

# 2020

## Volume 2, Issue 3

# TRADE NEWS

## SNAPSHOT



### P1

EAC Corner

CBP Launches  
Center for USMCA

New on  
@CBPTradeGov

CBP Trade in  
the News



I hope you are staying safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic. Here at U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the Office of Trade remains hard at work, and we are developing new ways to work with our trade partners to ensure international trade in the U.S. remains as steady as ever. I am also excited to announce that we have officially rescheduled our 2020 Trade Symposium for August 25-26 in Anaheim, CA. I hope to see you there!

-Brenda Smith, Executive Assistant Commissioner, Office of Trade

## CBP Launches Center for USMCA Implementation

On March 16, 2020, CBP launched the U.S. – Mexico – Canada Agreement (USMCA) Coordination Center. The USMCA Coordination Center will ensure the smooth transition from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to the USMCA. The USMCA Coordination Center will facilitate consistent and comprehensive guidance to CBP's internal and external stakeholders on the requirements of the new agreement. Hosted by CBP's Office of Trade, the USMCA Coordination Center is staffed by subject matter experts from multiple CBP offices and will be operational for 18 to 24 months.



"The USMCA is an important development for CBP as well as for our two largest trading partners," reports Maya Kamar, Director for Textiles and Trade Agreements and the head of the USMCA Coordination Center. "This shift to the USMCA requires an all-of-CBP effort. The USMCA Coordination Center's engagements will be crucial to ensuring timely information and training to CBP's operational personnel, as well as outreach and clarity on compliance requirements to our private sector partners."

The USMCA will replace the 25-year-old NAFTA, providing several updates to the existing trade relations between the United States and Canada and Mexico, to include requiring successful CBP programs and initiatives, such as Single Window and Trusted Traveler. The agreement preserves and maintains NAFTA duty-free treatment for originating goods and includes new rules of origin and origin procedures, including product-specific rules for passenger vehicles, light trucks, and auto parts. The updates to the auto rules of origin provides incentives to source goods and materials in the United States and North America. There are new provisions covering trade in specific manufacturing sectors, including Information and Communication Technology, Pharmaceuticals, Medical Devices, Cosmetic Products, and Chemical Substances. The agreement also establishes procedures that streamline the certification and verification of rules of origin and promote strong enforcement. This includes new cooperation and enforcement provisions to help prevent duty evasion before it happens.

The USMCA Coordination Center includes detailed staff and liaisons from many CBP offices along with core staff to ensure the right subject matter expertise is available. In addition, the USMCA Coordination Center supports six working groups focused on USMCA implementation and transition plans. The USMCA Coordination Center is collaborating with the U.S. Department of Labor, plays a new role in assisting with assessing the high wage labor criteria for the automotive rules of origin.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the USMCA Coordination Center is looking to move to virtual outreach and webinars. Other resources, such as informational videos, written materials, and CBP's internal messaging and social media feeds are being incorporated into the communication plans.

CBP aims to ensure a successful implementation of the USMCA in the coming months. The USMCA Coordination Center will be key in ensuring the NAFTA to USMCA transition is smooth, transparent, and comprehensive.

## New on @CBPTradeGov

4/7: #DYK that counterfeit pharmaceuticals and personal care products are some of the most seized counterfeit products? Learn more about the dangers counterfeits pose to your health and safety at <http://bit.ly/2yDGkds> #WorldHealthDay #CBPTrade

4/10: CBP's Office of Trade Relations (OTR) serves as the @CBP point of contact for the trade community. They handle industry engagement, dissemination of information, and solicitation of input from both the trade and partner government agencies. Learn more: <http://bit.ly/3bWEbuK>

## CBPTrade in the News

- ◆ Counterfeit LED screens seized at International Falls Port of Entry – *International Falls Journal* – 4/10
- ◆ Customs brokers applaud US Customs keeping borders open to cargo – *FreightWaves* – 4/7
- ◆ US Customs prioritizes clearance of medical supplies – *American Shipper* – 4/2

The *Trade News Snapshot* is a monthly newsletter from the Office of Trade highlighting important programs, information, and updates for our trade partners and the public.

