



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### ISF Server Upgraded to Accept New Excel Format

We have upgraded our ISF server to accept spreadsheets saved using the new Excel file extension (.xlsx) as well as the older Excel file extension (.xls).

You will no longer have to ensure you are sending ISF information in the old Excel (.xls) format to Carmichael, although .xls is still perfectly acceptable for us as well. We hope that this update helps to improve the speed and efficiency of ISF transmissions.

### CBP Announces East Coast Trade Symposium in December

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has announced that they will hold their 2017 East Coast Trade Symposium on December 5 and 6 this year in Atlanta, GA. This is a preliminary announcement, the final location and the registration information will follow soon. We will broadcast these details as soon as we receive the information.

### CBP to Increase Penalties for Solid Wood Packaging Material Violations

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has issued a Cargo Systems Messaging Services (CSMS) notice to the public about stronger enforcement of the Solid Wood Packaging Material (SWPM) regulations. This rule has been in effect since 2005 and it requires all solid wood packaging material, including crates, bracing, and pallets, to be heat treated and to have the IPPC required marking verifying that the heat treatment took place.

The heat treatment is to kill timber pests that may pose danger to American forests and agriculture. Shipments without the proper marking on the SWPM in a shipment or a shipment that has infested wood packaging will be detained and required to be re-exported in the container that the shipment came in. CBP agriculture officers will issue an Emergency Action Notification on the violating wood with instructions on the re-exportation. In some circumstances upon a written request, a Port Director may allow the import cargo to be separated from the pallets under CBP supervision, but will still require the violating wood packaging to be re-exported in the containers they arrived.

In the past, CBP would allow up to five shipments annually with violating wood packaging before issuing a penalty. In CSMS #17-000609, CBP explains that penalties may be issued for any solid wood packaging violation.

The CSMS notice can be found at [https://apps.cbp.gov/csms/viewmmsg.asp?Recid=23008&page=&srch\\_argv=wood&srchtype=&btype=&sortby=&sby=](https://apps.cbp.gov/csms/viewmmsg.asp?Recid=23008&page=&srch_argv=wood&srchtype=&btype=&sortby=&sby=).

For an explanation of the the SWPM regulations and requirements, go to <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/import-information/wood-packaging-material>.

### Why are some of your PSC's not getting approved?

Post Summary Corrections (PSC) are electronic filings in ACE with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to correct entries prior to the liquidation of the entries. Prior to ACE, corrections to entries prior to liquidations were submitted in a paper format. These corrections were called Post Entry Amendments (PEA). These petitions were manually reviewed and posted and many were not processed by CBP in a timely manner. This caused entries to be liquidated as they were originally entered, requiring protests to correct the entries.

Under the PSC process, an electronic rework of the entry must be filed in ACE along with an explanation of the change. In ACE, the retransmitted summary, if accepted electronically, was to be the entry of record for liquidation purposes. Only if someone at CBP reviewed this electronic submission and wanted to change it, would that entry not liquidate with the PSC submission. Yet we have seen numerous entries that we have filed PSCs against which have liquidated as originally entered. We have even had a few where we had submitted a check in conjunction with the PSC only to have that check returned as well.

We have learned that this problem will continue until liquidations become deployed in ACE. Currently these entries are still processed in the Automated Customs System (ACS), which ACE is replacing. In ACS there is no process for an automated liquidation change. This means that until liquidations are deployed in ACE in February of 2018, we will still experience some PSCs that are not processed punctually. In light of this information will watch all of our PSC submissions closely to try and avoid any delays.

By **Todd Boice**, President