

Dec 2016

Reminder: Food Facilities Must Re-Register with FDA by Dec. 31

Food facilities required to register with the Food and Drug Administration must renew their registrations between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31. For more info, please see our November newsletter at

http://www.lhcb.com/index_files/NL/

Chinese New Year 2017 is earlier than usual

This year it is from January 27 to February 2 - the year of the fire or red chicken. While ships will still load during this time, many factories & distributors will be closed and unable to ship. Please plan your shipments so there will be minimum disruptions to your supply chain.

Trade Preference Agreements (TPA's)

The U.S. currently has 14 existing Free Trade Agreements (FTA's) and 4 special access programs:

FTA's

- Australia
- Bahrain
- Chile
- Columbia
- DR/CAFTA (To date, only DR, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua)
- Israel
- Jordan
- Korea
- Morocco
- NAFTA (Canada & Mexico)
- Oman
- Panama
- Peru
- Singapore

Special access programs

- Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA)
- Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBPTA)
- African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA)
- Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)

Customs has published a side-by-side chart of requirements for non-textile imports under these TPA's at

<http://www.cbp.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Side-by-side%2C%20Final%207%2716%2714.pdf>

These programs give favorable duty treatment to many goods from the areas and countries named. Also, civil aircraft and parts, certain automotive products, pharmaceutical products, and chemicals for dyes may be eligible for reduced or duty-free treatment. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), as previously reported, was reinstated July 29, 2015 retroactive to July 31, 2013. GSP will expire on December 31, 2017, unless Congress extends it. Congress also passed a 10-year extension of AGOA. The Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP), which is an FTA with 11 other countries bordering the Pacific Ocean, has been much in the news lately, and President-elect Trump has vowed to withdraw the US from it. It is widely thought to be dead from a US perspective.

Talks are in process for an EU TPA, but this is years away. Brexit, if it continues, will take the UK out of EU, and this will put UK in the most favored nation status instead of a trade preference relationship. Regardless, Brexit will affect UK imports into the US. For updated Brexit info, please go to

<http://www.strtrade.com/f-brexit-info-hub.html>

Please contact us to verify the latest status on TPA's, documentation requirements, duty rates, or any other questions.

Please visit our website at

www.lhcb.com

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

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