

Jan 2012

Manifest data is publicly available

A ship's manifest is in the public domain, and several services gather and sell this information. If you want your manifest information (shipper, consignee, commodity, weight, etc) kept confidential and away from your competitors, we can furnish you a template to request Customs to not release it. Please contact us, and we will gladly send you the template. You will get a letter back from Customs notifying you that your data is now confidential, but at the end of 2 years, they will begin releasing the data again. If you will send us a copy of your letter from CBP, we will put it in our suspense program and notify you before the 2-year period lapses so you can have continuous coverage.

Harmonized Tariff Schedule Changes Effective February 3, 2012 (From our friends at Meeks & Sheppard)

The President recently signed Proclamation 8771 authorizing the International Trade Commission's proposed changes to the 2012 Harmonized Tariff Schedule and it was published in the January 4, 2012 Federal Register. This means those changes should be effective February 3, 2012. We will work diligently to insure you are in compliance. For more information, please contact us.

Additional 3rd Party Testing Required for Children's Products Manufactured After December 31, 2011 (From our friends at Grunfeld Desiderio)

The new year brings additional requirements with regard to children's products subject to the lead content, phthalate and toy (ASTM F963) standards. While compliance with these standards has been required dating back to 2009, importers and manufacturers must now issue compliance certifications based on testing performed by accredited 3rd party testing labs for goods made after December 31, 2011

CPSC Reissues Children's Sleepwear and Loungewear Enforcement Policy (From our friends at Grunfeld Desiderio)

The Consumer Product Safety Commission ("CPSC") recently reissued a policy statement regarding the treatment of sleepwear and loungewear under the children's sleepwear flammability standards. The CPSC's letter to the trade reiterates its policy on this issue which was initially published in December 1996 and again in 2008. A copy of the statement can be found at

<http://www.cpsc.gov/businfo/sleepwearpolicy.pdf>

Children's sleepwear garments are subject to strict flammability requirements. The regulations define the term "children's sleepwear" to include any product of wearing apparel (in sizes 0 – 14), such as nightgowns, pajamas, or similar or related items, such as robes, intended to be worn primarily for sleeping or activities related to sleeping. Significantly, the CPSC considers "loungewear" as well as similar garments marketed as comfort wear to be garments worn primarily for sleep-related activities. Therefore, loungewear must comply with the children's sleepwear flammability requirements. Companies are prohibited from selling, offering for sale, importing and/or distributing non-compliant children's sleepwear. It is, therefore, critical for companies to assess their product lines and marketing in light of the CPSC's position in order to avoid a product recall and potentially significant penalties.

Rice, soybeans, chickpeas, and safflower seed imports subject to restrictions

On July 8, 2011, APHIS issued a Federal Order to require commercial shipments of rice to be accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate with an additional declaration that attests to freedom from Khapra beetle. In 2011, several detections of Khapra beetle were made on shipments of soybeans, chickpeas, and safflower seeds originating from or transiting through countries where Khapra beetle is known to occur. To prevent the entry of this pest therefore, commercial shipments of soybeans, chickpeas, or safflower seeds from countries where Khapra beetle is found will be allowed entry into the United States only if accompanied by a Phytosanitary Certificate or reexport certificate with an Additional Declaration stating: "The shipment was inspected and found free of Khapra beetle (*Trogoderma granarium*)."

A Phytosanitary Certificate or reexport certificate with the same Additional Declaration as above will also be required for commercial shipments of soybeans, chickpeas, or safflower seeds that originate in a country that has Khapra beetle and that make entry into any other country that then reexports the shipment to the United States. The means of conveyance will also be inspected and found free of KB. Non-commercial shipments of these commodities from infested countries are prohibited. These go into effect January 17, 2012. For more information, please contact us.

New tracking device can protect high value air shipments (From our friends at Flying Typers)

Irving, Texas based OnAsset Intelligence has developed a tracking device for high value, perishable, or temperature controlled air shipments that is approved by the FAA. **SENTRY 400 FlightSafe™** is already in use by American, Delta, United, Continental, and Southwest. The tracking device is about the size of a tablet computer and is placed inside the shipment. It tracks location, temperature, shocks, and other environmental

factors, but it shuts down transmission once aboard an aircraft and does not re-start them until the aircraft is on the ground. For more information, please go to their website at

<http://www.onasset.com/sentry-flightsafe.aspx>

Trucks show economy is growing (From American Shipper)

The American Trucking Associations' advance seasonally adjusted for-hire truck tonnage index increased 0.5 percent in October after rising a revised 1.5 percent in September 2011. "Tonnage readings continue to show that the economy is growing and not sliding back into recession," ATA Chief Economist Bob Costello said. "Over the last two months, tonnage is up nearly 2 percent and is just shy of the recent high in January of this year."

Costello added that he expects freight and the economy to increase at a slower pace next year, but that truck tonnage can outpace GDP growth.

"Manufacturing output has been the primary reason why truck freight volumes are increasing more than GDP. The industrial sector should slow next year, but still grow more than GDP, which means truck tonnage can increase faster than GDP too," he said. For more info, please go to

http://www.americanshipper.com/Main/ASD/Trucks_show_economy_is_growing_47734.aspx

Top 4 Encouraging Statistics (From Center of Innovation for Logistics)

1. CONSUMER CONFIDENCE: The consumer confidence index Increased to 56 in November 2011 from 40.9 in October 2011. November's index reading was at its **highest level** in four months, and was the **highest month-to-month increase** since April 2003.

2. UNEMPLOYMENT: Georgia's unemployment rate fell sharply in November to 9.9% the largest one-month decline in 34 years. The National unemployment rate also fell to a 2-1/2 year low of 8.6% in November.

3. SHOPPING – “Black Friday”: Consumers cumulatively spent an estimated **\$52 billion** during the holiday shopping rush, **up 16.4%** from last year. According to the National Retail Federation, a combined 226 million people visited brick-and-mortar and online stores during the four-day Black Friday shopping window, an **increase of 14 million shoppers over last year.**

4. SHOPPING – “Cyber Monday”: Shoppers **spent a record \$1.25 billion** online on Cyber Monday a 22% increase over last year. This made it the **heaviest U.S. online**

spending day in history and only the second time the U.S. has ever spent more than \$1 billion online in a single day.

Please contact us with any questions.

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