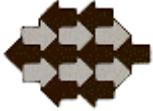




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Tradetalk

A ROGERS & BROWN NEWSLETTER

INT'L. FREIGHT FORWARDERS, FMC# 1194, CUSTOMHOUSE BROKERS, CBH# 4005, INT'L. AIR TRANSPORTATION ASSOC. IATA# 01-17027
October 2005

TradeTalk Update – October 14th, 2005

Customs Issues Interim Regs for Textiles/Apparel Goods

With the expiration of the Agreements on Textiles and Clothing and the resulting elimination of quotas on textile and apparel products from World Trade Organization (WTO) members January 1, 2006, the Treasury Department and Customs and Border Protection have issued new interim regulations governing these commodities. Customs will be soliciting public comments about the new rules through December 5th. The most important change involves the elimination of the requirement that a textile declaration be submitted for all importations of textile and apparel products. Importers will now be required to identify the manufacturer of such products through a manufacturer identification code, providing more accurate reporting of manufacturer identities. For the full text of the Federal Register Notice please go to the References Section of our website. Comments about the new regulations can be sent to the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Office of Regulations and Rulings, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW (Mint Annex), Washington, DC 20229. For additional information on operational aspects contact Robert Abels, Textile Operations, Office of Field Operations at (202) 344-1959. For more details about legal aspects, contact Cynthia Reese, Tariff Classification and Marking Branch, Office of Regulations and Rulings at (202) 572-8812. The federal register notice is posted on the references section of our website, as Country of Origin of Textile and Apparel Products, dated October 5th, 2005.

Trans-Atlantic Conference Agreement (TACA) announces plans for 2006 rate increases.

Effective January 1, 2006, both eastbound and westbound tariff rates for all containerized goods will increase \$160 per 20-foot box and \$200 per 40-foot box. On April 1, 2006, rates will rise \$240 per 20-foot and \$300 per 40-foot box. TACA says they will announce increases for the third and fourth quarters closer to the time they become effective. Although it is unusual to increase the rates on both eastbound and westbound lanes, TACA believes this is sustainable because of the increased traffic in those lanes. They also indicated that it is necessary to increase rates to offset increasing operating costs which are outside of their control as well as hoping to restore eastbound rates to a viable level after a long period of decline.

In addition to these increases, TACA recently extended the bunker fuel adjustment factor through December 15th. For traffic to/from and via Atlantic/Gulf Coast ports it will be \$423 per 20-foot box and \$846 per 40-45-

foot box. All other cargoes are charged at \$42 by weight or measure. For Pacific Coast ports, the charge is \$635 per 20-foot box and \$1270 per 40/45 foot box. All other cargo is charges at \$64 by weight or measure. They indicated that their currency charge will remain unchanged at 6 percent, at least through December 15th. TACA members are Atlantic Container Line, NYK Line, Hapag-Lloyd, OOCL, Mediterranean Shipping Co., P&O Nedlloyd, and Maersk Sealand. To view all recent press release made by TACA go to the following website:

<http://www.tacaconf.com/newpress.htm#number107>.

Reauthorization of Generalized System of Preferenes (GSP) Program

With legislation authorizing the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) expiring on December 31, 2006, Congress is beginning the re-authorization process. The Trade Policy Staff Committee (TPSC) is reviewing whether the administration's operation of the program should be changed so that benefits are not focused on trade from a few countries and developing countries that traditionally have not been major traders under the program receive benefits. The TPSC will conduct a public hearing and is requesting public comment on this subject. They are seeking written comments and testimony at a public hearing on the following issues:

1. Whether operation of the GSP program should be modified so that beneficiaries that have not previously been major traders under the program increase their participation, which will assist them in using trade to promote their economic development; and
2. Whether some beneficiaries are sufficiently competitive with respect to trade in eligible products and have expanded exports to the extent that they should no longer be designated as GSP beneficiaries.

In addition the TPSC is seeking comments on the period for which Congress should reauthorize the GSP program.

In 2004, the top ten GSP beneficiary developing countries by trade volume (excluding petroleum products) were India, Brazil, Thailand, Indonesia, Turkey, Philippines, South Africa, Venezuela, Argentina, and Russia. A hearing will be held on November 3, 2005, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in Rooms 1 and 2, 1724 F Street NW, Washington, DC. For more information regarding the meeting and submission of comments or presentation of oral comments you can obtain a copy of the Federal Register Notice from our website, Generalized System of Preferences (GSP): Request for Public Comments, dated October 6, 2005 or you may call Keith Rourk, Floyd Sirico, or Mike Fowler at 843-577-3630 to obtain a copy.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

If you have any suggestions or complaints, please call one of the individuals below at 843/577-3630 or email them as noted.

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