What Every Member of the Trade Community Should Know About:

Fasteners of Heading 7318

U.S. CUSTOMS and BORDER PROTECTION

AN INFORMED COMPLIANCE PUBLICATION

APRIL 2012

NOTICE:

This publication is intended to provide guidance and information to the trade community. It reflects the position on or interpretation of the applicable laws or regulations by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) as of the date of publication, which is shown on the front cover. It does not in any way replace or supersede those laws or regulations. Only the latest official version of the laws or regulations is authoritative.

Publication History

First Published: January 2008
Revised April 2009
Revised February 2010
Revised May 2011
Reviewed With No Changes April 2012

PRINTING NOTE:

This publication was designed for electronic distribution via the CBP website (http://www.cbp.gov) and is being distributed in a variety of formats. It was originally set up in Microsoft Word 2003®. Pagination and margins in downloaded versions may vary depending upon which word processor or printer you use. If you wish to maintain the original settings, you may wish to download the .pdf version, which can then be printed using the freely available Adobe Acrobat Reader®.

PREFACE

On December 8, 1993, Title VI of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Pub. L. 103-182, 107 Stat. 2057), also known as the Customs Modernization or “Mod” Act, became effective. These provisions amended many sections of the Tariff Act of 1930 and related laws.

Two new concepts that emerge from the Mod Act are “informed compliance” and “shared responsibility,” which are premised on the idea that in order to maximize voluntary compliance with laws and regulations of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the trade community needs to be clearly and completely informed of its legal obligations. Accordingly, the Mod Act imposes a greater obligation on CBP to provide the public with improved information concerning the trade community's rights and responsibilities under customs regulations and related laws. In addition, both the trade and U.S. Customs and Border Protection share responsibility for carrying out these requirements. For example, under Section 484 of the Tariff Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1484), the importer of record is responsible for using reasonable care to enter, classify and determine the value of imported merchandise and to provide any other information necessary to enable U.S. Customs and Border Protection to properly assess duties, collect accurate statistics, and determine whether other applicable legal requirements, if any, have been met. CBP is then responsible for fixing the final classification and value of the merchandise. An importer of record’s failure to exercise reasonable care could delay release of the merchandise and, in some cases, could result in the imposition of penalties.

Regulations and Rulings (RR) of the Office of International Trade has been given a major role in meeting the informed compliance responsibilities of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. In order to provide information to the public, CBP has issued a series of informed compliance publications on new or revised requirements, regulations or procedures, and a variety of classification and valuation issues.

This publication, prepared by the National Commodity Specialist Division of Regulations and Rulings is entitled "Fasteners of Heading 7318.” It provides guidance regarding the classification of these items. We sincerely hope that this material, together with seminars and increased access to rulings of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, will help the trade community to improve voluntary compliance with customs laws and to understand the relevant administrative processes.

The material in this publication is provided for general information purposes only. Because many complicated factors can be involved in customs issues, an importer may wish to obtain a ruling under Regulations of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 19 C.F.R. Part 177, or to obtain advice from an expert who specializes in customs matters, for example, a licensed customs broker, attorney or consultant.

Comments and suggestions are welcomed and should be addressed to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of International Trade, Executive Director, Regulations and Rulings, 799 9th Street N.W. 7th floor, Washington, D.C. 20229-1177.

Sandra L. Bell
Executive Director, Regulations and Rulings
Office of International Trade

(This page intentionally left blank)

INTRODUCTION 7

THREADED OR NON-THREADED FASTENERS 8

IDENTIFICATION AND MEASUREMENTS OF THREADED FASTENERS 8

7318.11 - Coach Screws 9
7318.12 - Other Wood Screws 9
7318.13 - Screw Hooks and Screw Rings 9
7318.14 - Self-tapping Screws 9
7318.15 - Other Screws and Bolts 10
7318.15.20 - Bolts 10
7318.15.40 - Machine screws 10
7318.15.50 - Stud 11
7318.15.60 and 7318.15.80 – Other Screws 11
SEMS 11
7318.16 - Nuts 12
7318.19 - Other threaded articles similar to the fasteners noted under heading 7318 but not covered by the previous subheadings 12

