MEMBER ALERT

Hi @@first_name@@,

As a continued service to the trade community, we are sharing this Member Alert with both AAEI members and non-members - remember, we all need to pull together during this national emergency. Please note that we post information first in AAEI's Member Center, on LinkedIn, and twitter.

Also, we would like to invite you to visit the COVID-19 News section on AAEI's website where you can download our Member Alerts on COVID-19 and participate in AAEI's COVID-19 Survey. We will close Week 1 snapshot of the survey on Thursday, March 19th at 3:00 pm ET to include the aggregate responses in a letter to President Trump with recommendations to provide immediate relief to American businesses, which range from delaying payment of customs duties, extending section 301 exclusions, suspend and/or refund section 301 duties. Please send me your ideas and AAEI Committee Chairs will review the final letter before sending it to the President on Friday.

As you know, AAEI belongs to the Americans for Free Trade coalition which has sent a letter to President Trump asking him to suspend section 301 tariffs. This may be an issue that needs more voices with long U.S. pedigrees to convince the President Trump that this action is warranted.
Today, the President issued an Executive Order on Prioritizing and Allocating Health and Medical Resources to Respond to the Spread of COVID-19 which is based on the Defense Act of 1950.

In the last two days, Other Government Agencies (OGAs) have provided guidance and/or updates on COVID-19 and we summarize the information below.

**U.S. Food & Drug Administration**

- **FDA Import Operations**
  - FDA's Import Operations remain functional and operational: FDA Prior Notice review, entry processing, sampling/examination of high risk shipments, FSVP inspections, filer assessments, and compliance activities will all continue.
  - For issues related to Prior Notice processing, contact FDA’s Division of Food Defense Targeting at their main number 866-521-2297;
  - For issues related to FDA entry admissibility processing, contact your usual local FDA contacts. These can be found using FDA’s “FDA Import Offices and Ports of Entry” webpage at this [link](https://aaei.site-ym.com/admin/email/view.aspx?jobId=4072990).
  - Of note, we anticipate a lessened capacity to generate and mail hard-copy Notices of FDA Action (release notices, sampling notices, etc.) which will delay receipt of hard-copy FDA notices.
  - We strongly encourage all members of the import community who deal in FDA-regulated articles to utilize the FDA Import Trade Auxiliary Communication System (ITACs) for current entry status and to create an ITACs account to receive FDA notices electronically.
  - The ITACs Account Management functionality enables the electronic distribution of Notices of FDA Action via email and as downloads from within ITACs. It also allows account holders to view the details of specific information requests, versus delivery of hard copy Notices of FDA Action.
  - ITACs basic functionality may be accessed at [https://itacs.fda.gov](https://itacs.fda.gov).
  - ITACs accounts can be requested via the FDA Unified Registration and Listing System (FURLS) at [https://www.access.fda.gov/oaa](https://www.access.fda.gov/oaa).

- **FDA Office of Foods and Veterinary Medicine, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition**
  - There is no food shortage.
  - COVID-19 is not transmitted through food or food packaging and is not a food-borne disease.
  - FDA has issued a FAQ document *Food Safety and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Questions & Answers*
  - FDA has issued a Guidance for Industry: Temporary Policy Regarding Preventative Controls and FSVP Food Supplier Verification Onsite Audit Requirements During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency
FDA CFSAN Constituent Update, titled FDA Issues Temporary COVID-19 Policy for Receiving Facilities and FSVP Importers in Meeting FSMA Supplier Verification Onsite Audit Requirements

FDA Statement titled Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Update: Foreign Inspections

FDA Statement titled Coronavirus Update: FDA steps to ensure quality of foreign products

FDA topic page on Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

CFSAN Industry and Consumer Assistance

U.S. Department of Agriculture

- USDA's Office of Food Safety and Marketing and Regulatory Programs Statement to Industry
- USDA Announces Feeding Program Partnership in Response to COVID-19

Finally, some of you have asked for information about the operating status of ports worldwide and additional screening process, customs checks, export restrictions, etc. AAEI will reach out to our international partners to gather such information.

Please send us any issues of concern or any ideas you have to include in the letter to the President.

Thank you to our Champion Strategic Alliance Partner:

FTZC™ (Foreign-Trade Zone Corporation)

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