

Jul 2017

GSP enforcement to be tightened, self-initiated reviews suggested

(From our friends at Sandler Travis)

Trump administration officials recently said they plan to tighten enforcement of duty-free imports under the Generalized System Preferences. Importers are advised to carefully review their use of GSP and ensure that all of the requisite eligibility criteria are being met.

GSP is scheduled to expire Dec. 31, 2017, and Congress would have to enact legislation for it to be extended. After the program's last expiration it remained unauthorized for two years, costing importers millions of dollars. There has been some concern that a similar lapse could follow the upcoming expiration, particularly in light of the Trump administration's emphasis on "free and fair" trade and "reciprocity" in trade relations. For more info, please go to:

<http://www.strtrade.com/news-publications-GSP-enforcement-Bolivia-expiration-070417.html>

Ed. note: We also suggest importers bringing in GSP merchandise to do a self-assessment to insure your merchandise qualifies. We would be delighted to help you with this self-assessment.

Mandatory import reinspection for catfish by FSIS begins Aug. 2

(From our friends at Sandler Travis)

The Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service reports that starting Aug. 2 (not Sept. 1, as it had previously indicated) all shipments of imported *Siluriformes* (catfish) fish and fish products entering the U.S. must be presented at an official import inspection establishment for reinspection by FSIS personnel. After this date FSIS will begin taking action in regard to such shipments that have bypassed FSIS import reinspection but entered commerce. FSIS strongly encourages importers and brokers to communicate and coordinate closely with their FSIS district office to facilitate full compliance prior to the effective date. For more info, please go to:

<http://www.strtrade.com/news-publications-import-reinspection-FSIS-catfish-siluriformes-070417.html>

Reminder: Shipments to/from Cuba & Iran still prohibited

While negotiations are underway to allow some shipments to/from Iran and Cuba, the sanctions are still very much in place. Under the Trump administration, negotiations with Cuba may be delayed. Only a very few exceptions exist, and these are primarily for returning travelers, eg., Cuban cigars. Please contact us before you attempt any shipments to/from Cuba or Iran.

Please visit our website at

www.lhcb.com

for additional and updated information and contact us with any questions.

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