

**Support Advance Notification and Transparency for Imposed Tariffs**

* The National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America (NCBFAA), whose over 1,400 member U.S. companies employ over 110,000 professionals in international trade serving more than 250,000 importers and exporters, represents the U.S. customs brokerage industry that files greater than 97% of the entries that transmit duties and tariffs to CBP.
* The tariffs enacted through executive orders – especially those under Section 232 and the inclusion process delegated to the Department of Commerce – have been implemented with little or no notice to the customs brokerage and importing communities. A striking example occurred with the inclusion of 407 new tariffs spanning over 750 10-digit HTSUS codes. These covered a vast range of products, including food packaging, air fresheners, deodorants, cosmetics, paint, chemicals, petroleum containers, and cutlery, to name a few. Commerce’s action should have gone through a process providing the trade community with adequate notice and clarity. **Instead,** t**he announcement was issued one business day prior to implementation.**
* Such abrupt implementation threatens national security by increasing the likelihood of non-compliance, the non/under/over payment of duties, and delayed shipments. The lack of advanced notice and transparency disrupts the ability of customs brokers, importers, and supply chain stakeholders to: accurately classify and value merchandise under the HTSUS; obtain and provide the necessary commercial documentation and data; test automation required for proper duty collection and compliance; and avoid unexpected cost burdens that affect U.S. business and consumers alike, particularly for shipments already en route to the U.S. and sold at previously negotiated prices to U.S. consumers.
* Sudden implementation not only hampers trade but also undermines CBP’s ability to efficiently and effectively collect revenue owed to the Government. It thrusts CBP to provide clarification in real time on very nuanced technical issues, a nearly impossible task despite best efforts and automation.
* **We urge Congress to introduce and enact legislation requiring: a.) a minimum 30 calendar days’ notice before any new tariffs or inclusionary measures under executive authority (IEEPA, section 232, etc.) take effect; b.) publication of Federal Register and CBP “CSMS” notices of affected provisions with an explanation of the tariff declaration requirements articulated no less than 14 calendar days’ prior to implementation; c.) a tariff exemption for any covered goods already en route to, or warehoused in, the U.S. prior to the date of implementation regardless of conveyance type(s) entered within 60 calendar days from enactment; and d.) a dedicated CBP email and hotline to address questions and concerns regarding operational readiness and compliance capabilities.**

**NCBFAA urges predictable and transparent tariff implementation with procedural safeguards to ensure a lawful, compliant, efficient and effective trade system.**

For more information please contact:

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