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Sandy Cato email 5/19 08:35 on container shipping 2017

GAO: Uncollected antidumping, countervailing duties reach \$2.3b

(From American Shipper)

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has failed to collect about \$2.3 billion in antidumping and countervailing duties over a 15-year period and needs a better system to track duty non-payment, according to the Government Accountability Office (GAO). The watchdog agency said that half of the unpaid bills were concentrated among 20 importers that stopped shipping to the United States before receiving their first duty bill. Importers are required to post bonds as insurance to cover non-payment, but the U.S. assessment of trade violations is retrospective, which means that final dumping or countervailing duty amounts can significantly exceed the initial amount paid at the estimated duty rate at time of entry, by which time unscrupulous overseas companies can shut down and reinvent themselves as a different entity. The Government Accountability Office said U.S. Customs has not been able to collect the duties because it lacks the analytic capability and the system provides loopholes for cheaters. For more info, please go to

http://www.americanshipper.com/Main/ASD/GAO_Uncollected_antidumping_countervailing_duties_65076.aspx

[Ed. note: These “cheaters” left the sureties “holding the bag” for much of these AD/CVD claims. This is why ALL the sureties now require collateral (either cash or standby letter of credit) for the amount of bond for those importers with AD/CVD claims. Further, Customs regards each 1-year period of a continuous bond as a separate and distinct “term”, so the surety requires the collateral for each term. Finally, importers can expect increased scrutiny of merchandise possibly subject to AD/CVD investigations. Please note related article next.]

CBP Lays Out Procedures for Investigating Evasion of AD/CV Duty Orders (From Sandler Travis)

Continuing its efforts to implement the enhanced trade enforcement authority granted by Congress earlier this year, U.S. Customs and Border Protection has published an interim rule setting forth the procedures it will use to investigate claims of evasion of antidumping and countervailing duty orders. This rule is effective as of Aug. 22 and comments on it are due by Oct. 21. The Enforce and Protect Act, which was included as Title IV in the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act signed into law this past February, created a new framework for CBP to investigate evasion allegations. CBP is proposing to amend its regulations to implement this framework as follows. For more info, please go to

<http://www.strtrade.com/news-publications-CBP-procedures-evasion-AD-CV-orders-082216.html>

[Ed. note: We make every effort to identify the correct AD/CVD case on your merchandise, but it is based on the information you give us. It is the importer's responsibility to make sure we have complete and correct information.]

CBP Amends Regulations to Reflect Increase in De Minimis Value for Personal Duty Exemption (From Sandler Travis)

U.S. Customs and Border Protection has issued an interim final rule amending its regulations to reflect the increase from \$200 to \$800 in the value of certain articles that may be imported by one person on one day free of duty and tax. This increase was enacted as part of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act and was effective as of March 10. For more info, please go to

<http://www.strtrade.com/news-publications-de-minimis-duty-exemption-increase-customs-regulations-082916.html>

New FDA website helps importers (From FDA)

In late August, FDA rolled out a new website that provides easy access to current and comprehensive information on most FDA issues involving imports. This information includes general import information, commodity specific requirements, and personal importations. The site also includes answers to most FDA import questions, and there is contact information for both local and headquarters personnel. Please go to

<http://www.fda.gov/ForIndustry/ImportProgram/default.htm>

U.S. Reinstates GSP Eligibility for Burma (From our friends at Sandler Travis)

President Obama signed Sept. 14 a proclamation that will reinstate Burma's eligibility for benefits under the Generalized System of Preferences as of Nov. 13 following a 27-year lapse. Burma will also be designated as a least-developed beneficiary developing country for purposes of GSP, giving it the opportunity to export approximately 5,000 products to the U.S. duty-free. According to a press release from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, Burma's exports to the U.S. grew from \$38,000 in 2012 to \$142 million in 2015 and include a number of GSP-eligible goods, including dried peas, rattan products, wood products, and travel goods such as handbags and backpacks. For more info, please go to

<http://www.strtrade.com/news-publications-GSP-Burma-worker-rights-091516.html>

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