:

- The names, addresses and other identifying information of all interested parties (if known) and the manufacturer ID code (if known).
- The name(s) of the port(s) at which the merchandise will be entered (if known).
- A description of the transaction; for example, a prospective importation of (merchandise) from (country).
- A statement that there are, to the importer's knowledge, no issues on the commodity pending before the Customs Service or any court.
- A statement as to whether classification advice has previously been sought from a Customs officer, and if so, from whom, and what advice was rendered, if any.

A request for a tariff classification should include the following information:

- A complete description of the goods. Send samples, if practical, sketches, diagrams, or other illustrative material that will be useful in supplementing the written description.

- Cost breakdowns of component materials and their respective quantities shown in percentages, if possible.
- A description of the principal use of the goods, as a class or kind of merchandise, in the United States.
- Information as to commercial, scientific or common designations, as may be applicable.
- Any other information that may be pertinent or required for the purpose of tariff classification.

To avoid delays, your request should be as complete as possible. If you send a sample, do not rely on it to tell the whole story. Also, please note that samples may be subjected to laboratory analysis, which is done free of charge. Clearly, however, if a sample is destroyed during laboratory analysis, it cannot be returned.

Information submitted and incorporated in response to a request for a Customs decision may be disclosed or withheld in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, as amended 5 U.S.C. 552, 19 CFR 177.8(a)(3).

#### PROTESTS

The importer may disagree with the dutiable status after the entry has been liquidated. A decision at this stage of the entry transaction is requested by filing a protest and application for further review on Customs Form 19 within 90 days after liquidation (see CFR part 174). If the Customs Service denies a protest, dutiable status may then be determined through litigation against the Government.

#### LIABILITY FOR DUTIES

There is no provision under which U.S. duties or taxes may be prepaid in a foreign country before exportation to the United States. This is true even for gifts sent by mail.

In the usual case, liability for the payment of duty becomes fixed at the time an entry for consumption or for warehouse is filed with Customs. The obligation for payment is upon the person or firm in whose name the entry is filed. When goods have been entered for warehouse, liability for paying duties may be transferred to any person who purchases the goods and desires to withdraw them in his or her own name.

Paying a customs broker will not relieve the importer of his or her liability for customs charges (duties, taxes, and other debts owed Customs) should those charges not be paid by the broker. Therefore, if the importer pays the broker by check, he or she should give the broker a separate check, made payable to "U.S. Customs Service" for those customs charges, which the broker will then deliver to Customs.

If the entry is made in the name of a customs broker, the broker may obtain relief from statutory liability for the payment of increased or additional duties found due if (1) the actual owner of goods is named, and (2) the owner's declaration whereby the owner agrees to pay the additional duty and the owner's bond are both filed by the broker with the port director within 90 days of the date of entry.

## 14. CONTAINERS OR HOLDERS

The Customs Service designates such items as lift vans, cargo vans, shipping tanks, pallets and certain articles used to ship goods internationally as *instruments of international traffic*. So long as this designation applies, these articles are not subject to entry or duty when they arrive, whether they are loaded or empty. Other classes of merchandise containers may also be designated as instruments of international traffic upon application to the Commissioner of Customs for such a designation. If any article so designated is diverted to domestic use, however, it must be entered and duty paid, if applicable.

Containers specially shaped or fitted to contain a specific article or set of articles, suitable for long term use and entered with the articles for which they are intended, are classifiable with the accompanying articles if they are of a kind normally sold therewith. Examples of such containers are: camera cases, musical instrument cases, gun cases, drawing instrument cases, and necklace cases. This rule does not apply to containers that give the importation as a whole its essential character.

Subject to the above rule, packing materials and packing containers entered with goods packed in them are classified with these goods if they are of a kind normally used for packing such goods. However, this does not apply to packing materials or containers that are clearly suitable for repetitive use.

## 15. TEMPORARY FREE IMPORTATIONS

### TEMPORARY IMPORTATION UNDER BOND (TIB)

Goods of the types enumerated below, when not imported for sale or for sale on approval, may be admitted into the United States under bond, without the payment of duty, for exportation within one year from the date of importation. Generally, the amount of the bond is double the estimated duties. The one-year period for exportation may, upon application to the port director, be extended for one or more further periods which, when added to the initial one year, shall not exceed a total of three years. There is an exception in the case of articles covered in item 14: the period of the bond may not exceed six months and may not be extended.

Merchandise entered under TIB must be exported before expiration of the bond period, or any extension, to avoid assessment of liquidated damages in the amount of the bond.

All goods entered under TIB are subject to quota compliance.

#### CLASSES OF GOODS

- (1) Merchandise to be repaired, altered, or processed (including processes which result in an article being manufactured or produced in the United States), provided that the following conditions are met:
  - The merchandise will not be processed into an article manufactured or produced in the United States if the article is (1) alcohol, distilled spirits, wine, beer, or any dilution or mixture of these; (2) perfume or other commodity containing ethyl alcohol, whether denatured or not; (3) a product of wheat.
  - If merchandise is processed and results in an article being manufactured or produced in the United States other than those described above, (1) a complete accounting will be made to the Customs Service for all articles, wastes, and irrecoverable losses resulting from the processing, and (2) all articles will be exported or destroyed under Customs supervision within the bonded period. Valuable waste must also be exported or so destroyed unless duty, if applicable, is paid.
- (2) Models of women's wearing apparel imported by manufacturers for use solely as models in their own establishments; these articles require quota compliance.
- (3) Articles imported by illustrators and photographers for use solely as models in their own establishments to illustrate catalogs, pamphlets, or advertising matter.
- (4) Samples solely for use in taking orders for merchandise; these samples require quota compliance.
- (5) Articles solely for examination with a view to reproduction or for examination and reproduction (except photoengraved printing plates for examination and reproduction); and motion-picture advertising films.
- (6) Articles intended solely for testing, experimental, or review purposes, including plans, specifications, drawings, blueprints, photographs, and articles for use in connection with experiments or for study. If articles under this category are destroyed in connection with the experiment or study, proof of such destruction must be presented to satisfy the obligation under the bond to export the articles.
- (7) Automobiles, motorcycles, bicycles, airplanes, airships, balloons, boats, racing

shells, and similar vehicles and craft, and the usual equipment of the foregoing, if brought temporarily into the United States by nonresidents for the purpose of taking part in races or other specific contests. Port directors may defer the exaction of a bond for a period not to exceed 90 days after the date of importation for vehicles and craft to take part in races or other specific contests for other than money purposes. If the vehicle or craft is not exported or the bond is not given within the period of such deferment, the vehicle or craft shall be subject to forfeiture.

- (8) Locomotives and other railroad equipment brought temporarily into the United States for use in clearing obstructions, fighting fires, or making emergency repairs on railroads within the United States or for use in transportation otherwise than in international traffic when the Secretary of the Treasury finds that the temporary use of foreign railroad equipment is necessary to meet an emergency. Importers can expedite approval of a request for temporary importation to meet an emergency by including evidence of the existence of the emergency, such as news reports.
- (9) Containers for compressed gases, filled or empty, and containers or other articles used for covering or holding merchandise (including personal or household effects) during transportation and suitable for reuse for that purpose.
- (10) Professional equipment, tools of trade, repair components for equipment or tools admitted under this item, and camping equipment imported by or for nonresidents for the nonresident's use while sojourning temporarily in the United States.
- (11) Articles of special design for temporary use exclusively in connection with the manufacture or production of articles for export.
- (12) Animals and poultry brought into the United States for the purpose of breeding, exhibition, or competition for prizes, and the usual equipment therefor.
- (13) Works of free fine arts, drawings, engravings, photographic pictures, and philosophical and scientific apparatus brought into the United States by professional artists, lecturers, or scientists arriving from abroad for use by them for exhibition and in illustration, promotion, and encouragement of art, science or industry in the United States.
- (14) Automobiles, automobile chassis, automobile bodies, cutaway portions of any of the foregoing, and parts for any of the foregoing, finished, unfinished, or cutaway, when intended solely for show purposes. These articles may be admitted only on condition that the Secretary of the Treasury has found that the foreign country from which the articles were imported allows or will allow substantially reciprocal privileges with respect to similar exports to that country from the United States. If

the Secretary finds that a foreign country has discontinued or will discontinue the allowance of such privileges, the privileges under this item shall not apply thereafter to imports from that country.

#### RELIEF FROM LIABILITY

Relief from liability under bond may be obtained in any case in which the articles are destroyed under Customs supervision, in lieu of exportation, within the original bond period. However, in the case of articles entered under item 6, destruction need not be under Customs supervision where articles are destroyed during the course of experiments or tests during the bond period or any lawful extension, but satisfactory proof of destruction shall be furnished to the port director with whom the customs entry is filed.

#### ATA CARNET

ATA stands for the combined French and English words “Admission Temporaire—Temporary Admission.” ATA carnet is an international customs document that may be used for the temporary duty-free importation of certain goods into a country in lieu of the usual customs documents required. The carnet serves as a guarantee against the payment of customs duties that may become due on goods temporarily imported and not reexported. Quota compliance is required on merchandise subject to quota; for example, textiles are subject to quota and visa requirements.

A carnet is valid for one year. The traveler or businessperson, however, may make as many trips as desired during the period the carnet is valid provided he or she has sufficient pages for each stop.

The United States currently allows ATA carnets to be used for the temporary admission of professional equipment, commercial samples, and advertising material. Most other countries allow the use of carnets for the temporary admission of these goods and, in some cases, other uses of the ATA carnet are permitted.

Local carnet associations, as members of the International Bureau of the Paris-based International Chamber of Commerce, issue carnets to their residents. These associations guarantee the payment of duties to local customs authorities should goods imported under cover of a foreign-issued carnet not be reexported. In the United States, the U.S. Council of the International Chamber of Commerce, located at 1212 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036, Tel. 212.354.4480, has been designated by U.S. Customs as the United States issuing and guaranteeing organization. A fee is charged by the Council for its service.

ATA carnets can be used in the following countries:

Algeria  
Australia  
Austria

Belgium  
Bulgaria  
Canada  
Canary Islands  
China  
Croatia  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Estonia  
Finland  
France  
French Polynesia  
French West Indies  
Germany  
Gibraltar  
Greece  
Hong Kong  
Hungary  
Iceland  
India  
Ireland  
Israel  
Italy  
Ivory Coast  
Japan  
Republic of South Korea  
Lebanon  
Luxembourg  
Malaysia  
Malta  
Mauritius  
Netherlands  
New Zealand  
Norway  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
Senegal  
Singapore  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
South Africa  
Spain

Sri Lanka  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Thailand  
Turkey  
United Kingdom  
United States

Egypt and certain other countries have accepted the ATA convention but have not implemented the use of carnets. As countries are being continuously added to the carnet system, please check with the U.S. Council if a country you wish to visit is not included in the above list.

## 16. THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (NAFTA)

The provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement were adopted by the United States with enactment of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act of 1993 (107 Stat. 2057, Public Law 103-182). Nineteen CFR Parts 10, 12, 123, 134, 162, 174, 177, and 178 were amended and new parts 102 and 181 of the Customs Regulations were developed to implement the duty provisions of the NAFTA.

The NAFTA eliminates tariffs on most goods originating in Canada, Mexico, and the United States over a maximum transition period of 15 years. Under the schedule to eliminate duties previously established in the Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement, goods originating in Canada have been free of duty since 1998. For most Mexico-United States and Canada-Mexico trade, the NAFTA will either eliminate existing customs duties immediately or phase them out in five to ten years. On a few sensitive items, the Agreement will phase out tariffs over 15 years. NAFTA-member countries may agree to a faster phaseout of tariffs on any goods.

During the transition period, rates of duties will vary depending upon which NAFTA country the goods were produced in. That is, the NAFTA may grant Canadian goods entering the United States a different NAFTA rate than the same Mexican goods entering the United States. For most goods imported into Canada, there will be three NAFTA rates; the rate depends on whether the goods are of U.S. origin, Mexican origin or produced jointly with U.S. and Mexican inputs.

Generally, tariffs will only be eliminated on goods that “originate” as defined in Article 401 of the NAFTA. That is, transshipping goods made in another country through Mexico or Canada will not entitle them to preferential NAFTA rates of duty. The NAFTA does provide for reduced duties on some goods of Canada, Mexico, and the United States

that do not originate there but that meet specified conditions outlined in the Agreement. The NAFTA grants benefits to a variety of goods that “originate” in the region. “Originating” is a term used to describe those goods that meet the requirements of Article 401 of the Agreement. Article 401 of the Agreement defines “originating” in four ways:

- Goods wholly obtained or produced entirely in the NAFTA region;
- Goods produced entirely in the NAFTA region exclusively from originating materials;
- Goods meeting a specific Annex 401 origin rule;
- Unassembled goods and goods classified with their parts which do not meet the Annex 401 rule of origin but contain 60 percent regional value content using the transaction method (50 percent using the net cost method.)

Goods that qualify as originating will lose that status if they subsequently undergo any operation outside the NAFTA region other than unloading, reloading, or any other operation necessary to preserve them in good condition or to transport the goods to Canada, Mexico or the United States.

#### ENTRY PROCEDURES

Existing entry procedures will continue to be used under the NAFTA. As with other trade-preference programs, importers must claim NAFTA benefits to receive preferential duty treatment. In the United States, a claim is made by:

#### FORMAL ENTRIES

- Prefixing “MX” or “CA” to the tariff classification number.
- Signing the CF 7501 (Entry Summary).

#### INFORMAL ENTRIES

Pursuant to 19 CFR 181.22(d) of the Agreement, the U.S. does not require a Certificate of Origin for entries valued at US \$2,500 or less. For commercial shipments, however, the invoice accompanying the importation must include a statement certifying that the goods qualify as originating goods.

#### EXPORTER’S CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN

Article 502 of the NAFTA requires that an importer base his claims on the exporter’s written certificate of origin. This may be the U.S.-approved CF 434, CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN; the Canadian Certificate of Origin (Canadian Form B-232), or the Mexican Certificate of Origin (Certificado de Origen). This certificate may cover a single shipment or may be utilized as a blanket declaration for a period of 12 months. In either case, the certificate must be in the importer’s possession when making the claim.

## SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR SENSITIVE SECTORS

NAFTA Annex 401, origin criteria for textiles and apparel products, ensures that most of the production relating to textiles and apparel occurs in North America. The basic origin rule for textiles and apparel is “yarn forward.” This means that the yarn used to form the fabric must originate in a NAFTA country.

Additional information on NAFTA provisions is contained in the book *The North American Free Trade Agreement: A Guide To Customs Procedures*, Customs Publication No. 571. This publication may be purchased from the U.S. Government Printing Office.

## 17. GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP)

The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) is a program providing for free rates of duty for certain merchandise from beneficiary developing independent countries and dependent countries and territories to encourage their economic growth (see below). This program was enacted by the United States in the Trade Act of 1974. It occasionally expires and must be renewed by Congress to remain in effect. The Customs Service will provide the trade community with notification of these expirations and renewals.

### ELIGIBLE ITEMS

The GSP eligibility list contains a wide range of products classifiable under more than 4,000 different subheadings in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States. These items are identified either by an “A” or “A\*” in the “Special” column under column 1 of the tariff schedule. Merchandise classifiable under a subheading designated in this manner may qualify for duty-free entry if imported into the United States directly from any of the designated countries and territories. Merchandise from one or more of these countries, however, may be excluded from the exemption if there is an “A\*” in the “Special” column. The list of countries and exclusions, as well as the list of GSP-eligible articles, will change from time to time over the life of the program. Therefore, the latest edition of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States will contain the most current information under General Note 4(a).

If advance tariff classification information is needed to ascertain whether your commodity is eligible under the GSP, you may obtain this information under the procedures previously discussed in Chapter 13 relating to dutiable status.

### CLAIMS

For commercial shipments requiring a formal entry, a claim for duty-free status is made under GSP by showing on the entry summary that the country of origin is a designated beneficiary developing country and by showing an “A” with the appropriate GSP-eligible subheading. Eligible merchandise will be entitled to duty-free treatment

provided the following conditions are met:

- The merchandise must have been produced in a beneficiary country. This requirement is satisfied when (1) the goods are wholly the growth, product, or manufacture of a beneficiary country, or (2) the goods have been substantially transformed into a new or different article of commerce in a beneficiary country.
- The merchandise must be imported directly from any beneficiary country into the customs territory of the United States.
- The cost or value of materials produced in the beneficiary developing country and/or the direct cost of processing performed there must represent at least 35 percent of the appraised value of the goods.

The cost or value of materials imported into the beneficiary developing country may be included in calculating the 35 percent value-added requirement for an eligible article if the materials are first substantially transformed into new or different articles and are then used as constituent materials in the production of the eligible article. The phrase “direct costs of processing” includes costs directly incurred or reasonably allocated to the processing of the article such as the cost of all actual labor, dies, molds, tooling, depreciation on machinery, research and development, and inspection and testing. Business overhead, administrative expenses, salaries, and profit, as well as general business expenses such as administrative salaries, casualty and liability insurance, advertising and salesmen’s salaries, are not considered direct costs of processing.

#### SOURCES OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Customs rules and regulations on GSP are incorporated in sections 10.171-10.178 of the Customs Regulations. Address any question you may have on the administrative or operational aspects of the GSP to the Executive Director, Trade Programs, U.S. Customs Service, Washington, DC 20229. Requests for information concerning additions to, or deletions from, the list of eligible merchandise under GSP, or the list of beneficiary development countries, should be directed to the Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Subcommittee, Office of U.S. Trade Representative, 600 17th St., NW, Washington, DC 20506.

### GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP) **Independent Countries**

Albania  
Angola  
Antigua and Barbuda  
Argentina  
Armenia  
Bahrain

Bangladesh  
Barbados<sup>3</sup>  
Belize<sup>3</sup>  
Benin<sup>4</sup>  
Bhutan  
Bolivia<sup>1</sup>  
Bosnia and Hercegovina  
Botswana<sup>5</sup>  
Brazil  
Bulgaria  
Burkina Faso  
Burundi  
Cambodia<sup>2</sup>  
Cameroon  
Cape Verde  
Central African Republic  
Chad  
Chile  
Colombia<sup>1</sup>  
Comoros  
Republic of Congo (Brazzaville)  
Democratic Republic of Congo (Kinshasa)  
Costa Rica  
Côte d'Ivoire<sup>4</sup>  
Croatia

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<sup>3</sup> Member countries of the Caribbean Common Market—CARICOM (treated as one country).

<sup>3</sup> Member countries of the Caribbean Common Market—CARICOM (treated as one country).

<sup>4</sup> Member countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union—WAEMU (treated as one country).

<sup>1</sup> Member countries of the Cartagena Agreement—Andean Group (treated as one country).

<sup>5</sup> Member countries of the Southern Africa Development Community—SADC (treated as one country).

<sup>2</sup> Association of South East Asian Nations—ASEAN (GSP-eligible countries only) treated as one country.

<sup>1</sup> Member countries of the Cartagena Agreement—Andean Group (treated as one country).

<sup>4</sup> Member countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union—WAEMU (treated as one country).

Czech Republic  
Djibouti  
Dominica<sup>3</sup>  
Dominican Republic  
Ecuador<sup>1</sup>  
Egypt  
El Salvador  
Equatorial Guinea  
Eritrea  
Estonia  
Ethiopia  
Fiji  
Gabon  
Gambia, The  
Ghana  
Grenada<sup>3</sup>  
Guatemala  
Guinea  
Guinea Bissau<sup>4</sup>  
Guyana<sup>3</sup>  
Haiti  
Honduras  
Hungary  
India  
Indonesia<sup>2</sup>  
Jamaica<sup>3</sup>  
Jordan  
Kazakhstan  
Kenya  
Kiribati  
Kyrgyzstan  
Latvia  
Lebanon  
Lesotho  
Lithuania  
Macedonia, Former Yugoslav Republic of  
Madagascar

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<sup>4</sup> Member countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union—WAEMU (treated as one country).

<sup>3</sup> Member countries of the Caribbean Common Market—CARICOM (treated as one country).

<sup>2</sup> Association of South East Asian Nations—ASEAN (GSP-eligible countries only) treated as one country.

<sup>3</sup> Member countries of the Caribbean Common Market—CARICOM (treated as one country).

Malawi  
Mali <sup>4</sup>  
Malta  
Mauritania  
Mauritius <sup>5</sup>  
Moldova  
Mongolia  
Morocco  
Mozambique  
Namibia  
Nepal

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<sup>4</sup> Member countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union—WAEMU (treated as one country).

<sup>5</sup> Member countries of the Southern Africa Development Community—SADC (treated as one country).

Niger <sup>4</sup>  
Nigeria  
Oman  
Pakistan  
Panama  
Papua, New Guinea  
Paraguay  
Peru <sup>1</sup>  
Philippines <sup>2</sup>  
Poland  
Romania  
Russia  
Rwanda  
Saint Kitts and Nevis <sup>3</sup>  
Saint Lucia <sup>3</sup>  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines <sup>3</sup>  
Samoa  
Sao Tome and Principe  
Senegal <sup>4</sup>  
Seychelles  
Sierra Leone  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Solomon Islands  
Somalia  
South Africa  
Sri Lanka  
Suriname  
Swaziland  
Tanzania <sup>5</sup>  
Thailand <sup>2</sup>  
Togo <sup>4</sup>  
Tonga

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<sup>4</sup> Member countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union—WAEMU (treated as one country).

<sup>1</sup> Member countries of the Cartagena Agreement—Andean Group (treated as one country).

<sup>2</sup> Association of South East Asian Nations—ASEAN (GSP-eligible countries only) treated as one country.

<sup>3</sup> Member countries of the Caribbean Common Market—CARICOM (treated as one country).

<sup>3</sup> Member countries of the Caribbean Common Market—CARICOM (treated as one country).

<sup>3</sup> Member countries of the Caribbean Common Market—CARICOM (treated as one country).

<sup>4</sup> Member countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union—WAEMU (treated as one country).

<sup>5</sup> Member countries of the Southern Africa Development Community—SADC (treated as one country).

<sup>2</sup> Association of South East Asian Nations—ASEAN (GSP-eligible countries only) treated as one country.

<sup>4</sup> Member countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union—WAEMU (treated as one country).

Trinidad and Tobago <sup>3</sup>  
Tunisia  
Turkey  
Tuvalu  
Uganda  
Ukraine  
Uruguay  
Uzbekistan  
Vanuatu  
Venezuela <sup>1</sup>  
Republic of Yemen  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe

### **Non-Independent Countries and Territories**

Anguilla  
British Indian Ocean Territory  
Christmas Island (Australia) Cocos (Keeling) Island  
Cook Islands  
Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)  
French Polynesia  
Gibraltar  
Heard Island and McDonald Islands

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<sup>3</sup> Member countries of the Caribbean Common Market—CARICOM (treated as one country).

<sup>1</sup> Member countries of the Cartagena Agreement—Andean Group (treated as one country).

Montserrat<sup>3</sup>  
New Caledonia  
Niue  
Norfolk Island  
Pitcairn Island  
Saint Helena  
Tokelau  
Turks and Caicos Islands  
Virgin Islands, British  
Wallis and Funtuna  
West Bank and Gaza Strip  
Western Sahara

## 18. CARIBBEAN BASIN INITIATIVE (CBI)

The Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) is a program providing for the duty-free entry of certain merchandise from designated beneficiary countries or territories. This program was enacted by the United States as the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act, became effective on January 1, 1984, and has no expiration date.

### BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES

The following countries and territories have been designated as beneficiary countries for purposes of the CBI:

Antigua and Barbuda  
Aruba  
Bahamas  
Barbados  
Belize  
Costa Rica  
Dominica  
Dominican Republic  
El Salvador  
Grenada  
Guatemala  
Guyana  
Haiti  
Honduras  
Jamaica

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<sup>3</sup> Member countries of the Caribbean Common Market—CARICOM (treated as one country).

Montserrat  
Netherlands Antilles  
Nicaragua  
Panama  
Saint Kitts and Nevis  
Saint Lucia  
Saint Vincent and the  
Grenadines  
Trinidad and Tobago  
Virgin Islands,  
British

#### ELIGIBLE ITEMS

The list of beneficiaries may change from time to time over the life of the program. Therefore, it is necessary to consult General Note 7(a) in the latest edition of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, which contains updated information.

Most products from designated beneficiaries may be eligible for CBI duty-free treatment. These items are identified by either an “E” or “E\*” in the Special column under column 1 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule. Merchandise classifiable under a subheading designated in this manner may qualify for duty-free entry if imported into the United States directly from any of the designated countries and territories. Merchandise from one or more of these countries, however, may be excluded from time to time over the life of the program. Therefore, the latest edition of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States will contain the most up-to-date information.

#### CLAIMS

Merchandise will be eligible for CBI duty-free treatment only if the following conditions are met:

- For commercial shipments requiring a formal entry, a claim for preferential tariff treatment under CBI is made by showing that the country of origin is a designated beneficiary country and by inserting the letter “E” as a prefix to the applicable tariff schedule number on Customs Form 7501.
- The merchandise must have been produced in a beneficiary country. This requirement is satisfied when (1) the goods are wholly the growth, product, or manufacture of a beneficiary country, or (2) the goods have been substantially transformed into a new or different article of commerce in a beneficiary country.
- The merchandise must be imported directly from any beneficiary country into the customs territory of the United States.

- At least 35 percent of the appraised value of the article imported into the United States must consist of the cost or value of materials produced in one or more beneficiary countries and/or the direct costs of processing operations performed in one or more beneficiary countries. The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are defined as beneficiary countries for purposes of this requirement; therefore, value attributable to Puerto Rico or to the Virgin Islands may also be counted. In addition, the cost or value of materials produced in the customs territory of the United States (other than Puerto Rico) may be counted toward the 35 percent value-added requirement, but only to a maximum of 15 percent of the appraised value of the imported article.

The cost or value of materials imported into a beneficiary country from a non-beneficiary country may be included in calculating the 35 percent value-added requirement for an eligible article if the materials are first substantially transformed into new or different articles of commerce and are then used as constituent materials in the production of the eligible article. The phrase “direct costs of processing operations” includes costs directly incurred or reasonably allocated to the production of the article, such as the cost of actual labor, dies, molds, tooling, depreciation of machinery, research and development, inspection, and testing. Business overhead, administrative expenses and profit, as well as general business expenses, such as casualty and liability insurance, advertising, and salespeople’s salaries, are not considered direct costs of processing operations.

#### CBI II SECTION 215 AND 222

In addition to the origin rules enumerated above, the Customs and Trade Act of 1990 added new criteria for duty-free eligibility under the Caribbean Basin Initiative. First, articles which are the growth, product or manufacture of Puerto Rico and which subsequently are processed in a CBI beneficiary country may also receive duty-free treatment when entered, if the three following conditions are met:

- They are imported directly from a beneficiary country into the customs territory of the United States.
- They are advanced in value or improved in condition by any means in a beneficiary country.
- Any materials added to the article in a beneficiary country must be a product of a beneficiary country or the U.S.

Second, articles that are assembled or processed in whole from U.S. components or ingredients (other than water) in a beneficiary country may be entered free of duty. Duty-free treatment will apply if the components or ingredients are exported directly to the beneficiary country and the finished article is imported directly into the customs territory of the United States.

If advance tariff classification information is needed to ascertain whether your merchandise would be eligible for CBI duty-free treatment, you may obtain this information under the procedures previously discussed in Chapter 13 relating to dutiable status.

#### SOURCES OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Customs rules and regulations on the CBI are incorporated in sections 10.191-10.198 of the Customs Regulations. Address any question you may have about the administrative or operational aspects of the CBI to the port director where the merchandise will be entered or to Director, Commercial Compliance Division, U.S. Customs Service, Washington, DC 20229.

## 19. ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCE ACT (ATPA)

The Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA) is a program providing for the duty-free entry of certain merchandise from designated beneficiary countries. The ATPA was enacted into law by the United States on December 4, 1991, and expired on December 4, 2001.

*Effective December 5, 2001, merchandise that is either entered or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption is not eligible for preferential tariff treatment under the ATPA unless Congress extends the act. Duties must be deposited for all merchandise entered on or after that date. Use of the "J" Special Program Indicator will result in rejection of the entry summary for all such merchandise.*

*If Congress does renew the ATPA and makes it retroactive, a message will be issued to the trade community that describes how to request refunds. Please check Customs Web site for updates.*

#### BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES

The following countries have been designated as beneficiary countries for purposes of the ATPA:

**Bolivia      Colombia      Ecuador      Peru**

#### ELIGIBLE ITEMS

Most products from designated beneficiary countries may be eligible for ATPA duty-free treatment. Products that are statutorily excluded include: textile and apparel articles which are subject to textile agreements; some footwear; preserved tuna in airtight containers; petroleum products; watches and watch parts from countries subject to Column 2 rates of duty; various sugar products; rum and tafia. Eligible items are

identified by either a “J” or “J\*” in the “Special” subcolumn under column 1 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule. Merchandise classifiable under a subheading designated in this manner may qualify for duty-free entry if imported into the United States directly from any designated ATPA beneficiary country. Merchandise from one or more of these countries, however, may be excluded from duty-free treatment if there is a “J\*” in the “Special” subcolumn.

## RULES OF ORIGIN

For commercial shipments requiring formal entry, a claim for preferential tariff treatment under ATPA is made by showing that the country of origin is a designated beneficiary country and by using the letter “J” as a prefix to the appropriate tariff schedule number on Customs Form 7501. Merchandise will be eligible for ATPA duty-free treatment only if the following conditions are met:

- The merchandise must have been produced in a beneficiary country. This requirement is satisfied when: (1) the goods are wholly the growth, product, or manufacture of a beneficiary country, or (2) the goods have been substantially transformed into a new or different article of commerce in a beneficiary country.
- The merchandise must be imported directly from any beneficiary country into the customs territory of the United States.
- At least 35 percent of the article’s appraised value must consist of the cost or value of materials produced in one or more ATPA or CBI beneficiary countries and/or the direct costs of processing operations performed in one or more ATPA or CBI beneficiary countries. The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are defined as beneficiary countries for purposes of this requirement; therefore, value attributable to Puerto Rico or to the Virgin Islands may also be counted. In addition, the cost or value of materials produced in the customs territory of the United States (other than Puerto Rico) may be counted toward the 35 percent value-added requirement, but only to a maximum of 15 percent of the appraised value of the imported article.

