



U.S. Customs Service

610 S. Canal Street
Chicago, IL 60607-4523

Pipeline 03-12
March 26, 2003

TO : Customs Brokers, Importers and Others Concerned

SUBJECT: Split Shipments

Customs Regulations ordinarily require that all merchandise arriving on one conveyance consigned to one consignee be included on one entry. The Tariff Suspension and Trade Act of 2000 amended Section 484 of the Trade Act of 1930 by adding a new paragraph (j) to provide for the treatment of certain multiple shipments as a single entity. Specifically, 19 CFR 141.57 has been added to the Customs Regulations to offer relief to importers whose shipments are divided at the initiative of the carrier.

The following conditions must be met for the shipment to qualify under the provisions of this regulation.

- ? The shipment must have been capable of being transported on a single conveyance and was delivered to the carrier under a single waybill.
- ? The carrier split the shipment acting on its own.
- ? The split portions remained consigned to the same party in the United States.
- ? All portions of the shipment arrive at the same port within 10 calendar days of the first arrival.

There are two methods that can be used to obtain release of split shipments.

1. After arrival of entire shipment. A filer can elect to file one entry after all portions of the split shipments have arrived. The CF 3461 should be annotated with all bills of lading or air waybills, along with the dates, vessels/flight numbers, and quantity arriving in each portion. The entry must indicate the total number of pieces in, as well as the total value of, the entire shipment as reflected on the invoices(s) covering the shipment.

2. Prior to arrival of entire shipment. A filer may file an entry after the arrival of the first portion of a split shipment at the port of entry, but before the arrival of the entire shipment, thus qualifying the split shipment for incremental release as each portion of the shipment arrives at the port of entry. The entry must indicate the total value of the entire shipment as reflected on the invoices(s) covering the shipment as well as the incremental amount to be released.

TRADITION



SERVICE



HONOR

If the merchandise is located at an AMS carrier or an AMS deconsolidator, the filer must file an annotated CF 3461 copy when each portion of the shipment arrives. The annotated copy should indicate the bill of lading or air waybill, along with the date, vessel/flight number, and quantity arriving in the subsequent portion. The annotated CF 3461 shall be presented to the AMS desk at CenterPoint for manual posting to the manifest.

In those cases where the merchandise is **not** located at an AMS carrier or an AMS deconsolidator, the filer should make the corrections to the CF 3461, stamp the document with a stamp that indicates all information is correct and includes the filer's company name. Once the corrected document has been stamped, it may be presented to the non-AMS carrier or non-AMS deconsolidator for release of the merchandise.

Entry summaries must be filed within ten working days from the date of the first release of a portion of the split shipment.

Certain classes of merchandise are not eligible for release under these procedures.

- ? Quota/visa merchandise. Merchandise subject to quota and/or visa requirements is excluded from incremental release. Additionally, if by splitting a shipment any portion of it is subject to quota, no portion of the split shipment may be released incrementally. Filers may elect to make one entry for quota/visa merchandise if the entry is filed after all portions of the split shipment have arrived.
- ? AD/CVD merchandise. Merchandise subject to AD/CVD is not eligible for either of the split shipment procedures discussed herein. A separate entry must be made for each portion of AD/CVD entries.
- ? Untimely arrivals. A filer must enter separately those portions of a split shipment that do not arrive at the port of entry within 10 calendar days of the portion that arrived first.
- ? Different rates of duty for identically classified merchandise. A filer must file a separate entry for any portion of a split shipment if necessary to preclude the application of different rates of duty on a split shipment entry for merchandise that is classifiable under the same HTS number.

These procedures for the release of split shipments are optional. Filers may continue to file separate entries for separate portions of split shipments.

Please refer any questions to Supervisory Customs Inspector Anye Whyte at 847.616.4060 x 113.

Robyn Dessaure
Port Director