

December, 08

Fish & Wildlife Service Increases Inspection Fees, Sets New Requirements For Wildlife Trade

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is increasing inspection fees for import and export of wildlife, and wildlife products, in order to recover more of the costs of inspecting shipments from those who use these services. For Atlanta and other designated ports, the fee for commercial imports will increase from \$55 to \$87 for 2009, then gradually increase through 2012. The Service will implement the new fees and requirements on January 8, 2009. The Service is also adding new fees for certain types of shipments and eliminating some exemptions from import/export license and inspection fee requirements. For more information, please contact our office or visit our website for the December Supplemental Valued Customer Import Updates at

http://www.lhcb.com/index_files/Page435.htm

Piracy & Marine Insurance

The recent increase in piracy, especially in the Gulf of Aden off the Ethiopian coast, raises questions as to marine insurance coverage. If you insure under our open marine policy, you are definitely covered if you suffer a loss due to piracy. We asked our underwriters what would happen, though, if the pirates merely held the cargo for ransom – how long would the pirates have to hold the cargo before the policy would pay. We are told that their lawyers are developing a policy to address this issue, which we will report to you when we have it. Meanwhile, should you wish to find out more about piracy, the ICC publishes a Weekly Piracy Report, including a map, at:

http://www.icc-ccs.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=308:weekly-piracy-report&catid=32:weekly-piracy-report&Itemid=10

Plan for Chinese new year now

2009 is the year of the Ox. The new year begins January 26, and of course China and Taiwan shut down that week to celebrate. We urge you to coordinate with your vendors to insure your product does not get delayed.

We also remind you that due to the rush to ship before the celebration, some cargo is invariably bumped, causing some delays in transit.

Reminder: LA/LB \$15/TEU tax effective Jan 1

Please remember the LA/LB ports' \$15/TEU container tax is set to take effect Jan. 1,

Air Cargo Screening Under the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (From July)

In August 2007, President Bush further strengthened air cargo security precautions by signing the Implementing Recommendations of this Act. In this law, Congress mandated that industry screen cargo transported on passenger aircraft at a level commensurate with that of passenger luggage (at the piece-level) and reach 50% screening by February 2009 and 100% screening by August 2010. We are now 2 months away from meeting the 50% screening deadline. At that time, half of the fifteen-million pounds of air freight that travels on passenger aircraft daily will need to be screened before it can be uplifted in the United States. We are uncertain as to how the screening will be implemented, but we urge you to now begin to consider how significant delays in processing air cargo will affect your import program.

Please contact us for ANY assistance:

Lee Hardeman LeeH@LHCB.com
Sandy Cato SandyC@LHCB.com

Direct: 404-477-3452
Direct: 404-377-3454