The cost or value of materials imported into ATPA or CBI beneficiary countries from nonbeneficiary countries may be included in calculating the 35 percent value-added requirement for an eligible article if the materials are first substantially transformed into new or different articles of commerce and are then used as constituent materials in the production of the eligible article. The phrase “direct costs of processing operations” includes costs directly incurred or reasonably allocated to the production of the article, such as the cost of actual labor, dies, molds, tooling, depreciation of machinery, research and development, inspection, and testing. Business overhead, administrative expenses and profit, as well as general business expenses such as casualty and liability insurance, advertising, and salespeople’s salaries, are not considered direct costs of processing operations.

## CBI II SECTION 215 AND 222

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- They are imported directly from a beneficiary country into the customs territory of the United States.
- They are advanced in value or improved in condition by any means in a beneficiary country.
- Any materials added to the article in a beneficiary country must be a product of a beneficiary country or the U.S.

Second, articles that are assembled or processed in whole from U.S. components or ingredients (other than water) in a beneficiary country may be entered free of duty. Duty-free treatment will apply if the components or ingredients are exported directly to the beneficiary country and the finished article is imported directly into the customs territory of the United States.

If advance tariff classification information is needed to ascertain whether your merchandise would be eligible for CBI duty-free treatment, you may obtain this information under the procedures previously discussed in Chapter 13 relating to dutiable status.

#### SOURCES OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Customs rules and regulations on the CBI are incorporated in sections 10.191-10.198 of the Customs Regulations.

Address any question you may have about the administrative or operational aspects of the CBI to the port director where the merchandise will be entered or to Director, Commercial Compliance Division, U.S. Customs Service, Washington, DC 20229.

## 20. U.S.-ISRAEL FREE TRADE AREA AGREEMENT

The United States-Israel Free Trade Area (FTA) agreement is a program originally enacted to provide for duty-free treatment for merchandise produced in Israel to stimulate trade between the two countries. This program was authorized by the United States in the Trade and Tariff Act of 1984, became effective September 1, 1985, and has no termination date.

The FTA Implementation Act was amended on October 2, 1996, authorizing the President to implement certain changes affecting the duty status of goods from the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and qualifying industrial zones (QIZs). By Presidential Proclamation 6955 of November 13, 1996, General Note 3(v) was created to implement the new program for these goods. Pursuant to General Note 3(v), duty-free treatment is allowed

for products of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, or a QIZ, imported directly from the West Bank, Gaza Strip, a QIZ or Israel, provided certain requirements are met. Also as a result of Presidential Proclamation 6955, the eligibility requirements were modified for duty-free treatment of articles which are the product of Israel.

In the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, General Note 3(a)(v)(G), a QIZ is defined as any area that 1) encompasses portions of the territory of Israel and Jordan or Israel and Egypt; 2) has been designated by local authorities as an enclave where merchandise may enter without payment of duty or excise taxes; and 3) has been designated by the United States Trade Representative (USTR) in a notice published in the Federal Register as a QIZ. The trade community should contact local Customs ports for a current list of designated QIZs.

#### ELIGIBLE ITEMS

The FTA relates to most tariff items listed in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States. These items are identified by “IL” in the Special column under column 1 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule. If a claim for duty-free or reduced-duty rates is being made for commercial shipments of Israeli goods covered by a formal entry, the HTS subheading must be prefixed with an “IL” on Customs Form 7501 (entry document) or Customs Form 7505 (warehouse withdrawal document), as appropriate.

#### PRODUCTS OF ISRAEL

An article imported into the Customs territory of the United States is eligible for treatment as “Product of Israel” only if:

- The merchandise has been produced in Israel. This requirement is satisfied when (1) the goods are wholly the growth, product, or manufacture of Israel, or (2) the goods have been substantially transformed into a new or different article of commerce in Israel;
- That article is imported directly from Israel, the West Bank, Gaza Strip, or a QIZ into the customs territory of the United States;
- The sum of: (1) the cost or value of the materials produced in Israel, the West Bank, Gaza Strip, or a QIZ, plus (2) the direct costs of processing operations performed in Israel, the West Bank, Gaza Strip, or a QIZ is not less than 35 percent of the appraised value of such article at the time it is entered. If the cost or value of materials produced in the customs territory of the United States is included with respect to an eligible article, an amount not to exceed 15 percent of the appraised value of the article at the time it is entered that is attributable to such United States cost or value may be applied toward determining the 35 percent.

#### PRODUCTS OF WEST BANK, GAZA STRIP, OR QUALIFYING INDUSTRIAL

## ZONE (QIZ)

An article imported into the customs territory of the United States is eligible for treatment as a product of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, or a QIZ only if:

- That article is the growth, product, or manufacture of the West Bank, Gaza Strip or a QIZ.
- That article is imported directly from the West Bank, Gaza Strip, a QIZ or Israel into the customs territory of the United States.
- The sum of: (1) the cost or value of the materials produced in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, a QIZ or Israel, plus (2) the direct costs of processing operations performed in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, a QIZ or Israel, is not less than 35 percent of the appraised value of such article at the time it is entered. If the cost or value of materials produced in the customs territory of the United States is included with respect to an eligible article, an amount not to exceed 15 percent of the appraised value of the article at the time it is entered that is attributable to such United States cost or value may be applied toward the 35 percent.

No article may be considered to meet these requirements by virtue of having undergone:

- Simple combining or packaging operations, or
- Mere diluting with water or another substance that does not materially alter the characteristics of the article.

The phrase “direct costs of processing operations” includes, but is not limited to:

- All actual labor costs involved in the growth, production, manufacture or assembly of the specific merchandise, including fringe benefits, on-the-job training and the costs of engineering, supervisory, quality control and similar personnel.
- Dies, molds, tooling and depreciation on machinery and equipment which are allocable to the specific merchandise.

Direct costs of processing operations do not include costs which are not directly attributable to the merchandise concerned, or are not costs of manufacturing the product, such as (1) profit and (2) general expenses of doing business which are either not allocable to the specific merchandise or are not related to the growth, production, manufacture or assembly of the merchandise, such as administrative salaries, casualty and liability insurance, advertising and sales staff salaries, commissions or expenses.

## CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN FORM A

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Certificate of Origin Form A is used as documentary evidence to support duty-free and reduced-rate claims for Israeli articles covered by a formal entry. It does not have to be produced at the time of entry, however, unless so requested by the Customs Service. The form A may be presented on an entry-by-entry basis or may be used as a blanket declaration for a period of 12 months. The Form A can be obtained from the Israeli authorizing issuing authority or from UNCTAD, Two U.N. Plaza, Room 1120, New York, NY 10017, Tel. 212.963.6895.

## INFORMAL ENTRIES

The Form A is not required for commercial or non-commercial shipments covered by an informal entry. However, the port director may require such other evidence of the country of origin as deemed necessary. With regard to merchandise accompanying the traveler, it should be noted that in order to avoid delays to passengers, the inspecting Customs officer will extend Israeli duty-free or reduced-rate treatment to all eligible articles when satisfied, from the facts available, that the merchandise concerned is a product of Israel. In such cases, Form A is not required for the merchandise.

## SOURCES OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Address any questions you may have about the administrative or operational aspects of the FTA to the Director, Commercial Compliance Division, U.S. Customs Service, Washington, DC 20229. Requests for information concerning policy issues related to the FTA should be directed to the Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Subcommittee, Office of U.S. Trade Representative, 600 17th St., NW, Washington, DC 20506.

## 21. U.S.-JORDAN FREE TRADE AREA AGREEMENT

The United States-Jordan Free Trade Area (FTA) agreement, signed into law in September 2001, became effective December 17, 2001. It provides for the elimination of duties and commercial barriers in the trade of goods and services that originate in the United States and Jordan. Effective immediately, importers may file claims for preferential tariff treatment of designated articles that originate in Jordan.

Presidential Proclamation 7512 (December 7, 2001) created two new annexes that contain the modifications to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) necessary to implement JFTA's provisions. This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on December 13, 2001 (66 FR 64497).

Proclamation 7512 amends the HTS by adding a new General Note 18 concerning the JFTA and a new Subchapter IX to Chapter 99 to provide for the JFTA's temporary tariff-rate quotas. Please refer to Quota Book Transmittals QBT-2001-595 and QBT-2001-596, dated December 11, 2001. Both can be found at Customs Web site, [www.customs.gov](http://www.customs.gov) under "Importing and

Exporting.” These QBTs provide additional information on import restraint limits and reporting instructions for tariff-rate quotas under the JFTA for the years 2001 and 2002. Annex II to Proclamation 7512 lists which HTS numbers have an immediate free rate of duty, which Chapter 1-97 HTS numbers are subject to tariff-rate quotas, and the schedule of staged tariff reductions for products of Jordan.

#### JFTA GENERAL ORIGIN RULES:

Section 102 of the JFTA (Public Law 107-43, 115 Stat. 243; 19 U.S.C. 2112 Note) provides for the rules of origin to determine whether a good qualifies for preferential tariff treatment under the JFTA. Under the agreement, a good qualifies for preferential tariff treatment as a "Product of Jordan," only if:

- (a) It is imported directly from Jordan into the U.S. and is wholly the growth, product, or manufacture of Jordan; or
- (b) It is imported directly from Jordan into the U.S. and is a new or different article of commerce that has been grown, produced, or manufactured in Jordan; and
- (c) The sum of: (1) the cost or value of the materials produced in Jordan, plus (2) the direct costs of processing operations performed in Jordan is not less than 35% of the appraised value of the article at the time it is entered into the territory of the U.S.
- (d) If the cost or value of materials produced in the customs territory of the United States is included for purposes of determining whether an article meets the requirement of containing 35% domestic content, no more than 15 percent of that article’s appraised value that is attributable to the United States cost or value at the time it is entered may be applied toward determining the 35%.

Simple combining or packaging operations or mere dilution with water or another substance is not sufficient to confer origin for purposes of this agreement.

There is no exception from paying the merchandise processing fees provided for in the agreement. These fees must be paid on entries of merchandise for which a preferential-tariff treatment claim is made under the JFTA.

The JFTA does not affect merchandise entered from a Qualified Industrial Zone (QIZ). (See General Note 3[a][v], HTS, for a definition of QIZs.) Because duty reductions will be staged for certain products, it may be advantageous for importers to continue to enter merchandise manufactured in a Jordanian QIZ under General Note 3 (a)(v), rather

than under the JFTA.

## JFTA TEXTILE AND APPAREL ARTICLES ORIGIN RULES

Pursuant to the provisions set forth under the JFTA Act, a textile or apparel article imported directly from Jordan into the customs territory of the United States will be eligible for preferential tariff treatment only if the following conditions are met:

1. The article is wholly obtained or produced in Jordan;
2. The article is a yarn, thread, twine, cordage, rope, cable or braiding, and
  - a. the constituent staple fibers are spun in Jordan, or
  - b. the continuous filament is extruded in Jordan;
3. The article is a fabric, including a fabric classified in chapter 59 of the HTS, and the constituent fibers, filaments or yarns are woven, knitted, needled, tufted, felted, entangled or transformed by any other fabric-making process in Jordan; or
4. The article is any other textile or apparel article that is wholly assembled in Jordan from its component pieces.

Textile and apparel articles not wholly obtained or produced in Jordan must comply with the above conditions and the value requirements described above under “General Origin Rules.”

There are special rules for certain textile and apparel articles like knit-to-shape goods, linens, and certain fabrics and goods subjected to dyeing, printing, and two or more finishing operations (please see General Note 18 HTS).

An article is “wholly obtained or produced in Jordan” if it is wholly the growth, product, or manufacture of Jordan. For more details or clarification of this provision, please consult the General Origin Rules and the relevant HTS headings.

## ELIGIBLE ARTICLES

Pursuant to Annex II of Presidential Proclamation 7512, a list of the HTS item numbers that are eligible for immediate duty-free treatment with respect to Jordanian goods that are either entered or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after December 17, 2001, may be found in the *Federal Register* (66 FR 64497-64734) dated December 13, 2001. This edition of the *Federal Register* may be found at the following Web site address:

[http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fedreg/a011213c.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a011213c.html)

The Proclamation itself is included in the "Presidential Documents" section. The annex, including the staged rate reductions, can only be viewed by opening the .PDF files.

#### IMPORTER REQUIREMENTS:

If preferential tariff treatment is claimed at the time of entry, a written claim shall be filed on the entry document by placing the symbol "JO" as a prefix to the HTS subheading for each article for which such treatment is claimed.

The importer shall be prepared to submit to Customs, upon request, a declaration setting forth all pertinent information concerning the article's production or manufacture. This information must be retained in the importer's files for five years.

The information on the declaration should contain at least the following:

1. A description of the article, quantity, numbers, and marks of packages, invoice number, and bills of lading;
2. A description of the operations performed in the article's production in Jordan and an identification of the direct costs of processing operations;
3. A description of any materials used in the article's production that are wholly the growth, product, or manufacture of Jordan, and a statement of the cost or value of these materials;
4. A description of the operations performed on, and a statement as to the origin and cost or value of, any foreign materials used in the article which are claimed to have been sufficiently processed in Jordan that they now qualify as materials produced in Jordan; and
5. A description of the origin and cost or value of any foreign materials used in the article that were *not* substantially transformed in Jordan.

The declaration shall be prepared, signed, and, upon request, submitted to the Customs officer concerned. Customs may request the importer's declaration when verifying a claim's validity for preferential tariff treatment under the JFTA. In this case, the importer should be prepared to supply any and all supporting documentation upon which the declaration was based. The importer's failure to provide the declaration and/or sufficient evidentiary documentation will result in the claim's denial.

#### EXCLUSIONS

A good shall not be considered to meet the requirements of being a "product of Jordan" if

it:

- is imported into Jordan and, at the time of importation, would be classified under heading 0805 of the HTS; and
- is processed in Jordan into a good classified under any of subheadings 2009.11 through 2009.30 of the HTS.

There is no set expiration date for the JFTA. However, the provisions of and amendments made by the JFTA Act will cease to be effective upon the termination of the agreement by written notification from either the United States or Jordan. The FTA will expire six months after the date of such notification.

Until further notice from the Office of Trade Programs at Customs Headquarters, importers claiming preference under the JFTA must file their entries manually. Importers are urged to visit Customs Web site, [www.customs.gov](http://www.customs.gov), for updates on the implementation status of the JFTA and on the automation status for filing entries under it.

Please address any questions you may have about the administrative or operational aspects of the JTFA to the port director where the merchandise will be entered or to the Executive Director, Office of Trade Programs, U.S. Customs Service, Washington, D.C. 20229

## 22. COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION (FAS)

FAS is a program providing for the duty-free entry of certain merchandise from designated freely associated states. This program, established by Presidential Proclamation 6030 of September 28, 1989, Section 242, became effective on October 18, 1989, and has no termination date.

### BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES

The following freely associated states have been designated as beneficiary countries for purposes of the FAS:

Marshall Islands  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Republic of Palau

### ELIGIBLE ITEMS

The duty-free treatment is applied to most products from the designated

beneficiaries. For commercial shipments requiring formal entry, a claim for duty-free status is made by placing the letter “Z” next to the eligible subheading. The following merchandise is excluded from the duty-free exemption:

- Textile and apparel articles that are subject to textile agreements.
- Footwear, handbags, luggage, flat goods, work gloves, and leather wearing apparel that were not eligible for GSP treatment, discussed in Chapter 17, on April 1, 1984.
- Watches, clocks, and timing apparatus of Chapter 91 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (except such articles incorporating an opto-electronic display and no other type of display).
- Buttons of subheading 9606.21.40 or 9606.29.20 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule.
- Tuna and skipjack, prepared or preserved, not in oil, in airtight containers weighing with their contents not more than 7 kilograms each, “in excess” of the consumption quota quantity allowed duty-free entry.
- Any agricultural product of Chapters 2 through 52 inclusive, that is subject to a tariff-rate quota, if entered in a quantity in excess of the in-quota quantity for such products.

#### RULES OF ORIGIN

Merchandise will be eligible for FAS duty-free treatment only if the following conditions are met:

- The merchandise must have been produced in the freely associated state. This requirement is satisfied when (1) the goods are wholly the growth, product, or manufacture of the freely associated state, or (2) the goods have been substantially transformed into a new or different article of commerce in the freely associated state.
- The merchandise must be imported directly from the freely associated state into the customs territory of the United States.
- At least 35 percent of the appraised value of the article imported into the United States must consist of the cost or value of materials produced in the beneficiary country. In addition, the cost or value of materials produced in the customs territory of the United States may be counted toward the 35 percent value-added requirement, but only to a maximum of 15 percent of the appraised value of the imported article. The cost or value of the materials imported into the freely

associated state from a non-beneficiary country may be included in calculating the 35 percent value-added requirement for an eligible article if the materials are first substantially transformed into new or different articles of commerce and are then used as constituent materials in the production of the eligible product.

#### SOURCES OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Address any questions you may have about the administrative or operational aspects of the FAS to the port director where the merchandise will be entered or to the Director, Commercial Compliance Division, U.S. Customs Service, Washington, DC 20229.

## 23. AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (AGOA)

The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) provides duty-free treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) to certain articles that would normally be excluded from GSP provisions. It also provides for the duty-free entry of specific textile and apparel articles and makes them free of any quantitative limits, provided strict conditions are met.

Enacted on May 18, 2000, as Title I of the Trade and Development Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-200, 114 Stat. 251), AGOA became effective on October 1, 2000. The expanded GSP treatment remains effective through September 30, 2008. The preferential treatment of eligible textile and apparel articles is subject to certain limitations.

#### BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES

There are three types of beneficiary designations under AGOA:

- beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries;
- lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries; and
- beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries eligible for textile/apparel benefits.

The President will monitor and review annually the current or potential eligibility of sub-Saharan African countries to be designated as beneficiary countries. Accordingly, the list of beneficiary countries may change over the life of the program. A current listing of designated countries is available on the Internet at: [www.agoa.gov](http://www.agoa.gov).

The following countries have been designated as *beneficiary* sub-Saharan African countries for the purposes of the AGOA:

Benin

Botswana  
Cape Verde  
Cameroon  
Central African Republic  
Chad  
Republic of Congo (Brazzaville)  
Djibouti  
Eritrea  
Ethiopia  
Gabon  
Ghana  
Guinea  
Guinea-Bissau  
Kenya  
Lesotho  
Madagascar  
Malawi  
Mali  
Mauritania  
Maritius  
Mozambique  
Namibia  
Niger  
Nigeria  
Rwanda  
São Tomé and Príncipe  
Senegal  
Seychelles  
Sierra Leone  
South Africa  
Tanzania  
Uganda  
Zambia

The following sub-Saharan African countries have been designated *lesser developed beneficiary* sub-Saharan African countries for the purposes of AGOA:

Benin  
Cape Verde  
Cameroon  
Central African Republic  
Chad  
Congo  
Djibouti

Eritrea  
Ethiopia  
Ghana  
Guinea  
Guinea-Bissau  
Kenya  
Lesotho  
Madagascar  
Malawi  
Mali  
Mauritania  
Mozambique  
Niger  
Nigeria  
Rwanda  
São Tomé and Príncipe  
Senegal  
Sierra Leone  
Tanzania  
Uganda  
Zambia

The following countries have established visa systems and can import textiles and apparel merchandise for purposes of the AGOA:

Kenya  
Mauritius  
Madagascar  
Lesotho  
South Africa

In order for textile or apparel articles to be eligible for preferential treatment, the beneficiary sub-Saharan African country must be designated as eligible for textile/apparel benefits. This designation requires that the United States determine whether the country has satisfied the requirements of AGOA regarding that country's procedures to protect against unlawful transshipments (including an effective visa system) and the implementation of procedures and requirements similar in all material respects to the relevant procedures and requirements under Chapter 5 of the NAFTA. The United States Trade Representative will publish a *Federal Register* notice when it designates a country as eligible for preferential treatment. This information will be available on the Internet at [www.ustr.gov](http://www.ustr.gov) and at [www.agoa.gov](http://www.agoa.gov).

ELIGIBLE ITEMS

### *Expanded GSP Treatment*

AGOA expands benefits available under the GSP program by offering duty-free treatment to a broader range of products. The President is permitted to extend duty-free treatment to imports of essentially all products except textiles and apparel as long as the products are the “growth, product or manufacture” of: (a) a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country; (b) are imported directly from a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country into the customs territory of the U.S.; (c) meet a value-added requirement; and (d) the President determines that the products are not import-sensitive in the context of imports from beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries. Sub-Saharan African beneficiary countries are also exempted from competitive-need limitations.

Approximately 1835 products have been designated as eligible for duty-free treatment under the GSP program for beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries. These articles will be designated by inserting the symbol “D” in the "Rates of Duty 1-Special" column of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States for subheadings covering such articles. A list of products eligible for duty-free treatment under the AGOA has been published in the *Federal Register* and is available on the Internet at [www.agoa.gov](http://www.agoa.gov).

### *Preferential Treatment for Certain Textile and Apparel Articles*

AGOA provides duty-free and quota-free benefits to imports of certain textile and apparel articles produced in eligible sub-Saharan African countries. In most instances, these benefits are available regardless of the total volume of apparel exported from eligible countries to the United States. The six broad categories of textile and apparel articles that may receive preferential treatment are:

1. Apparel articles assembled in beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries from fabric wholly formed and cut in the United States (from yarns wholly formed in the United States).
2. Apparel articles cut in beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries from fabric wholly formed in the United States (from yarns wholly formed in the United States), if those articles are assembled in one or more beneficiary countries with sewing thread formed in the United States.
3. Apparel assembled from regional and other fabric,

This category generally covers apparel articles wholly assembled in one or more beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries from fabric wholly formed in one or more beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries from yarn originating either in the United States or one or more beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries. However, preferential treatment will be allowed through September 30, 2004, for apparel articles wholly assembled in one or more lesser

developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries regardless of the country of origin of the fabric used to make such articles.

Preferential treatment of apparel articles in this category is subject to a cap of 1.5 percent of overall U.S. apparel imports, growing to 3.5 percent of overall imports over an eight-year period. The cap is denominated in square meter equivalents (SMEs). The first year cap, applicable for the 12-month period beginning October 1, 2000, is 246,500,393 SMEs.

4. Sweaters, in chief weight of cashmere or containing 50 percent or more by weight of wool measuring 18.5 microns in diameter or finer, knit to shape in one or more beneficiary countries.

5. Apparel articles that are both cut (or knit to shape) and sewn or otherwise assembled in one or more beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries, from fabric or yarn not available in commercial quantities in the United States.

This category covers: a) apparel assembled from fabrics or yarns that have been determined to be in short supply in the context of NAFTA, and b) articles assembled from additional fabrics or yarns that the President has proclaimed to be entitled to preferential treatment based on findings that the fabrics and yarns cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner.

6. Hand-loomed, handmade, and folklore articles.

After consultation with the beneficiary sub-Saharan African country or countries, the United States shall determine which, if any, particular textile and apparel goods shall be treated as hand-loomed, handmade, or folklore articles. After such determination, eligible articles must be certified by the competent authority of the beneficiary sub-Saharan African country (or countries) as being hand-loomed, handmade, or folklore articles.

With regard to these six broad categories, AGOA provides special rules that apply in order to determine eligibility for preferential treatment. The Customs regulations implementing AGOA reflect and clarify the statutory standards that must be complied with in order to receive the benefits available under the AGOA. These Customs regulations also include specific documentary, procedural, and other related requirements that must be met in order to obtain those benefits. A Certificate of Origin is required to certify that a textile or apparel article qualifies for preferential treatment. Furthermore, in

order to file a claim for preferential treatment, an importer must make a written declaration that the article qualifies for it. There are also visa requirements that must be met. The importer should consult both AGOA and the Customs Regulations prior to importation to ensure that all requirements are met.

*Additional sources of information*

The text of AGOA is available electronically at Internet site **www.agoa.gov**.

Customs rules and regulations about AGOA are incorporated in section 10.211-10.217 of the Customs Regulations. Additional regulations implementing the GSP provisions are incorporated in section 10.178 of the Customs Regulations. Customs regulations pertaining to the AGOA are also available at **www.agoa.gov**.

For answers to specific questions or to request a ruling, send inquiries to: Director, National Commodity Specialist Division, U.S. Customs Service, One Penn Plaza, 11th Floor, New York, New York 10119. Further information regarding importation procedures is available on the Customs web site, **www.customs.gov**. Customs has issued a new informed-compliance publication on AGOA, which can also be found at our web site.

The Office of the United States Trade Representative has prepared an *African Growth and Opportunity Act Implementation Guide*. The guide is available electronically from the AGOA Web site, [www.agoa.gov](http://www.agoa.gov).

Questions about AGOA not covered in the guidebook may be directed to the Office of African Affairs at the Office of the United States Trade Representative, 600 17<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Washington, DC 20508; tel. 202.395.9514, fax 202.395.4505, or to U.S. embassies or consulates abroad. Additional information on the GSP program is available at the USTR web site, **www.ustr.gov/reports/gsp/contents.html**, or at **www.agoa.gov**, and from the GSP Information Center, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Room 518 Washington, DC 20508, tel. 202.395.6971.

Additional information on the apparel cap, fabric and yarn not available in commercial quantities, and hand-loomed, handmade and folklore articles is available from the Department of Commerce Office of Textile and Apparel, <http://otexa.ita.doc.gov>.

## 24. United States-Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA)

The United States-Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act expands the trade benefits currently available to Caribbean and Central American countries under the Caribbean

Basin Economic Recovery Act. (The Recovery Act is more commonly known as the Caribbean Basin Initiative, or CBI.)

The CBTPA allows specific textile and apparel articles to enter the United States free of duty or restrictions on quantity, provided certain conditions are met. It also extends NAFTA standards of duty to non-textile articles that were previously excluded from duty-free treatment under the CBI program.

The trade benefits provided by the CBTPA apply during the transition period that began October 1, 2000, and end on the earlier of September 30, 2008, or the date on which a free-trade agreement enters into force between the United States and the CBTPA beneficiary countries. (See Title II of the Trade and Development Act of 2000, enacted May 18, 2000 [Public Law 106-200, 114 Stat. 251] for details.)

#### BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES

The following countries have been designated as CBPTA beneficiary countries for the purposes of the CBPTA:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Aruba
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Costa Rica
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- El Salvador
- Grenada
- Guatemala
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Honduras
- Jamaica
- Montserrat
- Netherland Antilles
- Nicaragua
- Panama
- St. Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Trinidad and Tobago
- British Virgin Islands

CBTPA's enhanced trade benefits are available to countries designated as CBTPA

beneficiary countries. To receive these benefits, CBTPA countries must have satisfied the trade pact's requirements that the eligible country has implemented procedures and requirements that are similar in all material respects to the relevant procedures and requirements under Chapter Five of NAFTA.

To date, the following countries have been designated by USTR as eligible for preferential treatment under the CBTPA because they have met the procedures established for qualifying for CBTPA. Importers are advised to contact their local port for a more recent list:

Belize  
Costa Rica  
Dominican Republic  
El Salvador  
Guatemala  
Guyana  
Haiti  
Honduras  
Jamaica  
Nicaragua  
Panama  
Trinidad and Tobago

The USTR publishes in the *Federal Register* the names of CBPTA beneficiary countries and when they became eligible for preferential treatment. (These notices modify General Note 17 of the HTS by listing the countries that satisfy the requirements.)

## ELIGIBLE ITEMS

### *Preferential Treatment for Certain Textile and Apparel Articles*

Certain textile and apparel articles may enter the United States free of duty and quantitative restrictions. The textile and apparel articles eligible for preferential treatment are:

1. Apparel articles assembled in one or more CBTPA beneficiary countries from fabrics wholly formed and cut in the United States, from yarns wholly formed in the United States.
3. Apparel articles cut in one or more CBTPA beneficiary countries from fabric wholly formed in the United States, from yarns wholly formed in the United States, if those articles are assembled in one or more CBTPA beneficiary countries with sewing thread formed in the United States.

4. Certain apparel articles knit to shape in a CBTPA beneficiary country from yarns wholly formed in the United States, and certain knitted or crocheted apparel articles cut and wholly assembled in one or more CBTPA beneficiary countries from fabrics formed in one or more CBTPA beneficiary countries or in one or more CBTPA beneficiary countries and the United States from yarns wholly formed in the United States.

Apparel in this category is subject to annual quantitative limits expressed in square meter equivalents (SMEs). For the one-year period beginning October 1, 2000, the quantitative limit is 250,000,000 SMEs. In each succeeding one-year period through September 30, 2004, the quantitative limit will be increased by 16 percent, compounded annually. In each one-year period thereafter through September 30, 2008, the quantitative limit will be the amount in effect for the one-year period that ended September 30, 2004, unless another amount is provided by law.

5. Certain non-underwear T-shirts made in one or more CBTPA beneficiary countries from fabric formed in one or more CBTPA beneficiary countries from yarns wholly formed in the United States.

Apparel in this category is subject to annual quantitative limits, which are expressed in dozens. For the one-year period beginning October 1, 2000, the quantitative limit is 4,200,000 dozen. In each succeeding one-year period through September 30, 2004, the quantitative limit will be increased by 16 percent, compounded annually. In each one-year period thereafter through September 30, 2008, the quantitative limit will be the amount in effect for the one-year period that ended September 30, 2004, unless another amount is provided by law.

6. Brassieres cut and sewn or otherwise assembled in the United States, or one or more beneficiary CBTPA countries, or both.

Underwear in this category is subject to the following requirement: In each of seven one-year periods starting October 1, 2001, at least 75 percent of the total declared customs value of the fabric contained in the articles entered the preceding year must be attributed to the aggregate cost of the fabric components formed in the United States.

7. Apparel articles that are both cut (or knit to shape) and sewn or otherwise assembled in one or more CBTPA beneficiary countries from fabric or yarn not available in commercial quantities in the United States.

This category of apparel covers: a) apparel assembled from fabrics or yarns determined to be in short supply in the context of NAFTA, and b) articles assembled from other fabrics or yarns that the President has proclaimed to be entitled to preferential treatment, based on findings that the fabrics and yarns cannot be supplied by the domestic industry in commercial quantities in a timely manner.

