

September 24, 2025

Peter A. Feldman
Acting Chairman
Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East-West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Acting Chairman Feldman,

The National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America (NCBFAA) is concerned about the impact of a potential government shutdown on import/export trade processing – an important function of the CPSC and an important feature of the Trump Administration’s America First Trade Policy. NCBFAA represents customs brokers and freight forwarders, who are on the frontlines of import and export trade.

We all know safe and efficient trade supply chains are necessary to both the economic and physical security of this nation. The CPSC plays a critical role to prevent unsafe products from entering the country and to keep legitimate trade flowing. The two go hand in hand: facilitating the movement of compliant product allows agencies to focus enforcement more sharply on noncompliant shipments.

That is why we urge the Commission to designate enough “excepted” employees to ensure that safe and effective import trade processing continues in the event of a prolonged government shutdown. More specifically:

- **Frontline and Support Staff:** Frontline staff at the ports to assist Customs and Border Protection are critical. But just as important are staff in regional offices and headquarters to conduct document reviews, backstop automated processes and respond when automated messaging does not work. We urge you to provide sufficient staff to support these critical import processing functions.
- **CPSC Import Contacts:** Provide points of contact for importers and customs brokers during a government shutdown.
- **CBP War Room Presence:** In prior shutdowns, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) stood up a “war room” when prior government shutdowns occurred and we expect them to do so again. We encourage you to designate CPSC staff to be present in the war room. This is important for a coordinated and effective government effort to meet the trade processing challenges of a shutdown.
- **CBP Trade Calls:** CBP conducts regular calls with the trade to report on developments as they occur and to learn of trouble spots from the trade. CPSC’s participation in these calls is essential, as well as your willingness to troubleshoot problems.

- **Outreach to Trade:** Rapid communication with the trade during a shutdown is also essential. NCBFAA can reach thousands of customs brokers/forwarders within minutes to provide guidance or other useful information that will in turn be spread to hundreds of thousands of importers/exporters. Please utilize NCBFAA as a resource to spread the word about specific procedures for the trade to follow during a prolonged shutdown.

We hope that a government shutdown can be averted. In the meantime, NCBFAA stands ready to work with your CPSC if a government shutdown does occur. Please let us know how we can best help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jose D. Gonzalez", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jose D. Gonzalez
President

Cc: Jim Joholske