NON-THREADED ARTICLES, SIMILAR TO THE FASTENERS NOTED UNDER HEADING 7318 12

Washers 12
7318.21 - Spring Washers and Other Lock Washers 13
7318.22 - Other Washers 13
7318.23 - Rivets 13
7318.24 - Cotters and cotter pins 13
7318.29 - Other non-threaded fasteners 14

MARKING 14

QUALITY STANDARDS 15

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION 17

The Internet 17
Customs Regulations 17
Customs Bulletin 17
Importing into the United States 18
Informed Compliance Publications 18
Value Publications 19
“Your Comments are Important” 20

(This page intentionally left blank)

INTRODUCTION

Heading 7318 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) provides for "screws, bolts, nuts, coach screws, screw hooks, rivets, cotters, cotter pins, washers (including spring washers) and similar articles, of iron or steel." The items mentioned within this heading are referred to or recognized as types of fasteners. A fastener is designed to join items together or hold items in place. Articles such as screws, bolts, nuts and studs "are used to assemble or fasten goods so that they can readily be disassembled without damage."[1] To be classified under heading 7318, the item must meet the terms of the heading, meaning it must be an article of iron or steel and have a purpose and character similar to the items that are mentioned.

The terms and explanations that are covered within this informed compliance are applicable to fasteners made of other base metals[2] classified within other chapters and headings, as well as fasteners which conform to metric or inch measurement standards. However, this informed compliance publication focuses on fasteners of iron or steel and references inch fastener standards for illustration purposes only.

Articles of heading 7318, HTSUS, and similar articles of other base metals, are considered to be parts of general use. For instance, if a bolt is specially made for central heating radiators or a screw is designed for exclusive use within an engine, the item is not considered a part; it is classified as a fastener, a part of general use. If the item requiring classification is threaded, it is not necessarily a product of heading 7318, HTSUS. Accordingly, it is important to ascertain the purpose of the item and how it functions. For example, Archimedean screws, worm mechanisms, and threaded shafts for presses, although they are threaded, they do not perform fastening functions and would not be classified under heading 7318, HTSUS. Threaded parts of musical instruments (piano pegs) and screw stoppers are also excluded from classification under heading 7318, HTSUS. Although pointed screw-nails perform a fastening function, their unslotted heads hamper an easy disassembly without causing damage and make them more akin to nails of heading 7317, HTSUS. As a result, pointed screw-nails would not be classified under heading 7318, HTSUS.

When classifying an item under heading 7318, HTSUS, the first issue to be considered (after it has been determined that the product is of iron or steel), is whether the product contributes to or performs a fastening function. In HQ 086396, April 27, 1990, a headlamp adjusting screw, although threaded similar to a conventional screw, was not classified under heading 7318, HTSUS, as a fastener. It was excluded from classification under heading 7318, HTSUS, as a fastener because the screw transmitted motion in the sense that it adjusted the headlight beam of a passenger vehicle rather than joining, affixing or holding hardware together or in place.

[1] Explanatory Note 73.18 (A).
[2] E.g., - Copper fasteners are classified in heading 7415 and aluminum fasteners are classified in heading 7616.

THREADED OR NON-THREADED FASTENERS

If the article meets the terms of the heading, the next consideration is whether it is threaded or non-threaded. To be threaded, the fastener must have a complete thread, which is "a ridge of uniform section in the form of a helix on the external or internal surface of a cylinder."[3] Annular grooves along the shank of a fastener are not threads since they do not form a helix. A fastener with annular grooves is considered non-threaded. Helically wound wire inserts, used to repair stripped or damaged internal threads, are also classified as non-threaded fasteners since the helix is not formed on an internal or external surface.[4] An unfinished (blank) hex head steel cap screw or an untapped nut would be an incomplete or unfinished fastener (not a non-threaded fastener) and are classified as threaded fasteners based upon General Rule of Interpretation (GRI) 2(a).[5]

IDENTIFICATION AND MEASUREMENTS OF THREADED FASTENERS

If the item is a threaded fastener, it must be determined whether it is a screw, bolt, stud or other threaded fastener. Threaded fasteners should be identified on the invoice noting the nominal size (diameter), threads per inch, nominal length, and product name – including head type, point and material. For example, a designation of: ¼ – 14 – 1¼ Type AB, Slotted Pan Head Tapping Screw, Steel, indicates that this tapping screw is ¼ inch in diameter, has 14 threads per inch and is 1¼ inches long. Type AB references the type of point associated with this screw.