8. Hand-loomed, handmade, and folklore articles.

After consulting with CBTPA beneficiary countries, the United States will identify particular textile and apparel goods that all parties agree are hand-loomed, handmade, or folklore articles. Articles so determined (i.e. as being hand-loomed, handmade, or folklore) must then be certified by the CBTPA beneficiary country's competent authority as being hand-loomed, handmade, or folklore.

9. Certain textile luggage.

This category includes: (a) textile luggage assembled in a CBTPA beneficiary country from fabric wholly formed and cut in the United States, from yarns wholly formed in the United States, and (b) textile luggage assembled from fabric cut in a CBTPA beneficiary country from fabric wholly formed in the United States, from yarns wholly formed in the United States.

The Customs regulations that implement the CBTPA include specific documentary, procedural, and other requirements that must be met in order to obtain CBTPA benefits. Both the CBTPA and the Customs regulations should be consulted *before* importing merchandise in order to assure that all requirements have been met.

*NAFTA Parity*

Except for textile and apparel articles, the CBTPA allows NAFTA tariff treatment for goods previously excluded from the CBI program. Thus, imported footwear, canned tuna, petroleum and petroleum products, watches and watch parts, handbags, luggage, flat goods, work gloves and leather wearing apparel, *when these goods qualify as CBTPA originating goods*, are eligible for a reduction in duty equal to the rate given to Mexican products under the staged duty-rate reductions set forth in NAFTA.

Articles that the President has designated as eligible for CBTPA treatment are those whose duty rate in the "Special" subcolumn is followed by the symbol "R" in chapters 1 through 97 of the tariff schedule. Whenever a rate of duty

other than “Free” appears in this subcolumn for any heading or subheading followed by the symbol “E” or “E\*,” and a lower rate of duty followed by the symbol “R” also appears in the subcolumn, an eligible article will receive the lower rate of duty.

#### *Certain Beverages Made With Caribbean Rum*

The CBTPA provides duty-free treatment to certain liqueurs and spirituous beverages produced in the territory of Canada from rum that is the growth, product or manufacture of a CBTPA beneficiary country or of the Virgin Islands of the United States.

#### *Additional Information*

Customs rules and regulations on the CBTPA are incorporated in sections 10.221-10.228 and 10.231-10.237 of the Customs Regulations. Customs regulations pertaining to the CBTPA are available on the Internet at: [www.customs.gov/news/fed-reg/notices/cbicbtpa.pdf](http://www.customs.gov/news/fed-reg/notices/cbicbtpa.pdf) and [www.customs.gov/news/fed-reg/notices/cbtpacor.pdf](http://www.customs.gov/news/fed-reg/notices/cbtpacor.pdf). Customs has also issued a new informed-compliance publication on CBTPA, which can also be found at our web site.

For answers to specific questions or to request a ruling, send inquiries to: Director, National Commodity Specialist Division, U.S. Customs Service, One Penn Plaza, 11th Floor, New York, New York 10119.

The text of the Trade and Development Act of 2000 may be accessed at <http://thomas.loc.gov> (type “CBTPA” at the search prompt). Further information on the CBTPA may be obtained from the Office of the United States Trade Representative Office of the Western Hemisphere, 600 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20508, Tel. 202.395.5190; Fax 202.395.9675.

Additional information on quantitative limitations, fabric and yarn not available in commercial quantities, and hand-loomed, handmade, and folklore articles may be available at the Department of Commerce Office of Textile and Apparel Internet site, <http://otexa.ita.doc.gov>. The Department of Commerce also provides detailed information on the CBTPA at <http://www.mac.doc.gov/CBI/webmain/intro.htm>.

## 25. ANTIDUMPING AND COUNTERVAILING DUTIES

Antidumping and countervailing duties are types of additional duties used to offset the effects of two unfair trade practices that give imports an unfair advantage over competing U.S. goods. Antidumping duties are assessed on imported merchandise that is

sold, or is likely to be sold, in the United States at less than its fair value, that is, less than the foreign market value of the merchandise. The foreign market value may be based on the price at which the merchandise is sold in the home market or to third countries or on a constructed value (based on cost) of the merchandise. Countervailing duties are assessed to counter subsidies provided to merchandise that is exported to the United States. In addition to being subsidized or sold at less than fair value, the imported merchandise must also injure a U.S. industry (except for subsidized products from certain countries that are not entitled to an injury determination).

The Department of Commerce, the International Trade Commission (ITC), and the U.S. Customs Service all play a part in enforcing antidumping (AD) and countervailing duty (CVD) laws. The Commerce Department is also responsible for their general administration; it determines whether the merchandise is sold at less than fair value or is subsidized. It also determines the amount of duties that must be assessed. The ITC makes the injury determinations. The Customs Service assesses the duties once Commerce and the ITC have made the necessary determinations.

Establishing and assessing both kinds of duties occurs during the following processes:

**Investigation.** Although they may be initiated by the Commerce Department, AD and CVD investigations are usually initiated as the result of a petition from a domestic industry or other interested party such as a trade union or industry association. The party must simultaneously (that is, on the same day) file the petition with the Commerce Department and the ITC (the latter if an injury test is required).

If the necessary elements are present in the petition, the Commerce Department and the ITC will initiate separate investigations. The investigations then continue with a series of preliminary and final determinations that, if appropriate, result in an “order” and the eventual assessment of AD and CVD duties. The following discussion is based upon the assumption that the injury test is required. If not, the outcome of the considerations is based solely upon the Commerce Department determinations.

The ITC makes the first preliminary determination concerning the likelihood of injury. If that determination is negative, the investigations are terminated. If it is affirmative, the Commerce Department then issues a preliminary determination with respect to the sales and/or subsidy issues. Later, based upon further review and comments received in the case, the Commerce Department issues a final determination. If either of these Commerce Department determinations is affirmative, Commerce will direct Customs to suspend liquidation of entries for merchandise subject to investigation and to require cash deposits or bonds equal to the amount of estimated dumping margin (the differential between the fair market value and the U.S. price) or the net subsidy.

After a final affirmative determination by the Commerce Department, the ITC

then follows with its final injury determination. If the ITC's final determination is also affirmative, the Commerce Department issues an AD or CVD order. At that time, Commerce directs Customs to require, with a very limited exception for new shippers, cash deposits of estimated duties. A negative final determination either by Commerce or the ITC would terminate the investigations. Both agencies announce their determinations, including orders and the results of the administration reviews described below, in the *Federal Register*.

**Administration Review/Liquidation.** Each year, in the anniversary month of the order, interested parties have the opportunity to request a review of the order with respect to individual producers or resellers covered by the order. The period of review is usually the 12 months preceding the anniversary month. However, the first review period also includes any term prior to the normal 12-month period for which the suspension of liquidation was directed. If no review is requested, Commerce will direct Customs to collect deposits and assess duties in the amount of the cash or bond rate in effect on the date of entry and to continue to require deposits at that rate for future entries. If a review is requested, Commerce carries out a review similar to its original investigation and issues revised rates for assessment and deposits. Upon receipt of instructions from the Commerce Department, Customs will collect duties and liquidate entries as directed.

## 26. DRAWBACK—REFUNDS OF DUTIES

### DEFINITION AND PURPOSE

The term drawback refers to a refund of 99 percent of the duties or taxes collected on imported merchandise because certain legal or regulatory requirements have been met. To qualify for drawback, an importation of merchandise and subsequent exportation or destruction of merchandise must occur. The purpose of the drawback program is to assist American importers, manufacturers and exporters to compete in international markets by allowing them to obtain refunds of duties paid on imported merchandise.

### THREE TYPES OF DRAWBACK

There are three primary types of drawback—manufacturing drawback, unused-merchandise drawback and rejected-merchandise drawback:

- Manufacturing drawback is a refund of duties paid on imported merchandise used in the manufacture of articles that are either exported or destroyed. The imported merchandise must be used in manufacture and exported within five years from the date of importation of the merchandise. An approved drawback ruling (formerly called a drawback contract) must be on file with Customs before any manufacturing drawback claims are filed.
- Unused-merchandise drawback is a refund of duties paid on imported

merchandise that is exported or destroyed without undergoing manufacture, and is never used in the United States. The imported merchandise must be exported within three years from the date of importation of the merchandise.

- Rejected-merchandise drawback is refund of duties on imported merchandise that is exported because it did not conform to sample or specifications, or was shipped without the consent of the consignee. Merchandise must be returned to Customs custody within three years of the date of its importation in order to qualify for this type of drawback. Rejected merchandise must be exported and cannot be destroyed in lieu of such exportation.

These drawback claims involve a refund of 99 percent of the duties that were paid upon importation. The drawback regulations may be found in Part 191 of the Customs Regulations.

Questions about drawback should be addressed to:

Chief, Drawback Unit  
Office of Field Operations  
U.S. Customs Service  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20229

# CLASSIFICATION AND VALUE

## 27. CLASSIFICATION—LIQUIDATION

### CLASSIFICATION

Classification, and, when ad valorem rates of duty are applicable, appraisement, are the two most important factors affecting dutiable status. Classification and valuation, whether or not they are pertinent because an ad valorem rate of duty applies, must be provided by commercial importers when an entry is filed. In addition, classifications under the statistical suffixes of the tariff schedules must also be furnished even though this information is not pertinent to dutiable status. Accordingly, classification is initially the responsibility of an importer, customs broker or other person preparing the entry papers. Section 637 of the Customs Modernization Act imposes the requirement that importers exercise reasonable care when classifying and appraising merchandise.

Familiarity with the organization of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States facilitates the classification process. (See Chapter 13 of this booklet relating to dutiable status.) The tariff schedule is divided into various sections and chapters dealing separately with merchandise in broad product categories. These categories cover animal products, vegetable products, products of various basic materials such as wood, textiles, plastics, rubber, and steel and other metal products in various stages of manufacture, for example. Other sections encompass chemicals, machinery and electrical equipment, and other specified or non-enumerated products. The last section, Section XXII, covers certain exceptions from duty and special statutory provisions.

In Sections I through XXI, products are classifiable (1) under items or descriptions which name them, known as an *eo nomine* provision; (2) under provisions of general description; (3) under provisions which identify them by component material; or (4) under provisions which encompass merchandise in accordance with its actual or principal use. When two or more provisions seem to cover the same merchandise, the prevailing provision is determined in accordance with the legal notes and the General Rules of Interpretation for the tariff schedule. Also applicable are tariff classification principles contained in administrative precedents or in the case law of the U.S. Court of International Trade (formerly the U.S. Customs Court) or the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (formerly the U.S. Court of Customs and Patent Appeals).

### LIQUIDATION

Customs officers at the port of entry or other officials acting on behalf of the port director review selected classifications and valuations, as well as other required import information, for correctness or as a proper basis for appraisement, as well as for agreement of the submitted data with the merchandise actually imported. The entry summary and documentation may be accepted as submitted without any changes. In this situation, the entry is liquidated as entered. Liquidation is the point at which the Customs

Service's ascertainment of the rate and amount of duty becomes final for most purposes. Liquidation is accomplished by posting a notice on a public bulletin board at the customhouse. However, an importer may receive an advance notice on Customs Form 4333A "Courtesy Notice" stating when and in what amount duty will be liquidated. This form is not the liquidation, and protest rights do not accrue until the notice is posted. Time limits for protesting do not start until the date of posting, and a protest cannot be filed before liquidation is posted.

The Customs Service may determine that an entry cannot be liquidated as entered for one reason or another. For example, the tariff classification may not be correct or may not be acceptable because it is not consistent with established and uniform classification practice. If the change required by this determination results in a rate of duty more favorable to an importer, the entry is liquidated accordingly and a refund is authorized for the applicable amount of the deposited estimated duties. On the other hand, a change may be necessary which imposes a higher rate of duty. For example, a claim for an exemption from duty under a free-rate provision or under a conditional exemption may be found to be insufficient for lack of the required supporting documentation. In this situation, the importer will be given an advance notice of the proposed duty rate increase and an opportunity to validate the claim for a free rate or more favorable rate of duty.

If the importer does not respond to the notice, or if the response is found to be without merit, entry is liquidated in accordance with the entry as corrected, and the importer is billed for the additional duty. The port may find that the importer's response raises issues of such complexity that resolution is warranted by a Customs Headquarters decision through the internal advice procedure. Internal advice from Customs Headquarters may be requested by local Customs officers on their own initiative or in response to a request by the importer.

## PROTESTS

After liquidation, an importer may still pursue, on Customs Form 19 (19 CFR 174), any claims for an adjustment or refund by filing a protest within 90 days after liquidation. In order to apply for a Headquarters ruling, a request for further review must be filed with the protest. The same Form 19 can be used for this purpose. If filed separately, application for further review must still be filed within 90 days of liquidation. However, if a ruling on the question has previously been issued in response to a request for a decision on a prospective transaction or a request for internal advice, further review will ordinarily be denied. If a protest is denied, an importer has the right to litigate the matter by filing a summons with the U.S. Court of International Trade within 180 days after denial of the protest. The rules of the court and other applicable statutes and precedents determine the course of customs litigation.

While the Customs Service's ascertainment of dutiable status is final for most purposes at the time of liquidation, a liquidation is not final until any protest which has been filed against it has been decided. Similarly, the administrative decision issued on a

protest is not final until any litigation filed against it has become final.

Entries must be liquidated within one year of the date of entry unless the liquidation needs to be extended for another one-year period not to exceed a total of four years from the date of entry. The Customs Service will suspend liquidation of an entry when required by statute or court order. A suspension will remain in effect until the issue is resolved. Notifications of extensions and suspensions are given to importers, surety companies, and customs brokers who are parties to the transaction.

## 28. CONVERSION OF CURRENCY

The conversion of foreign currency for customs purposes must be made in accordance with the provisions of 31 U.S.C. 5151. This section states that Customs is to use rates of exchange determined and certified by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. These certified rates are based on the New York market buying rates for the foreign currencies involved.

In the case of widely used currencies, rates of exchange are certified each day.

The rates certified on the first business day of each calendar quarter are used throughout the quarter except on days when fluctuations of five percent or more occur, in which case the actual certified rates for those days are used. For infrequently used currencies, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York certifies rates of exchanges upon request by Customs. The rates certified are only for the currencies and dates requested.

For Customs purposes, the date of exportation of the goods is the date used to determine the applicable certified rate of exchange. This remains true even though a different rate may have been used in payment of the goods. Information as to the applicable rate of exchange in converting currency for customs purposes in the case of a given shipment may be obtained from a port director of Customs.

## 29. TRANSACTION VALUE

The entry filer is responsible for using reasonable care to value imported merchandise and provide any other information necessary to enable the Customs officer to properly assess the duty and determine whether any other applicable legal requirement is met. The Customs officer is then responsible for fixing the value of the imported merchandise. The valuation provisions of the Tariff Act of 1930 are found in section 402, as amended by the Trade Agreements Act of 1979. Pertinent portions are reproduced in the appendix.

Generally, the customs value of all merchandise exported to the United States will be the transaction value for the goods. If the transaction value cannot be used, then certain secondary bases are considered. The secondary bases of value, listed in order of precedence for use, are:

- Transaction value of identical merchandise.
- Transaction value of similar merchandise.
- Deductive value.
- Computed value.

The order of precedence of the last two values can be reversed if the importer so requests in writing at the time of filing the entry. These secondary bases are discussed in the next two chapters.

#### TRANSACTION VALUE

The transaction value of imported merchandise is the price actually paid or payable for the merchandise when sold for exportation to the United States, plus amounts for the following items if they are not included in the price:

- The packing costs incurred by the buyer.
- Any selling commission incurred by the buyer.
- The value of any assist.
- Any royalty or license fee that the buyer is required to pay as a condition of the sale.
- The proceeds, accruing to the seller, of any subsequent resale, disposal, or use of the imported merchandise.

The amounts for the above items are added only to the extent that each is not included in the price actually paid or payable and information is available to establish the accuracy of the amount. If sufficient information is not available, then the transaction value cannot be determined and the next basis of value, in order of precedence, must be considered for appraisal. A discussion of these added items follows:

Packing costs consist of the cost incurred by the buyer for all containers and coverings of whatever nature and for the labor and materials used in packing the imported merchandise so that it is ready for export.

Any selling commission incurred by the buyer with respect to the imported merchandise constitutes part of the transaction value. Buying commissions do not. A selling commission means any commission paid to the seller's agent, who is related to or controlled by, or works for or on behalf of, the manufacturer or the seller.

The apportioned value of any assist constitutes part of the transaction value of the imported merchandise. First the value of the assist is determined; then the value is prorated to the imported merchandise.

**Assists.** An assist is any of the items listed below that the buyer of imported merchandise provides directly or indirectly, free of charge or at a reduced cost, for use in the production or sale of merchandise for export to the United States.

- Materials, components, parts, and similar items incorporated in the imported merchandise.
- Tools, dies, molds, and similar items used in producing the imported merchandise.
- Merchandise consumed in producing the imported merchandise.
- Engineering, development, artwork, design work, and plans and sketches that are undertaken outside the United States.

“Engineering...” will not be treated as an assist if the service or work is (1) performed by a person domiciled within the United States, (2) performed while that person is acting as an employee or agent of the buyer of the imported merchandise, and (3) incidental to other engineering, development, artwork, design work, or plans or sketches undertaken within the United States.

**Value.** In determining the value of an assist, the following rules apply:

- The value is either (a) the cost of acquiring the assist, if acquired by the importer from an unrelated seller, or (b) the cost of the assist, if produced by the importer or a person related to the importer.
- The value includes the cost of transporting the assist to the place of production.
- The value of assists used in producing the imported merchandise is adjusted to reflect use, repairs, modifications, or other factors affecting the value of the assists. Assists of this type include such items as tools, dies, and molds.

For example, if the importer previously used the assist, regardless of whether he acquired or produced it, the original cost of acquisition or of production must be decreased to reflect the use. Alternatively, repairs and

modifications may result in the value of the assist having to be adjusted upward.

- In case of engineering, development, artwork, design work, and plans and sketches undertaken elsewhere than in the United States, the value is (a) the cost of obtaining copies of the assist, if the assist is available in the public domain; (b) the cost of the purchase or lease, if the assist was bought or leased by the buyer from an unrelated person; (c) the value added outside the United States, if the assist was reproduced in the United States and one or more foreign countries.

So far as possible, the buyer's commercial record system will be used to determine the value of an assist, especially such assists as engineering, development, artwork, design work, and plans and sketches undertaken elsewhere than in the United States.

**Apportionment.** Having determined the value of an assist, the next step is to prorate that value to the imported merchandise. The apportionment is done in a reasonable manner appropriate to the circumstances and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. By the latter is meant any generally recognized consensus or substantial authoritative support regarding the recording and measuring of assets and liabilities and changes, the disclosing of information, and the preparing of financial statements.

Royalty or license fees that a buyer must pay directly or indirectly as a condition of the sale of the imported merchandise for exportation to the United States will be included in the transaction value. Ultimately, whether a royalty or license fee is dutiable will depend on whether the buyer had to pay it as a condition of the sale and to whom and under what circumstances it was paid. The dutiability status will have to be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Charges for the right to reproduce the imported goods in the United States are not dutiable. This right applies only to the following types of merchandise:

- Originals or copies of artistic or scientific works.
- Originals or copies of models and industrial drawings.
- Model machines and prototypes.
- Plant and animal species.

Any proceeds resulting from the subsequent resale, disposal, or use of the imported merchandise that accrue, directly or indirectly, to the seller are dutiable. These proceeds are added to the price actually paid or payable if not otherwise included.

The price actually paid or payable for the imported merchandise is the total payment, excluding international freight, insurance, and other c.i.f. charges, that the buyer makes to the seller. This payment may be direct or indirect. Some examples of an indirect payment are when the buyer settles all or part of a debt owed by the seller, or when the seller reduces the price on a current importation to settle a debt he owes the buyer. Such indirect payments are part of the transaction value.

However, if a buyer performs an activity on his own account, other than those which may be included in the transaction value, then the activity is not considered an indirect payment to the seller and is not part of the transaction value. This applies even though the buyer's activity might be regarded as benefiting the seller; for example, advertising.

## EXCLUSIONS

The amounts to be excluded from transaction value are as follows:

- The cost, charges, or expenses incurred for transportation, insurance, and related services incident to the international shipment of the goods from the country of exportation to the place of importation in the United States.
- Any reasonable cost or charges incurred for:
  1. Constructing, erecting, assembling, maintaining, or providing technical assistance with respect to the goods after importation into the United States, or
  2. Transporting the goods after importation.
- The customs duties and other federal taxes, including any federal excise tax, for which sellers in the United States are ordinarily liable.

NOTE: Foreign inland freight and related charges in bullet 1 (see part 152, Customs Regulations), as well as bullets 2 and 3 above, must be identified separately.

## LIMITATIONS

The transaction value of imported merchandise is the appraised value of that merchandise, provided certain limitations do not exist. If any of these limitations are present, then transaction value cannot be used as the appraised value, and the next basis of value will be considered. The limitations can be divided into four groups:

- Restrictions on the disposition or use of the merchandise.
- Conditions for which a value cannot be determined.

- Proceeds of any subsequent resale, disposal or use of the merchandise, accruing to the seller, for which an appropriate adjustment to transaction value cannot be made.
- Related-party transactions where the transaction value is not acceptable.

The term “acceptable” means that the relationship between the buyer and seller did not influence the price actually paid or payable. Examining the circumstances of the sale will help make this determination.

Alternatively, “acceptable” can also mean that the transaction value of the imported merchandise closely approximates one of the following test values, provided these values relate to merchandise exported to the United States at or about the same time as the imported merchandise:

- The transaction value of identical merchandise or of similar merchandise in sales to unrelated buyers in the United States.
- The deductive value or computed value for identical merchandise or similar merchandise. The test values are used for comparison only; they do not form a substitute basis of valuation.

In determining whether the transaction value is close to one of the foregoing test values, an adjustment is made if the sales involved differ in:

- Commercial levels,
- Quantity levels,
- The costs, commission, values, fees, and proceeds added to the transaction value (price paid) if not included in the price,
- The costs incurred by the seller in sales in which he and the buyer are not related that are not incurred by the seller in sales in which he and the buyer are related.

As stated, the test values are alternatives to the relationship criterion. If one of the test values is met, it is not necessary to examine the question of whether the relationship influenced the price.

### 30. TRANSACTION VALUE OF IDENTICAL OR SIMILAR MERCHANDISE

When the transaction value cannot be determined, then the customs value of the imported goods being appraised is the transaction value of identical merchandise. If merchandise identical to the imported goods cannot be found or an acceptable transaction value for such merchandise does not exist, then the customs value is the transaction value of similar merchandise. The above value would be a previously accepted customs value.

Besides the data common to all three transaction values, certain factors specifically apply to the transaction value of identical merchandise or similar merchandise. These factors concern (1) the exportation date, (2) the level and quantity of sales, (3) the meaning, and (4) the order of precedence of identical merchandise and of similar merchandise.

**Exportation date.** The identical (similar) merchandise for which a value is being determined must have been exported to the United States at or about the same time that the merchandise being appraised is exported to the United States.

**Sales Level/Quantity.** The transaction value of identical (similar) merchandise must be based on sales of identical (similar) merchandise at the same commercial level and in substantially the same quantity as the sale of the merchandise being appraised. If no such sale exists, then sales at either a different commercial level or in different quantities, or both, can be used but must be adjusted to take account of any such difference. Any adjustment must be based on sufficient information, that is, information establishing the reasonableness and accuracy of the adjustment.

**Meanings.** The term “identical merchandise” means merchandise that is:

- Identical in all respects to the merchandise being appraised.
- Produced in the same country as the merchandise being appraised.
- Produced by the same person as the merchandise being appraised.

If merchandise meeting all three criteria cannot be found, then identical merchandise is merchandise satisfying the first two criteria but produced by a different person than the producer of merchandise being appraised.

NOTE: Merchandise can be identical to the merchandise being appraised and still show minor differences in appearance.

- Exclusion: Identical merchandise does not include merchandise that incorporates or reflects engineering, development, art work, design work, and plans and sketches provided free or at reduced cost by the buyer and undertaken in the United States. The term “similar merchandise” means merchandise that is:

- Produced in the same country and by the same person as the merchandise being appraised.
- Like the merchandise being appraised in characteristics and component materials.
- Commercially interchangeable with the merchandise being appraised.

If merchandise meeting the foregoing criteria cannot be found, then similar merchandise is merchandise having the same country of production, like characteristics and component materials, and commercial interchangeability but produced by a different person.

In determining whether goods are similar, some of the factors to be considered are the quality of the goods, their reputation, and existence of a trademark.

- Exclusion: Similar merchandise does not include merchandise that incorporates or reflects engineering, development, art work, design work, and plans and sketches provided free or at reduced cost to the buyer and undertaken in the United States.

**Order of Precedence.** It is possible that two or more transaction values for identical (similar) merchandise will be determined. In such a case the lowest value will be used as the appraised value of the imported merchandise.

## 31. OTHER BASES: DEDUCTIVE AND COMPUTED VALUE

### DEDUCTIVE VALUE

If the transaction value of imported merchandise, of identical merchandise, or of similar merchandise cannot be determined, then deductive value is calculated for the merchandise being appraised. Deductive value is the next basis of appraisal at the

time the entry summary is filed, to be used unless the importer designates computed value as the preferred method of appraisement. If computed value was chosen and subsequently determined not to exist for customs valuation purposes, then the basis of appraisement reverts to deductive value.

If an assist is involved in a sale, that sale cannot be used in determining deductive value. So any sale to a person who supplies an assist for use in connection with the production or sale for export of the merchandise concerned is disregarded for purposes of determining deductive value.

Basically, deductive value is the resale price in the United States after importation of the goods, with deductions for certain items. In discussing deductive value, the term “merchandise concerned” is used. The term means the merchandise being appraised, identical merchandise, or similar merchandise. Generally, the deductive value is calculated by starting with a unit price and making certain additions to and deductions from that price.

**Unit Price.** One of three prices constitutes the unit price in deductive value. The price used depends on when and in what condition the merchandise concerned is sold in the United States.

1. **Time and Condition:** The merchandise is *sold in the condition as imported at or about the date of importation of the merchandise being appraised.*

**Price:** The price used is the unit price at which the greatest aggregate quantity of the merchandise concerned is sold at or about the date of importation.

2. **Time and Condition:** The merchandise concerned is *sold in the condition as imported but not sold at or about the date of importation of the merchandise being appraised.*

**Price:** The price used is the unit price at which the greatest aggregate quantity of the merchandise concerned is sold after the date of importation of the merchandise being appraised but before the close of the 90th day after the date of importation.

3. **Time and Condition:** The merchandise concerned is *not sold in the condition as imported and not sold before the close of the 90th day after the date of importation of the merchandise being appraised.*

**Price:** The price used is the unit price at which the greatest aggregate quantity of the merchandise being appraised, after further processing, is sold before the 180th day after the date of importation.

This third price is also known as the “further processing price” or

“superdeductive.”

**Additions.** Packing costs for the merchandise concerned are added to the price used for deductive value, provided these costs have not otherwise been included. These costs are added regardless of whether the importer or the buyer incurs the cost. “Packing costs” means the cost of:

- All containers and coverings of whatever nature; and
- Packing, whether for labor or materials, used in placing the merchandise in condition, packed ready for shipment to the United States.

**Deductions.** Certain items are not part of deductive value and must be deducted from the unit price. These items are as follows:

- Commissions or profit and general expenses. Any commission usually paid or agreed to be paid, or the addition usually made for profit and general expenses, applicable to sales in the United States of imported merchandise that is of the same class or kind as the merchandise concerned, regardless of the country of exportation.
- Transportation/insurance costs. The usual and associated costs of transporting and insuring the merchandise concerned from (a) the country of exportation to the place of importation in the United States, and (b) the place of importation to the place of delivery in the United States, provided these costs are not included as a general expense under the preceding item 1.
- Customs duties/federal taxes. The customs duties and other federal taxes payable on the merchandise concerned because of its importation plus any federal excise tax on, or measured by the value of, such merchandise for which sellers in the United States are ordinarily liable.
- Value of further processing. The value added by processing the merchandise after importation, provided that sufficient information exists concerning the cost of processing. The price determined for deductive value is reduced by the value of further processing only if the third unit price (the superdeductive) is used as deductive value.

**Superdeductive.** The importer has the option to ask that deductive value be based on the further processing price. If the importer makes that choice, certain facts concerning valuing the further-processing method, termed “superdeductive,” must be followed.

Under the superdeductive method the merchandise concerned *is not sold in the condition as imported and not sold before the close of the 90th day* after the date of importation, but is sold before the 180th day after the date of importation.

Under this method, an amount equal to the value of the further processing must be deducted from the unit price in determining deductive value. The amount so deducted must be based on objective and quantifiable data concerning the cost of such work as well as any spoilage, waste or scrap derived from that work. Items such as accepted industry formulas, methods of construction, and industry practices could be used as a basis for calculating the amount to be deducted.

Generally, the superdeductive method cannot be used if the further processing destroys the identity of the goods. Such situations will be decided on a case-by-case basis for the following reasons:

- Sometimes, even though the identity of the goods is lost, the value added by the processing can be determined accurately without unreasonable difficulty for importers or for the Customs Service.
- In some cases, the imported goods still keep their identity after processing but form only a minor part of the goods sold in the United States. In such cases, using the superdeductive method to value the imported goods will not be justified.

The superdeductive method cannot be used if the merchandise concerned is sold in the condition as imported before the close of the 90th day after the date of importation of the merchandise being appraised.

#### COMPUTED VALUE

The next basis of appraisement is computed value. If customs valuation cannot be based on any of the values previously discussed, then computed value is considered. This value is also the one the importer can select to precede deductive value as a basis of appraisement.

Computed value consists of the sum of the following items:

- Materials, fabrication, and other processing used in producing the imported merchandise.
- Profit and general expenses.
- Any assist, if not included in bullets 1 and 2.
- Packing costs.

**Materials, Fabrication, and Other Processing.** The cost or value of the materials, fabrication, and other processing of any kind used in producing the imported merchandise is based on (a) information provided by or on behalf of the producer, and (b) the commercial accounts of the producer if the accounts are consistent with generally

accepted accounting principles applied in the country of production of the goods.

NOTE: If the country of exportation imposes an internal tax on the materials or their disposition and refunds the tax when merchandise produced from the materials is exported, then the amount of the internal tax is not included as part of the cost or value of the materials.

