

Jan 09

India trucker strike

The All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC), representing about six million trucks across the country, has officially declared an indefinite strike effective since Monday, Jan 5, 2009. Some transport associations were not part of this strike until Tuesday, Jan 6, 2009, so the effect to freight movement was initially minimal. Effective Wednesday, Jan 7, however, all truck freight movements across India are being effected. Please expect delays and allow extra time for cargo coming out of India. We will advise when the strike is resolved.

Extension of GSP and ATPDEA benefits

HR 7222, signed by the President on October 16, 2008, extends the expiration of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act (ATPDEA). GSP, set to expire on December 31, 2008, has been extended for an additional year for all beneficiary countries. This extension will expire on December 31, 2009. The ATPDEA, scheduled to expire December 31, 2008, has been extended for all beneficiary countries.

There is some deviation in the extensions. With respect to Colombia and Peru, ATPDEA has been extended for one year until December 31, 2009. With respect to Ecuador, ATPDEA has been extended until December 31, 2009. However, if the President reviews Ecuador's compliance with the ATPDEA eligibility criteria prior to June 30, 2009, and determines that Ecuador is not in compliance with these criteria, then Ecuador's ATPDEA benefits will expire on June 30, 2009. With respect to Bolivia, ATPDEA has been extended for six months, until June 30, 2009. An additional six-month extension is possible, but only if the President certifies Bolivia's compliance with ATPDEA eligibility criteria during its current review. Textiles will probably have some additional requirements, which we will advise as they become available.

Costa Rica now eligible for DR-CAFTA treatment

Effective Jan 1, 2009, Costa Rica is now eligible for the DR-CAFTA special access program. To qualify, importations from Costa Rica will require a certification of DR-CAFTA eligibility. There is no specified format but the government of CR has provided criteria that must be followed. Please contact our office if you need further information.

Proposed Determinations on Lead Content Limits on Certain Materials
(From our friends at Meeks & Sheppard)

In late December 2008, several notices of proposed rulemaking were posted on the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) website regarding lead content limits. Children's products manufactured on or after February 10, 2009, are subject to a limit of 600 parts per million (ppm). Lead content is limited to 300 ppm for children's products manufactured on or after August 14, 2009, and to 100 ppm as of August 14, 2011, if technologically feasible. For more information, we urge you to visit their website at

<http://www.cpsc.gov/ABOUT/Cpsia/cpsia.html>

Importer Security Filing (ISF) required beginning Jan 26

We are finalizing our training on the software and will be ready to file this important document for you. We are installing a new button on our website for you to furnish us in a secure format the information required in the ISF. As our friend and colleague Bob Schott points out, your customs broker is in the best position to file this information for at least 3 reasons:

1. We are required by regulation to keep your information confidential,
2. Since the importer is responsible for the accuracy of the data, you can control this through your customs broker FAR better than through a carrier or other foreign entity, and
3. The data elements of the ISF must match the customs entry information which is also FAR more easily controlled, and corrected if necessary, by your customs broker.

We stand ready to work with you on this new and important requirement. We will publish a special newsletter on how we are implementing the ISF in a few days.

Please contact us for ANY assistance:

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