

Jan 2010

ISF penalty phase begins in less than 2 weeks

The year-long “flexible enforcement period” ends January 26, 2010, and the penalty phase begins. We have learned that inaccurate filings and late filings are 2 separate violations, so the maximum fine per ISF filing can be up to \$10,000. Also, since the ISF is not “Customs business” and not covered by the power of attorney, we are required to have a separate authorization to submit the ISF. We will contact you very soon with an authorization form that must be signed. We also urge you to remind your vendors to insure they get us complete ISF information at least 72 working hours prior to vessel loading.

Maersk transpacific eastbound PSS

Maersk Line implemented a transpacific eastbound (Far East Asia to the United States) peak season surcharge(PSS) with an effective date of January 1st, 2010. For both reefer and dry cargo from Far East Asia (excluding cargo loading from Shanghai) to the United States PSS amounts are as follows:

USD 240 per 20/300 per 40/340 per 40hc/380 per 45hc

For both reefer and dry cargo loading from Shanghai to the United States, PSS amounts are as follow:

USD 400 per 20/500 per 40/565 per 40hc/635 per 45hc

We have also received notice as well from most other ship lines announcing their intention to increase rates at similar levels in January. Some call their increase a general rate increase while others are calling their increase an “operation cost recovery surcharge”. No matter what it's called, it's still an increase in your costs.

Please contact Sandy if you have specific questions regarding any outstanding quotes we have to you.

CPSC extends stays on certification and third party testing

(From our friends at Tompkins Davidson)

The Consumer Product Safety Commission voted late last month to extend the stay on certification and third party testing for children's products subject to lead content limits until February 10, 2011. In addition, the Commission voted to extend the stay on certification and third party testing for a wide variety of children's products. The Commission also voted to lift the stay, and will require certification based on testing by CPSC approved third party testing laboratories, for the following products manufactured on and after February 10, 2010: bicycle helmets, bunk beds, infant rattles and dive sticks. The entire notice can be found at:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml10/10083.html>

We urge you to review this notice.

Chinese New Year 2010

February 14 marks the beginning of the year of the Tiger. China, Taiwan, and many neighboring countries celebrate with a week-long festival that shuts down most commerce. We urge you to coordinate with your Asian vendors to minimize disruptions to your supply chain.

Please contact us with any questions.

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