

## News In Brief

### CBP Announces West Coast Trade Symposium

U.S. Customs and Broder Protection (CBP) has announced that it will hold a West Coast Trade Symposium on May 25 and 26 in Phoenix, Arizona. The announcement is a 'save the date' as CBP is still making final arrangements. An announcement for the online registration will be made soon and we will be sure to notify our clients immediately.

### Security Reminder

In this time of heightened security, both at home and in Europe, we remind importers that they should be more aware of security needs for imports. The Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terror (CTPAT) program was started in 2001, and was designed so that all businesses could participate in global supply chain security. Almost half of the current C-TPAT members are small or medium sized companies that have less than 50 employees.

C-TPAT is a voluntary government and business initiative to help build cooperative relationships in order to improve overall supply chain security. Members of C-TPAT do receive benefits in the form of less enforcement exams and "first in line" treatment. If a container of a C-TPAT member is designated for a commercial exam, "First in line" treatment means that their container will be put ahead of those not belonging to C-TPAT members. Implementing the security requirements to qualify for C-TPAT membership has helped importers become more efficient and better informed when it comes to their supply chain.

Importers need to be more aware of the security of their individual supply chains. Do you know your shippers? Have you asked any questions about the security at their facilities? Do your receiving facilities perform the basic 17 point container review suggested by C-TPAT for all import containers? Could your cargo be a possible security risk? We suggest that all importers take a look at their supply chain. CBP has several suggestions on its C-TPAT website:

<http://www.cbp.gov/border-security/ports-entry/cargo-security/c-tpat-customs-trade-partnership-against-terrorism>.

If you incorporate even a few security suggestions, you may find yourself with more information and better control of your cargo while improving the security of your cargo from theft. Every importer that brings goods into the United States should take a look at the C-TPAT program. It is not for everyone, but there are suggestions that will help protect your business.

### CBP Developing Importer Risk Assessment Program Regulations

Under Section 115 of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is required to produce regulations to establish an Importer Risk Assessment Program. This program needs to be in place within 180 days of signing the law, which took place on February 24, 2016. Under this section, CBP is required to develop risk assessment guidelines for importers, both current and new, to determine any risks.

This section of the law also requires CBP to increase oversight for imports from new importers and from non-resident importers, including procedures for oversight by the Centers of Excellence and Expertise (CEE's). CBP will be required to establish a centralized database for new importers and new non-resident importers, to ensure the accuracy of import information supplied.

Note: This section also includes an exclusion to these rules for Tier 2 and Tier 3 C-TPAT participants.



Todd Boice, President