**Profit and General Expenses.** The producer's profit and general expenses are used, provided they are consistent with the usual profit and general expenses reflected by producers in the country of exportation in sales of merchandise of the same class or kind as the imported merchandise. Some facts concerning the amount for profit and general expenses should be mentioned:

- The amount is determined by information supplied by the producer and is based on his or her commercial accounts, provided such accounts are consistent with generally accepted accounting principles in the country of production.

NOTE: As a point of contrast, for deductive value the generally accepted accounting principles used are those in the United States, whereas in computed value the generally accepted accounting principles are those in the country of production.

- The producer's profit and general expenses must be consistent with those usually reflected in sales of goods of the same class or kind as the imported merchandise that are made by producers in the country of exportation for export to the United States. If they are not consistent, then the amount for profit and general expenses is based on the usual profit and general expenses of such producers.
- The amount for profit and general expenses is taken as a whole. This is the same treatment as occurs in deductive value.

Basically, a producer's profit could be low and his or her general expenses high, so that the total amount is consistent with that usually reflected in sales of goods of the same class or kind. In such a situation, a producer's actual profit figures, even if low, will be used provided he or she has valid commercial reasons to justify them and the pricing policy reflects usual pricing policies in the industry concerned.

**Assists.** If the value of an assist used in producing the merchandise is not included as part of the producer's materials, fabrication, other processing, or general expenses, then the prorated value of the assist will be included in computed value. It is important that the value of the assist not be included elsewhere because no component of computed value should be counted more than once in determining computed value.

NOTE: The value of any engineering, development, artwork, design work, and plans and sketches undertaken in the United States is included in computed value only to the extent

that such value has been charged to the producer.

**Packing Costs.** The cost of all containers and coverings of whatever nature, and of packing, whether for labor or material, used in placing merchandise in condition and packed ready for shipment to the United States is included in computed value.

Under computed value, “merchandise of the same class or kind” must be imported from the same country as the merchandise being appraised and must be within a group or range of goods produced by a particular industry or industry sector. Whether certain merchandise is of the same class or kind as other merchandise will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

In determining usual profit and general expenses, sales for export to the United States of the narrowest group or range of merchandise that includes the merchandise being appraised will be examined, providing that the necessary information can be obtained.

NOTE: As a point of contrast, under deductive value, “merchandise of the same class or kind” includes merchandise imported from other countries besides the country from which the merchandise being appraised was imported. Under computed value, “merchandise of the same class or kind” is limited to merchandise imported from the same country as the merchandise being appraised.

#### VALUE IF OTHER VALUES CANNOT BE DETERMINED

If none of the previous five values can be used to appraise the imported merchandise, then the customs value must be based on a value derived from one of the five previous methods, reasonably adjusted as necessary. The value so determined should be based, to the greatest extent possible, on previously determined values. In order for Customs to consider an importer’s argument regarding appraisement, the information upon which the argument is based must be made available to Customs, whether it was generated by a foreign or domestic source. Some examples of how the other methods can be reasonably adjusted are:

#### **Identical Merchandise (or Similar Merchandise):**

1. The requirement that the identical merchandise (or similar merchandise) should be exported at or about the same time as the merchandise being appraised could be flexibly interpreted.
2. Identical imported merchandise (or similar imported merchandise) produced in a country other than the country of exportation of the merchandise being appraised could be the basis for customs valuation.
3. Customs values of identical imported merchandise (or similar imported merchandise) already determined on the basis of deductive value and computed value could be

used.

**Deductive Method:** The 90-day requirement may be administered flexibly (19 CFR 152.107(c)).

## 32. RULES OF ORIGIN

The *origin* of merchandise that is imported into the customs territory of the United States can affect the rate of duty, entitlement for special programs, admissibility, quota, anti-dumping or countervailing duties, procurement by government agencies and marking requirements. In order to determine a product's country of origin, the importer should consult the applicable rules of origin.

There are two basic types of rules of origin: *non-preferential* and *preferential*. Non-preferential rules generally apply in the absence of bilateral or multilateral trade agreements. Preferential rules are applied to merchandise to determine its eligibility for special treatment under various trade agreements or special legislation such as the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), or the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). There are also rules of origin for textile and apparel articles; these are provided for by statute.

A more detailed discussion of these rules may be found in the publications *What Every Member of the Trade Community Should Know About: Rules of Origin* and *What Every Member of the Trade Community Should Know About: Textile & Apparel Rules of Origin*, which are available on the Customs Electronic Bulletin Board and Customs Web site, [www.customs.gov](http://www.customs.gov).

# MARKING

## 33. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN MARKING

United States customs laws require each imported article produced abroad to be marked in a conspicuous place as legibly, indelibly, and permanently as the nature of the article permits, with the English name of the country of origin, to indicate to the ultimate purchaser in the United States the name of the country in which the article was manufactured or produced. Articles which are otherwise specifically exempted from individual marking are an exception to this rule. The exceptions are discussed below.

### MARKING REQUIRED

If the article (or the container when the container and not the article must be marked) is not properly marked at the time of importation, a marking duty equal to 10 percent of the customs value of the article will be assessed unless the article is exported, destroyed, or properly marked under Customs supervision before the liquidation of the entry concerned.

It is not feasible to state who will be the “ultimate purchaser” in every circumstance. Broadly stated, an “ultimate purchaser” may be defined as the last person in the United States who will receive the article in the form in which it was imported. Generally, if an imported article will be used in the United States in manufacture that results in an article having a name, character or usage different from that of the imported article, the manufacturer is the ultimate purchaser. If an article is to be sold at retail in its imported form, the purchaser at retail is the ultimate purchaser. A person who subjects an imported article to a process which results in a substantial transformation of the article is the ultimate purchaser, but if the process is merely a minor one which leaves the identity of the imported article intact, the processor of the article will not be regarded as the ultimate purchaser.

When an article (or its container) is required to be marked to indicate its country of origin, the marking is sufficiently permanent if it will remain on the article (or its container) until it reaches the ultimate purchaser. When an article is of a kind which is usually combined with another article subsequent to importation but before delivery to an ultimate purchaser, and the name indicating the article’s country of origin appears in a place on the article so that the name will be visible after such combining, the marking shall include, in addition to the name of the country of origin, words or symbols which clearly show that the origin indicated is that of the imported article only and not that of any other article with which the imported article may be combined after importation. For example, if marked bottles, drums, or other containers are imported empty, to be filled in the United States, they shall be marked with such words as “Bottle (or drum or container) made in (name of country).” Labels and similar articles so marked that the name of the

article's country of origin is visible after it is affixed to another article in this country shall be marked with additional descriptive words such as "label made (or printed) in (name of country)" or words of similar import.

In any case in which the words "United States" or "American" or the letters "U.S.A." or any variation of such words or letters, or the name of any city or locality in the United States, or the name of any foreign country or locality in which the article was not manufactured or produced, appear on an imported article or container, and those words, letters, or names may mislead or deceive the ultimate purchaser about the actual country of the origin of the article, there shall also appear, legibly and permanently, in close proximity to such words, letters or name, the name of the country of origin preceded by "made in," "product of," or other words of similar meaning.

If marked articles are to be repacked in the United States after release from Customs custody, importers must certify on entry that they will not obscure the marking on properly marked articles if the article is repacked or that they will mark the repacked container. If the importers do not repack, but resell to repackers, importers must notify the repackers of the marking requirements. Failure to comply with the certification requirements may subject importers to penalties and/or additional duties.

#### MARKING NOT REQUIRED

The following articles and classes or kinds of articles are not required to be marked to indicate the country of their origin, i.e., the country in which they were grown, manufactured, or produced. However, the outermost containers in which these articles ordinarily reach the ultimate purchaser in the United States must be marked to indicate the English name of the country of origin of the articles.

Art, works of.

Articles classified subheads 9810.00.15, 9810.00.25, 9810.00.40, and 9810.00.45,  
HTSUS.

Articles entered in good faith as antiques and rejected as unauthentic.

Bagging, waste.

Bags, jute.

Bands, steel.

Beads, unstrung.

Bearings, ball, 5/8-inch or less in diameter.

Blanks, metal, to be plated.

Bodies, harvest hat.

Bolts, nuts, and washers.

Briarwood, in blocks.

Briquettes, coal or coke.

Buckles, 1 inch or less in greatest dimension.

Burlap.

Buttons.

Cards, playing.  
Cellophane and celluloid in sheets, bands, or strips.  
Chemicals, drugs, medicinals, and similar substances, when imported in capsules, pills, tablets, lozenges, or troches.  
Cigars and cigarettes.  
Covers, straw bottle.  
Dies, diamond wire, unmounted.  
Dowels, wooden.  
Effects, theatrical.  
Eggs.  
Feathers.  
Firewood.  
Flooring, not further manufactured than planed, tongued and grooved.  
Flowers, artificial, except bunches.  
Flowers, cut.  
Glass, cut to shape and size for use in clocks, hand, pocket, and purse mirrors, and other glass of similar shapes and size, not including lenses or watch crystals.  
Glides, furniture, except glides with prongs.  
Hairnets.  
Hides, raw.  
Hooks, fish (except snelled fish hooks).  
Hoops (wood), barrel.  
Laths.  
Livestock.  
Lumber, except finished.  
Lumber, sawed.  
Metal bars except concrete reinforcement bars, billets, blocks, blooms, ingots, pigs, plates, sheets, except galvanized sheets, shafting, slabs, and metal in similar forms.  
Mica not further manufactured than cut or stamped to dimension, shape, or form.  
Monuments.  
Nails, spikes, and staples.  
Natural products, such as vegetables, fruit, nuts, berries, and live or dead animals, fish and birds; all the foregoing which are in their natural state or not advanced in any manner further than is necessary for their safe transportation.  
Nets, bottle wire.  
Paper, newsprint.  
Paper, stencil.  
Paper, stock.  
Parchment and vellum.  
Parts, for machines imported from same country as parts.  
Pickets (wood).  
Pins, tuning.  
Plants, shrubs, and other nursery stock.  
Plugs, tie.

Poles, bamboo.  
Posts (wood), fence.  
Pulpwood.  
Rags (including wiping rags).  
Rails, joint bars, and tie plates of steel.  
Ribbon.  
Rivets.  
Rope, including wire rope, cordage, cords, twines, threads, and yarns.  
Scrap and waste.  
Screws.  
Shims, track.  
Shingles (wood), bundles of, except bundles of red-cedar shingles.  
Skins, fur, dressed or dyed.  
Skins, raw fur.  
Sponges.  
Springs, watch.  
Stamps, postage and revenue, and government-stamped envelopes and postal cards bearing no printing other than the official imprint thereon.  
Staves (wood), barrel.  
Steel, hoop.  
Sugar, maple.  
Ties (wood), railroad.  
Tiles, not over 1 inch in greatest dimension.  
Timbers, sawed.  
Tips, penholder.  
Trees, Christmas.  
Weights, analytical and precision, in sets.  
Wicking, candle.  
Wire, except barbed.

Unless an article being shipped to the United States is specifically named in the foregoing list, it would be advisable for an exporter to obtain advice from U.S. Customs before concluding that it is exempted from marking. If articles on the foregoing list are repacked in the United States, the new packages must be labeled to indicate the country of origin of the articles contained therein. Importers must certify on entry that, if they repackage, they will properly mark the repackaged containers; if they do not package, but resell to repackagers, notification of the marking requirements will be given to such repackagers. Failure to comply with the certification requirements may subject importers to penalties and marking duties.

#### OTHER EXCEPTIONS

The following classes of articles are also excepted from marking to indicate the country of their origin. (The usual container in which one of these articles is imported will also be excepted from marking.)

- An article imported for use by the importer and not intended for sale in its imported or any other form.
- An article which is to be processed in the United States by the importer or for his account otherwise than for the purpose of concealing the origin of the article and in such manner that any mark of origin would necessarily be obliterated, destroyed, or permanently concealed.
- An article with respect to which an ultimate purchaser in the United States, by reason of the character of the article, or by reason of the circumstances of its importation, must necessarily know the country of origin even though the article is not marked to indicate its origin. The clearest application of this exemption is when the contract between the ultimate purchaser in the United States and the supplier abroad insures that the order will be filled only with articles grown, manufactured, or produced in a named country.

The following classes of articles are also excepted from marking to indicate the country of their origin:

- Articles that are incapable of being marked.
- Articles that cannot be marked prior to shipment to the United States without injury.
- Articles that cannot be marked prior to shipment to the United States, except at an expense economically prohibitive of their importation.
- Articles for which the marking of the containers will reasonably indicate the origin of the articles.
- Crude substances.
- Articles produced more than 20 years prior to their importation into the United States.
- Articles entered or withdrawn from warehouse for immediate exportation or for transportation and exportation.

Although such articles are exempted from marking to indicate their country of origin, the outermost containers in which the articles will ordinarily reach the ultimate purchaser in the United States must be marked to show the country of origin of such articles.

When marking the article's container will reasonably indicate the article's country of origin, the article itself may be exempt from such marking. This exemption applies only when the articles will reach the ultimate purchaser in an unopened container. For example, articles which reach the retail purchaser in sealed containers marked clearly to indicate the country of origin come within this exception. Materials to be used in building or manufacture by the builder or manufacturer who will receive the materials in unopened cases likewise come within the exemption. The following articles, as well as their containers, are excepted from marking to indicate the country of their origin:

- Products of American fisheries that are free of duty.
- Products of possessions of the United States.
- Products of the United States exported and returned.
- Articles valued at not more than \$200 (or \$100 for bona fide gifts) that are passed without entry.

Special country-of-origin marking rules for goods of a NAFTA country are addressed in Customs publication No. 571, *NAFTA: A Guide to Customs Procedures*.

## 34. SPECIAL MARKING REQUIREMENTS

The country of origin marking requirements are separate and apart from any special marking or labeling required on specific products by other agencies. It is recommended that the specific agency be contacted for any special marking or labeling requirements.

Certain articles are subject to special country of origin marking requirements: Iron and steel pipe and pipe fittings; manhole rings, frames, or covers; and compressed gas cylinders must generally be marked by one of four methods: die-stamped, cast-in-mold lettering, etching (acid or electrolytic) or engraving. In addition, none of the exceptions from marking discussed above are applicable to iron and steel pipe and pipe fittings.

The following articles and parts thereof shall be marked legibly and conspicuously to indicate their origin by die-stamping, cast-in-the-mold lettering, etching (acid or electrolytic), engraving, or by means of metal plates that bear the prescribed marking and that are securely attached to the article in a conspicuous place by welding, screws, or rivets:

Knives, clippers, shears, safety razors, surgical instruments, scientific and laboratory instruments, pliers, pincers, and vacuum containers.

Watch movements are required to be marked on one or more of the bridges or top plates to show (1) the name of the country of manufacture, (2) the name of the manufacturer or purchaser, and (3) in words, the number of jewels, if any, serving a mechanical purpose as frictional bearings.

Clock movements shall be marked on the most visible part of the front or back plate to show (1) the name of the country of manufacture, (2) the name of the manufacturer or purchaser, and (3) the number of jewels, if any.

Watch cases shall be marked on the inside or outside of the back cover to show (1) the name of the country of manufacture, and (2) the name of the manufacturer or purchaser.

Clock cases and other cases provided for in Chapter 91, HTSUS, are required to be marked on the most visible part of the outside of the back to show the name of the country of manufacture.

The terms “watch movement” and “clock movement” refer to devices regulated by a balance wheel and hairspring, quartz crystal, or any other system capable of determining intervals of time, with a display or system to which a mechanical display can be incorporated. “Watch movements” include devices that do not exceed 12 mm in thickness and 50 mm in width, length, or diameter; “clock movements” include devices that do not meet the watch movement dimensional specifications. The term “cases” includes inner and outer cases, containers, and housings for movements, together with parts or pieces, such as, but not limited to, rings, feet, posts, bases, and outer frames, and any auxiliary or incidental features, which (with appropriate movements) serve to complete the watches, clocks, time switches, and other apparatus provided for in Chapter 91, HTSUS.

Articles required to be marked in accordance with the special marking requirements in Chapter 91 must be conspicuously and indelibly marked by cutting, die-sinking, engraving, stamping, or mold-marking. Articles required to be so marked shall be denied entry unless marked in exact conformity with these requirements.

Movements with opto-electronic display only and cases designed for use therewith, whether entered as separate articles or as components of assembled watches or clocks, are not subject to the special marking requirements. These items need only be marked with the marking requirements of 19 U.S.C. 1304.

Parts of any of the foregoing not including those above mentioned.

In addition to the special marking requirements set forth above, all watches of foreign origin must comply with the usual country of origin marking requirements. Customs considers the country of origin of watches to be the country of manufacture of the watch movement. The name of this country should appear either on the outside back cover or on the face of the dial.

Title IV of the Tariff Suspension and Trade Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-476), also known as the Imported Cigarette Compliance Act of 2000, imposes special requirements on the importation of cigarettes and other tobacco products. Importers of cigarettes or other tobacco products are urged to contact the United States port of entry at which their merchandise will arrive for information about the new requirements.

## 35. MARKING—FALSE IMPRESSION

Section 42 of the Trademark Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1124) provides, among other things, that no imported article of foreign origin which bears a name or mark calculated to induce the public to believe that it was manufactured in the United States, or in any foreign country or locality other than the country or locality in which it was actually manufactured, shall be admitted to entry at any customhouse in the United States.

In many cases, the words “United States,” the letters “U.S.A.,” or the name of any city or locality in the United States appearing on an imported article of foreign origin, or on the containers thereof, are considered to be calculated to induce the public to believe that the article was manufactured in the United States unless the name of the country of origin appears in close proximity to the name which indicates a domestic origin.

Merchandise discovered after conditional release to have been missing a required country of origin marking may be ordered redelivered to Customs custody. If such delivery is not promptly made, liquidated damages may be assessed against the Customs bond. (See 19 CFR 141.113[a]; cf., 19 CFR Part 172 and Customs Form 4647.)

An imported article bearing a name or mark prohibited by Section 42 of the Trademark Act is subject to seizure and forfeiture. However, upon the filing of a petition by the importer prior to final disposition of the article, the port director of Customs may release it upon the condition that the prohibited marking be removed or obliterated or that the article and containers be properly marked; or the port director may permit the article to be exported or destroyed under Customs supervision and without expense to the government.

Section 43 of the Trademark Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1125) prohibits the entry of goods marked or labeled with a false designation of origin or with any false description or representation, including words or other symbols tending to falsely describe or represent

the same. Deliberate removal, obliteration, covering, or altering of required country-of-origin markings after release from Customs custody is also a crime punishable by fines and imprisonment (19 U.S.C. 1304[1]).

## 36. USER FEES

Customs user fees were established by the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985. This legislation was expanded in 1986 to include a merchandise processing fee. Also in 1986, Congress enacted the Water Resources Development Act, which authorized the Customs Service to collect a harbor maintenance fee for the Army Corps of Engineers. Further legislation has extended the User Fee Program until 2003.

The merchandise processing fee (MPF) is 0.21 percent ad valorem on formally-entered imported merchandise (generally entries valued over \$2,000), subject to a minimum fee of \$25 per entry and a maximum fee of \$485 per entry. On informal entries (those valued at less than \$2,000), the MPFs are: \$2 for automated entries, \$6 for manual entries not prepared by Customs, and \$9 for manual entries that are prepared by Customs.

Effective January 1, 1994, goods imported directly from Canada that qualify under NAFTA to be marked as goods originating in Canada are exempt from the MPF. This applies to all MPF fees: formal, informal, manually prepared, or automated. Goods that do not qualify under NAFTA are subject to all applicable MPFs.”

Similarly, effective June 30, 1999, goods imported directly from Mexico are exempt from the MPF if the goods qualify under the NAFTA to be marked as goods originating in Mexico.

The harbor maintenance fee is an ad valorem fee assessed on port use associated with imports, admissions into foreign trades zones, domestic shipments, and passenger transportations. The fee is assessed only at ports that benefit from the expenditure of funds by the Army Corps of Engineers for maintaining and improving the port trade zones. The fee is 0.125 percent of the value of the cargo and is paid quarterly, except for imports, which are paid at the time of entry. Customs deposits the harbor maintenance fee collections into the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. The funds are made available, subject to appropriation, to the Army Corps of Engineers for the improvement and maintenance of United States ports and harbors.

# SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

## 37. PROHIBITIONS, RESTRICTIONS, OTHER AGENCY REQUIREMENTS

The importation of certain classes of merchandise may be prohibited or restricted to protect the economy and security of the United States, to safeguard consumer health and well-being, and to preserve domestic plant and animal life. Some commodities are also subject to an import quota or a restraint under bilateral trade agreements and arrangements.

Many of these prohibitions and restrictions on importations are subject, in addition to Customs requirements, to the laws and regulations administered by other United States government agencies with which Customs cooperates in enforcement. These laws and regulations may, for example, prohibit entry; limit entry to certain ports; restrict routing, storage, or use; or require treatment, labeling, or processing as a condition of release. Customs clearance is given only if these various additional requirements are met. This applies to all types of importations, including those made by mail and those placed in foreign trade zones.

The foreign exporter should make certain that the United States importer has provided proper information to (1) permit the submission of necessary information concerning packing, labeling, etc., and (2) that necessary arrangements have been made by the importer for entry of the merchandise into the United States.

It may be impracticable to list all articles specifically; however, various classes of articles are discussed in this chapter. Foreign exporters and U.S. importers should consult the agency mentioned for detailed information and guidance, as well as for any changes to the laws and regulations under which the commodities are controlled. Addresses, phone numbers, and Web sites for these agencies are listed in the appendix.

### AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES

**1. Cheese, Milk, and Dairy Products.** Cheese and cheese products are subject to requirements of the Food and Drug Administration and the Department of Agriculture. Most importations of cheese require an import license and are subject to quotas administered by the Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, Washington, DC 20250 (see Chapter 39).

The importation of milk and cream is subject to requirements of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and the Import Milk Act. These products may be imported only by holders of permits from the Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Office of Food

Labeling (HFS-156), 200 “C” Street NW, Washington, DC 20204; and the Department of Agriculture.

**2. Fruits, Vegetables, and Nuts.** Certain agricultural commodities (including fresh tomatoes, avocados, mangoes, limes, oranges, grapefruit, green peppers, Irish potatoes, cucumbers, eggplants, dry onions, walnuts and filberts, processed dates, prunes, raisins, and olives in tins) must meet United States import requirements relating to grade, size, quality, and maturity (7 U.S.C. 608(e)). These commodities are inspected and an inspection certificate must be issued by the Food Safety and Inspection Service of the Department of Agriculture to indicate import compliance. Inquiries on general requirements should be made to the Agricultural Marketing Service of the Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250. Additional restrictions may be imposed by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of that department, Washington, DC 20782, under the Plant Quarantine Act, and by the Food and Drug Administration, Division of Import Operations and Policy (HFC-170), 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857, under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.

**3. Insects.** Insects in a live state which are injurious to cultivated crops (including vegetables, field crops, bush fruit, and orchard, forest, or shade trees) and the eggs, pupae, or larvae of such insects are prohibited importation, except for scientific purposes, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture.

All packages containing live insects or their eggs, pupae, or larvae, which are not injurious to crops or trees, are permitted entry into the United States only if covered by a permit issued by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the Department of Agriculture and are not prohibited by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**4. Livestock and Animals.** Inspection and quarantine requirements of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) must be met for the importation of (1) all cloven-hoofed animals (ruminants), such as cattle, sheep, deer, antelope, camels, giraffes; (2) swine including the various varieties of wild hogs and the meat from such animals; (3) horses, asses, mules, and zebras; (4) all avian species including poultry and pet birds; (5) animal by-products, such as untanned hides, wool, hair, bones, bone meal, blood meal, animal casings, glands, organs, extracts, or secretions of ruminants and swine (if animal by-products for food, drugs, or cosmetics, they are also regulated by the Food and Drug Administration); (6) animal germ-plasm, including embryos and semen; and (7) hay and straw. A permit for importation must be obtained from APHIS before shipping from the country of origin.

In addition, all animal imports must be accompanied by a veterinary health certificate. Entry procedures for livestock and animals from Mexico and Canada (except for birds from Mexico) are not as rigorous as those for animals from other countries. Entry of animals is restricted to certain ports that have been designated as quarantine stations. All nondomesticated animals must meet the requirements of the Fish and

Wildlife Service.

**5. Meat and Meat Products.** All commercial shipments of meat and meat food products (derived from cattle, sheep, swine, goats, and horses) offered for entry into the United States are subject to the regulations of the Department of Agriculture and must be inspected by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the Food Safety and Inspection Service of that department prior to release by U.S. Customs. Meat products from other sources (including, but not limited to wild game) are subject to APHIS regulations; the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, enforced by the Food and Drug Administration; and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**6. Plant and Plant Products.** The importation of plants and plant products is subject to regulations of the Department of Agriculture and may be restricted or prohibited. Plants and plant products include fruits, vegetables, plants, nursery stock, bulbs, roots, seeds, certain fibers including cotton and broomcorn, cut flowers, sugarcane, certain cereals, elm logs, and elm lumber with bark attached. Import permits are required. Further information should be obtained from APHIS. Also, certain endangered species of plants may be prohibited or require permits or certificates. The Food and Drug Administration also regulates plant and plant products, particularly fruits and vegetables.

**7. Poultry and Poultry Products.** Poultry, live, dressed, or canned; eggs, including eggs for hatching; and egg products are subject to the requirements and regulations of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the Food Safety and Inspection Service of the Department of Agriculture.

Except for live poultry and poultry products entering through land ports from Canada, permits are required, as well as special marking and labeling; and in some cases, foreign inspection certification. The term “poultry” is defined as any live or slaughtered domesticated bird, e.g., chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, swans, partridges, guinea fowl, pea fowl, non-migratory ducks, pigeons, and doves. Other birds (e.g., commercial, domestic, or pen-raised grouse, pheasants and quail, and migratory birds) as well as certain egg products are subject to APHIS regulations and to the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, enforced by the Food and Drug Administration. Inquiry should also be made to the Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, DC 20240, about their requirements, restrictions, and prohibitions.

**8. Seeds.** The importation into the United States of agricultural and vegetable seeds and screenings is governed by the provisions of the Federal Seed Act of 1939 and regulations of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture. Shipments are detained pending the drawing and testing of samples.

#### ARMS, AMMUNITION, AND RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

**9. Arms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Implements of War.** These items are prohibited importations except when a license is issued by the Bureau of Alcohol,

Tobacco and Firearms of the Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20226, Tel. 202.927.8320, or the importation is in compliance with the regulations of that department. The temporary importation, in-transit movement, and exportation of arms and ammunition is prohibited unless a license is issued by the Office of Defense Trade Controls, Department of State, Washington, DC 20520, or unless a license exemption is available as set forth in 22 CFR 123.4 and other sections of 22 CFR. Any questions about exporting shotguns should be referred to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Exporter Assistance Staff, Washington, DC 20230.

**10. Radioactive Materials and Nuclear Reactors.** Many radioisotopes, all forms of uranium, thorium, and plutonium, and all nuclear reactors imported into the United States are subject to the regulations of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in addition to import regulations imposed by any other agency of the United States. Authority to import these commodities or articles containing these commodities requires a license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Washington, DC 20555. (Refer to 10 CFR Part 110.)

Radioisotopes and radioactive sources intended for medical use are subject to the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, enforced by the Food and Drug Administration.

In order to comply with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission requirements, the importer must be aware of the identity and amount of any NRC-controlled radioisotopes, or uranium, thorium, and plutonium, and of any nuclear reactor being imported into the United States. To assure passage through Customs, the importer must demonstrate to U.S. Customs which Nuclear Regulatory Commission authority the controlled commodity is being imported under. The authority cited may be the number of a specific or general license, or the specific section of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations which establishes a general license or grants an exemption to the regulations. The foreign exporter may save time for the prospective importer by furnishing the importer with complete information concerning the presence of NRC-controlled commodities in U.S. importations.

## CONSUMER PRODUCTS—ENERGY CONSERVATION

**11. Household appliances.** The Energy Policy and Conservation Act, as amended, calls for energy standards for certain major household appliances and for labeling them to indicate expected energy consumption or efficiency. The Department of Energy, Office of Codes and Standards, Washington, DC 20585, is responsible for test procedures and energy performance standards. The Federal Trade Commission, Division of Enforcement, Washington, DC 20580, regulates the labeling of these appliances. The Act covers the following household appliances: (1) refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers and freezers; (2) room air-conditioners; (3) central air-conditioners and central air-conditioning heat pumps; (4) water heaters; (5) furnaces; (6) dishwashers; (7) clothes washers; (8) clothes

dryers; (9) direct heating equipment; (10) kitchen ranges and ovens; (11) pool heaters; and (12) fluorescent lamp ballasts.

**12. Commercial and industrial equipment.** The Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPACT) calls for energy performance standards for certain commercial and industrial equipment. The Department of Energy, Office of Codes and Standards, Washington, DC 20585, is responsible for test procedures and energy performance standards. The EPACT covers the following equipment: (1) small and large commercial-package air-conditioning and heating equipment; (2) packaged terminal air-conditioners and heat pumps; (3) warm-air furnaces; (4) packaged boilers; (5) storage water heaters; (6) instantaneous water heaters; (7) unfired hot-water storage tanks; (8) large electric motors (one to 200 horsepower) whether shipped separately or as a part of a larger assembly; (9) 4-foot medium bi-pin, 2-foot U-shaped, 8-foot slimline, and 8-foot high-output fluorescent lamps; and (10) incandescent reflector lamps. In addition, the EPACT calls for water conservation standards for the following plumbing products: (1) lavatory faucets; (2) lavatory replacement aerators; (3) kitchen faucets; (4) kitchen replacement faucets; (5) metering faucets; (6) gravity tank-type toilets; (7) flushometer tank toilets; (8) electromechanical hydraulic toilets; (9) blowout toilets; and (10) urinals.

Importation of these products must comply with the applicable Department of Energy and Federal Trade Commission requirements. Importers should contact these agencies for requirements which will be in effect at the time of anticipated shipment. It should be noted that not all appliances are covered by requirements of both agencies.