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U.S. Customs and  
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## COVID-19 Webpage and Resources for the Trade Community



U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is working closely with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and other federal, state, and local agencies to support the whole-of-government effort to slow the spread of COVID-19. In order to communicate the latest updates affecting the public and the trade community, CBP launched a new [COVID-19 resource page](#), which contains the latest trade announcements and advisories.

The page includes information on COVID-19 and CBP confirmed cases, COVID-19 Cargo Resolution Team information, related Cargo Systems Messaging Service updates, trade program updates and announcements, cargo security program updates and announcements, regulations and rulings, audit information, partner government agency COVID-19 information, along with Travel announcements and advisories.

In the midst of this constantly changing and dynamic environment, we recognize how important it is to continuously update and improve our resources. As such, our team updates this page several times a week as new information becomes available.

If you have questions regarding admissibility, cargo hold/facilitation, personal protective equipment (PPE) importing guidance, and PPE classification and duties take a look at our [searchable knowledge repository](#), which contains useful information for importers. If you can't find what you're looking for, submit a request for information.

### CBP Revokes Two Withhold Release Orders

CBP Office of Trade announced two Withhold Release Order (WRO) revocations. The first WRO announced that disposable rubber gloves manufactured by [WRP Asia Pacific Sdn. Bhd](#) after March 16, 2020 will be admissible at all U.S. ports of entry.

The WRO, which was initially levied against the company in September 2019, was revoked based on recent information obtained by CBP showing the company is no longer producing the rubber gloves under forced labor conditions.

"This is an example of the mutually beneficial and positive results that occur when importers and manufacturers work with CBP to achieve common goals," according to CBP Executive Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Trade Brenda Smith. "We are very pleased that this effort successfully mitigated a significant supply chain risk and resulted in better working conditions and more compliant trade."

The second WRO announced that tuna and tuna products harvested from the [Tunago No. 61](#) vessel will be admissible at all U.S. ports of entry beginning April 1, 2020. Executive Assistant Commissioner Brenda Smith directed the revocation of a withhold release order on tuna and tuna products harvested from the Tunago No. 61 vessel.

This decision was based on information obtained by CBP that tuna and tuna products from this vessel are no longer produced under forced labor conditions.

See our [forced labor webpage](#) for more information on CBP Forced Labor efforts.

### OT Remains Dedicated During COVID-19

The CBP Office of Trade is working hard during the COVID-19 pandemic, and operations remain on track. Ninety-eight percent of the Office of Trade is able to work remotely and is taking social distancing seriously while the mission remains top priority.



Despite the challenges of working off-site while schools, daycares, and other facilities are closed to the public, the Office of Trade continues to rise to the challenge, increasing the use of webinars, virtual trainings, virtual meetings, and conference calls. New videos on the Automated Commercial Environment have been posted to CBP's YouTube channel, and webinars are available on the CBP.gov webpage.

Many within the Office of Trade participated in virtual training geared toward enhancing communication skills. The Office of Trade also hosted the first virtual Commercial Customs Operational Advisory Committee on April 16, 2020. Office of Trade staff continue to remain virtually engaged, attending events via video and phone, and hosting webinars and training for the trade community.

The CBP Office of Trade remains mission focused, and appreciates the support and understanding of the trade community during this time.

#### Latest Trade Federal Register Notices

- 85 FR 20290 - Agency Information Collection Activities: Foreign Assembler's Declaration
- 85 FR 20289 - Agency Information Collection Activities: Distribution of Continued Dumping and Subsidy Offset to Affected Domestic Producers
- 85 FR 20285 - Agency Information Collection Activities: NAFTA Regulations and Certificate of Origin

#### New Cargo System Messaging Service Updates

- CSMS #42355735 - CORRECTED: Updated Guidance for Chapter 98 - Section 232 Imports of Steel and Aluminum
- CSMS #42355914 - GUIDANCE: Section 301 China – Extension of Certain Product Exclusions Covered under Tranche 1 - \$34B –Action (9903.88.07)
- CSMS #42321214 - 2020 Raw and Refined Sugar Increased Allocations