

**Mar 2010**

**Carriers raise U.S. export rates** (From our friends at American Shipper)

Zim Line said it would implement an emergency revenue charge on U.S. exports to all destinations of \$125 per TEU, effective March 15. The charge "is an interim measure taken in order to achieve rate restoration and maintain our current levels of service," said Zim. CMA CGM said it would hike U.S. export cargo rates to Asia, the Middle East and the Indian Subcontinent effective March 15, saying the increases were need to provide "high quality of services."

**FDA holding importers responsible for supply chains**

In a Feb. 4 speech, Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Margaret Hamburg laid out the elements of the "new approach" the agency is adopting to ensure the safety of imported food and drug products. Hamburg said FDA is moving into a phase where it works with regulators, manufacturers, and suppliers wherever they are. There are now permanent FDA offices in China, India, Costa Rica, Mexico, Chile and, soon, Jordan that are aiding FDA efforts to help these countries and others to establish the regulatory powers necessary to support safe products for their own domestic use and a strong, reliable export market. FDA also now has more than 30 agreements with foreign counterparts to share inspection reports and other non-public information that can help the agency make better decisions about the safety of foreign products. "In this day and age," Hamburg said, "companies must be able to effectively demonstrate that safety, quality and compliance with international and U.S. standards are built into every component of every product and every step of the production process. FDA plans to work with industry to set standards for technologies and other approaches that can help them strengthen the safety of their supply chains.

Please contact us with any questions.

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