#### CONSUMER PRODUCTS—SAFETY

*Any consumer product offered for importation will be refused admission if the product fails to comply with an applicable product safety standard or regulation or with a specified labeling or certification requirement or is determined to present a substantial product hazard. These requirements are administered by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Washington, DC 20207.*

**13. Toys and Children's Articles.** Toys and other children's articles cannot be imported into the United States if they fail to comply with applicable regulations issued under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act. The major regulations dealing with toys are described below. Toys or other articles intended for children under three years of age cannot have small parts that present choking hazards to small children. The Child Safety Protection Act (an amendment to the Federal Hazardous Substances Act) and its implementing regulations require warning labeling on toys for children who are at least three years of age, but less than six years of age, and that present choking hazards from small parts. These regulations also cover balloons, small balls (small balls for children under age three are banned), and marbles. Electric toys, rattles, pacifiers, and cribs are also subject to specific safety regulations. CPSC's regulations contain tests used to define hazardous sharp edges and points on toys and other children's articles. Lawn darts are banned.

**14. Lead In Paint.** Paint and other similar surface coating materials intended for consumer use are banned if they contain more than 0.06 percent lead. This ban also applies to furniture with paint that exceeds 0.06 percent lead and to toys or other articles intended for use by children with paint that exceeds 0.06 percent lead. Such products cannot be admitted into the United States. Although this ban applies to “surface coatings,” CPSC can take action, under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act, against other lead-containing products if the lead content results in a substantial risk of injury or illness.

**15. Bicycles and Bicycle Helmets.** Bicycles cannot be admitted unless they meet regulations issued under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act. The CPSC also has mandatory safety standards for bicycle helmets. Bicycle helmets imported after March 10, 1999, will not be admitted unless they meet CPSC’s final Safety Standard for Bicycle Helmets. At that time, bicycle helmets will need to be accompanied by a Certificate of Compliance. Bicycle helmets currently imported must meet one of several interim standards.

**16. Fireworks.** The fireworks regulations issued under the Federal Hazardous Substance Act set labeling requirements and technical specifications for consumer fireworks. Large fireworks, such as cherry bombs and M-80s, are banned for consumer use. Large reloadable mortar shell fireworks are banned, and large multiple-tube mine and shell fireworks are subject to specific requirements to prevent tip-over. Fireworks not meeting any of these requirements cannot be imported into the United States.

**17. Flammable Fabrics.** Any article of wearing apparel, fabric or interior furnishing cannot be imported into the United States if it fails to conform to an applicable flammability standard issued under the Flammable Fabrics Act. These flammability standards cover general wearing apparel, children’s sleepwear, mattresses (including futons), and carpets and rugs. Certain products can be imported into the United States, as provided in Section 11(c) of the Act, for the purpose of finishing or processing to render such products not so highly flammable as to be dangerous when worn by individuals, provided that the exporter states on the invoice or other paper relating to the shipment that the shipment is being made for that purpose.

**18. Art Materials.** Art materials cannot be imported into the United States unless they meet the Labeling of Hazardous Art Materials Act (LHAMA) of 1988, which is an amendment to the Federal Hazardous Substances Act. LHAMA requires that chronically hazardous art materials carry the warning labeling specified in an industry standard, ASTM D-4236. This standard also requires that art materials carry a label certifying that they have been reviewed by a toxicologist and identifying any known hazards.

**19. Cigarette Lighters.** Disposable and novelty cigarette lighters cannot be admitted into the United States unless they meet a safety standard issued under the Consumer Product Safety Act that requires them to be child-resistant. All nonrefillable lighters, and refillable

lighters whose customs value is less than \$2.00 and that use gas as a fuel, are considered to be “disposable lighters” and are covered by the standard. Novelty lighters are lighters (using any type of fuel) which have entertaining audio or visual effects or that depict articles commonly recognized as intended for use by children under five years of age. Manufacturers must test lighters, keep records and report the results to CPSC. A Certificate of Compliance must accompany each shipping unit of the product, or otherwise be furnished to the distributor or retailer to whom the product is delivered by the manufacturer, private labeler or importer.

**20. Other Regulations and Standards.** CPSC has issued a number of other safety standards and regulations. These have generally been of less interest to the importing community because fewer of these items are imported. These include:

- Architectural glazing,
- Matchbooks,
- CB and TV antennas,
- Walk-behind power lawn-mowers,
- Swimming pool slides,
- Cellulose insulation,
- Garage door-operators,
- Unstable refuse bins,
- Flammable contact adhesives,
- Patching compounds with asbestos,
- Emberizing materials with asbestos,
- Household chemicals,
- Refrigerator doors,
- Poison Prevention Packaging Act (requires child-resistant packaging of certain drugs and household chemicals).

#### ELECTRONIC PRODUCTS

**21. Radiation-Producing Products,** Including Sonic Radiation. Television products that incorporate a cathode-ray tube, cold-cathode gas discharge tubes, microwave ovens, cabinet and diagnostic x-ray equipment, laser products, ultrasound physical therapy equipment, sunlamps, CD-ROMs, cellular and cordless telephones, and other electronic products for which there are radiation performance standards, are subject to the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, Chapter V, Subchapter C—Electronic Product Radiation (formerly called the Radiation Control Health and Safety Act of 1968). An electronic product (a) for which there is a radiation performance standard and (b) that is imported for sale or use in the United States may be imported only if a declaration (Form FDA 2877) is filed with each importer’s entry notice. Form FDA 2877 is available from the Food and Drug Administration, Center for Devices and Radiological Health, Rockville, MD 20850.

The declaration must describe the compliance status of the product. The importer

must affirm that the product was (1) not subject to a standard (e.g., manufactured prior to the effective date of the applicable federal standard), or (2) complies with the standard and has a label affixed by the manufacturer certifying compliance, or (3) does not comply with the standard but is being imported only for purposes of research, investigation, study, demonstration, or training, or (4) does not now comply with the standard but will be brought into compliance. The provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, Chapter V, Subchapter C—Electronic Product Radiation—apply to electronic products manufactured in the United States as well as to imported products.

**22. Radio Frequency Devices.** Radios, tape recorders, stereos, televisions, citizen band radios or combinations thereof, and other radio frequency devices are subject to radio emission standards of the Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC 20554, under the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. Importations of such products may be accompanied by an FCC declaration (FCC 740) certifying that the imported model or device is in conformity with, will be brought into conformity, or is exempt from, the Federal Communication Commission requirements.

#### FOODS, DRUGS, COSMETICS, AND MEDICAL DEVICES

**23. Foods, Cosmetics, etc.** The importation into the United States of food, drugs, devices, and cosmetics is governed by the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, which is administered by the Food and Drug Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services, Rockville, MD 20857. That Act prohibits the importation of articles that are adulterated or misbranded, including products that are defective, unsafe, filthy, or produced under unsanitary conditions. The term “misbranded” includes statements, designs, or pictures in labeling that are false or misleading, or that fail to provide required information in labeling. The Act also prohibits the importation of pharmaceuticals that have not been approved by the FDA for admission into the United States.

Imported products regulated by the Food and Drug Administration are subject to inspection at the time of entry. Shipments found not to comply with the laws and regulations are subject to refusal. They must be brought into compliance, destroyed, or re-exported. At the discretion of the Food and Drug Administration, an importer may be permitted to bring a nonconforming importation into compliance if it is possible to do so. Any sorting, reprocessing, or relabeling must be supervised by the Food and Drug Administration at the importer’s expense.

Various imported foods such as confectionery, dairy products, poultry, eggs and egg products, meats, fruits, nuts, and vegetables are also subject to requirements of other agencies as discussed in this book. Certain aquatic species may also be subject to the requirements of the National Marine Fisheries Service of the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration of the Department of Commerce, 1335 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

**24. Biological Drugs.** The manufacture and importation of biological products for human consumption are regulated under the Public Health Service Act. Domestic and foreign manufacturers of such products must obtain a U.S. license for both the manufacturing establishment and the product intended to be produced or imported. Additional information may be obtained from the Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, Rockville, MD 20857.

Biological drugs for animals are regulated under the Virus Serum Toxin Act, which is administered by the Department of Agriculture. The importation of viruses, serums, toxins and analogous products, and organisms and vectors for use in the treatment of domestic animals, is prohibited unless the importer holds a permit from the Department of Agriculture covering the specific product. These importations are also subject to special labeling requirements.

**25. Biological Materials and Vectors.** The importation into the United States for sale, barter, or exchange of any virus, therapeutic serum, toxin, antitoxin, or analogous products, or arsphenamine or its derivatives (or any other trivalent organic arsenic compound), except materials to be used in research experiments, applicable to the prevention, treatment, or cure of diseases or injuries of man is prohibited unless these products have been propagated or prepared at any establishment holding an unsuspended and unrevoked U.S. license for such manufacturing issued by the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services. Samples of the U.S.-licensed product must accompany each importation for forwarding by the port director of Customs at the port of entry to the Director, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, 1401 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20852.

A permit from the U.S. Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA 30333, is required for shipments of any etiological agent or insect, animal or plant vector of human disease or any exotic living insect, animal, or plant capable of being a vector of human disease.

**26. Narcotic Drugs and Derivatives.** The importation of controlled substances including narcotics, marijuana and other dangerous drugs, is prohibited except when imported in compliance with regulations of the Drug Enforcement Administration of the Department of Justice, Arlington, VA 22202. Examples of some of the prohibited controlled substances are amphetamines; barbiturates; coca leaves and derivatives such as cocaine; hallucinogenic substances such as LSD, mescaline, peyote, marijuana and other forms of cannabis; opiates, including methadone; opium, including opium derivatives such as morphine and heroin; synthetic substitutes for narcotic drugs, and anabolic steroids.

**27. Drug Paraphernalia.** Items of drug paraphernalia are prohibited from importation or exportation under Section 863, Title 21 of the United States Code. The term “drug paraphernalia” means any equipment, product, or material of any kind which is primarily intended or designed for use in manufacturing, compounding, converting, concealing,

producing, processing, preparing, injecting, ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing into the human body a controlled substance, possession of which is unlawful under the Controlled Substances Act (Title II of Public Law 91-513). Items of drug paraphernalia include, but are not limited to, the following items:

- Metal, wooden, acrylic, glass, stone, plastic, or ceramic pipes with or without screens, permanent screens, hashish heads, or punctured metal bowls;
- Water pipes;
- Carburetion tubes and devices;
- Smoking and carburetion masks;
- Roach clips; meaning objects used to hold burning material, such as a marijuana cigarette, that has become too small or too short to be held in the hand;
- Miniature spoons with level capacities of one-tenth cubic centimeter or less;
- Chamber pipes;
- Carburetor pipes;
- Electric pipes;
- Air-driven pipes;
- Chillums;
- Bongs;
- Ice pipes or chillers;
- Wired cigarette papers; or
- Cocaine freebase kits.

#### GOLD, SILVER, CURRENCY, AND STAMPS

**28. Gold and Silver.** The provisions of the National Stamping Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. 291-300) are enforced in part by U.S. Customs and by the FBI. Articles made of gold or alloys thereof are prohibited importation into the United States if the gold content is three one-thousandth parts below the indicated fineness. In the case of articles made of gold or gold alloy, including the solder and alloy of inferior fineness, three one-thousandth parts below the indicated fineness is permitted. Articles marked “sterling” or “sterling silver” must assay at least 0.925 of pure silver with a 0.004 divergence allowed. Other articles of silver or silver alloys must assay not less than 0.004 part below the indicated fineness thereof. Articles marked “coin” or “coin silver” must contain at least 0.900 part pure silver with an allowable divergence of 0.004 part below.

A person placing articles of gold or silver bearing a fineness or quality mark such as 14K, sterling, etc., in the mail or in interstate commerce must place his name or registered trademark next to the fineness mark in letters the same size as the fineness mark. The trademark or name is not required at the time of importation; therefore, Customs has no direct responsibility for enforcement of the law. Persons making inquiry or seeking advice or interpretation of the law should consult the Department of Justice.

Articles bearing the words “United States Assay” are prohibited importations. Articles made wholly or in part of inferior metal and plated or filled with gold or silver or

alloys thereof and which are marked with the degree of fineness must also be marked to indicate the plated or filled content, and in such cases, the use of the words “sterling” or “coin” is prohibited.

All restrictions on the purchase, holding, selling, or otherwise dealing with gold were removed effective December 31, 1974, and gold may be imported subject to the usual Customs entry requirements. Under the Hobby Protection Act, administered by the Bureau of Consumer Protection of the Federal Trade Commission, any imitation numismatic item must be plainly and permanently marked “copy”; those that do not comply are subject to seizure and forfeiture. Unofficial gold coin restrikes must be marked with the country of origin. It is advisable to obtain a copy of the legal proclamation under which the coins are issued, or else an affidavit of government sanction of coins should be secured from a responsible banking official if the proclamation is unavailable.

**29. Counterfeit Articles.** Articles bearing facsimiles or replicas of coins or securities of the United States or of any foreign country cannot be imported. Counterfeits of coins in circulation in the United States; counterfeited, forged, or altered obligations or other securities of the United States or of any foreign government; plates, dies, or other apparatus which may be used in making any of the foregoing, are prohibited importations.

**30. Monetary Instruments.** Under the Currency and Foreign Transactions Reporting Act, 31 U.S.C. 5311 et seq., if a person knowingly transports, is about to transport, or has transported, more than \$10,000 in monetary instruments at one time to, through or from the United States; or if a person receives more than \$10,000 at one time from or through a place outside the United States, a report of the transportation (Customs Form 4790) must be filed with the U.S. Customs Service. Monetary instruments include U.S. or foreign coin, currency; traveler’s checks in any form, personal and other checks, and money orders, either in bearer-negotiable form or endorsed without restriction; and securities or stocks in bearer form. A bank check or money order made payable to a named person but not endorsed, or which bears a restrictive endorsement, is not considered to be a “monetary instrument.” The Department of the Treasury regulations governing the report of monetary instruments are set forth at 31 CFR part 103.

#### PESTICIDES, TOXIC, AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

**31. Pesticides.** The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) as amended, 1988, provides the statutory authority governing the importation of pesticides and devices into the United States. Promulgated under Section 17(c) of this authority, the U.S. Customs Service regulations at 19 CFR Parts 12.112-.117 describe the procedures governing the importation of pesticides and devices. Among the requirements described in these regulations, importers must submit a Notice of Arrival that has been submitted for review and approved by the EPA prior to the importation. Pesticides must be registered in accordance with FIFRA Section 3 or they will be refused entry into the United States. Devices are not subject to product registration, but the labeling of both

pesticides and devices must bear the producer establishment's number registered with the EPA. In addition, pesticides and devices will be refused entry if they are identified as adulterated or misbranded, if they in any other way violate the provisions of FIFRA, or if they are otherwise injurious to health or the environment.

**32. Toxic Substances.** The Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), effective January 1, 1977, regulates the manufacturing, importation, processing, distribution in commerce, use or disposal of any chemical substances or mixtures that are broadly defined in Section 3 of TSCA. Section 3 specifies that certain substances are excluded from the definition of "chemical substance" based upon their use. These substances include, but are not limited to, foods, drugs, cosmetics, and active ingredients in pesticides. Importations will not be released from Customs custody unless proper certification is presented to Customs that the import "complies with" or "is not subject to" the requirements of the Toxic Substances Control Act, or if it is already identified as a food, drug, or active pesticide ingredient. For further information from EPA, call the TSCA Assistance Information Service, Tel. 202.554.1404.

**33. Hazardous Substances.** The importation into the United States of dangerous, caustic or corrosive substances in packages suitable for household use and of hazardous substances is regulated by the Hazardous Substance Act; the Caustic Poison Act; the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act; and the Consumer Product Safety Act. The marking, labeling, packaging, and transportation of hazardous materials, substances, wastes, and their containers is regulated by the Office of Hazardous Materials Transportation of the Department of Transportation, Washington, DC 20590. Hazardous waste is a special sub-category of hazardous substances and is regulated by the Resource Recovery and Conservation Act, which requires a special EPA manifest for both imports and exports.

#### TEXTILE, WOOL, AND FUR PRODUCTS

33. **Textile Products.** All textile fiber products imported into the United States shall be stamped, tagged, labeled, or otherwise marked with the following information as required by the Textile Fiber Products Identification Act, unless exempted from marking under Section 12 of the Act:

- The generic names and percentages by weight of the constituent fibers present in the textile fiber product, exclusive of permissive ornamentation, in amounts of more than five percent, in order of predominance by weight, with any percentage of fiber or fibers required to be designated as "other fiber" or "other fibers" appearing last. Fibers present in amounts of five percent or less must be designated as "other fibers."
- The name of the manufacturer or the name or registered identification number issued by the Federal Trade Commission of one or more persons marketing or handling the textile fiber product. A word trademark, used as a house mark, registered in the United States Patent Office, may be used on labels in lieu of the

name otherwise required, if the owner of such trademark furnishes a copy of the registration to the Federal Trade Commission prior to use.

- The name of the country where processed or manufactured.

In order to enforce the Textile Fiber Products Identification Act, a commercial invoice covering a shipment of textile fiber products exceeding \$500 in value and subject to the labeling requirements of the Act is required to show the information noted in Chapter 10, in addition to the information ordinarily required on the invoices.

In addition to labeling requirements, the importation of textiles and textile products may, pursuant to Section 204 of the Agricultural Act of 1956, be subject to quota, visa or export-license requirements and additional entry requirements including declarations identifying the fabricated components.

Regulations and pamphlets containing the text of the Textile Fiber Products Identification Act may be obtained from the Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580.

34. **Wool.** Any product containing woolen fiber imported into the United States, with the exception of carpet, rugs, mats, upholsteries, and articles made more than 20 years prior to importation, shall be tagged, labeled, or otherwise clearly marked with the following information as required by the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939:

- The percentage of the total fiber weight of the wool product, exclusive of ornamentation not exceeding five percent of the total fiber weight, of: (1) wool, (2) recycled wool, (3) each fiber other than wool if the percent by weight of such fiber is five percent or more, and (4) the aggregate of all other fibers.
- The maximum percent of the total weight of the wool product, of any nonfibrous loading, filling, or adulterating matter.
- The name of the manufacturer or person introducing the product into commerce in the United States; i.e., the importer. If the importer has a registered identification number issued by the Federal Trade Commission, that number may be used instead of the individual's name.

For the purpose of enforcing the Wool Products Labeling Act, a commercial invoice covering a shipment of wool products exceeding \$500 in value and subject to the labeling requirements of the act is required to show the information noted in Chapter 10.

The provisions of the Wool Products Labeling Act apply to products manufactured in the United States as well as to imported products.

Pamphlets containing the text of the Wool Products Labeling Act and the regulations may be obtained from the Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580.

**36. Fur.** Any article of wearing apparel imported into the United States and made in whole or in part of fur or used fur, with the exception of articles made of new fur of which the cost or manufacturer's selling price does not exceed \$7, shall be tagged, labeled, or otherwise clearly marked to show the following information as required by the Fur Products Labeling Act:

- The name of the manufacturer or person introducing the product into commerce in the United States; i.e., importer. If the importer has a registered identification number, that number may be used instead of the individual's name.
- The name or names of the animal or animals that produced the fur as set forth in the Fur Products Name Guide and as determined under the rules and regulations.
- That the fur product contains used or damaged fur where such is the fact.
- That the fur product is bleached, dyed, or otherwise artificially colored when such is the fact.
- That the fur product is composed in whole or in substantial part of paws, tails, bellies, or waste fur when such is the fact.
- The name of the country of origin of any imported furs contained in a fur product.

For the purpose of enforcing the Fur Products Labeling Act, a commercial invoice covering a shipment of furs or fur products exceeding \$500 in value is required to show the information noted in Chapter 10.

**Dog or cat fur.** The importation, exportation, transportation, distribution, or sale of any product that consists, or is composed in whole or in part, of any dog fur, cat fur, or both, is prohibited. Any such product that is imported, exported, transported, distributed, or sold will be seized and forfeited, and penalties may be imposed against any person who violates this law. In addition, anyone found to have violated this prohibition may be barred from importing or exporting *any* fur product. This prohibition does not apply to the importation, exportation, or transportation, for noncommercial purposes, of personal pets that are deceased, including a pet preserved through taxidermy.

The provisions of the Fur Products Labeling Act apply to fur and fur products in the United States as well as to imported furs and fur products. Regulations and pamphlets containing the text of the Fur Products Labeling Act may be obtained from the Federal

Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580.

#### TRADEMARKS, TRADE NAMES, AND COPYRIGHTS

**37. Trademarks and Trade Names.** Articles bearing counterfeit trademarks are subject to seizure and forfeiture. A counterfeit trademark is defined as a spurious trademark that is identical with, or substantially indistinguishable from, a registered trademark. Marks that copy or simulate a registered trademark that has been recorded with Customs are subject to detention and possible seizure and forfeiture. The importation of “parallel” or “gray market” goods is restricted where the registered trademark has been recorded with Customs and gray-market protection has been afforded. In such instances, gray-market merchandise is subject to detention and possible seizure and forfeiture. The U.S. Customs Service also affords similar protection against unauthorized shipments bearing trade names that are recorded with Customs pursuant to regulations.

A personal exemption for merchandise bearing an infringing mark is provided for articles accompanying any person arriving in the United States when such articles are for his or her personal use and not for sale. Only one infringing item of each type bearing a registered trademark is permitted. An individual may take advantage of this exemption only once within a 30-day period (19 U.S.C. 1526 (d); 19 CFR 148.55).

**38. Copyrights.** Articles imported into the United States that are piratical of a registered copyright are subject to seizure and forfeiture.

#### WILDLIFE AND PETS

**39. Wildlife and Pets.** The importation of live wildlife (i.e., game animals, birds, plants) or any part or product made therefrom, and of birds’ eggs, is subject to certain prohibitions, restrictions, permits and quarantine requirements of several government agencies. Imports or exports of wildlife, their parts or products must be declared at designated ports of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, unless an exception is granted prior to the time of import or export. The Assistant Regional Director of Law Enforcement for the region in which the import or export will take place should be contacted for additional information or to request an exception to designated port permit.

Any commercial importer or exporter (with some exceptions) importing or exporting wildlife must obtain a license from the Fish and Wildlife Service. Applications and further information may be obtained from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Assistant Regional Director for Law Enforcement, for the region in which the importer or exporter is located.

Endangered species of wildlife and certain species of animals and birds are generally prohibited entry into the United States and may be imported or exported only under a permit granted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Specific information concerning permit requirements should be obtained from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203, or by

calling 1.800.358.2104.

Antique articles (at least 100 years old) may be exempt from certain requirements of the U.S. Endangered Species Act. The Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, should be contacted for details.

The taking and importation of marine mammals and their products are subject to the requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) of 1972, as amended in 1994. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Fish and Wildlife Service have jurisdiction under the MMPA for certain species and import activities. Additional requirements of the U.S. Endangered Species Act and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) may apply. Prior to importing, both agencies should be contacted to learn the exact import requirements. Other NMFS import requirements may also apply for certain species covered by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, e.g., Atlantic bluefin tuna.

Certain mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, snails, clams, insects, crustaceans, mollusks, other invertebrates and plants may be prohibited entry without the prior issuance of a permit either from the foreign wildlife authority or from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority.

The importation into the United States of any wildlife, their parts or products is prohibited if the wildlife was captured, taken, shipped, or possessed contrary to the laws of the foreign country.

The importation of feathers or skins of any bird, except for scientific and educational purposes, is prohibited, except for the species noted in this paragraph. This prohibition does not apply to fully manufactured artificial flies used for fishing or to personally taken, noncommercial game birds. Feathers or skins of the following species are permitted entry: chickens, turkeys, guinea fowl, geese, ducks, pigeons, ostriches, rheas, English ring-necked pheasants, and pea fowl not taken from the wild.

On October 23, 1992, the Wild Bird Conservation Act became effective. This act focuses on live bird species listed in the Appendices to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). Now, if you import live birds, you must meet the requirements of this law in addition to existing requirements of CITES, the Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, or other applicable regulations. Import permits must be obtained from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority.

Live birds, their parts and products that are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act may be imported into the United States for scientific purposes or certain propagating purposes only under permits issued by the Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Migratory Birds, located in the region where the importation will occur or where the

importer resides.

Imports of birds (pets, migratory birds, falcons) are subject to the quarantine requirements of the USDA and Public Health Service. Quarantine space must be reserved in advance of import. Prior to export, health certificates must be obtained. Inquiries should be addressed to the appropriate agency.

On June 9, 1989, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a ban on the importation of most African elephant ivory and any products made from it. The ban covers all commercial and noncommercial shipments, including personal baggage accompanying a tourist. There are limited exceptions for antiques, trophies, and personal household effects. For further information, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Management Authority, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203, Tel. 1.800.358.2104.

The importation of birds, cats, dogs, monkeys, and turtles is subject to the requirements of the U.S. Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control, Quarantine Division, Atlanta, GA 30333; of the Veterinary Services of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, Hyattsville, MD 20782; and of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The importation of live turtles, tortoises, and terrapins with a carapace length of less than four inches, and the viable eggs of turtles, tortoises and terrapins, is allowed by the U.S. Public Health Service only under strict requirements as to purpose and quantity. The U.S. Public Health Service does not allow the importation of live, non-human primates, including monkeys, as pets.

#### OTHER MISCELLANEOUS PROHIBITED OR RESTRICTED MERCHANDISE

*White or yellow phosphorus matches, fireworks banned under federal or state restrictions, pepper shells, switchblade knives, and lottery tickets are prohibited.*

**40. Foreign Assets Control Restrictions.** The Office of Foreign Assets Control administers regulations (31 CFR, Chapter V) which generally prohibit the importation of merchandise or goods that contain components from the following countries: Taliban (Afghanistan), Cuba, Iran (see note below), Iraq, Libya, Serbia (see note below), and Sudan. These restrictions apply to the country of origin, regardless of where the item was acquired.

These proscriptions do not apply to informational materials such as pamphlets, books, tapes, films, or recordings, except those from Iraq.

There are also strong restrictions on the importation of rough diamonds from Sierra Leone, Angola, and Liberia. Contact your local port for more information on these so-called "conflict diamonds."

**Note regarding Iran:** The embargo on Iranian goods is being revised to allow the importation of carpets and foods for human consumption such as caviar and pistachios. Please check with your local port to find out when the new regulations are scheduled to take effect. Until the new regulations are published, the complete embargo is still in force.

**Note regarding Serbia (Yugoslavia):** The U.S. trade embargo against Serbia (Yugoslavia) has been partially lifted to permit the importation of Serbian merchandise. However, certain individuals or groups remain subject to the trade embargo. Refer to OFAC's website at [www.treas.gov/ofac](http://www.treas.gov/ofac) or contact the OFAC Licensing Division at 202.622.2480 for a complete listing of prohibited parties .

Specific licenses are required to bring prohibited merchandise into the United States, but they are rarely granted. Foreign visitors to the United States, however, may usually be permitted to bring in small articles for personal use as accompanied baggage, depending upon the goods' country of origin.

Travelers should be aware of certain travel restrictions that may apply to these countries. Because of the strict enforcement of these prohibitions, those anticipating foreign travel to any of the countries listed above would do well to write in advance to the Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20220, or to call 202.622.2500.

**41. Obscene, Immoral, Seditious Matter and Lottery Tickets.** Section 305, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, prohibits the importation of any book, writing, advertisement, circular, or picture containing any matter advocating or urging treason or insurrection against the United States, or forcible resistance to any law of the United States, or containing any threat to take the life of or inflict bodily harm upon any person in the United States; or any obscene book, writing, advertisement, circular, picture or other representation, figure, or image on or of paper or other material, or any instrument, or other article which is obscene or immoral, or any drug or medicine for causing unlawful abortion unless otherwise authorized by law (e.g., FDA-approved), or any lottery ticket (except if printed in Canada for use in a U.S.—or, in some cases, other foreign—lottery).

**42. Petroleum and Petroleum Products.** Importations of petroleum and petroleum products are subject to the requirements of the Department of Energy. An import license is no longer required, but an import authorization may be needed. These importations may be subject to an oil import license fee collected and administered by the Department of Energy. Inquiries should be directed to the Department of Energy, Washington, DC 20585.

**43. Products of Convict or Forced Labor.** Merchandise produced, mined, or manufactured, wholly or in part by means of the use of convict labor, forced labor, or indentured labor under penal sanctions is prohibited from importation, provided a finding has been published pursuant to section 12.42 of the Customs Regulations (19 CFR

12.42), that certain classes of merchandise from a particular country, produced by convict, forced, or indentured labor, were either being, or are likely to be, imported into the United States in violation of section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1307).

**44. Unfair Competition.** Section 337 of the Tariff Act, as amended, prohibits the importation of merchandise if the President finds that unfair methods of competition or unfair acts exist. This section is most commonly invoked in the case of patent violations, although a patent need not be at issue. Prohibition of entries of the merchandise in question generally is for the term of the patent, although a different term may be specified.

Following a section 337 investigation, the International Trade Commission may find that unfair methods of competition or unfair acts exist with respect to the importation of certain merchandise. After the International Trade Commission has issued an order, the President is allowed 60 days to take action to communicate his approval or disapproval of such determination. Should the 60 days expire without Presidential action, the order becomes final. During the 60-day period, or until the President acts, importation of the merchandise is allowed under a special bond, but it must be recalled by Customs if appropriate under the conditions of the order when it becomes final. If the President determines that entry of the merchandise is not in violation of section 337, the bond is canceled.

**45. Importations of articles bearing the title, abbreviations, initials, symbols, emblems, seals, or badges of any subdivision of the Department of the Treasury, or likeness thereof, are prohibited unless the subdivision has authorized the use of the symbol, initials, etc. See 31 U.S.C. 333(c).**

**46. Artifacts/Cultural Property.** A number of U.S. laws are applicable to importations of artifacts such as archaeological and ethnological objects. For example, U.S. law prohibits the importation of pre-Columbian monumental and architectural sculpture and murals from countries in Central and South America without proper export permits from the country of origin. U.S. Customs will not accept an export permit from a third country. Also, importations of certain archeological and ethnographic material from El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru, Mali, and Canada are specifically restricted from entering the United States unless they are accompanied by an export certificate issued by the country of origin. The U.S. Customs Service has published import restrictions on objects and artifacts of this nature in the Federal Register; these restrictions may also be viewed at the U.S. Information Agency's Web site, [www.usia.gov/education/culprop](http://www.usia.gov/education/culprop). These restrictions are aimed at deterring the pillage of other countries' cultural heritage and at fostering opportunities for access to cultural objects for legitimate scientific, cultural, and educational purposes.