When measuring a threaded fastener with a head, with the exception of a shoulder screw, the length of the fastener is measured from the largest diameter of the bearing surface to the extreme point.[6] A shoulder screw is measured based upon the length of the shoulder. Headless fasteners are measured from end to end.

There are distinctions made under heading 7318, HTSUS, between items with "shanks or threads with a diameter of less than 6 mm"[7] and "shanks or threads with a diameter of 6 mm or more." Threaded fasteners size 12 or smaller are classified as under 6 mm. Threaded fasteners size 14 or greater (e.g., 1/4 inch) are classified under the provision for 6 mm or greater. If, however, the shank is over 6 mm but the threading is less than 6 mm, both subheadings, at the same level, describe the goods. Since one description is not more specific than the other, the item would be classified based upon GRI 3(c), the subheading "which occurs last in numerical order among those which equally merit consideration."

---

[3] Inch Fastener Standards, 7th Edition, compiled and published by Industrial Fasteners Institute.
[4] HQ 967397, May 5, 2005.
[5] See NY F84343, March 21, 2000 – nut blanks; see also, HQ 963296 and HQ 963297, May 4, 2001 - unthreaded hex head steel cap screw blank and unthreaded hex head steel bolt.
[6] E.g. – A flat head screw would be measured end to end since the top of the head is the largest diameter of the bearing surface.
[7] The equivalent of 6 millimeters (mm) is 0.2362 inches. Note that these are actual measurements.

7318.11 - Coach Screws

Coach Screws "are large wood screws with square or hexagonal unslotted heads."[8] They have steep cutting threads that cannot accommodate a nut. Screw spikes and lag screws (with square or hexagonal heads) are also classified under the provision for coach screws.

7318.12 - Other Wood Screws

Other wood screws are wood screws with slotted or recessed[9] heads. Common head types are flat countersunk, oval countersunk and pan. Countersunk heads, such as the one to the right, become flush with the surface after installation. Wood screws are generally tapered and will always have a gimlet[10] point and steep cutting threads. There are times that the gimlet point will have a single slot cut partially through the point. This is known as a Type 17 point (second picture). The gimlet point may also have saw type threading (third picture). The threads of a wood screw can be either cut or rolled. Screws with cut threads will have threading that covers approximately two-thirds of the screw length. If the threads are rolled, they will cover the greater of two-thirds the nominal length of the screw or four times the basic screw diameter. Miniature wood screws (diameters less than 1/16 inch and lengths less than 5/8 inches) are also classified under subheading 7318.12, HTSUS. Often miniature screws are threaded close to the underside of the head which may be a fillister, pan, flat or binding.

7318.13 - Screw Hooks and Screw Rings

The function of screw hooks and screw rings is to suspend or fix other objects. One end is pointed and the other end is bent. Unlike hook nails, screw hooks and screw rings are threaded. The threading is a steep pitched threading that does not accommodate a nut.

7318.14 - Self-tapping Screws

Self-tapping screws resemble wood screws. They are pointed or tapered at the end, and some of them have steep pitched cutting threads. Tapping screws that contain a "B" designation (AB, B, BP, BF, BT) will have the steep pitched threading. Generally, tapping screws without the "B" designation (C, D, F, G, T) have machine screw threading,[11] however they will have a point design (e.g., drill, slotted, triangular or fluted)

[8] Explanatory Note 73.18 (A).
[9] Specially formed indentations centered on the head.
[10] A gimlet point is a sharp conical point with threads.
[11] Type A screw is the exception, it has coarse, spaced threads.

which makes them capable of cutting through material and forming threads. Diagrams of different types of points can be found in the Informed Compliance Publication, *Distinguishing Bolts from Screws.*

The fasteners pictured to the right are all classified as tapping screws. The fastener at the top left is a bugle head tapping screw. A bugle head screw is often used on drywall. The fastener at the top right is an example of a fastener with a type of drill point. The bottom two pictures represent a tapping screw with machine type threading. The triangular shape of the shank allows for the tapping operation of the fastener.

