



NEWS IN BRIEF

MTB Blocked in the Senate

The Miscellaneous Trade Bill, passed by the House in January, has been blocked by Senator Roy Blount who wants the Outdoor Act to be attached with it. The Outdoor act would eliminate tariffs on 69 recreational outerwear items that we have written about before. Also, the Senate has approved some amendments to the House version. If and when the bill is passed by the Senate it will have to go back to the House of Representatives for review.

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CBP Releases ACAS Interim Rule

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has issued their interim final rule on the Air Cargo Advanced Screening (ACAS) program. This program pertains to the advance electronic filing of data for air shipments. ACAS was set up as a voluntary program after a shipment of an ink toner cartridge that contained explosives was intercepted. The Federal Register Notice (FRN) has now made this program mandatory for all air freight shipments. There are six mandatory data elements required on an airbill.

They data elements are:

1. Airway bill number
2. Shipper name and address
3. Consignee name and address
4. Cargo description
5. Total carton quantity based on smallest external packing unit
6. Total weight of the cargo

The data is requested as soon as practicable but, no later than prior to the loading of the cargo onto the aircraft. Eligible filers of the data include air carriers, freight forwarders, importers and customs brokers.

The FRN with the Interim Final Rule can be found by [clicking here](#).

Commerce Dept Grants First Section 232 Product Exclusion

The U.S. Department of Commerce has granted the first product exclusions from the 232 retaliatory duties last week. 42 requests have been approved and 56 requests were denied. These are the first notices since the hearing on March 9. There have been 8,168 requests posted for steel products and 9,310 requests for aluminum products. Each request was for a specific product from a specific company.

The approval decision memos can be found on [Regulations.gov](#). The 56 product exclusion request denials have not been posted.

PierPass Changes Projected to Begin in 4th Quarter

Terminal members of the West Coast MTO Agreement (WCMTOA) made an announcement today regarding changes to the current off-peak program. Per the announcement, the revised changes for the current off-peak program, which began the extended gate hours at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, are expected go into effect in 4th quarter instead of August as originally projected. While not approved yet by the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC), the FMC has requested additional information and the WCMTOA expects the program to be approved.

The new off-peak program will switch to a system where all containers will be assessed a much smaller fee for both day and off hour pickups. The PierPass container fee will change from \$72.09 per TEU to \$31.52 per TEU. These new fees will apply to both import and export container moves. The WCMTOA has also announced that all terminals will move to appointment systems, which will be key to the success of this new system to alleviate congestion in the Ports.

The WCMTOA has issued a Q&A document about the new program to help cargo owners better understand the upcoming changes.

The Q&A can be found on the [PierPass website](#).

By **Todd Boice**, *President*