



NEWS IN BRIEF

Our New Website Has Arrived

After much anticipation, our website has finally been launched!

The overall look and feel of the website has been streamlined to only give you the information you are looking for. With this purpose driven re-styling we hope to help our visitors navigate the site more easily and complete tasks simply and efficiently.

Visit Carmnet.com and tour the new site yourself.

To check out the new Tracking Portal, please visit tracking.carmnet.com.

C-TPAT Updates are Progressing

At their recent Custom-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) conference, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) told attendees that updates to the program are progressing. The program is being fine-tuned to give it more strength in the protection of the country. CBP plans some major updates to show more measurable security improvements without making it too hard for importers to participate. There will be an update to the minimum security criteria and a new best practices tool for methodology that will be more than just a list of possible best practices.

CBP is also looking to develop more benefits for those importers who become trusted traders by participating in both Importer Self-Assessment (ISA) and C-TPAT Tier 3. Some of the changes are to be expected as soon as early-to-mid 2018.

FDA Sending Notices for FSVP Inspections

We have learned that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is sending out email notices with the subject of "FSVP Inspection Requirements, Handouts and Law." This email message is a notification that FDA intends to inspect the importer for compliance with the Foreign Supplier Verification Program." Importers of foods are required to designate a "qualified individual" to develop the importer's FSVP process with each supplier of food and to monitor their foreign suppliers' compliance with food safety requirements.

FDA has said that their initial FSVP inspections have to do with reviewing records that the food importers have set up their FSVP procedures and that the records show that they are being followed. In the first months of enforcement of FSVP, FDA is expected to do more informed compliance to help importers get their programs right.

FTC to Require Electronic Application for RN Numbers

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) issue Registered Numbers (RN) for labeling purposes for fur, textile, and wool product manufacturers, importers and distributors. The FTC requires that these products must be marked with the full name of the manufacturer or business responsible for marketing them in the United States. In lieu of the full name for the label, FTC will allow the use of the RN as an identifying number for the label. The FTC issues and tracks RNs.

Previously, applications for a new RN or changes to be made to an existing RN could be done either electronically or by manually filing paper requests. The FTC has issued a Federal Register Notice (FRN) announcing that they will no longer accept paper applications or corrections and that the current forms will be retired and all new correspondence for RN's must be submitted electronically at FTC's website.

A copy of the FRN with the information for the application process can be found at: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-09-19/pdf/2017-19868.pdf>

Congress May Move on GSP

We have heard reports that some members of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committees have hinted at advancing a trade package that would include Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) before the end of 2017. Some leaders of Trade Associations have said that a bill with GSP and the Miscellaneous Trade Bill (MTB) would make sense, but they have not heard of anything concrete yet. We will be watching developments very closely.

By **Todd Boice**, President