7318.15 - Other Screws and Bolts

The Informed Compliance Publication, *Distinguishing Bolts from Screws*, provides guidance for making the distinction between a bolt (subheading 7318.15.20, HTSUS) and a screw. This publication will not repeat the details found in *Distinguishing Bolts from Screws*, however, certain areas will be touched upon.

7318.15.20 - Bolts

Bolts are externally threaded fasteners that go through a hole and require a nut for assembly.
7318.15.2020 – Track bolts – Have a mushroom shaped head with an oval or elliptic neck.
7318.15.2030 – Structural bolts – Have head markings of A325 or A490, which represent the chemical and mechanical properties of the bolt.
7318.15.2041 – Bent bolts – right-angle anchor bolts are bent hook bolts in the shape of an L.
7318.15.2046 - Bent bolts, other would include u-bolts, hook bolts (other than right-angle bends) and eye bolts (without shoulders), such as the one to the right.

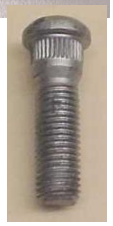
7318.15.40 - Machine screws

A product may be known as a machine screw in the industry but if it does not meet the tariff definition of subheading 7318.15.40, HTSUS, it cannot be classified as a machine screw. The subheading reads “Machine screws 9.5 mm or more in length and 3.2 mm or more in diameter (not including cap screws).” If the machine screw is less than 9.5 mm (0.3740 inches) in length or the diameter is less than 3.2 mm (0.12598 inches), which is a No. 5 or smaller, it cannot be classified under subheading 7318.15.40, HTSUS, because it does not meet the terms of the subheading. If the product meets the definition of a cap screw,[12] it is also excluded from this provision. Generally,

[12] A cap screw can have a slotted flat countersunk head, slotted fillister head, socket head, slotted round head or hex head. If the fastener has a washer face or its equivalent on the underside of the head, it is considered a cap screw. Chamfered corners on the underside of a hex head are the equivalent of a washer face. Heads and Threads, Inc. v. United States, C.D. 3412, aff’d. C.A.D. 960 (1969).

machine screws are fully threaded to within one or two pitches of the bearing surface. If the machine screw is greater than two inches in length it will have a minimum of 1½" of threading.

7318.15.50 - Stud



A stud is a threaded fastener with one end anchored or fixed in place to provide a projection to which something may be attached by a nut or other fastener. A hanger bolt meets this definition. It has wood screw threading at one end and machine screw threading at the other end. When the hanger bolt is fixed in place, the projection of the machine screw threads allows for something to be attached with the utilization of a nut. A stud can be threaded at each end, be fully threaded or it can have a head, such as the unslotted round head ribbed neck bolt pictured here. The ribbed neck is what allows for this fastener to be anchored in place. Once anchored, a threaded projection allows for a nut to be attached. A stud is not identified by its name; it is identified by the above definition and its salient characteristics. There was an affirmative final determination in the antidumping duty investigation for steel threaded rods from China. The Customs case number is A-570-932. This case can be tracked by visiting *www.usitc.gov.*

7318.15.60 and 7318.15.80 – Other Screws

Threaded fasteners, identified and functioning as screws, but not covered by the previous subheadings, are classified under subheadings 7318.15.60, HTSUS, or 7318.15.80, HTSUS, depending upon the diameter of the shank or threads. Specific types of fasteners identified within these provisions are set screws, socket screws and cap screws.

A set screw can be a headed or a headless fastener. The function of a set screw is to hold parts in a specific position to prevent movement. Set screws have very specific point designs referred to as cup, cone, flat, oval, dog and half dog. Cup points may be knurled.

The term socket screw refers to fasteners with recessed holes in the head design. The hollow indentation in the head may be in the shape of a hex, square or other form.

The definition for a cap screw can be found in footnote 12.

SEMS

Sems are screw and washer assemblies. The captive washer is held in place by the threads. This is a composite good and the screw imparts the essential character.[13] An analysis of the characteristics of the screw needs

[13] See HQ 955744, May 20, 1994.

to be made to determine the classification. Note the chamfering on the underside of the head in the picture. This provides the characteristic equivalent to that of a washer face found on a cap screw.