Federal law also prohibits the importation of any article of cultural property stolen

from museums or from religious or secular public monuments. Importers should be aware that a treaty exists between the United States and Mexico on cultural property recovery. Would-be buyers of such property should be aware that, unlike purchases of customary tourist merchandise, purchases of cultural objects do not confer ownership should the object be found to be stolen. The U.S. National Stolen Property Act may be applicable in such cases, particularly if a country of origin declares by law that it owns all cultural objects, known or unknown, within its present-day political boundaries.

Purveyors of such merchandise have been known to offer fake export certificates. Prospective buyers should be aware that Customs inspectors are expert at spotting fraudulent export certificates that accompany cultural property. Customs inspectors will also examine declaration forms to determine whether any false information has been entered, since this also constitutes a violation.

For current information about countries for which the United States has issued specific import restrictions, contact the United States Information Agency, Washington, DC, Tel. 202.619.6612, or visit the agency's Web site: **[www.usia.gov/education/culprop](http://www.usia.gov/education/culprop)**. For information about how these restrictions are enforced, contact the U.S. Customs Service Intellectual Property Rights Branch, Tel. 202.927.2330.

**47. United States Trade Representative Actions.** As authorized by the Trade Act of 1974, the United States Trade Representative (USTR) administers Section 301 complaints against foreign unfair trade practices that harm U.S. exporters. USTR actions that may directly affect U.S. importers include the *suspension of concessions*. For example, the USTR may suspend the normal-trade-relations rate of duty and substitute a substantially higher rate of duty on designated products from a foreign country that is found to be discriminating against U.S. products.

Importers and Internet shoppers should monitor the USTR web site (<http://192.239.92.165/index.html>) on a regular basis to determine whether their products may become subject to a substituted rate of duty. The USTR will normally propose a list of products and provide a comment period for businesses that may be affected by a higher duty rate.

The International Trade Administration at the Department of Commerce has set up a notification system that will advise importers of USTR actions that may affect imported products. Importers who wish to receive such notification should sign up at the following URL: <http://www.ita.doc.gov/td/industry/otea/301alert/form.html>.

Importers should be advised that once the USTR has taken a Section 301 action, U.S. Customs is responsible for implementing the action as directed by USTR.

Information on USTR actions that US Customs is currently implementing is located at the

following Internet address: <http://www.customs.treas.gov/impoexpo/ustract.htm>.

## 38. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Any person or firm wishing to engage in the business of importing distilled spirits, wines, or malt beverages into the United States must first obtain an importer's basic permit from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC 20226, Tel. 202.927.8110. That agency is responsible for administering the Federal Alcohol Administration Act.

Distilled spirits imported in bulk containers of a capacity of more than one gallon may be withdrawn from Customs custody only by persons to whom it is lawful to sell or otherwise dispose of distilled spirits in bulk. Bulk or bottled shipments of imported spirits or distilled or intoxicating liquors must, at the time of importation, be accompanied by a copy of a bill of lading or other documents such as an invoice, showing the name of the consignee, the nature of its contents, and the quantity contained therein (18 U.S.C. 1263).

*U.S. Customs will not release alcoholic beverages destined to any state for use in violation of its laws, and the importation of alcoholic beverages in the mails is prohibited.*

The United States adopted the metric system of measurement with the enactment of the Metric Conversion Act of 1975. In general, imported wine must conform with the metric standards of fill if bottled or packed on or after January 1, 1979. Imported distilled spirits, with some exceptions, must conform with the metric standards of fill if bottled or packed on or after January 1, 1980. Distilled spirits and wines bottled or packed prior to the respective dates must be accompanied by a statement to that effect signed by a duly authorized official of the appropriate foreign country. This statement may be a separate document or may be shown on the invoice. Malt beverages including beer are not subject to metric standards of fill.

### MARKING

Imported wines in bottles and other containers are required to be packaged, marked, branded, and labeled in accordance with the regulations in 27 CFR Part 4. Imported malt beverages, including alcohol-free and nonalcoholic malt beverages, are also required to be labeled in conformance with the regulations in 27 CFR Part 7. The labeling regulations governing imported distilled spirits can be found in 27 CFR Part 5.

Each bottle, cask or other immediate container of imported distilled spirits, wines, or malt beverages must be marked for Customs purposes to indicate the country of origin of the alcoholic beverage contained therein, unless the shipment comes within one of the exceptions outlined in Chapter 32 of this book.

## CERTIFICATE OF LABEL APPROVAL

Labels affixed to bottles of imported distilled spirits, wine and malt beverages must be covered by certificates of label approval issued to the importer by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Certificates of label approval or photostatic copies must be filed with Customs before the goods may be released for sale in the United States. Certificate-of-label approval requirements must also be met for fermented malt beverages if similar to the federal requirements (27 CFR Parts 4, 5 and 7).

## FOREIGN DOCUMENTATION

Importers of wines and distilled spirits should consult the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms about foreign documentation required, for example, certificates of origin, age, etc. Wines or distilled spirits from certain countries require original certificates of origin as a condition of entry.

## REQUIREMENTS OF OTHER AGENCIES

In addition, the importation of alcoholic beverages is subject to the specific requirements of the Food and Drug Administration. Certain plant materials, when used for bottle jackets for wine or other liquids, are subject to special restrictions under plant quarantine regulations of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. All bottle jackets made of dried or unmanufactured plant materials are subject to inspection upon arrival and are referred to the Department of Agriculture.

Public Law 100-690, codified under 27 U.S.C. 213-219A, requires the following health warning to appear on the labels of containers of alcoholic beverages bottled on or after Nov. 18, 1989:

*Government Warning: (1) According to the Surgeon General, women should not drink alcoholic beverages during pregnancy because of the risk of birth defects. (2) Consumption of alcoholic beverages impairs your ability to drive a car or operate machinery and may cause health problems.*

# 39. MOTOR VEHICLES AND BOATS

## AUTOMOBILES, VEHICLES AND VEHICLE EQUIPMENT

**Safety, Bumper, and Emission Requirements.** As a general rule, all imported motor vehicles less than 25 years old and items of motor vehicle equipment must comply with all applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards in effect when these vehicles or items were manufactured. A Customs inspection at the time of entry will determine such compliance, which is verified by the original manufacturer's certification permanently affixed to the vehicle or merchandise. An entry declaration form, HS-7, must be filed when motor vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment are entered. The HS-7 can be obtained from customs brokers or ports of entry.

Certain temporary importations may be exempt from the requirements for conformance if written approval is obtained in advance from both the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Environmental Protection Agency. This includes vehicles brought in for research, demonstrations, investigation, studies, testing or competitive events. Also, EPA form 3520-1 and DOT form HS-7 must be submitted to Customs at the time entry is made for such vehicles.

Vehicles imported for temporary use by certain nonresidents or by members of foreign governments or foreign armed forces may not be required to comply with safety, bumper, emission, or theft-prevention standards. Nonconforming vehicles imported by nonresidents for personal use must be exported at the end of one year. Vehicles described in this paragraph may also require EPA and DOT declarations (forms 3520-1 and HS-7, respectively).

A DOT bond in the amount of 150 percent of the vehicle's dutiable value must be posted at the port of entry when a noncertified or nonconforming vehicle is imported for permanent use. The importer must also sign a contract with a DOT-registered importer, who will modify the vehicle to conform with all applicable safety and bumper standards, and who can certify the modification(s). A copy of this contract must be furnished to the Customs Service with the HS-7 at the port of entry. Furthermore, the vehicle model and model year must be determined to be eligible for importation.

For additional information or details on these requirements, contact the U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Director of the Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance (NEF-32), 400 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC 20590 Tel. 1.800.424.9393.

**The Clean Air Act**, as amended, prohibits the importation of any motor vehicle or motor vehicle engine not in conformity with emission requirements prescribed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This restriction applies whether the motor vehicle or motor vehicle engine is new or used, and whether it was originally produced for sale and use in a foreign country or originally produced (or later modified) to conform to EPA requirements for sale or use in the United States. In addition to passenger cars, all trucks, multipurpose vehicles (e.g., all-terrain vehicles, campers), motorcycles, etc., that are capable of being registered by a state for use on public roads or that the EPA has deemed capable of being safely driven on public roads, are subject to these requirements. The term "vehicle" is used below to include all EPA-regulated vehicles and engines.

#### **Nonroad Engine Imports.**

In accordance with the Clean Air Act and implementing regulations, "40 CFR Parts 89, 90 and 91," the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began regulating certain nonroad diesel and gasoline engines, requiring that they meet federal emission standards beginning January 1, 1996.

“Nonroad,” also referred to as “off-road or off-highway” is a term that covers a diverse group of engines and equipment. The nonroad category includes lawn and garden equipment, outdoor power equipment, recreational equipment, farm equipment, construction equipment, marine engines, and locomotives.

Prior to importation into the United States, regulated nonroad engines must be covered by an EPA issued Certificate of Conformity. The Certificate is issued by EPA to the engine manufacturer which declares that the engine family named on the Certificate conforms with all applicable emissions standards and other requirements. It also permits the manufacturer to sell, offer for sale, introduce into commerce, or import into the United States, the named engine family. Certificates are issued for only one model year at a time. A label, confirming that the engine meets emission standards must be affixed to the engine and readily visible.

Upon request, an importer must provide an EPA Form 3520-21 to Customs at the time of entry into the United States. This form must contain the following information about the engine: model, model number, serial number, horsepower, build date, and manufacturer. It must also include a description of the equipment/vehicle containing the engine, including the equipment manufacturer, equipment serial number, and the location of the EPA Emissions Label and engine serial number.

To obtain additional information and specific guidelines regarding the importation of nonroad engines subject to the EPA emissions standards, please refer to EPA’s website at [www.epa.gov/oeca/ore/enfalert](http://www.epa.gov/oeca/ore/enfalert), entitled Enforcement Alert. To obtain technical assistance, please contact Office of Regulatory Enforcement, Air Enforcement Division, at 202.564.8673 or 202.564.1019.

**U.S.-Version Vehicles:** Any person may import U.S.-version vehicles. *All such 1971 and later models are required to have a label in a readily visible position in the engine compartment stating that the vehicle conforms to U.S. requirements.* This label will read “Vehicle Emission Control Information” and will have a statement by the manufacturer that the vehicle meets U.S. EPA emission requirements at the time of manufacture. If this label is not present, the importer should obtain a letter of conformity from the manufacturer’s United States representative—not from a dealership—prior to importation.

**Non-U.S.-Version Vehicles:** Individuals are not permitted to import non-U.S.-version vehicles (unless otherwise excluded or exempted; see next sections). These vehicles must be imported (entered) by an Independent Commercial Importer (ICI) having a currently valid qualifying certificate of conformity for each vehicle being imported. The ICI will be responsible for performing all necessary modifications, testing and labeling, as well as providing an emissions warranty identical to the emissions warranty required of new vehicles sold in the U.S.

A list of approved ICIs is available from the EPA. Vehicles at least 21 years old are exempt from these provisions and may be imported without modification.

**WORDS OF CAUTION:**

- Not all nonconforming vehicles are eligible for importation, and ICIs are not required to accept vehicles for which they have qualifying certificates of conformity.
- EPA certification of ICIs does not guarantee the actions or work of the ICIs, nor does it regulate contractual agreements and working relationships with vehicle owners.
- EPA strongly recommends that prospective importers buy only U.S.-version (labeled) vehicles, because of the expense and potential difficulties involved with importing a non-U.S.-version vehicle.
- EPA strongly recommends that current owners of non-U.S.-version vehicles sell or otherwise dispose of them overseas rather than ship and import them into the U.S., because of the expense and potential difficulties involved with importing a non-U.S.-version vehicle.
- Before shipping a nonconforming vehicle for importation, EPA strongly recommends that the importer either make final arrangements with an ICI for modifications and testing or obtain EPA approval in writing for importation. Storage fees at the ports are costly, and the vehicle may not be eligible for importation.

- The EPA policy that permitted importers a one-time exemption for vehicles at least five years old has been eliminated.
- EPA considers a U.S.-version vehicle that has had modifications to its drive train or emission control system to be a non-U.S.-version vehicle, even though it may be labeled a U.S.-version vehicle.

**For Further Information:** Environmental Protection Agency, Investigation/Imports Section (6405-J), Washington, DC 20460; Tel. 202.564.9660; Fax 202.565.2057.

**Final Word of Caution.** *Modifications necessary to bring a nonconforming vehicle into conformity with the safety, bumper, or emission standards may require extensive engineering, be impractical or impossible, or the labor and materials may be unduly expensive. It is highly recommended that these modifications be investigated before a vehicle is purchased for importation.*

#### BOAT SAFETY STANDARDS

Imported boats and associated equipment are subject to U.S. Coast Guard safety regulations or standards under the Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971. Products subject to standards must have a compliance certification label affixed to them. Certain hulls also require a hull identification number to be affixed. A U.S. Coast Guard import declaration is required to be filed with entries of nonconforming boats. Further information may be obtained from the Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, Washington, DC 20593.

#### DUTIABILITY

Vessels brought into the United States for use in trade or commerce are not dutiable. Yachts or pleasure boats brought into the United States by nonresidents for their own use in pleasure cruising are also not dutiable. Yachts or pleasure boats owned by a resident or brought into the United States for sale or charter to a resident are dutiable. Further information may be found in the U.S. Customs pamphlet *Pleasure Boats*.

#### RESTRICTIONS ON USE

Vessels that are foreign-built or of foreign registry may be used in the United States for pleasure purposes and in the foreign trade of the United States. However, federal law prohibits the use of such vessels in the coastwise trade, i.e., the transportation of passengers or merchandise between points in the United States, including carrying fishing parties for hire. Questions concerning the use of foreign-built or foreign-flag vessels should be addressed to:

Chief, Entry and Carrier Rulings Branch  
Office of Regulations and Rulings  
U.S. Customs Service  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20229

## 40. IMPORT QUOTAS

An import quota is a quantity control on imported merchandise for a certain period of time. Quotas are established by legislation, by directives, and by proclamations issued under the authority contained in specific legislation. The majority of import quotas are administered by the U.S. Customs Service. The Commissioner of Customs controls the importation of quota merchandise but has no authority to change or modify any quota.

United States import quotas may be divided into two types: absolute and tariff-rate. Under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), there are tariff-preference levels, which are administered like tariff-rate quotas.

Tariff-rate quotas provide for the entry of a specified quantity of the quota product at a reduced rate of duty during a given period. There is no limitation on the amount of the product that may be entered during the quota period, but quantities entered in excess of the quota for the period are subject to higher duty rates. In most cases, products of Communist-controlled areas are not entitled to the benefits of tariff-rate quotas.

Absolute quotas are quantitative, that is, no more than the amount specified may be permitted entry during a quota period. Some absolute quotas are global, while others are allocated to specified foreign countries. Imports in excess of a specified quota may be held for the opening of the next quota period by placing it in a foreign trade zone or by entering it for warehouse, or it may be exported or destroyed under Customs supervision.

The usual Customs procedures generally applicable to other imports apply with respect to commodities subject to quota limitations.

The quota status of a commodity subject to a tariff-rate quota cannot be determined in advance of its entry. The quota rates of duty are ordinarily assessed on such commodities entered from the beginning of the quota period until such time in the period as it is determined that imports are nearing the quota level. Port directors of Customs are then instructed to require the deposit of estimated duties at the over-quota duty rate and to report the time of official presentation of each entry. A final determination is then made of the date and time when a quota is filled, and all port directors are advised accordingly.

Some of the absolute quotas are invariably filled at or shortly after the opening of the quota period. Each of these quotas is therefore officially opened at noon Eastern Standard Time, or the equivalent in other time zones, on the designated effective date. When the total quantity for these entries filed at the opening of the quota period exceeds the quota, the merchandise is released on a pro rata basis, the pro rata being the ratio between the quota quantity and the total quantity offered for entry. This assures an equitable distribution of the quota.

Merchandise is not regarded as presented for purposes of determining quota priority until an entry summary or withdrawal from warehouse for consumption has been submitted in proper form and the merchandise is located within the port limits.

#### COMMODITIES SUBJECT TO QUOTAS ADMINISTERED BY CUSTOMS

As provided in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, the commodities listed below are subject to quota limitations in effect as of the date of publication of this book. Local Customs officers can be consulted about any changes.

Information may also be obtained by contacting the Quota Staff, U.S. Customs Service, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20229, Tel. 202.927.5850.

#### **Tariff-Rate Quotas**

- Anchovies
- Brooms
- Broom corn brooms
- Ethyl alcohol
- Lamb
- Line pipe
- Milk and cream
- Olives
- Satsumas (mandarins)
- Tuna
- Upland cotton
- Wire rod

#### NAFTA

Presidential Proclamation 6641 implemented the North American Free Trade Agreement and established tariff-preference levels on the following qualifying imported goods:

#### **Imported from Mexico:**

- Chapter 99, Subchapter VI, U.S. Note 4 (99 USN 4)—Milk and cream
- 99 USN 5—Dried milk and dried cream
- 99 USN 6—Dried milk and dried cream
- 99 USN 7—Milk and cream (condensed and evaporated)
- 99 USN 8—Cheese
- 99 USN 9—Tomatoes
- 99 USN 10—Tomatoes
- 99 USN 11—Onions and shallots
- 99 USN 12—Eggplants
- 99 USN 13—Chili peppers
- 99 USN 14—Squash

- 99 USN 15—Watermelons
- 99 USN 16—Peanuts
- 99 USN 18—Sugars derived from sugar cane or sugar beets
- 99 USN 19—Blended syrups
- 99 USN 20—Sugars derived from sugar cane or sugar beets
- 99 USN 21—Orange juice
- 99 USN 22—Orange juice
- 99 USN 25—Cotton
- 9906.96.01—Brooms
- Section XI Additional U.S. Notes—cotton or man-made fiber apparel, wool apparel, cotton or man-made fiber fabrics and made-ups and cotton or man-made fibers yarns.

**Imported from Canada:**

- Section XI Additional U.S. Notes—cotton or man-made fiber apparel, wool apparel, cotton or man-made fiber fabrics and made-ups and cotton or man-made fibers yarns.

**Tariff-Rate Quotas—GATT:**

Presidential Proclamation 6763 implemented the GATT Uruguay Round Agreements for the following tariff-rate commodities:

- Chapter 2, Additional U.S. Note 3 (2 AUSN 3)—Beef
- 4 AUSN 5—Milk and cream
- 4 AUSN 9—Dried milk and dried cream
- 4 AUSN 10—Dairy products
- 4 AUSN 11—Milk and cream (condensed or evaporated)
- 4 AUSN 12—Dried milk, dried cream, and dried whey (in excess of 224,981 kilograms)
- 4 AUSN 18—Canadian cheddar cheese
- 12 AUSN 2—Peanuts
- 17 AUSN 5—Sugar (including sugar cane)
- 17 AUSN 7—Articles containing more than 65 percent by dry weight of sugar described in 17 AUSN 2
- 17 AUSN 8—Articles containing more than 10 percent by dry weight of sugar described in 17 AUSN 3
- 17 AUSN 9—Blended syrups
- 18 AUSN 1—Cocoa powder
- 18 AUSN 2—Chocolate
- 18 AUSN 3—Chocolate and low-fat chocolate crumb
- 19 AUSN 2—Infant formula
- 19 AUSN 3—Mixes and doughs
- 20 AUSN 5—Peanut butter and paste
- 21 AUSN 4—Mixed condiments and mixed seasonings

- 21 AUSN 5—Ice cream
- 23 AUSN 2—Animal feed
- 24 ASUN 5—Tobacco
- 52 AUSN 5—Cotton
- 52 AUSN 6—Harsh or rough cotton
- 52 AUSN 7—Cotton
- 52 AUSN 8—Cotton
- 52 AUSN 9—Card strips made from cotton
- 52 AUSN 10—Fibers of cotton

### **Tariff-Rate Quotas: U.S.-Israel Agreement on Trade in Agricultural Products**

Presidential Proclamation 6962 implemented the U.S.-Israel agreement for the following agricultural products:

- Chapter 99, Subchapter VIII, U.S. Note 3—Butter, fresh or sour cream
- Chapter 99, Subchapter VIII, U.S. Note 4—Dried milk
- Chapter 99, Subchapter VIII, U.S. Note 5—Cheese and substitutes for cheese
- Chapter 99, Subchapter VIII, U.S. Note 6—Peanuts
- Chapter 99, Subchapter VIII, U.S. Note 7—Ice cream

### **TEXTILE ARTICLES**

The U.S. Customs Service administers import controls on certain cotton, wool, man-made fiber, silk blend and other vegetable-fiber articles manufactured or produced in designated countries. The U.S. Customs Service administers the Special Access Program and the Andean Trade Preference Act on certain products which are made of U.S.-formed-and-cut fabric. These controls are imposed on the basis of directives issued to the Commissioner of Customs by the Chairman of the Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements.

Information concerning specific import controls may be obtained from the Commissioner of Customs. Other information concerning the textile program may be obtained from the Chairman, Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230.

### **Textile Visa and Export License Requirements**

A textile visa is an endorsement in the form of a stamp on an invoice or export control license that is executed by a foreign government. It is used to control the exportation of textiles and textile products to the United States and to prohibit the unauthorized entry of the merchandise into this country. A visa may cover either quota or nonquota merchandise. Conversely, quota merchandise may or may not require a visa depending upon the country of origin. A visa does not guarantee entry of the merchandise into the United States. If the quota closes between the time the visa is issued in the foreign country and the shipment's arrival in the United States, the shipment will not be released to the importer until the quota opens again.

**Electronic Visa Information System (ELVIS)**

ELVIS is the electronic transmission of visa information for textile merchandise from a specific country to the U.S. Customs Service.

QUOTAS OR LICENSES ADMINISTERED BY OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

**Watches and Watch Movements.** There are no licensing requirements or quotas on watches and watch movements entering the United States unless the watches and watch movements are produced in the insular possessions (U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam). The Departments of Commerce and the Interior administer a program that establishes an annual allocation for watches and watch movements assembled in the insular possessions to enter the United States free of duty under statistical notes (91/5) to Chapter 91 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule. Licenses are issued only to established insular producers. Further information on the insular watch program may be obtained from the Statutory Import Programs Staff, Import Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230.

**Dairy Products.** Certain dairy products are subject to annual import quotas administered by the Department of Agriculture and may be imported at the in-quota rate only under import licenses issued by that department. Detailed information on the licensing of these products, or the conditions under which limited quantities of the products may be imported without licenses, may be obtained from the Dairy Import Group, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, Tel. 202.720.9439.

- Chapter 4, Additional U.S. Note 6 (4 AUSN 6)—Butter and fresh or sour cream
- 4 AUSN 7—Dried milk
- 4 AUSN 8—Dried milk or dried cream
- 4 AUSN 12—Dried milk, dried cream or dried whey (up to 224,981 kilograms)
- 4 AUSN 14—Butter substitutes
- 4 AUSN 16—Cheeses and substitutes for cheese
- 4 AUSN 17—Blue-molded cheese
- 4 AUSN 18—Cheddar cheese (except Canadian cheddar)
- 4 AUSN 19—American-type cheese
- 4 AUSN 20—Edam and Gouda cheese
- 4 AUSN 21—Italian-type cheese
- 4 AUSN 22—Swiss or Emmentaler cheese
- 4 AUSN 23—Cheese and substitutes for cheese
- 4 AUSN 25—Swiss or Emmentaler cheese

The above products may be imported at the over-quota rate without an import license.

# FRAUD

## 41. CIVIL AND CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS

Section 592 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1592), generally provides that any person who by fraud, gross negligence, or negligence, enters, introduces, or attempts to introduce merchandise into the commerce of the United States by means of any material and false electronically transmitted data, written or oral statement, document or act, or by any omission which is material, will be subject to a monetary penalty. In limited circumstances, the person's merchandise may be seized to insure payment of the penalty, and forfeited if the penalty is not paid.

The civil fraud statute has been applied by the Customs Service in cases involving individuals and companies in the United States and abroad that have negligently or intentionally provided false information concerning importations into the United States.

A criminal fraud statute also provides for sanctions to those presenting false information to Customs officers. Title 18, United States Code, Section 542, provides a maximum of two years' imprisonment, a fine, or both, for each violation involving an importation or attempted importation. Both the civil and criminal fraud statutes were enacted by Congress to discourage persons from evading the payment of lawful duties owed to the United States, although these laws apply today whether or not the United States is deprived of lawful duties.

In addition, under Section 596 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1595a(c)), the Customs Service is required to seize and forfeit all merchandise that is stolen or smuggled, as well as controlled substances, certain contraband articles, and plastic explosives that do not contain a detection agent. Merchandise may be seized and forfeited if: its importation is restricted or prohibited because of a law relating to health, safety or conservation; the merchandise is lacking a federal license required for the importation; the merchandise or packaging is in violation of copyright, trademark, trade name, or trade dress protections; the merchandise is intentionally or repetitively marked in violation of country of origin marking requirements; or importation of the merchandise is subject to quantitative restrictions requiring a visa or similar document from a foreign government, and the document presented with the entry is counterfeit.

Additionally, federal laws relating to criminal activities commonly known as "money laundering" created criminal and civil provisions that, along with fines and imprisonment, enable the government to prosecute persons for, and to seize and forfeit property involved in or traceable to, violations of the Money Laundering Control Act or Bank Secrecy Act. Importation fraud violations are included as specified unlawful

activities or predicate offenses within the Money Laundering Control Act. Criminal penalties include imprisonment for up to 20 years for each offense and fines of up to \$500,000, or both, and/or a civil penalty up to twice the value of the property involved in the offense.

The criminal and civil fraud statutes, as well as money laundering statutes, are all enforced by special agents assigned to the Office of Investigations; they operate throughout the United States and in the world's major trading centers. Suspected or known violations of any law involved with the importation of merchandise into the United States can be reported toll-free and anonymously by calling 1-800-BE-ALERT (1.800.232.5378). Rewards are applicable in many instances associated with the reporting of fraud.

# FOREIGN TRADE ZONES

## 42. FOREIGN TRADE ZONES

Foreign or “free” trade zones are secured areas legally outside a nation’s customs territory. Their purpose is to attract and promote international trade and commerce. The Foreign Trade Zones Board authorizes operations within these zones based upon showing that the intended operations are not detrimental to the public interest. Subzones are special-purpose facilities for companies unable to operate effectively at public zone sites. Foreign trade zones are usually located in or near Customs ports of entry, at industrial parks or terminal warehouse facilities. Foreign trade zones must be within 60 miles or 90 minutes’ driving time from the port of entry limits, while subzones have no limit and are located in the zone user’s private facility. A Foreign Trade Zones Board, created by the Foreign Trade Zones Act of 1934, reviews and approves applications to establish, operate, and maintain foreign trade zones. It is important to note that although foreign trade zones are treated as being outside the customs territory of the United States for tariff and customs entry purposes, all other federal laws, such as the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, are applicable to products and establishments within such zones.

Foreign exporters planning to expand or open up new American outlets may forward their goods to a foreign trade zone in the United States to be held for an unlimited period while awaiting a favorable market in the United States or nearby countries without being subject to customs entry, payment of duty or tax, or bond.

### TREATMENT OF GOODS

Merchandise lawfully brought into these zones may be stored, sold, exhibited, broken up, repacked, assembled, distributed, sorted, graded, cleaned, mixed with foreign or domestic merchandise, or otherwise manipulated or manufactured. However, merchandise imported for use in the zone, such as construction material and production equipment, must be entered for consumption before it is taken into a zone. The Foreign Trade Zones Board may determine, however, that an operation is not in the public interest. The resulting merchandise may thereafter be either exported or transferred into the customs territory. When foreign goods, in their condition at the time of entry into the zone or after processing there, are transferred into the customs territory of the United States, the goods must be entered at the customhouse. If entered for consumption, duties and taxes will be assessed on the entered articles according to the condition of the foreign merchandise at the time of entry from the zone, if the merchandise has been placed in nonprivileged foreign status prior to manipulation or manufacture.

The owner of foreign merchandise that has not been manipulated or manufactured in any way that would effect a change in its U.S. tariff classification had it been taken into customs territory when first imported, may, upon request to the port director of Customs, have its dutiable status fixed and liquidated. This dutiable status will apply regardless of

when the merchandise is entered into customs territory and even though its condition or form may have been changed by processing in the zone, as indicated above. Merchandise may be considered exported, for customs or other purposes, upon its admission to a zone in zone-restricted status; however, the merchandise taken into a zone under zone-restricted status may be for the sole purpose of exportation, destruction (except destruction of distilled spirits, wines, and fermented malt liquors) or storage.

An important feature of foreign trade zones for foreign merchants entering the American market is that the goods may be brought to the threshold of the market, making immediate delivery certain and avoiding possible cancellation of orders due to shipping delays after a favorable market has closed.

Production of articles in zones by the combined use of domestic and foreign materials makes it unnecessary to send the domestic materials abroad for manufacture, or to pay duty or obtain a bond for foreign materials that have been imported for this purpose. Duties on the foreign goods involved in such processing or manufacture are payable only on the actual quantity of such foreign goods incorporated into merchandise transferred from a zone for entry into the commerce of the United States. If there is any unrecoverable waste resulting from manufacture or manipulation, allowances are made for it, thereby eliminating payment of duty except on the articles that are actually entered. If there is any recoverable waste, it is dutiable only in its condition as such and in the quantity entered.

The Foreign Trade Zones Act also authorizes the exhibiting of merchandise within a zone. Zone facilities may be utilized for the full exhibition of foreign merchandise without bond, for an unlimited length of time, and with no requirement of exportation or duty payment. Thus, the owner of goods in a zone may display the goods where they are stored, establish showrooms of her own, or join with other importers in displaying his merchandise in a permanent exhibition established in the zone, and since the importer may also store and process merchandise in a zone, he is not limited to mere display of samples, but may sell from stock in wholesale quantities. Retail trade is prohibited in zones.

Domestic merchandise may be taken into a zone and, providing its identity is maintained in accordance with regulations, may be returned to customs territory free of quotas, duty, or tax, even though while in the zone it may have been combined with or made part of other articles. However, domestic distilled spirits, wine, and beer, and a limited number of other kinds of merchandise generally may not be processed while in the zone.

