

What is the difference between a CHB and a CCS?

A customhouse broker (CHB), sometimes known as a “licensed customs broker (LCB), is licensed by the U.S. Treasury Department after passing a rigorous written examination and an extensive background investigation. Brokers are required to have demonstrated on the test a thorough knowledge of Customs rules and regulations, and usually, only 2-3% pass. The background investigation goes back to the broker’s youth and examines moral character, financial responsibility, and good citizenship throughout their life. Only U.S. citizens of high moral character and financial responsibility can be licensed as a CHB.

A Certified Customs Specialist (CCS) is a certification granted by the National Customs Broker and Freight Forwarder Association of America’s Educational Institute (NEI) after a rigorous course of study designed to elevate professional standards and to enhance individual knowledge. More importantly for importers, the CCS designation requires a minimum of 20 hours of continuing education each year, thereby keeping the CCS abreast of changes and new developments. All CHB’s in our office are also CCS’s.