



NEWS IN BRIEF

Reminder: Registration is open for 2017 WCTS

This year's West Coast Trade Symposium (WCTS) will be held on May 24-25 at the DoubleTree Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona.

The symposium is set to include discussions on E-Commerce, Interagency Vision, Streamlining Processes and Innovation and Technology.

New this year, the WCTS will feature multiple tracks to choose from and Center of Excellence and Expertise (CEE) management roundtables.

To register visit the CBP website <https://www.cbp.gov/trade/stakeholder-engagement/trade-symposium>.

SCAQMD Proposes New Container Fees

The Southern California Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) has put forth two separate proposals for container fees in Southern California to help pay for clean air initiatives in the port areas. The first proposal was for \$35 per TEU and more recent second one is for \$100 per TEU. These fees could generate over \$300M for SCAQMD.

Several trade associations have formed a coalition and are sending in a strong letter of opposition to the President of the SCAQMD. We spoke to a member of the Long Beach Harbor Commission and they are opposed to any such proposal. This issue is in its early stages and we will be watching it closely to report back any changes.

Industry is Again Asking for Addition of Travel Goods to GSP Benefits

The Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015 (TPEA) authorized the President to allow duty-free treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences for several travel goods. The goods covered include luggage, backpacks, handbags, and wallets.

After the Act was passed into law, President Obama authorized the GSP duty-free treatment only for Least Developed Beneficiary Developed Countries (LDBDC). The law allowed the President to authorize the duty-free treatment for the named travel items from all GSP eligible countries, but the authority was never acted on.

A coalition of over 17 trade associations has started to once again try and get the GSP treatment for travel goods to the finish line. A new letter has been written to President Trump asking him to follow the intent of the ACT to grant duty free status to the travel goods from GSP eligible nations. Right now most of the covered travel goods are made in China, which is not a GSP eligible country. Allowing this rule would open the door for more competition with China from our developing country partners.

Who is the FSVP Importer?

We have written articles about preparing for the implementation of Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Food Supplier Verification Program (FSVP) that will begin implementation on May 27, 2017. Importers of food products will have to identify the FSVP importer, as it will be part of the entry data.

The FSVP importer might be, but is not necessarily, the same party as the importer of record. The FSVP importer must be a U.S. party with a direct financial interest in the food product. Specifically, the FSVP importer is the U.S. owner or consignee of the product

If there is no U.S. owner or consignee at the time of entry, the foreign owner of the food must appoint a U.S. agent who will be responsible for ensuring that supplier verification activities are conducted for each food product imported. The FSVP agent must be designated in a written document with signed consent by the agent. The FSVP agent should not be confused with the agent for food facility registration. They serve separate and distinct roles.

The FDA defines U.S. owner/consignee as the person who, at the time of entry, owns the food, has purchased the food, or has agreed in writing to purchase the food.

By **Todd Boice**, *President*