U.S. Customs and Border Protection has direct responsibility for enhancing U.S. economic competitiveness. By reducing costs for industry and enforcing trade laws against counterfeit, unsafe, and fraudulently entered goods, CBP is working to enable legitimate trade, contribute to American economic prosperity, and protect against risks to public health and safety.

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CBP at Miami International Airport Seized Over 80 Pounds of Drugs Concealed Within Flowers

MIAMI – U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officers at Miami International Airport (MIA) have seized over 80 pounds of cocaine and heroin concealed in flowers from Colombia and Ecuador since the beginning of Fiscal Year 2014.

Some of the drugs were concealed inside the flowers themselves and some were concealed in the boxes containing the flowers. CBP has been working closely on each case with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to apprehend violators of illegal shipments of narcotics into the United States.

“We are very proud of our CBP Officers’ hard work and attention to detail,” said Miami International Airport Port Director Christopher Maston. "These seizures over the last two years demonstrate their commitment to keeping drugs out of the U.S. while facilitating lawful international trade.”

On a typical day in Fiscal Year 2014, CBP seized over 10,000 pounds of drugs.
U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Agriculture Specialists safeguard American Agriculture by detecting and preventing entry into the country of plant pests and exotic foreign animal diseases that could harm agricultural resources. CBP is committed to facilitate the movement of cut flowers, fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs to market while protecting American agriculture and the nation’s economy by ensuring the interception of foreign plant pests and diseases, and detecting, preventing agro-terrorism and bio-terrorism.


**USDA-APHIS E-Permits:**

Is a web-based tool that gives customers the ability to apply for a permit, check its status, and view it online.

- E-Permit customers can apply for the following:
  - PPQ Application for Permit to Import Plants or Plant Products
  - Veterinary Services (VS) Applications for Permits
  - Biotechnology Notifications
  - VS Notification of On-Hold Shipment and
  - Other PPQ applications for permit

E-Permits users are required to complete a registration process called e-authentication.

For more information about USDA’s e-Authentication: [www.eauth.egov.usda.gov](http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov)

For more information on E-Permits: [www.aphis.usda.gov/permits](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/permits)

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**CBP Intercepts First-in-Nation Pest on Pineapples at Miami Seaport**

MIAMI - U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agriculture specialists at Miami’s seaport intercepted an unusual pest identified as *Hesus flaviventris* Burmeister during an inspection of a container of pineapples from Costa Rica. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has confirmed that this marks the first interception of this pest in the United States. *Hesus flaviventris* Burmeister is a member of the family Aradidae, also known as flat bugs because of their extremely flattened bodies. Flat bugs are distant relatives of the more familiar stink bugs.

"CBP agriculture specialists are our first line of defense in the protection of U.S. agriculture, forest, and livestock industries from destructive plant pests and animal diseases," said Acting Miami Seaport Director Kenneth Haefner. "Our dedicated agriculture specialists in South Florida have extensive training and experience in the biological sciences and risk analysis."

Each year, CBP agriculture specialists intercept tens of thousands of "actionable pests" — those identified through scientific risk assessment and study as being dangerous to the health and safety of U.S. agricultural resources. On a typical day in Fiscal Year 2014, CBP agriculture specialists intercepted 425 pests, 4,447 plant pests, and a significant quantity of quarantine material products including fruits and vegetables, plant materials, meat products, meat by-products and soil.
ACE NEWS:

**November 1, 2015**
Beginning of transition period for electronic entry and entry summary filings in ACE to allow industry and participating government agencies more time to test and provide feedback as they transition into the new system.

You will be impacted if you: Electronically submit entry or entry summary data to CBP.

Groups most likely to be impacted: Importers, Brokers, Self-Filers, Software Providers

What does it mean?
Use of ACE is allowed and encouraged for electronic entry and corresponding entry summary filings for entry types 01, 11, 03, 51, and 52 with or without PGA data.

**February 28, 2016**
Filers will only be permitted to file in ACE and no longer permitted to file in the Automated Commercial System (ACS) all electronic entries and associated entry summaries. In addition, electronic data for the following agencies must be filed in ACE:

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) for Lacey Act transactions

Visit: ACE Outreach Events page to find upcoming visits to your city or local port along with previous webinars and sign up for upcoming webinars.

Have a question about ACE? Please visit our Frequently Asked Questions page

For questions or issues related to your ACE portal account, please contact the ACE Service Desk at ACE.Support@cbp.dhs.gov or (866) 530-4172/AskACE mailbox

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The Agriculture & Prepared Products Centers of Excellence and Expertise:

**Miami’s own**

The Agriculture & Prepared Products Center of Excellence and Expertise (APP CEE) brings all of CBP’s industry expertise to bear on a single industry, and is strategically directed from Miami, Florida. The APP CEE is staffed with numerous trade personnel employing account management principles in order to authoritatively facilitate trade issues. Applications for participation began June 3, 2013. For inclusion in the APP CEE, applicants must be part of the agriculture, aquaculture, animal products, vegetable products, prepared food, beverage, alcohol, tobacco or similar industries, with the highest percentage of their entries comprised of related merchandise. Agriculture and prepared products includes merchandise classified under Chapters 1 through 24 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS).

