



March 19, 2020



MEMBER ALERT

Hi @@first_name@@,

This Member Alert on COVID-19 will update some OGA items as well as a summary of CBP's weekly teleconference with the trade community.

Before the summary, just a note about the status of the AAEI COVID-19 Survey. We have closed Week 1 of the survey and we will distribute the results shortly. We will share the aggregate results of the survey with CBP and attach it to a letter to President Trump proposing a range of options to provide economic relief to American business. We will open the survey again for Week 2 shortly.

OGA Clean-Up

- FDA will focus on mission critical activities, particularly concerning domestic food safety inspections. In order to protect the safety of its inspectors, the FDA will pre-announce inspections. Where FDA conducts inspections will depend on the operational status of the firm and geographic restrictions.

- FDA will suspend FSVP audits and reviews.
- FDA will consider doing international inspections on a case-by-case basis.
- Food is considered a critical sector by the Department Homeland Security.

CBP Update

- The U.S. will close its borders with Canada and Mexico to "non-essential" travel. CBP advised that a Federal Register notice will be published tomorrow clarifying what is "essential travel." Cargo is considered "essential travel" - however, there are some reports that local CBP officials at certain ports (e.g., Detroit) have turned away truck drivers. CBP Headquarters will instruct the ports that cargo is "essential travel."
- CBP does not anticipate any change in staffing, but may redeploy officers as circumstances change. Duty Drawback Officers are on duty and are processing drawback claims. There has been an uptick in "positive" tests for COVID-19.
- Global Entry Enrollment Centers are closed to avoid spread of COVID-19.
- Two terminals (Barbours Cut and Bayport Container) at the Port of Houston have suspended operations as an ILA worker tested positive for COVID-19. CBP advised that local port officials will resolve the issue and decide when to reopen the terminals.
- The trade community has submitted ideas for CBP to consider as a form of administrative relief. The list is being reviewed by COAC.
 - **NOTE:** CBP will consider a delay in duty payments (up to one week) on a case-by-case basis. Importers and Customs Brokers should contact Randy Mitchell and cc: your local Import Specialist.
- CBP is aware of bond sufficiency issues and will delay sending notices for 10 days.
- CBP will not conduct additional screening of crews transporting cargo. Carriers should determine the health of crews.

Above all, CBP stated that it will be flexible concerning various regulatory deadlines.

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

- CISA developed an initial list of "Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers" to help State and local officials as they work to protect their communities.
- States and the Federal government are collaborating on the Stafford Act. As 23 states start to implement a Guidance to shelter in place except for essential industries.
- CISA has posted [Guidance](#) on the Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers during COVID-19. identified as essential industries. The website at CISA.Gov provides the list of industries that are exempt from the shelter in place guidance.
- Local authorities have jurisdiction on rules, but FEMA in coordination with HHS is leading this effort.

Please send us any issues that you are experiencing and we can route them through to the appropriate CBP official.

Marianne



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