



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE

PORT OF CHICAGO PIPELINE

NO. 97-25

September 12, 1997

TO : Customhouse Brokers, Importers and Others Concerned

SUBJECT: Broker/Importer Inquiries Regarding Frequency of Cargo Examinations

The purpose of this pipeline is to confirm procedures for processing importer and broker inquiries regarding the frequency of cargo examinations for a particular importer. This procedure is for use by those clients experiencing repetitive examinations of similar shipments. It is not intended to be used for inquiry on initial shipments or occasional examinations of like merchandise.

It is the Customs Service intention to process the release of commercial shipments as expeditiously as possible. However, there are occasions when the examination of cargo prior to release is a necessary requirement. Through the Compliance Measurement Program, merchandise is examined to determine a statistically valid compliance rate for all commodities. Also, there may be additional initiatives to assess compliance levels for specific primary focus industries and trade priorities. Occasionally these examinations can cause delays in the release of freight. Therefore, we are providing the following guidelines to be used for inquiries regarding delays in cargo releases, frequency and causes of examinations, etc.

I. If an inquiry is necessary to locate an entry that has been abnormally long in clearing, contact the Document Analysis Unit at 847-616-4063. If the delay has occurred in the commodity team review process, contact the Import Generalist at 847-616-4072.

II. If your inquiry is regarding the frequency or cause of examinations, a written request should be mailed or faxed to:

Port Director
U. S. Customs Service
610 South Canal Street
Chicago, Illinois 60607

Attention: OAS

FAX Number: 312-353-2337

III. All inquiries should include the following information:

1. Importer of Record Number
2. Entry Number(s) - please provide specific instance(s) of the problem(s) to be researched, if applicable
3. Name and phone number of a contact person, in case further information is required

Please allow sufficient time for in-depth research of your inquiry. In cases of national programs or other agency involvement, your inquiry will be forwarded to the appropriate office in New York or Washington, D.C. for final analysis and response.

It is our intention to selectively examine high risk shipments and to examine other shipments for the purpose of obtaining a statistically valid compliance rate. Your continued cooperation helps the Customs Service be more effective in both enforcement and facilitation.

Kevin Weeks
Port Director