## ADVANTAGES

Savings may result from manipulations and manufacture in a zone. For example, many products shipped to the zone in bulk can be dried, sorted, graded, or cleaned and bagged or packed, permitting savings of duties and taxes on moisture taken from content or on dirt removed and culls thrown out. From incoming shipments of packaged or bottled goods, damaged packages or broken bottles can be removed. Where evaporation results during shipment or while goods are stored in the zone, contents of barrels or other containers can be regauged and savings obtained, as no duties are payable on the portions lost or removed. In other words, barrels or other containers can be gauged at the time of transfer to customs territory to insure that duties will not be charged on any portion of their contents lost to evaporation, leakage, breakage, or otherwise. These operations may also be conducted in bonded warehouses.

Savings in shipping charges, duties, and taxes may result from such operations as shipping unassembled or disassembled furniture, machinery, etc., to the zone and assembling or reassembling it there.

Merchandise may be remarked or relabeled in the zone (or in a bonded warehouse) to conform to requirements for entry into the commerce of the United States if it is otherwise up to standard. Remarketing or relabeling that would be misleading is not permitted in the zone. Substandard foods and drugs may, in certain cases, be reconditioned to meet the requirements of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

There is no time limit as to how long foreign merchandise may be stored in a zone, or when it must be entered into customs territory, reexported, or destroyed.

#### TRANSFER OF GOODS IN BONDED WAREHOUSES

Foreign merchandise in Customs bonded warehouses may be transferred to the zone at any time before its retention date in the bonded warehouse expires, but such a transfer may be made only for the purpose of eventual exportation, destruction, or permanent storage.

When foreign merchandise is transferred to the zone from Customs bonded warehouses, the bond is cancelled and all obligations regarding duty payment, or the time when merchandise must be reexported, are terminated. Similarly, the owner of domestic merchandise stored in Internal Revenue bonded warehouses may transfer his or her goods to a zone and obtain cancellation of bonds. In addition, domestic goods moved into a zone under zone-restricted status are, upon entering the zone, considered exported for purposes of excise and other internal revenue tax rebates. A manufacturer operating in customs territory and using dutiable imported materials in his or her product may, upon transferring the product to the zone for export and complying with appropriate regulations, also obtain drawback of duties paid or cancellation of bond.

Location of and general information on United States foreign trade zones may be obtained from the Foreign Trade Zones Board, Department of Commerce, Washington,

DC 20330. Questions relating to legal aspects of Customs Service responsibilities in regard to foreign trade zones should be addressed to: Chief, Entry and Carrier Rulings Branch, U.S. Customs Service, Washington, DC 20229. Questions relating to the operational aspects of such responsibilities should be addressed to the appropriate port director of Customs. The Foreign Trade Zones Manual for grantees, operators, users, or customs brokers may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. When ordering, refer to GPO Stock No. 048-002-00128-1 and Customs Publication No. 559.

The Foreign Trade Zones Manual may also be viewed at, or downloaded from, the Customs Service's Web site at **[www.customs.gov](http://www.customs.gov)**.

# APPENDIX

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# 1. INVOICES

## § 141.83 Type of invoice required.

(a)-(b) [Reserved]

(c) *Commercial invoice.* (1) A commercial invoice shall be filed for each shipment of merchandise not exempted by paragraph (d) of this section. The commercial invoice shall be prepared in the manner customary in the trade, contain the information required by Secs. 141.86 through 141.89, and substantiate the statistical information required by Sec. 141.61(e) to be given on the entry, entry summary, or withdrawal documentation.

(2) The port director may accept a copy of a required commercial invoice in place of the original. A copy, other than a photostatic or photographic copy, shall contain a declaration by the foreign seller, the shipper, or the importer that it is a true copy.

(d) *Commercial invoice not required.* A commercial invoice shall not be required in connection with the filing of the entry, entry summary, or withdrawal documentation for merchandise listed in this paragraph. The importer, however, shall present any invoice, memorandum invoice, or bill pertaining to the merchandise which may be in his possession or available to him. If no invoice or bill is available, a pro forma (or substitute) invoice, as provided for in Sec. 141.85, shall be filed, and shall contain information adequate for the examination of merchandise and the determination of duties, and information and documentation which verify the information required for statistical purposes by Sec. 141.61(e). The merchandise subject to the foregoing requirements is as follows:

(1) [Reserved]

(2) Merchandise not intended for sale or any commercial use in its imported condition or any other form, and not brought in on commission for any person other than the importer.

(3)-(4) [Reserved]

(5) Merchandise returned to the United States after having been exported for repairs or alteration under subheadings 9802.00.40 and 9802.00.60, Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (19 U.S.C. 1202).

(6) Merchandise shipped abroad, not delivered to the consignee, and returned to the United States.

(7) Merchandise exported from continuous Customs custody within 6 months after the date of entry.

(8) Merchandise consigned to, or entered in the name of, any agency of the U.S. Government.

(9) Merchandise for which an appraisalment entry is accepted.

(10) Merchandise entered temporarily into the Customs territory of the United States

under bond or for permanent exhibition under bond.

- (11) Merchandise provided for in section 466, Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1466), which pertain to certain equipment, repair parts, and supplies for vessels.
- (12) Merchandise imported as supplies, stores, and equipment of the importing carrier and subsequently made subject to entry pursuant to section 446, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1446).
- (13) Ballast (not including cargo used for ballast) landed from a vessel and delivered for consumption.
- (14) Merchandise, whether privileged or nonprivileged, resulting from manipulation or manufacture in a foreign trade zone.
- (15) Screenings contained in bulk importations of grain or seeds.

[T.D. 73-175, 38 FR 17447, July 2, 1973, as amended by T.D. 78-53, 43 FR 6069, Feb. 13, 1978; T.D. 79-221, 44 FR 46820, Aug. 9, 1979; T.D. 82- 224, 47 FR 53728, Nov. 29, 1982; T.D. 84-213, 49 FR 41184, Oct. 19, 1984; T.D. 85-39, 50 FR 9612, Mar. 11, 1985; T.D. 89-1, 53 FR 51256, Dec. 21, 1988; T.D. 93-66, 58 FR 44130, Aug. 19, 1993; T.D. 94-24, 59 FR 13200, Mar. 21, 1994; T.D. 97-82, 62 FR 51771, Oct. 3, 1997]

**NOTE:** *The requirement for special Customs invoice was waived by the Customs Service on March 1, 1982. However, it may still be used. If a commercial invoice is used, it must be signed by the seller and shipper or their agents.*

(PRO FORMA INVOICE HERE)

## 2 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### **§ 141.89 Additional Information for certain classes of merchandise.**

(a) Invoices for the following classes of merchandise, classifiable under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS), shall set forth the additional information specified: [T.D. 75-42, 75-239, 78-53, 83-251, 84-149.]

**Aluminum and alloys of aluminum** classifiable under subheadings 7601.10.60, 7601.20.60, 7601.20.90, or 7602.00.00, HTSUS (T.D. 53092, 55977, 56143)—Statement of the percentages by weight of any metallic element contained in the article.

**Articles manufactured of textile materials**, Coated or laminated with plastics or rubber, classifiable in Chapter(s) 39, 40, and 42—Include a description indicating whether the fabric is coated or laminated on both sides, on the exterior surface or on the interior surface.

**Bags manufactured of plastic sheeting** and not of a reinforced or laminated construction, classified in Chapter 39 or in heading 4202—Indicate the gauge of the plastic sheeting.

**Ball or roller bearings** classifiable under subheading 8482.10.50 through 8482.80.00,

HTSUS (T.D. 68-306)—(1) Type of bearing (i.e. whether a ball or roller bearing); (2) If a roller bearing, whether a spherical, tapered, cylindrical, needled or other type; (3) Whether a combination bearing (i.e., a bearing containing both ball and roller bearings, etc.); and (4) If a ball bearing (not including ball bearing with integral shafts or parts of ball bearings), whether or not radial, the following: (a) outside diameter of each bearing; and (b) whether or not a radial bearing (the definition of radial bearing is, for Customs purposes, an antifriction bearing primarily designed to support a load perpendicular to shaft axis).

**Beads** (T.D. 50088, 55977)—(1) The length of the string, if strung; (2) The size of the beads expressed in millimeters; (3) The material of which the beads are composed, i.e. ivory, glass, imitation pearl, etc.

**Bed Linen and Bedspreads**—Statement as to whether or not the article contains any embroidery, lace, braid, edging, trimming, piping or applique work.

**Chemicals**—Furnish the use and Chemical Abstracts Service number of chemical compounds classified in Chapters 27, 28 and 29, HTSUS.

**Colors, dyes, stains and related products** provided for under heading 3204, HTSUS—The following information is required: (1) Invoice name of product; (2) Trade name of product; (3) Identity and percent by weight of each component; (4) Color Index number (if none, so state); (5) Color Index generic name (if none so state); (6) Chemical Abstracts Service number of the active ingredient; (7) Class of merchandise (state whether acid type dye, basic dye, disperse dye, fluorescent brightener, soluble dye, vat dye, toner or other (describe)); (8) Material to which applied (name the material for which the color, dye, or toner is primarily designed).

**Copper** (T.D. 45878, 50158, 55977) articles classifiable under the provisions of Chapter 74, HTSUS—A statement of the weight of articles of copper, and a statement of percentage of copper content and all other elements—by weight—of articles classifiable according to copper content.

**Copper ores and concentrates** (T.D. 45878, 50158, 55977) classifiable in heading 2603, and subheadings 2620.19.60, 2620.20.00, 2620.30.00, and heading 7401—Statement of the percentage by weight of the copper content and any other metallic elements.

**Cotton fabrics** classifiable under the following HTSUS headings: 5208, 5209, 5210, 5211, and 5212—(1) Marks on shipping packages; (2) Numbers on shipping packages; (3) Customer's call number, if any; (4) Exact width of the merchandise; (5) Detailed description of the merchandise; trade name, if any; whether bleached, unbleached, printed, composed of yarns of different color, or dyed; if composed of cotton and other materials, state the percentage of each component material by weight; (6) Number of single threads per square centimeter (All ply yarns must be counted in accordance

with the number of single threads contained in the yarn; to illustrate: a cloth containing 100 two-ply yarns in one square centimeter must be reported as 200 single thread); (7) Exact weight per square meter in grams; (8) Average yarn number use this formula:

$$\frac{100 \times (\text{total single yarns per square centimeter})}{(\text{number of grams per square meter})}$$

(9) Yarn size or sizes in the warp; (10) Yarn size or sizes in the filling; (11) Specify whether the yarns are combed or carded; (12) Number of colors or kinds (different yarn sizes or materials) in the filling; (13) Specify whether the fabric is napped or not napped; and (14) Specify the type of weave, for example, plan, twill, sateen, oxford, etc., and (15) Specify the type of machine on which woven: if with Jacquard (Jacq), if with Swivel (Swiv), if with Lappet (Lpt.), if with Dobby (Dobby).

**Cotton raw** See § 151.82 of this chapter for additional information required on invoices.

**Cotton waste** (T.D. 50044)—(1) The name by which the cotton waste is known, such as “cotton card strips”; “cotton comber waste”; “cotton fly waste”; etc.; (2) Whether the length of the cotton staple forming any cotton card strips covered by the invoice is less than 3.016 centimeters (1 3/16 inches) or is 3.016 centimeters (1 3/16 inches) or more.

**Earthenware or crockeryware** composed of a nonvitrified absorbent body (including white granite and semiporcelain earthenware and cream-colored ware, stoneware, and terra cotta, but not including common brown, gray, red, or yellow earthenware), embossed or plain; common salt-glazed stoneware; stoneware or earthenware crucibles; Rockingham earthenware; china, porcelain, or other vitrified wares, composed of a vitrified nonabsorbent body which, when broken, shows a vitrified, vitreous, semi-vitrified, or semivitreous fracture; and bisque or Parian ware (T.D. 53236)—(1) If in sets, the kinds of articles in each set in the shipment and the quantity of each kind of article in each set in the shipment; (2) The exact maximum diameter, expressed in centimeters, of each size of all plates in the shipment; (3) The unit value for each style and size of plate, cup, saucer, or other separate piece in the shipment.

**Fish or fish livers** (T.D. 50724, 49640, 55977) imported in airtight containers classifiable under Chapter 3, HTSUS—(1) Statement whether the articles contain an oil, fat, or grease, (2) The name and quantity of any such oil, fat, or grease.

**Footwear**, classifiable in headings 6401 through 6405 of the HTSUS—

1. Manufacturer’s style number.
2. Importer’s style and/or stock number.
3. Percent by area of external surface area of upper (excluding reinforcements and accessories) which is:
  - a. Leather \_\_\_\_\_%

Composition leather	b. _____%
Rubber and/or plastics	c. _____%
Textile materials	d. _____%
Other	
(give separate percent for each type of material)	e. _____%
	f. _____%

4. Percent by area of external surface area of outersole (excluding reinforcements and accessories) which is:

Leather	a. _____%
Composition leather	b. _____%
Rubber and/or plastics	c. _____%
Textile materials	d. _____%
Other	
(give separate percent for each type of material)	e. _____%
	f. _____%

You may skip this section if you choose to answer all questions A through Z below:

- I. If 3(a) is larger than any other percent in 3 and if 4(a) is larger than any other percent in 4, answer questions F, G, L, M, O, R, S, and X.
- II. If 3(a) is larger than any other percent in 3 and if 4(c) is larger than any other percent in 4, answer questions F, G, L, M, O, R, S, and X.
- III. If 3(a) plus 3(b) is larger than any single percent in 3 and 4(d), 4(e) or 4(f) is larger than any other percent in 4, stop.
- IV. If 3(c) is larger than any other percent in 3 and if 4(a) or 4(b) is larger than any other percent in 4, stop.
- V. If 3(c) is larger than any other percent in 3 and if 4(c) is larger than any other percent in 4, answer questions B, E, F, G, H, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, T and W.
- VI. If 3(d) is larger than any other percent in 3 and if 4(a) plus 4(b) is greater than any single percent in 4, answer questions C and D.
- VII. If 3(d) is larger than any other percent in 3 and if 4(c) is larger than any single percent in 4, answer questions A, C, J, K, M, N, P and T.
- VIII. If 3(d) is larger than any other percent in 3 and if 4(d) is larger than any other percent in 4, answer questions U, Y and Z.
- IX. If the article is made of paper, answer questions V and Z.

If the article does not meet any of the conditions I through IX above, answer all questions A through Z, below:

A. Percent of external surface area of upper (including leather reinforcements and accessories).

Which is leather \_\_\_\_\_%

B. Percent by area of external surface area of upper (including all reinforcements and

accessories).

- Which is rubber \_\_\_\_\_%  
and/or plastics \_\_\_\_\_%
- C. Percent by weight of rubber and/or plastics is \_\_\_\_\_%
- D. Percent by weight of textile materials plus rubber and/or plastics is \_\_\_\_\_%
- E. Is it waterproof?
- F. Does it have a protective metal toe cap?
- G. Will it cover the wearer's ankle bone?
- H. Will it cover the wearer's knee cap?
- I. [Reserved.]
- J. Is it designed to be a protection against water, oil, grease, or chemicals or cold or inclement weather?
- K. Is it a slip-on?
- L. Is it a downhill or cross-country ski boot?
- M. Is it serious sports footwear other than ski boots? (Chapter 64 subheading note defines sports footwear.)
- N. Is it a tennis, basketball, gym, or training shoe or the like?
- O. Is it made on a base or platform of wood?
- P. Does it have open toes or open heels?
- Q. Is it made by the (lipped insole) welt construction?
- R. Is it made by the turned construction?
- S. Is it worn exclusively by men, boys or youths?
- T. Is it made by an exclusively adhesive construction?
- U. Are the fibers of the upper, by weight, predominately vegetable fibers?
- V. Is it disposable, i.e., intended for one-time use?
- W. Is it a "Zori"?
- X. Is the leather in the upper pigskin?
- Y. Are the sole and supper made of wool felt?
- Z. Is there a line of demarcation between the outer sole and upper?

The information requested above may be furnished on CF 5523 or other appropriate format by the exporter, manufacturer or shipper.

Also, the following information must be furnished by the importer or his authorized agent if classification is claimed under one of the subheadings below, as follows:

If subheading 6401.99.80, 6402.19.10, 6402.30.30, 6402.91.40, 6402.99.15, 6402.99.30, 6404.11.40, 6404.11.60, 6404.19.35, 6404.19.40, or 6404.19.60 is claimed:

Does the shoe have a foxing or foxing-like band? If so, state its material(s).  
Does the sole overlap the upper other than just at the front of the toe and/or at the back of the heel?

**Definitions** for some of the terms used in Question A to Z above: For the purpose of this

section, the following terms have the approximate definitions below. If either a more complete definition or a decision as to its application to a particular article is needed, the marker or importer of record (or the agent of either) should contact Customs prior to entry of the article.

a. In an exclusively adhesive construction, all of the pieces of the bottom would separate from the upper or from each other if all adhesives, cements, and glues were dissolved. It includes shoes in which the pieces of the upper are stitched to each other, but not to any part of the bottom. Examples include:

1. Vulcanized construction footwear;
2. Simultaneous molded construction footwear;
3. Molded footwear in which the upper and the bottom is one piece of

molded rubber or plastic, and

4. Footwear in which staples, rivets, stitching, or any of the methods above are either primary or even just extra or auxiliary, even though adhesive is a major part of the reason the bottom will not separate from the upper.

b. Composition leather is made by binding together leather fibers or small pieces of natural leather. It does not include imitation leathers not based on natural leather.

c. Leather is the tanned skin of any animal from which the fur or hair has been removed. Tanned skins coated or laminated with rubber and/or plastics are “leather” only if leather gives the material its essential character.

d. A Line of Demarcation exists if one can indicate where the sole ends and the upper begins. For example, knit booties do not normally have a line of demarcation.

e. Men’s, boy’s and youth’s sizes cover footwear of American youths size 11 and larger for males, and does not include footwear commonly worn by both sexes. If more than 4% of the shoes sold in a given size will be worn by females, that size is “commonly worn by both sexes.”

f. Footwear is designed to protect against water, oil or cold or inclement weather only if it is substantially more of a protection against those items than the usual shoes of that type. For example, a leather oxford will clearly keep your feet warmer and drier than going barefoot, but they are not a protection in this sense. On the other hand, the snow-jogger is the protective version of the nonprotective jogging shoe.

g. Rubber and/or plastics includes any textile material visibly coated (or covered) externally with one or both of those materials.

h. Slip-on includes:

1. A boot which must be pulled on.
2. Footwear with elastic cores which must be stretched to get it on,

but not a separate piece of elasticized fabric which forms a full circle around the foot or ankle.

i. Sports footwear includes only:

1. Footwear which is designed for a sporting activity and has, or has provision for, the attachment of spikes, sprigs, cleats, stops, clips, bars or the like;
2. Skating boots (without skates attached), ski boots and cross-country ski footwear, wrestling boots, boxing boots and cycling shoes.

j. Tennis shoes, basketball shoes, gym shoes, training shoes and the like cover athletic footwear other than sports footwear, whether or not principally used for such athletic games or purposes.

k. Textile materials are made from cotton, other vegetable fibers, wool, hair, silk or man-made fibers. Note: Cork, wood, cardboard and leather are not textile materials.

l. In turned construction, the upper is stitched to the leather sole wrong side out and the shoe is then turned right side out.

m. Vegetable fibers include cotton, flax and ramie, but does not include either rayon or plaiting materials such as rattan or wood strips.

n. Waterproof footwear includes footwear designed to protect against penetration by water or other liquids, whether or not such footwear is primarily designed for such purposes.

o. Welt footwear means footwear construction with a welt, which extends around the edge of the outer sole, and in which the welt and shoe upper are sewed to a lip on the surface of the insole, and the outer sole of which is sewed or cemented to the welt.

p. A zori has an upper consisting only of straps or thongs of molded rubber or plastic. This upper is assembled to a formed rubber or plastic sole by means of plugs.

**Fur products and furs** (T.D. 53064)—(1) Name or names (as set forth in the Fur Products Name Guide (16 CFR 301.0) of the animal or animals that produced the fur, and such qualifying statements as may be required pursuant to § 7(c) of the Fur Products Labeling Act (15 U.S.C. 69e(c)); (2) A statement that the fur product contains or is composed of used fur, when such is the fact; (3) A statement that the fur product contains or is composed of bleached, dyed, or otherwise artificially colored fur, when such is the fact; (4) A statement that the fur product is composed in whole or in substantial part of paws, tails, bellies, or waste fur, when such is the fact; (5) Name and address of the manufacturer of the fur product; (6) Name of the country of origin of the furs or those contained in the fur product.

**Glassware and other glass products** (T.D. 53079, 55977)—Classifiable under Chapter 70, HTSUS—Statement of the separate value of each component article in the set.

**Gloves**—classifiable in subheadings 6116.10.20 and 6216.00.20—Statement as to whether or not the article has been covered with plastics on both sides. Grain or grain and screenings (T.D. 51284)—Statement on Customs invoices for cultivated grain or grain and screenings that no screenings are included with the grain, or, if there are screenings included, the percentage of the shipment which consists of screenings commingled with the principal grain.

**Handkerchiefs**—(1) State the exact dimensions (length and width) of the merchandise; (2) If of cotton indicate whether the handkerchief is hemmed and whether it contains lace or embroidery.

**Hats or headgear**—(1) If classifiable under subheading 6502.00.40 or 6502.00.60, HTSUS—Statement as to whether or not the article has been bleached or colored; (2) If classifiable under subheading 6502.00.20 through 6502.00.60 or 6504.00.30 through 6504.00.90, HTSUS—Statement as to whether or not the article is sewed or not sewed, exclusive of any ornamentation or trimming.

**Hosiery**—(1) Indicate whether a single yarn measures less than 67 decitex. (2) Indicate whether the hosiery is full length, knee length, or less than knee length. (3) Indicate whether it contains lace or net.

**Iron or Steel** classifiable in Chapter 72 or headings 7301 to 7307, HTSUS (T.D. 53092, 55977)—Statement of the percentages by weight of carbon and any metallic elements contained in the articles, in the form of a mill analysis or mill test certificate.

**Iron oxide** (T.D. 49989, 50107)—For iron oxide to which a reduced rate of duty is applicable, a statement of the method of preparation of the oxide, together with the patent number, if any.

**Machines, equipment and apparatus**—Chapters 84 and 85, HTSUS—A statement as to the use or method of operation of each type of machine.

**Machine parts** (T.D. 51616)—Statement specifying the kind of machine for which the parts are intended, or if this is not known to the shipper, the kinds of machines for which the parts are suitable.

**Machine tools:** (1) Heading 8456 through 8462—machine tools covered by these headings equipped with a CNC (Computer Numerical Control) or the facings (electrical interface) for a CNC must state so; (2) heading 8458 through 8463—machine tools covered by these headings if used or rebuilt must state so; (3) subheading 8456.30.10—EDM: (Electrical Discharge Machines) if a Traveling Wire (Wire Cut) type must state so. Wire EDM's use a copper or brass wire for the electrode; (4) subheading 457.10.0010 through 8457.10.0050—Machining Centers. Must state whether or not they have an ATC (Automatic Tool Changer). Vertical spindle machine centers with an ATC must also indicate the Y-travel; (5) subheadings 8458.11.0030 through 8458.11.00.90—horizontal lathes: numerically controlled. Must indicate the rated HP (or KW rating) of the main spindle motor. Use the continuous rather than 30-minute rating.

**Madeira embroideries** (T.D. 49988)—(1) With respect to the materials used, furnish: (a) country of production; (b) width of the material in the piece; (c) name of the manufacturer; (d) kind of material, indicating manufacturer's quality number; (e) landed cost of the material used in each item; (f) date of the order; (g) date of the invoice; (h) invoice unit value in the currency of the purchase; (i) discount from purchase price allowed, if any, (2) with respect to the finished embroidered articles, furnish: (a) manufacturer's name, design number, and quality number; (b) importer's design number,

if any; (c) finished size; (d) number of embroidery points per unit of quantity; (e) total for overhead and profit added in arriving at the price of value of the merchandise covered by the invoice.

**Motion-picture films**—(1) Statement of footage, title, and subject matter of each film; (2) declaration of shipper, cameraman, or other person with knowledge of the acts identifying the films with the invoice and stating that the basic films were to the best of his knowledge and belief exposed abroad and returned for use as newsreel; (3) declaration of importer that he believes the films entered by him are the ones covered by the preceding declaration and that the films are intended for use as newsreel.

**Paper** classifiable in Chapter 48—Invoices covering paper shall contain the following information, or will be accompanied by specification sheets containing such information: (1) weight of paper in grams per square meter; (2) thickness, in micrometers (microns); (3) if imported in rectangular sheets, length and width sheets, in cm; (4) if imported in strips, or rolls, the width, in cm. In the case of rolls, the diameter of rolls in cm; (5) whether the paper is coated or impregnated, and with what materials; (6) weight of coating, in grams per square meter; (7) percentage by weight of the total fiber content consisting of wood fibers contained by a mechanical process, chemical sulfate or soda process, chemical sulfite process, or semi-chemical process, as appropriate; (8) commercial designation, as “writing,” “cover,” “drawing,” “Bristol,” “newsprint,” etc.; (9) ash content; (10) color; (11) glaze, or finish; (12) Mullen bursting strength, and Mullen index; (13) stretch factor, in machine direction and in cross direction; (14) tear and tensile readings; in machine direction, in cross direction, and in machine direction plus cross direction; (15) identification of fibers as “hardwood” where appropriate; (16) crush resistance; (17) brightness; (18) smoothness; (19) if bleached, whether bleached uniformly throughout the mass; (20) whether embossed, perforated, creped or crinkled.

**Plastic plates, sheets, film, foil and strip of headings** 3920 and 3921—(1) Statement as to whether the plastic is cellular or noncellular; (2) specification of the type of plastic; (3) indication of whether or not flexible and whether combined with textile or other material.

**Printed matter** classifiable in Chapter 49—Printed matter entered in the following headings shall have, on or with the invoices covering such matter, the following information: (1) Heading 4901—(a) whether the books are: dictionaries, encyclopedias, textbooks, bound newspapers or journals or periodicals, directories, bibles or other prayer books, technical, scientific or professional books, art or pictorial books, or “other” books; (b) if “other” books, whether hardbound or paperbound; (c) if “other” books, paperbound, other than “rack size”: number of pages (excluding covers). (2) Heading 4902—(a) whether the journal or periodical appears at least four times a week. If the journal or periodical appears other than at least four times a week, whether it is a newspaper supplement printed by a gravure process, is a newspaper, business or professional journal or periodical, or other than these; (3) Heading 4904—whether the printed or manuscript music is sheet music, not bound (except by stapling or folding); (4)

Heading 4905—(a) whether globes, or not; (b) if not globes, whether in book form, or not; (c) in any case, whether or not in relief; (5) cards, greeting cards, or other; (7) Heading 4910—(a) whether or not printed on paper by a lithographic process; (b) if printed on paper by a lithographic process, the thickness of the paper, in mm; (8) Subheading not printed over 20 years at time of importation, whether suitable for use in the production of articles of heading 4902; (c) if not printed over 20 years at time of importation, and not suitable for use in the production of articles of heading 4901, whether the merchandise is lithographs on paper or paperboard; (d) if lithographs on paper or paperboard, under the terms of the immediately preceding description, thickness of the paper or paperboard, and whether or not posters; (e) in any case, whether or not posters; (f) in any case, whether or not photographic negatives or positives on transparent bases; (b) Subheading 4911.99—If not carnets, or parts thereof, in English or French, whether or not printed on paper in whole or in part by a lithographic process.

**Pulp** classifiable in Chapter 47—(1) Invoices covering chemical woodpulp, dissolving trades, in Heading 4702 shall state the insoluble fraction (as            percentage) after one hour in a caustic soda solution containing 18 percent sodium hydroxide (NaOH) at 20o C; (2) Subheading 4702.00.0020—Pulp entered under this subheading shall in addition contain on or with the invoice the ash content as a percentage by weight.

**Refrigeration equipment** (1) Refrigerator-freezers classifiable under subheading 8418.10.00 and (2) refrigerators classifiable under 8418.21.00—(a) statement as to whether they are compression or absorption type; (b) statement of other refrigerated volume in liters; (3) freezers classifiable under subheading 8418.30.00 and 8418.40.00—statement as to whether they are chest or upright type; (4) liquid chilling refrigerating unless classifiable under subheading 8418.69.0045 through 8418.69.0060—statement as to whether they are centrifugal open-type, centrifugal hermetic-type, absorption-type or reciprocating type.

**Rolling mills**—Subheading 8455.30.0005 through 8455.30.0085. Rolls for rolling            mills: Indicate the composition of the roll—gray iron, cast steel or other—and the weight of each roll.

**Rubber Products** of Chapter 40—(1) Statement as to whether combined with textile or other material; (2) statement whether the rubber is cellular or noncellular, unvulcanized or vulcanized, and if vulcanized, whether hard rubber or other than hard rubber.

**Screenings or scalplings of grains or seeds** (T.D. 51096)—(1) Whether the commodity is the product of a screening process; (2) if so, whether any cultivated grains have been added to such commodity; (3) If any such grains have been added, the kind and percentage of each.

**Textile fiber products** (T.D. 55095)—(1) The constituent fiber or combination of fibers in the textile fiber product, designating with equal prominence each            natural or

manufactured fiber in the textile fiber product by its generic name in the order of predominance by the weight thereof if the weight of such fiber is 5 percent or more of the total fiber weight of the product; (2) percentage of each fiber present, by weight, in the total fiber content of the textile fiber product; (3) the name, or other identification issued and registered by the Federal Trade Commission, of the manufacturer of the product or one or more persons subject to § 3 of the Textile Fiber Products Identification Act (15 U.S.C. 70a) with respect to such product; (4) the name of the country where processed or manufactured. See also “Wearing Apparel” below.

**Tires and Tubes for tires, of rubber or plastics**—(1) Specify the kind of vehicle for which the tire is intended, i.e. airplane, bicycle, passenger car, on-the-highway light or heavy truck or bus, motorcycle; (2) if designed for tractors provided for in subheading 8701.90.10, or for agricultural or horticultural machinery or implements provided for in Chapter 84 or in subheading 8716.80.10, designate whether the tire is new, recapped, or used; pneumatic or solid; (3) indicate whether the tube is designed for tires provided for in subheading 4011.91.10, 4011.99.10, 4012.10.20, or 4012.20.20.

