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CBP Core Values

Vigilance



Integrity



Service to Country

For more information about
CBP, please visit www.cbp.gov



FY 2012 Mid-Year Import Trade Trends Report

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has released the FY 2012 Mid-Year Import Trade Trends Report. While the U.S. Census Bureau issues monthly trade statistics at the aggregate level, CBP's Import Trade Trends Reports are produced semi-annually, feature graphic analysis and trade highlights, and are designed to trace major trade patterns and their impact on CBP workload and initiatives.

"As fiscal year 2012 has progressed, import levels have been steadily rising – a promising economic indicator," states Deputy Commissioner, David V. Aguilar. "By mid-year, U.S. Customs and Border Protection processed imports valued at nearly \$1.2 trillion, a 10 percent increase over import values a year earlier." The report contains other statistics that indicate an increase in the number of importers, lines of merchandise, and the amount of products contained in shipments, all strong indications that importers have confidence in consumer spending and expect to be able to sell additional merchandise.

Highlighted in the report is CBP's cargo processing modernization program, the Automated Commercial Environment, or ACE. "During the last two years we've made some tremendous strides with ACE," states Aguilar. Working closely with the trade community, we have been able to accomplish more during the last two years than the previous five. This is of utmost importance for CBP and for our nation. CBP is charged with some of the most critical parts of America's economic and physical security. With that comes the requirement that we stay agile by modernizing our processes and methodologies, especially as we face a world of increased trade volumes and the rapidly escalating complexity of modern trade. In doing so, we contribute to the nation's security, prosperity, and economic competitiveness in the work we perform each day."

The full FY 2012 Mid-Year Import Trade Trends report, is available on the CBP Website. For more information on CBP trade reports, please contact of the Office of Congressional Affairs.

CBP Assists ICE, NHTSA with Counterfeit Airbag Investigation



On October 10, 2012, following investigations by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

(NHTSA) issued a consumer safety advisory to alert vehicle owners and repair professionals to the dangers of counterfeit air bags.

While the counterfeit air bags seized in the investigations look nearly identical to certified, original equipment parts – including bearing the insignia and branding of major automakers – NHTSA testing showed consistent malfunctioning ranging from non-deployment of the air bag to the expulsion of metal shrapnel during deployment.

While the full scope and scale of the problem of counterfeit air bags is uncertain from currently available data, ICE and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) have identified certain vehicle makes and models for which these air bags may be available based on seizures and investigations to date.

NHTSA has been working with a number of government agencies – including ICE, CBP, and the Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center (IPR Center) to better understand the issue of counterfeit air bags and how to prevent them from being purchased and installed in vehicles. To view the video of the performance tests of the counterfeit air bags, visit NHTSA's website.

Consumers who believe they may be at risk should contact the call center that has been established by their auto manufacturer. The full list of call centers and additional information is available at Safer-Car.gov.

CBP Enforcement News



CBP Officers Seize Lead-Contaminated Children's Halloween Costumes

Seattle, Wa.— On Tuesday, October 16, 2012, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers and Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) investigators seized two shipments of children's pirate costumes for containing eleven times the legal limit of lead. The shipments, originating in China, were destined for a distributor in the Seattle area. All 1,371 costumes, valued at more than \$10,000 will be destroyed.

— Visit the CBP Newsroom for the full story.



CBP Officers Intercept 'Date-Rape' Drug

Nogales, Az.— On Tuesday, October 23, 2012, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers apprehended a female Mexican national after they discovered that she was in possession of 310 vials of ketamine. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) describes ketamine as a clear, odorless and tasteless liquid developed in the early 1960s to replace Phencyclidine (PCP) as an anesthetic. Since ketamine also induces amnesia, it is sometimes given to unsuspecting victims prior to the commission of sexual assaults. This illegal practice is referred to as "drug rape" or "date rape." The drugs were seized and the suspect was referred for prosecution.

— Visit the CBP Newsroom for the full story.



CBP Border Patrol Agents Arrest MS-13 Gang Member

Yuma, Az.— On Saturday, October 13, 2012, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Yuma Sector Border Patrol agents, patrolling near Andrade, California, observed the illegal entry of four subjects. Agents responded to the area on ATVs and apprehended the group. During processing, agents learned one of the subjects was a Honduran national and a member of the MS-13 gang. The suspected gang member was last deported in April of this year and is now being held for prosecution.

— Visit the CBP Newsroom for the full story.



CBP Laboratories and Scientific Services Identify New Synthetic Drugs Crossing the Border

Chicago, Il.— The practice of designing and importing illegal synthetic drugs has exploded in recent years. The molecular makeup of these new drugs are somewhat of a mystery, but in the last few months, U.S. Customs and Border Protection Laboratories and Scientific Services (LSS) chemists in Chicago have identified three new derivatives of synthetic marijuana and methamphetamine compounds making their way into America. The volume of these designer highs is reaching a whole new level of danger because some of these synthetic drugs are 100 to 800 times more potent than their natural counterparts.

— Visit the CBP Newsroom for the full story.

CBP Postpones Trade Symposium Due to Northeast Storm



Due to concerns over participant safety and potential travel disruptions related to Hurricane Sandy, U.S. Customs and Border Protection has decided to postpone the East Coast Trade Symposium that had been scheduled for October 29–30, 2012. "We apologize for this inconvenience, but due to the strength and breadth of this storm we believe this postponement is the appropriate decision," said CBP Deputy Commissioner David V. Aguilar. "We do not want to risk the safety of our participants, many of whom would be traveling to Washington D.C. to attend." Aguilar also said that the nature of the storm is such that the agency's emergency response protocols have been activated and must take precedence. CBP will announce new plans for the symposium as soon as possible. CBP officials apologize for this inconvenience and will reschedule this important event in the near future. For more information about CBP's preparations for Hurricane Sandy, please visit CBP.gov.



Earlier this month, Secretary of Homeland Security Napolitano announced the designation of Taiwan into the Visa Waiver Program (VWP)—streamlining travel for thousands of eligible Taiwan passport holders, while maintaining strong security standards. Eligible Taiwan passport holders will be able to visit the United States without visas as of November 1, 2012.

Visa Waiver Program

Taiwan will join 36 participants in the VWP—which permits visa-free travel to the United States for eligible travelers visiting the United States for 90 days or fewer for business or tourism. Like other VWP travelers, eligible Taiwan passport holders will be required to apply for advanced authorization through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA).

In Fiscal Year 2011, the VWP accounted for 18.3 million visits to the United States, or more than 60 percent of tourist and business travelers entering the United States by air. In Fiscal Year 2011, 243,186 visitors from Taiwan traveled to the United States. For more information, visit DHS.gov or contact the Office of Congressional Affairs.

Committed to Cyber Security



The nation's critical infrastructure relies heavily on the Internet for everything from submitting taxes, to following traffic signals, to even powering our homes. Yet, for all of its advantages, increased connectivity brings increased risk of crime. President Obama designated October as National Cyber Security Awareness Month (NCSAM) and is sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). For more information, please visit DHS.gov.