Centers of Excellence and Expertise transform the way CBP approaches trade operations and works with the international trade community. The Centers represent CBP’s expanded focus on “Trade in the 21st Century” by aligning with modern business practices, focusing on industry-specific issues, and by providing tailored support to unique trading environments. The Centers were established to increase uniformity of practices across ports of entry, facilitate the timely resolution of trade compliance issues nationwide, and further strengthen critical agency knowledge on key industry practices.

If interested in participating in the CEE, please send an email to CEE@cbp.dhs.gov with a subject line identifier reading “Participating in CEE”, and include the name and contact information for the business, the business’s industry and the business’s importer of record (IOR) number(s). For more information, please refer to Centers of Excellence and Expertise Information located at www.cbp.gov.

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Importing a Motor Vehicle:

Warning

Re-Importing a Previously Exported Vehicle
A vehicle taken from the United States for non-commercial, private use may be returned duty free by proving to CBP that it was previously owned and registered in the United States. This proof may be a state-issued registration card for the automobile or a bill of sale for the car from a U.S. dealer. Repairs or accessories acquired abroad for your vehicle must be declared on your return and may be subject to duty.

The following vehicles need not conform to emission or safety requirements but **may NOT be sold in the U.S.** and may require EPA and DOT declarations:

Those imported by nonresidents for personal use not exceeding one year. The vehicle must be exported at the end of that year - there are no exceptions or extensions.

Motorists from Canada and Mexico are permitted to tour in the U.S. without U.S. license plates or U.S. driver's permits, under agreements between the United States and these countries. However, this personal exemption prohibits the owner from selling the vehicle while in the United States. In order for a vehicle to be sold in the United States it must have been properly imported into the commerce of the United States. Failure to properly declare and import commercial goods (e.g. goods for sale) may subject those goods to forfeiture and a fine against the smuggler of the goods. Technically, all merchandise brought into the United States must be declared (19 C.F.R. 148.18).

Violator's Liability - 19 U.S.C. 1497

A. Forfeiture of undeclared merchandise, and

B. Personal penalty equal to domestic value of undeclared merchandise.

For violations involving articles entitled to entry free of duty under Chapter 98 of the Harmonized Tariff which are a first offense, the liabilities shall be remitted upon payment of between One and Five Percent of the Domestic Value, but not less than $50 (or the domestic value, whichever is less) nor more than $1,000.

Duty-Free Entry Summaries
Effective July 29, 2015, filers again are entitled to file GSP-eligible entry summaries without the payment of estimated duties.

Duty Refunds
Recognizing the impact that retroactive renewal and consequent numerous re-liquidations will have on both importers and CBP, CBP developed a mechanism to facilitate refunds for entries submitted during the lapse period. Using the Special Program Indicator (SPI) for GSP (with the letter "A," "A+," or "A*") as a prefix to the tariff number.

Formal/Informal Entries
CBP will liquidate or reliquidate all affected entry summaries and refund any duties deposited (without interest) for items qualifying for GSP and for which requests for liquidation or reliquidation are timely filed. Field locations will not issue GSP refunds except as instructed to do so by CBP Headquarters.

If as stated above, an ABI entry summary was filed with payment of estimated duties using the Special Program Indicator (SPI) for GSP (with the letter "A," "A+," or "A*"") as a prefix to the tariff number, **no further action by the filer is required**, filings with the SPI "A," "A+," or "A*" will be treated as confirming requests for refunds.


FAQ:

Do I need a license to import something?

You do not need a license to act as an importer. However, some items require a license or permit from various government agencies in order to be imported. For more complete information, please see our publication "Importing Into the U.S."

The chapter on "Special Requirements" provides very complete information. (Some common items that may require licenses or permits are food products ordered from a commercial vendor, plant, animal and dairy products, prescription medications, trademarked articles such as name-brand shoes, handbags, luggage, golf clubs, toys, etc. and copyrighted material such as CDs, DVDs and tapes)

CBP paperwork does require an "importer number" as a means of identifying who the final recipient of the goods is. If you have a business tax number with the IRS, this number should be used as the importer number. If you do not have a business tax number, you may use your Social Security number.

If you have neither a business tax number nor a social security number, and you are a non-resident of the U.S., you may contact the port where your goods will enter the country and ask them to assign an importer number to you by filing a CBP Form 5106.

For more information follow the link: [https://help.cbp.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/197/noInterceptor/1](https://help.cbp.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/197/noInterceptor/1)

CBP Mission Statement:

*We are the guardians of our Nation's borders.*

*We are America's frontline.*

*We safeguard the American homeland at and beyond our borders.*

*We protect the American people against terrorists and the instruments of terror.*

*We steadfastly enforce the laws of the United States while fostering our Nation's economic security through lawful international trade and travel.*

*We serve the American people with vigilance, integrity, and professionalism.*