



News In Brief

The PMA and ILWU Discuss Labor Contract Extension

Both the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) have both announced that they will meet to discuss “the concept of a contract extension”. The current West Coast labor contract will expire in 2019. These announcements show a cooperative, but tentative, effort by both parties to try to bring stability to the West Coast waterfront.

Reminder on FDA’s Foreign Supplier Verification Program

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) sent out a reminder on behalf of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to help importers prepare for the Food Supplier Verification Program (FSVP). The FSVP will require importers of food for human and animal consumption to verify that their foreign suppliers use processes that provide the same level of public health protection and procedures that apply in the United States. The FSVP will also require that the allergen labeling is not adulterated or misbranded on the products food importers bring in.

The CBP Cargo System Messaging (CSMS) reminder includes links to the final FSVP rule, a fact sheet, dates of compliance and some provisions of the Food Safety Modernization Act of 2011 (FSMA), of which the FSVP is part of. The compliance dates are staggered, beginning May of 2017. The fact sheet explains some of the modification to the FSVP rule and any the exemptions that may apply. The CSMS message 16-000691 that includes the links to FDA’s website can be found at:

http://apps.cbp.gov/csms/viewmssg.asp?Recid=22045&page=2&srch_argv=&srctype=&btype=&sortby=&sbty=

CBP Starting New Regulatory Audit Procedure

The Regulatory Audit Field for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is making a change on their approach to auditing importers for compliance. In addition to the current Focused Assessment, the Regulatory Audit will also be issuing more surveys and quick response audits. The audits will be exercised on importers who have potential, but unknown risks, in a high priority trade areas such as antidumping duties or intellectual property rights. If in conducting the survey the risk is identified and dealt with, CBP auditors can avoid time consuming exit reviews with more rigorous auditing requirements.

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Regulatory Audit will send out an informed compliance notification, e-mail, and make a call to an importer they wish to review. They will identify specific issues to be reviewed. The advance notice will allow an importer to take advantage and perform an internal review.

New Consolidated Seafood Permit Effective September 20, 2016

The National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) has issued a Federal Register Notice (FRN) with a final rule. Three programs under NMFS will now move to a new single permit. The three programs that will use the new permit are:

- 370- Tuna Tracking and Verification requirements
- Highly Migratory Species Program (HMS)
- Antarctic Marine Living Resources (AMR)

Currently separate permits are required for HMS and AMR. These will be replaced by the new single permit. The Tuna Tracking will continue to require the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) form 370 for entry in addition to the new single permit. The link for the FRN with the final rule can be found at:

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-08-03/pdf/2016-18401.pdf>

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