



NEWS IN BRIEF

CBP Announces Plans for West Coast Trade Symposium

U.S. Customs and Border Protection has announced that they will hold the 2017 West Coast Trade Symposium in Scottsdale, Arizona. The announced dates will be May 24 and 25. Final information on the exact location will be announced later. The online registration information will also be announced at a later date. We will send that information out to our clients as soon as it has been broadcast.

Change to AD/CV Duties on Smaller Solar Panels

The Department of Commerce has issued a Federal Register Notice (FRN) about its intent to exempt small solar panels from antidumping and countervailing duties that are incorporated into specific battery charging units. The exemption from the cases for modules, laminates, and/or panels consisting of crystalline silicon photovoltaic cells applies to thin film photovoltaic products produced from silicon, cadmium telluride or copper indium gallium selenide. Also exempted are modules, laminates, and/or panels consisting of crystalline silicon photovoltaic cells that are not exceeding 10,000 square mm that are permanently integrated into a consumer good whose function is other than power generation.

This detailed FRN can be found at: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-02-16/pdf/2017-03142.pdf>.

"Snuggie" is a Blanket and not Wearing Apparel

The Court of International Trade (CIT) has decided that the Snuggie blanket with sleeves is properly classified as a blanket and not as wearing apparel. The Snuggie is sold as a blanket with sleeves. It was argued that the Snuggie is similar to professional or scholastic gowns or robes that flow loosely round the body with wide armed sleeves. However the Snuggie has no closure and is worn with the opening at the back. The CIT decided that the Snuggie is a large piece of fabric used for covering for warmth and that the sleeves are incidental to the Snuggie's use as a blanket.

The decision can be found under Slip Op.17-15 on the CIT's website at: <http://www.cit.uscourts.gov/SlipOpinions/index.html>.

ILA Calling for a West Coast Shutdown and Protest

We have seen some articles and notices warning that members of the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) are calling for a shutdown of ports along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts and a protest in Washington, D.C. The protest is primarily about the ILA wanting the elimination of the Waterfront Commission in New York and disputing the use of state employees at terminals operated by South Carolina Ports Authority. The actions seem to have been initiated by ILA Local 1422. We could not find any press release on it from the ILA website nor from the Local 1422 website, though a press release was cited in the articles. We have read that there has not been a date set for any action yet and therefore we cannot report on any details. However, there has been a response from the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) that negotiates the master contract with the ILA. In a press release USMX stated that the master contract between the ILA and USMX forbids a unilateral work stoppage. We will be watching this development very closely.

By **Todd Boice**, President