**Tobacco** (including tobacco in its natural state) (T.D. 44854, 45871)—(1) Specify in detail the character of the tobacco in each bale by giving (a) country and province of origin, (b) year of production, (c) grade or grades in each bale, (d) number of carrots or pounds of each grade if more than one grade is packed in a bale, (e) the time when, place where, and person from whom purchased, (f) price paid or to be paid for each bale or package, or price for the vega or lot is purchased in bulk, or if obtained otherwise than by purchase, state the actual market value per bale; (2) if an invoice covers or includes bales of tobacco which are part of a vega or lot purchased in bulk, the invoice must contain or be accompanied by a full description of the vega or lot purchased; or if such description has been furnished with a previous importation, the date and identity of such shipment; (3) packages or bales containing only filler leaf shall be invoiced as filler; when containing filler and wrapper but not more than 35 percent of wrapper, they shall be invoiced as mixed; and when containing more than 35 percent of wrapper, they shall be invoiced as wrapper.

**Watches and watch movements** classifiable under Chapter 91 of the HTSUS—For all commercial shipments of such articles, there shall be required to be shown on the invoice, or on a separate sheet attached to and constituting a part of the invoice, such information as will reflect with respect to each group, type, or model, the following:

- (A) For watches, a thorough description of the composition of the watch cases, the bracelets, bands or straps, the commercial description (ebauche caliber number, ligne size and number of jewels) of the movements contained in the watches, and the type of battery (manufacturer’s name and reference number), if the watch is battery operated.
- (B) For watch movements, the commercial description (ebauche caliber

number, ligne size and number of jewels). If battery-operated, the type of battery (manufacturer's name and reference number).

- (C) The name of the manufacturer of the exported watch movements and the name of the country in which the movements were manufactured.

**Wearing apparel**—(a) All invoices for textile wearing apparel should indicate a component material breakdown in percentages by weight for all component fibers present in the entire garment, as well as separate breakdowns of the fibers in the (outer) shell (exclusive of linings, cuffs, waistbands, collars and other trimmings) and in the lining; (2) for garments which are constructed of more than one component or material (combination of knits and not knit fabric or combinations of knit and/or not knit fabric with leather, fur, plastic including vinyl, etc.), the invoice must show a fiber breakdown in percentages by weight for each separate textile material in the garment and a breakdown in percentages by weight for each nontextile material for the entire garment; (3) for woven garments, indicate whether the fabric is yarn dyed and whether there are “two or more colors in the warp and/or filling”; (4) for all-white T-shirts and singlets Indicate whether or not the garment contains pockets, trim, or embroidery; (5) for mufflers-State the exact dimensions (length and width) of the merchandise.

**Wood products**—(1) Wood sawed or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed, sanded, or finger-jointed, of a thickness exceeding 6 mm (lumber), classifiable under Chapter 44 heading 4407, HTSUS, and wood continuously shaped along any of its edges or faces, whether or not planed, sanded or finger-jointed; coniferous: Subheading 4409.10.90 and nonconiferous: Subheading 4409.20.90, HTSUS, and dutiable on the basis of cubic meters—Quantity in cubic meter (m) before dressing; (2) fiberboard of wood or other ligneous materials whether or not bonded with resins or other organic substances, under Chapter 44, Heading 4411, HTSUS, and classifiable according to its density-density in grams per cubic centimeter (cm); (3) plywood consisting solely of sheets of wood, classifiable under Chapter 44, Subheading 4412.11,4412.12, and 4412.19, HTSUS, and classifiable according to the thickness of the wood sheets-thickness of each ply in millimeter (mm);

**Wool and hair**—See 151.62 of this chapter for additional information required on invoices.

**Wool products**, except carpets, rugs, mats, and upholsteries, and wool products made more than 20 years before importation (T.D. 50388, 51019) (1) The percentage of the total fiber weight of the wool product, exclusive of ornamentation not exceeding 5 per cent of said total fiber weight, of (a) wool; (b) reprocessed wool; (c) reused wool; (d) each fiber other than wool if said percentage by weight of such fiber is 5 per cent or more; and (e) the aggregate of all fibers; (2) the maximum percentage of the total weight of the wool product, of any nonfibrous loading, filling, or adulterating matter; and (3) the name of the manufacturer of the wool product, except when such product consists of mixed wastes, residues, and similar merchandise obtained from several suppliers or unknown

sources.

**Woven fabric of man-made fibers** in headings 5407, 5408, 5512, 5513, 5514, 5515, 5516—

- (1) State the exact width of the fabric.
- (2) Provide a detailed description of the merchandise, (trade name, if any).
- (3) Indicate whether bleached, unbleached, dyed, or yarns of different colors and/or printed.
- (4) If composed of more than one material, list percentage by weight in each.
- (5) Identify the man-made fibers as artificial or synthetic, filament or staple, and state whether the yarns are high tenacity. Specify the number of turns per meter in each yarn.
- (6) Specify yarn sizes in warp and filling.
- (7) Specify how the fabric is woven (plain weave, twill, sateen, dobby, jacquard, swivel, lappet, etc.)
- (8) Indicate the number of single threads per square centimeter in both warp and filling.
- (9) Supply the weight per square meter in grams.
- (10) Provide the average yarn number using this formula:  
$$\frac{100 \times \text{number of single threads per square centimeter}}{\text{(number of grams per square meter)}}$$
- (11) For spun yarns, specify whether textured or not textured.
- (12) For filament yarns, specify whether textured or not textured.

**Yarns**—(1) All yarn invoices should show: (a) fiber content by weight; (b) whether single or plied; (c) whether or not put up for retail sale (See Section XI, Note 4, HTSUS); (d) whether or not intended for use as sewing thread.

- (2) If chief weight of silk, show whether spun or filament.
- (3) If chief weight of cotton, show:
  - (a) whether combed or uncombed
  - (b) metric number (mn)
  - (c) whether bleached and/or mercerized.
- (4) If chief weight of man-made fiber, show:
  - (a) whether filament, or spun, or a combination of filament and spun
  - (b) If a combination of filament and spun-give percent age of filament and spun by weight.
- (5) If chief weight of filament man-made fiber, show:
  - (a) whether high tenacity (See Section XI, note 6 HTSUS)
  - (b) whether monofilament, multifilament or strip
  - (c) whether texturized

- (d) yarn number in decitex
- (e) number of turns per meter
- (f) for monofilaments-show cross-sectional dimension in millimeters
- (g) for strips, show the width of the strip in millimeters  
(measure in folded or twisted condition if so imported)

*Items or classes of goods may be added to or removed from the list from time to time.*

### 3. CUSTOMS VALUATION

93 STAT. 194 PUBLIC LAW 96-39—JULY 26, 1979

#### **TARIFF ACT OF 1930**

“SEC. 402, VALUE. [19 U.S.C. 1401a]

“(a) IN GENERAL.—(1) Except as otherwise specifically provided for in this Act, imported merchandise shall be appraised, for the purposes of this Act, on the basis of the following:

“(A) The transaction value provided for under subsection (b).

“(B) The transaction value of identical merchandise provided for under subsection (c), if the value referred to in subparagraph (A) cannot be determined, or can be determined but cannot be used by reason of subsection (b)(2).

“(C) The transaction value of similar merchandise provided or under subsection (c), if the value referred to in subparagraph (B) cannot be determined.

“(D) The deductive value provided for under subsection (d), if the value referred to in subparagraph (C) cannot be determined and if the importer does not request alternative valuation under Paragraph (2).

“(E) The computed value provided for under subsection (e), if the value referred to in subparagraph (D) cannot be determined.

“(F) The value provided for under subsection (f), if the value referred to in subparagraph (E) cannot be determined.

“(2) If the value referred to in paragraph (1)(C) cannot be determined with respect to imported merchandise, the merchandise shall be appraised on the basis of the computed value provided for under paragraph (1)(E), rather than the deductive value provided for under paragraph (1)(D), if the importer makes a request to that effect to the customs officer concerned within such time as the Secretary shall prescribe. If the computed value of the merchandise cannot subsequently be determined, the merchandise may not be appraised on the basis of the value referred to in paragraph (1)(F) unless the deductive value of the merchandise cannot be determined under paragraph (1)(D).

“(3) Upon written request therefor by the importer of merchandise, and subject to provisions of law regarding the disclosure of information, the customs officer concerned shall provide the importer with a written explanation of how the value of that merchandise was determined under this section.

“(b) TRANSACTION VALUE OF IMPORTED MERCHANDISE.--(1) The transaction value of imported merchandise is the price actually paid or payable for the merchandise when sold for exportation to the United States, plus amounts equal to—

“(A) the packing costs incurred by the buyer with respect to the imported merchandise;

“(B) any selling commission incurred by the buyer with respect to the imported merchandise;

“(C) the value, apportioned as appropriate, of any assist;

“(D) any royalty or license fee related to the imported merchandise that the buyer is required to pay, directly or indirectly, as a condition of the sale of the imported

merchandise for exportation to the United States; and

“(E) the proceeds of any subsequent resale, disposal, or use of the imported merchandise that accrue, directly or indirectly, to the seller.

The price actually paid or payable for imported merchandise shall be increased by the amounts attributable to the items (and no others) described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) only to the extent that each such amount (i) is not otherwise included within the price actually paid or payable; and (ii) is based on sufficient information. If sufficient information is not available, for any reason, with respect to any amount referred to in the preceding sentence, the transaction value of the imported merchandise concerned shall be treated, for purposes of this section, as one that cannot be determined.

“(2)(A) The transaction value of imported merchandise determined under paragraph (1) shall be the appraised value of that merchandise for the purposes of this Act only if—

“(i) there are no restrictions on the disposition or use of the imported merchandise by the buyer other than restrictions that—

“(I) are imposed or required by law,

“(II) limit the geographical area in which the merchandise may be resold, or

“(III) do not substantially affect the value of the merchandise;

“(ii) the sale of, or the price actually paid or payable for, the imported merchandise is not subject to any condition or consideration for which a value cannot be determined with respect to the imported merchandise;

“(iii) no part of the proceeds of any subsequent resale, disposal, or use of the imported merchandise by the buyer will accrue directly or indirectly to the seller, unless an appropriate adjustment therefor can be made under paragraph (1)(E); and

“(iv) the buyer and seller are not related, or the buyer and seller are related but the transaction value is acceptable, for purposes of this subsection, under subparagraph (B).

“(B) The transaction value between a related buyer and seller is acceptable for the purposes of this subsection if an examination of the circumstances of the sale of the imported merchandise indicates that the relationship between such buyer and seller did not influence the price actually paid or payable; or if the transaction value of the imported merchandise closely approximates—

Amended by P.L. 96—490, effective 1/1/81:

“(i) the transaction value of identical merchandise, or of similar merchandise in sales to unrelated buyers in the United States; or

“(ii) the deductive value or computed value for identical merchandise or similar merchandise; but, only if each value referred to in clause (i) or (ii) that is used for comparison relates to merchandise that was exported to the United States at or about the same time as the imported merchandise

“(C) In applying the values used for comparison purposes under subparagraph (B), there shall be taken into account differences with respect to the sales involved (if such differences are based on sufficient information whether supplied by the buyer or otherwise available to the customs officer concerned) in—

“(i) commercial levels;  
“(ii) quantity levels;  
“(iii) the costs, commissions, values, fees, and proceeds described in paragraph (1); and  
“(iv) the costs incurred by the seller in sales in which he and the buyer are not related that are not incurred by the seller in sales in which he and the buyer are related.

“(3) The transaction value of imported merchandise does not include any of the following, if identified separately from the price actually paid or payable and from any cost or other item referred to in paragraph (1):

“(A) Any reasonable cost or charge that is incurred for—  
“(i) the construction, erection, assembly, or maintenance of, or the technical assistance provided with respect to, the merchandise after its importation into the United States; or

“(ii) the transportation of the merchandise after such importation.

“(B) The customs duties and other Federal taxes currently payable on the imported merchandise by reason of its importation, and any Federal excise tax on, or measured by the value of, such merchandise for which vendors in the United States are ordinarily liable.

“(4) For purposes of this subsection—  
Price Actually Paid or Payable:

“(A) The term ‘price actually paid or payable’ means the total payment (whether direct or indirect, and exclusive of any costs, charges, or expenses incurred for transportation, insurance, and related services incident to the international shipment of the merchandise from the country of exportation to the place of importation in the United States) made, or to be made, for imported merchandise by the buyer to, or for the benefit of, the seller.

“(B) Any rebate of, or other decrease in, the price actually paid or payable that is made or otherwise effected between the buyer and seller after the date of the importation of the merchandise into the United States shall be disregarded in determining the transaction value under paragraph (1).

“(C), transaction value of identical merchandise and similar merchandise.—(1) The transaction value of identical merchandise, or of similar merchandise, is the transaction value (acceptable as the appraised value for purposes of this Act under subsection (b) but adjusted under paragraph (2) of this subsection) of imported merchandise that is—

“(A) with respect to the merchandise being appraised, either identical merchandise or similar merchandise, as the case may be; and

“(B) exported to the United States at or about the time that the merchandise being appraised is exported to the United States.

“(2) Transaction values determined under this subsection shall be based on sales of identical merchandise or similar merchandise, as the case may be, at the same commercial level and in substantially the same quantity as the sales of the merchandise being appraised. If no such sale is found, sales of identical merchandise or similar

merchandise at either a different commercial level or in different quantities, or both, shall be used, but adjusted to take account of any such difference. Any adjustment made under this paragraph shall be based on sufficient information. If in applying this paragraph with respect to any imported merchandise, two or more transaction values for identical merchandise, or for similar merchandise, are determined, such imported merchandise shall be appraised on the basis of the lower or lowest of such values.

Merchandise concerned:

“(d) DEDUCTIVE VALUE.—(1) For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘merchandise concerned’ means the merchandise being appraised, identical merchandise, or similar merchandise.

“(2)(A) The deductive value of the merchandise being appraised is whichever of the following prices (as adjusted under paragraph (3)) is appropriate depending upon when and in what condition the merchandise concerned is sold in the United States:

“(i) if the merchandise concerned is sold in the condition as imported at or about the date of importation of the merchandise being appraised, the price is the unit price at which the merchandise concerned is sold in the greatest aggregate quantity at or about such date.

“(ii) If the merchandise concerned is sold in the condition as imported but not sold at or about the date of importation of the merchandise being appraised, the price is the unit price at which the merchandise concerned is sold in the greatest aggregate quantity after the date of importation of the merchandise being appraised but before the close of the 90th day after the date of such importation.

“(iii) If the merchandise concerned was not sold in the condition as imported and not sold before the close of the 90th day after the date of importation of the merchandise being appraised, the price is the unit price at which the merchandise being appraised, after further processing, is sold in the greatest aggregate quantity before the 180th day after the date of such importation. This clause shall apply to appraisement of merchandise only if the importer so elects and notifies the customs officer concerned of that election within such time as shall be prescribed by the Secretary.

Unit Price:

“(B) For purposes of subparagraph (A), the unit price at which merchandise is sold in the greatest aggregate quantity is the unit price at which such merchandise is sold to unrelated persons, at the first commercial level after importation (in cases to which subparagraph (A)(iii) applies) at which such sales take place, in a total volume that is (i) greater than the total volume sold at any other unit price, and (ii) sufficient to establish the unit price.

“(3)(A) The vice determined under paragraph (2) shall be reduced by an amount equal to—

“(i) any commission usually paid or agreed to be paid, or the addition usually made for profit and general expenses, in connection with sales in the United States of imported merchandise that is of the same class or kind, regardless of the country of exportation as the merchandise concerned;

“(ii) the actual costs and associated costs of transportation and insurance incurred with respect to international shipments of the merchandise concerned from the

country of exportation to the United States;

“(iii) the usual costs and associated costs of transportation and insurance incurred with respect to shipments of such merchandise from the place of importation to the place of delivery in the United States, if such costs are not included as a general expense under clause (i);

“(iv) the customs duties and other Federal taxes currently payable on the merchandise concerned by reason of its importation, and any Federal excise tax on, or measured by the value of, such merchandise for which vendors in the United States are ordinarily liable: and

“(v) (but only in the case of a price determined under paragraph (2)(A)(iii)) the value added by the processing of the merchandise after importation to the extent that the value is based on sufficient information relating to cost of such processing.

“(B) For purposes of applying paragraph (A)—

“(i) the deduction made for profits and general expenses shall be based upon the importer’s profits and general expenses, unless such profits and general expenses are inconsistent with those reflected in sales in the United States of imported merchandise of the same class or kind, in which case the deduction shall be based on the usual profit and general expenses reflected in such sales, as determined from sufficient information; and

“(ii) any State or local tax imposed on the importer with respect to the sale of imported merchandise shall be treated as a general expense.

“(C) The price determined under paragraph (2) shall be increased (but only to the extent that such costs are not otherwise included) by an amount equal to the packing costs incurred by the importer or the buyer, as the case may be, with respect to the merchandise concerned.

“(D) For purposes of determining the deductive value of imported merchandise, any sale to a person who supplies any assist for use in connection with the production or sale for export of the merchandise concerned shall be disregarded.

“(e) computed value.—(1) The computed value of imported merchandise is the sum of—

“(A) the cost or value of the materials and the fabrication and other processing of any kind employed in the production of the imported merchandise

“(B) an amount for profit and general expenses equal to that usually reflected in sales of merchandise of the same class or kind as the imported merchandise that are made by the producers in the country of exportation for export to the United States;

“(C) any assist, if its value is not included under subparagraph (A) or (B); and

“(D) the packing costs.

“(2) For purposes of paragraph (1)—

“(A) the cost or value of materials under paragraph (1)(A) shall not include the amount of any internal tax imposed by the country of exportation that is directly applicable to the materials or their disposition if the tax is remitted or refunded upon the exportation of the merchandise in the production of which the materials were used; and

“(B) the amount for profit and general expenses under paragraph (1)(B) shall be used upon the producer’s profits and expenses, unless the producer’s profits and expenses

are inconsistent with those usually reflected in sales of merchandise of the same class or kind as the imported merchandise that are made by producers in the country of exportation for export to the United States, in which case the amount under paragraph (1)(B) shall be used on the usual profit and general expenses of such producers in such sales, as determined from sufficient information.

“(f) value if other values cannot be determined or used.—(1) If the value of imported merchandise cannot be determined, or otherwise used for the purposes of this Act, under subsections (b) through (e), the merchandise shall be appraised for the purposes of this Act on the basis of a value that is derived from the methods set forth in such subsections, with such methods being reasonably adjusted to the extent necessary to arrive at a value.

Imported Merchandise Appraisal:

“(2) Imported merchandise may not be appraised, for the purposes of this Act, on the basis of—

“(A) the selling price in the United States of merchandise produced in the United States;

“(B) a system that provides for the appraisement of imported merchandise at the higher of two alternative values

“(C) the price of merchandise in the domestic market of the country of exportation

“(D) a cost of production, other than a value determined under subsection (c) for merchandise that is identical merchandise or similar merchandise to the merchandise being appraised;

“(E) the price of merchandise for export to a country other than the United States;

“(F) minimum values for appraisement; or

“(G) arbitrary or fictitious values.

This paragraph shall not apply with respect to the ascertainment, determination, or estimation of foreign market value or United States price under title VII.

Ante, p. 150:

“(g) special rules—(1) for purposes of this section, the persons specified in any of the following subparagraphs shall be treated as persons who are related:

“(A) Members of the same family, including brothers and sisters (whether by whole or half blood), spouse, ancestors, and lineal descendants.

“(B) Any officer or director of an organization and such organization.

“(C) Any officer or director of an organization and an officer or director of another organization, if each such individual is also an officer or director in the other organization.

“(D) Partners.

“(E) Employer and employee.

“(F) Any person directly or indirectly owning, controlling, or holding with power to vote, 5 percent or more of the outstanding voting stock or shares of any organization and such organization.

“(G) Two or more persons directly or indirectly controlling, controlled by, or under common control with, any person.

“(2) For purposes of this section, merchandise (including, but not limited to,

identical merchandise and similar merchandise) shall be treated as being of the same class or kind as other merchandise if it is within a group or range of merchandise produced by a particular industry or industry sector.

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles:

“(3) For purposes of this section, information that is submitted by an importer, buyer, or producer in regard to the appraisal of merchandise may not be rejected by the customs officer concerned on the basis of the accounting method by which that information was prepared, if the preparation was in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The term generally accepted accounting principles’ refers to any generally recognized consensus or substantial authoritative support regarding—

“(A) which economic resources and obligations should be recorded as assets and liabilities;

“(B) which changes in assets and liabilities should be recorded;

“(C) how the assets and liabilities and changes in them should be measured;

“(D) what information should be disclosed and how it should be disclosed; and

“(E) which financial statements should be prepared.

The applicability of a particular set of generally accepted accounting principles will depend upon the basis on which the value of the merchandise is sought to be established.

“(h) definitions.—As used in this section—

“(1)(A) The term ‘assist’ means any of the following if supplied directly or indirectly, and free of charge or at reduced cost, by the buyer of imported merchandise for use in connection with the production or the sale for export to the United States of the merchandise:

“(i) Materials, components, parts and similar items incorporated in the imported merchandise.

“(ii) Tools, dies, molds, and similar items used in the production of the imported merchandise.

“(iii) Merchandise consumed in the production of the imported merchandise.

“(iv) Engineering, development, artwork, design work, and plans and sketches that are undertaken elsewhere than in the United States and are necessary for the production of the imported merchandise.

“(B) No service or work to which subparagraph (A)(iv) applies shall be treated as an assist for purposes of this section if such service or work—

“(i) is performed by an individual who is domiciled with the United States;

“(ii) is performed by that individual while he is acting as an employee or agent of the buyer of the imported merchandise; and

“(iii) is incidental to other engineering, development, artwork, design work, or plans or sketches that are undertaken within the United States.

“(C) For purposes of this section, the following apply in determining the value of assists described in subparagraph (A)(iv):

“(i) The value of an assist that is available in the public domain is the cost of obtaining copies of the assist,

“(ii) If the production of an assist occurred in the United States and one or more foreign countries, the value of the assist is the value thereof that is added outside the United States.

“(2) The term ‘identical merchandise’ means—

“(A) merchandise that is identical in all respects to, and was produced in the same country and by the same person as, the merchandise being appraised; or

“(B) if merchandise meeting the requirements under subparagraph (A) cannot be found (or for purposes of applying subsection (b)(2)(B)(i), regardless of whether merchandise meeting such requirements can be found), merchandise that is identical in all respect to, and was produced in the same country as, but not produced by the same person as, the merchandise being appraised.

Such term does not include merchandise that incorporates or reflect any engineering, development, artwork, design work, or plan or sketch that—

“(I) was supplied free or at reduced cost by the buyer or the merchandise for use in connection with the production or the sale for export to the United States of the merchandise; and

“(II) is not an assist because undertaken with the United States.

“(3) The term ‘packing costs’ means the cost of all containers and coverings of whether nature and of packing, whether for labor or materials, used in placing merchandise in condition, packed ready for shipment to the United States.

“(4) The term ‘similar merchandise’ means—

“(A) merchandise that—

“(i) was produced in the same country and by the same person as the merchandise being appraised,

“(ii) is like the merchandise being appraised in characteristics and component material, and

“(iii) is commercially interchangeable with the merchandise being appraised; or

“(B) if merchandise meeting the requirements under subparagraph (A) cannot be found (or for purposes of applying subsection (b)(2)(B)(i), regardless of whether merchandise meeting such requirements can be found), merchandise that—

“(i) was produced in the same country as, but not produced by the same person as, the merchandise being appraised, and

“(ii) meets the requirement set forth in subparagraph (A)(ii) and (iii).

Such term does not include merchandise that incorporates or reflects any engineering, development, artwork, design work, or plan or sketch that—

“(I) was supplied free or at reduced cost by the buyer of the merchandise for use in connection with the production or the sale for export to the United States of the merchandise; and

“(II) is not an assist because undertaken within the United States.

“(5) The term ‘sufficient information’, when required under this section for determining—

“(A) any amount—

“(i) added under subsection (b)(1) to the price actually paid or payable,

“(ii) deducted under subsection (d)(3) as profit or general expense or value from further processing, or

“(iii) added under subsection (e)(2) as profit or general expense;

“(B) any difference taken into account for purposes of subsection (b)(2)(C); or

“(C) any adjustment made under subsection (c)(2); means information that establishes the accuracy of such amount, difference, or adjustment.”

## 5. Government Contacts (Chapters 36, 37, 38)

### **U.S. Department of Agriculture**

Agricultural Marketing Service  
Washington, DC 20250  
Tel. 202.720.8998

[www.ams.usda.gov](http://www.ams.usda.gov)

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

*Animals:*

USDA-APHIS-VS  
Riverdale, MD 20737-1231  
Tel. 301.734.7885

*Plants:*

USDA-APHIS-PPQ  
Riverdale, MD 20737-1231  
Tel. 301.734.8896

[www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov)

Food Safety and Inspection Service  
Import Inspection Division  
Landmark Center  
1299 Farnam, Suite 300  
Omaha, NE 68102  
Tel. 402.221.7400

Foreign Agricultural Service  
Room 5531-S  
Washington, D.C. 20250-1000  
Tel. 202.720.2916  
Fax 202.720.8076  
[www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov)

### **U.S. Department of Commerce**

Exporter Counseling Division  
14th Street & Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20230  
Tel. 202.482.4811

[www.bxa.doc.gov](http://www.bxa.doc.gov)

National Marine Fisheries Service Headquarters  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
1315 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
Tel. 301.713.2289

NMFS Southwest Region  
Protected Species Management Division  
501 West Ocean Blvd.  
Long Beach, CA 90802-4213  
Tel. 562.980.4019

[www.kingfish.ssp.nms.gov](http://www.kingfish.ssp.nms.gov)

### **Federal Communications Commission**

Laboratory Division  
7435 Oakland Mills Road  
Columbia, MD 21046  
Tel. 301.362.3000

[www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov)

### **U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission**

Office of Compliance  
4330 East West Highway  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
Tel. 301.504.0608  
Fax 301.504.0359

[www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)

### **Environmental Protection Agency**

Hazardous Materials Hotline  
1.800.424.9346

TSCA Assistance Information Service  
Tel. 202.554.1404

Motor Vehicles Investigation/Imports Section (6405-J) Washington, D.C. 20460

Tel. 202.564.9660

**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

Food and Drug Administration

Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research  
1401 Rockville Pike  
Suite 200 North  
Rockville, MD 20852  
Tel. 301.827.6201  
[www.fda.gov/cber](http://www.fda.gov/cber)

Center for Drug Evaluation and Research  
7520 Standish Place  
Rockville, MD 20855  
Tel. 301.594.3150  
[www.fda.gov/cber](http://www.fda.gov/cber)

Center for Devices and Radiological Health  
Rockville, MD 20850  
Tel. 301.594.4692  
[www.fda.gov/cber](http://www.fda.gov/cber)

Division of Import Operations and Policy (HFC-170)  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857  
Tel. 301.443.6553  
Fax 301.594.0413  
[www.fda.gov/ora/import](http://www.fda.gov/ora/import)

Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition

Office of Food Labeling (HFS-156)  
200 "C" St., NW  
Washington, DC 20204  
Tel. 202.205.4606  
<http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov>

Office of Seafood  
Washington, DC 20005  
Tel. 202.418.3150

U.S. Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Office of Health and Safety  
1600 Clifton Road  
Atlanta, Georgia 30333  
Tel. 404.639.3235

[www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

### **U.S. Department of Energy**

Office of Codes and Standards  
Washington, DC 20585  
Tel. 202.586.9127

[www.eren.doe.gov](http://www.eren.doe.gov)

### **U.S. Department of the Interior**

Fish and Wildlife Service  
Office of Management Authority  
4401 N. Fairfax Drive  
Arlington, VA 22203  
Tel. 703.358.2093

[www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)

### **U.S. Department of Justice**

Drug Enforcement Administration  
700 Army-Navy Drive  
Arlington VA 22202  
Tel. 202.307.7977  
Fax 202.307.7965

[www.usdoj.gov/dea](http://www.usdoj.gov/dea)

### **Nuclear Regulatory Commission**

Office of International Programs  
One White Flint North  
11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852  
Tel. 301.415.7000

## **Federal Trade Commission**

Bureau of Consumer Protection  
Washington, DC 20580  
Tel. 202.326.2996  
Division of Enforcement  
Washington, DC 20580  
Tel. 202.326.2996

[www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov)

## **International Trade Commission**

500 "E" Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20436  
Tel. 202.205.2000

[www.usitc.gov](http://www.usitc.gov)

## **U.S. Department of State**

*Office of Defense Trade Controls*  
Bureau of Political/Military Affairs  
2401 "E" Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20037  
Tel. 202.663.2700

[www.pmdtc.org](http://www.pmdtc.org)

## **U.S. Department of Transportation**

*National Highway Traffic Safety Administration*  
Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance (NEF-32)  
400 7th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20590  
Tel. 1-800-424-9393  
Fax 202.366.1024

[www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov)

*U.S. Coast Guard*  
Office of Boating Safety  
2100 Second Street, SW

Washington, DC 20593-0001  
Tel. 202.267.1077

National Vessel Documentation Center  
792 T.J. Jackson Drive  
Falling Waters, W.Va. 25419-9502  
Tel. 304.271.2400  
Fax 304.271.2405

*Office of Hazardous Materials*  
400 7th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20590-0001  
Tel. 202.366.4488

## **U.S. Department of the Treasury**

*Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms*  
Washington, DC 20226  
Tel. 202.927.7920 (arms and ammunition)  
202.927.8110 (alcoholic beverages)

[www.atf.treas.gov](http://www.atf.treas.gov)

## **U.S. Customs Service**

*Office of Regulations and Rulings*  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20229  
Tel. 202.927.0760

*National Commodity Specialist Division*  
One Penn Plaza  
11th Floor  
New York, NY 10119  
Tel. 201.443.0367  
Fax 201.443.0595

*Office of Field Operations*  
Trade Programs Division  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20229  
Tel. 202.927.0300

[www.customs.gov](http://www.customs.gov)

*Office of Foreign Assets Control*  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20220  
Tel. 202.622.2500  
Fax 202.622.1657

[www.treas.gov/treasury/services/fac](http://www.treas.gov/treasury/services/fac)