

News In Brief

Port of Long Beach has All-Time Record Month

The Port of Long Beach experienced cargo surges this year with four out of the last five months having increases over last year's numbers for the same months. The month of July was the best ever. The Port handled 690,244 twenty foot equivalent container units (TEU's). This is the busiest month Long Beach has ever had, besting the previous leader from the year 2007, just before the recession began. The Port Chief executive Officer said "We've worked closely with all of our stakeholders to prepare for our peak season, which is off to a great start."

Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) Update

Japan announced earlier last week they were concerned about the "loss of momentum" regarding the discussions on TPP (Trans-Pacific Partnership) and in the same article we discovered the talks that were to take place later this year have been canceled, as we reported in our last memo. Japan was surprised by the apparent loss of interest from the United States and the lack of "stubborn persistence" at the talks. They acknowledged that there were still a few key areas that were sticking points, but they believed the matters could soon be resolved. At the time of this writing we have not seen a response from the USTR and it simply could be a negotiating ploy on the part of the U.S. Unfortunately a new date has not been announced for the next meeting.

The following articles were written by Daniel Meylor

Smartwatch is Not Classifiable as a Watch

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has issued a ruling for the classification of the Samsung smartwatch. The Samsung Gear Live Android Smartwatch is a battery operated wearable electronic device in the form of a wristwatch. It has a touch sensitive screen along with central processing unit (CPU) and a memory hard drive, along with functions such as a speaker, microphone and radio transceiver. It allows the user to make calls and connect to the internet when it is paired with a mobile device using Bluetooth wireless technology. CBP has determined that the smartwatch is a composite good made up of different components and should be classified according to its essential character. CBP further decided that the essential character is its primary use to execute wearable apps that display, manipulate, and store data and should be classified under HTS subheading 8517.62.0000.

A copy of the binding ruling can be found at: <http://rulings.cbp.gov/index.asp?ru=h257947&qu=H257947&vw=detail>

Commerce to Exempt Certain Jewelry Armoires from ADD

The Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration (ITA) office has issued a Federal Register Notice (FRN) that would add to the exemptions for wooden bedroom furniture.

Currently, jewelry armoires with at least one side door are exempted from antidumping duties. The FRN would add jewelry armoires with at least one front door to this exception.

The FRN can be found at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-08-11/pdf/2015-19711.pdf>.

CPSC Proposes Rule on Infant Bath Tubs

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has issued a Federal Register Notice (FRN) for a proposed new safety standard for infant bath tubs.

An infant bath tub is defined as a "tub, enclosure or other similar product to hold water and be placed into an adult bath tub, sink, or on top of other surfaces to provide support or containment for an infant in a reclining, sitting, or standing position during bathing by a caregiver."

The new standard would allow infant bath tubs to have a permanent or removable crotch restraint. However, it would not allow any additional restraint system that would require action on the part of the caregiver to secure or release it.

The FRN can be found at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-08-14/pdf/2015-19668.pdf>.

The details on the proposed rule can be found at the CPSC's website at:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/en/regulations-laws-standards/rulemaking/final-and-proposed-rules/bath-tubs/>.

Commerce revokes ADD on Electric Woven Blankets from China

The Office of International Trade Administration (ITA) of the Department of Commerce did a sunset review for antidumping duties for certain woven electronic blankets from China under Case Number A-570-951. These include finished, semi-finished and unassembled woven electric blankets, commonly referred to as throws.

Effective August 18, 2015, this antidumping order has been revoked.

The Federal Register notice of this decision can be found at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-08-18/pdf/2015-20393.pdf>.



By **John Salvo**, *President*