

Customs to Eliminate Paper Courtesy Notices of Liquidation

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On August 17, 2011, U.S. Customs & Border Protection ("Customs") published a Federal Register notice advising the public of its decision to amend Title 19 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Customs is changing the way courtesy notices of liquidation are issued to importers of record whose entry summaries are filed in the Automated Broker Interface ("ABI").

Currently, Customs sends an electronic courtesy notice of liquidation to importers of record that electronically file their own entry summaries through ABI (or to a broker that files as the agent of the importer of record). In addition, Customs mails a paper courtesy notice of liquidation to the importer of record.

In what it describes as an effort to streamline the notification process and reduce printing and mailing costs, Customs will discontinue the practice of mailing paper courtesy notices of liquidation for ABI entries. This change is scheduled to take effect on or after September 30, 2011.

All ABI filers (importers of record and brokers that file as the agent of an importer of record) will nevertheless continue to receive electronic courtesy notices. Importers of record with an

Automated Commercial Environment ("ACE") Secure Data Portal Account can monitor the liquidation of their entries by using the reporting tool in the ACE Secure Data Portal Account. Importers of record filing paper formal entries with Customs will continue to receive a mailed courtesy notice.

Importers should take note that the above described "courtesy" notices of liquidation are just that- a courtesy. The only "official" notice of liquidation is the one posted in the Customs House at the port of entry where the specific entry was filed. Determining the "official" date of liquidation is crucial to ensuring that an administrative protest contesting such liquidation is filed timely with the port. Liquidation dates can be tracked by your Customs broker.

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