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CBP Core Values
 Vigilance
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CBP Commercial Operations Advisory Committee Holds Public Meeting



On December 4, 2012, the Advisory Committee on Commercial Operations of Customs and Border Protection, otherwise, known as COAC, ended their last public meeting of the COAC's 12th term with a great sense of accomplishment.

Over the last two years, COAC's members have made nearly 50 recommendations to CBP on how to improve the nation's trade processes. "Some of the outcomes of these recommendations have resulted in initiatives that we can all be very proud of," said CBP Deputy Commissioner David V. Aguilar, citing the Centers of Excellence and Expertise and the simplified entry process as examples.

"These are accomplishments that were brought forth by the thought processes and the engagement of the COAC with the trade community and CBP," he said.

The COAC, comprised of 20 appointed members from the international trade community, was established by Congress in 1987 and provides advice to CBP and the Department of Treasury on the commercial operations of CBP and trade-related functions within the Department of Treasury. Some of the issues that COAC focuses on include enhanced border and supply chain security, international efforts to harmonize customs practices and procedures, import safety, compliance, and modernization and automation processes used to facilitate trade.

"CBP has worked with us in a process of co-creation to find new and innovative ways to facilitate trade flows and to increase economic competitiveness," said Don Huber, global customs manager for the General Electric Co. and the committee's chairperson.

Among the topics discussed was the Automated Commercial Environment, or ACE, the agency's cargo processing system. "We are very pleased to say that 100 percent of sea and rail manifests are now being filed in ACE," said Brenda Smith, CBP's acting executive director of the ACE Business Office.

Other areas of discussion included intellectual property rights, agricultural pests, air cargo security, the role of the broker, anti-dumping/countervailing duties, One U.S. Government at the Border, trusted trader partnerships, bonds, the National Strategy for Global Supply Chain Security, land border security initiatives, exports, and residue. For more information about the public meeting, please visit the CBP Website.

CBP and Israeli Customs Sign Joint Work Plan for Supply Chain Security



On December 7, 2012, CBP Deputy Commissioner David V. Aguilar joined Israeli Customs Director General/Acting Director Israeli Tax Authority Doron Arbely at CBP headquarters in Washington, D.C., to sign a joint work plan, establishing a pathway to signing a mutual recognition agreement between CBP's Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) and the Israeli Tax Authority's Authorized Economic Operator Program.

C-TPAT is CBP's voluntary supply-chain security program for importers, brokers, carriers and other eligible entities. C-TPAT builds upon relationships with all segments of the supply chain, both foreign and domestic, to secure the entire supply chain of goods entering the U.S.

Aguilar said he appreciates the mutual cooperation with his Israeli counterparts. He said it was another example of the enduring friendship and vital partnership between the two countries as they address the challenges of securing their borders and facilitating legitimate trade and travel.

"The signing of this joint work plan further solidifies the United States' strong and enduring partnership with Israel, and our mutual dedication to ensure the safety and security of both our countries," said Aguilar.

For more information, please visit the CBP Website or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

The Office of Congressional Affairs (OCA) serves as the single point of contact within CBP for all communications between CBP and Congress.

OCA is committed to addressing any question or concern you may have related to CBP's complex mission. Please contact us:

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Please visit CBP's Congressional Resources webpage for Frequently Asked Questions, News and Events, and other CBP Resources.

CBP Enforcement News



Unsafe Holiday Rubber Ducks Seized by CBP in Los Angeles

Los Angeles, CA — On December 4, 2012 CBP officials, working with U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) compliance investigators, seized over 35,000 rubber ducks from China after determining that the toys contained a regulated phthalate in excess of the limit which may be harmful to the health and safety of children. The ducks were dressed as Santa, snowmen, gingerbread men, reindeer and penguins, but their cute holiday flair did not deflect the scrutiny of CBP officers and import specialists at the Los Angeles/Long Beach seaport.

— Visit the CBP Newsroom for the full story.



Border Patrol Seizes More than \$1.2M of Marijuana

Del Rio, TX — Between Friday, December 7, 2012 and Sunday, December 9, 2012, U.S. Border Patrol agents in the Del Rio Sector seized over 1,500 pounds of marijuana with a street value estimated at \$1.2M. On Friday, responding to a report of suspicious activity, agents observed a truck leaving the area and performed a vehicle stop. In the truck, hidden inside white feed sacks, agents discover 880 pounds of marijuana. On Sunday, agents tracking footprints leading away from the Rio Grande River found several duffel bags containing over 650 pounds of marijuana.

— Visit the CBP Newsroom for the full story.



BORSTAR and OAM Rescue Injured Woman from Southern Arizona Mountains

Tucson, AZ — On Friday, December 7, 2012, CBP rescued an injured woman from a remote area of the Baboquivari Mountains, southwest of Tucson. Pima County Sheriff's Office transferred a 911 call to the Border Patrol Search Trauma and Rescue team (BORSTAR). The caller, a Guatemalan man, said he and his wife had illegally crossed the border two-days prior, but his wife had fallen about 45-feet and was unable to stand or walk. BORSTAR and CBP's Office of Air and Marine (OAM) immediately coordinated efforts. Due to the area and extreme terrain, the responders used a Helicopter Rappel Suspension Technique (HRST) with a Blackhawk helicopter to extract the injured woman.

— Visit the CBP Newsroom for the full story.

Upcoming Event: C-TPAT Conference, January 8-10, 2013



U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is proud to announce the **2013 C-TPAT Conference, Unified Global Security: The Challenge Ahead**, scheduled for January 8-10, 2013 in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area. C-TPAT will host a three-day seminar that will be divided into two sessions, one general

session day and two workshop days. In a continued effort to increase awareness of the C-TPAT program, CBP welcomes both current and potential members to attend this year's event. All attendees will be required to pay the registration fee of \$171.00. Potential members will only be permitted to attend specific workshops and the general session. For more information on the event, please visit the CBP Website.

CBP Increases Informal Entry Limit

CBP announced through a published final rule in the Federal Register titled "Informal Entry Limit and Removal of a Formal Entry Requirement," that it will increase the value threshold for expedited customs clearance. The final rule increases the limit from \$2,000 to \$2,500 for which merchandise may qualify for an informal entry. CBP is increasing the informal entry limit to mitigate the effects of inflation and to meet a commitment of the Beyond the Border Initiative between the United States and Canada. The final rule, effective January 7, 2013, will facilitate trade for low value shipments and provide importers an annual estimated savings of \$13 million. For a copy of the final rule, please visit GPO.gov.

VIDEO: Inside CBP: Centers of Excellence and Expertise



The Centers of Excellence and Expertise (Centers or CEEs) are a key part of CBP's Trade Transformation. The Centers are virtual "one-stop shops" that provide centralized processing for importers that volunteer to participate. The Centers are also a ready source of information for the entire trading community. Centers are virtual organizations, managed from a strategic location that link

CBP trade personnel by industry to authoritatively facilitate trade. This video explains how the Centers align the CBP trade process with commercial industries to maximize efficiency and provide import product specialization.

? Congressional Resources Frequently Asked Questions

Have a question about CBP? Please visit CBP's Congressional Resources webpage and click on Frequently Asked Questions. This frequently updated site lists questions and answers to the Office of Congressional Affairs most often receives. Have a question not listed? Please contact the Office of Congressional Affairs at 202-344-1760.

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