New Task Force Established

U.S. Customs and Border Protection established Trade Enforcement Task Force last month within CBP’s Office of Trade to further protect the American economy and domestic industry. Presently, the task force is focused on issues related to enforcement of antidumping and countervailing duty laws, and interdiction of imported products using forced labor.

The task force enables CBP to leverage new enforcement authorities of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015, which strengthens CBP’s enforcement capabilities and methods to better enforce U.S. trade laws, including antidumping countervailing duty laws. The Act also enhances CBP’s efforts to combat the import of counterfeit goods and protect intellectual property rights holders, and eliminates obstacles preventing imports made with forced or child labor into the United States.

By focusing its combined resources through the enforcement task force, CBP will be able to combat illicit traders that illegally exploit American trade and conduct enforcement operations at and beyond the border to ensure U.S. industry can compete on a level playing field.

Commissioner Kerlikowske’s Remarks at the Joint Meeting of the American Iron and Steel Institute and the Metals Service Center Institute

In his remarks to the joint meeting of the American Iron and Steel Institute and the Metals Service Center Institute on May 2 Commissioner Kerlikowske stated he knows the impact CBP’s policies and actions can have on the metals industry. He assured those in attendance that President Obama and his entire administration share their concerns about unfair, unequal competition for foreign imports. In 2015, CBP, in coordination with ICE/HSI seized over $900,000 worth of steel products and assessed $36 million in penalties for violations of AD/CVD orders on steel products. CBP’s Base Metal Center became fully operational in March. It is actively enforcing the AD/CVD orders on metal products and working closely with industry to understand trade risks and target evasion to ensure a fair and competitive U.S. metals industry.

If you have knowledge of a violation of U.S. trade laws, please report it by filing an e-Allegation at https://apps.cbp.gov/eallegations

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