7318.16 - Nuts

Nuts are internally threaded fasteners designed to hold the corresponding bolt in place. This subheading is broken into two categories, lugnuts and other nuts. If the fastener nut is not a lug nut, it would be classified under the subheading for "other."

Lug nuts are designed to hold a wheel to a hub. The inner face of the lug nut is designed to match the corresponding design of the wheel. Many of the nuts have a conical (tapered) seat, similar to the one pictured here. The statistical breakouts associated with lug nuts are non-locking chrome-plated lug nuts, locking lug nuts and other. If the lug nut is a non-locking type and it is not chrome-plated, it is classified under the provision for other lugnuts.

7318.19 - Other threaded articles similar to the fasteners noted under heading 7318 but not covered by the previous subheadings

This subheading provides for threaded fasteners not classifiable in the previously noted six-digit subheadings. One such item that is classified under subheading 7318.19, HTSUS, is an iron or steel standoff. This fastener is threaded along the shank and also internally threaded through the head. It secures items in place while separating two parts from one another. A steel insert (pictured at the far right) is another item that is classified under subheading 7318.19, HTSUS, as an other threaded fastener. It is internally threaded but does not function as a nut. Once set in place, a threaded fastener is tightened into it.

NON-THREADED ARTICLES, SIMILAR TO THE FASTENERS NOTED UNDER HEADING 7318

A non-threaded fastener is one that does not have a thread ("a ridge of uniform section in the form of a helix on the external or internal surface of a cylinder").[14] An unfinished, unthreaded fastener (e.g. an untapped nut) is not classified here. This one-dash subheading level (7318.2x) is strictly for non-threaded fasteners similar to the ones noted below.

Washers

Washers are used between a nut and one of the parts to be fixed or fastened. The purpose of the washer is to protect the part or material that is being fastened and evenly

[14] Inch Fastener Standards, 7th Edition, compiled and published by Industrial Fasteners Institute.

distribute the weight upon tightening. They are generally small thin discs with a single hole in the center.

7318.21 - Spring Washers and Other Lock Washers

All types of lock washers, including spring action and toothed washers, are classified under subheading 7318.21.00, HTSUS. The steel helical spring lock washer pictured to the right is specifically provided for under subheading 7318.21.0030, HTSUS. Steel Helical Spring Lock Washers (hslw) from China and Taiwan are presently subject to antidumping duties.[15] These cases can be tracked by visiting *www.usitc.gov.*

Iron or steel lock washers (spring action or other) that do not fit the description of a hslw, are classified under subheading 7318.21.0090, HTSUS. The lock washer to the right is known as an external tooth lock washer. Lock washers are designed to keep the fastener from loosening.

7318.22 - Other Washers

A washer that is not classifiable as a lock washer or spring washer is classified as "other washers" found in subheading 7318.22.00, HTSUS. Finishing washers (shown in the picture to the right) and standard flat washers are types of washers that are classified under subheading 7318.22.00, HTSUS.

7318.23 - Rivets

A rivet is a non-threaded fastener designed to permanently assemble metal parts. They are commonly used for ships, containers and large frameworks. Generally they are cylindrical in shape with a flat, round, pan shaped or countersunk head. The two pictures to the right are of a solid and partly hollow rivet. Both types are classified under subheading 7318.23.00, HTSUS. Excluded from classification within this provision are tubular rivets (with a deep hole), bifurcated (split) rivets and break mandrel rivets. These excluded types are classified under heading 8308, HTSUS, if of base metal.

7318.24 - Cotters and cotter pins

A cotter is a wedge, taper pin or key that is inserted through slots, pass through holes or fit into grooves or slots cut around the shaft. They are designed to hold parts together. A woodruff key and a circlip are just two examples of products

Woodruff key

Circlip

[15] The Customs antidumping case number for helical spring lock washers (hslw) from China is A-570-822. The Customs case number for hslw from Taiwan is A-583-820.

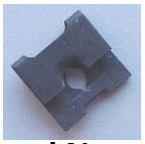
that are classified under this provision.

Iron or steel cotter pins are classified under their *eo nomine* provision. They are usually bifurcated and are designed to fit in holes to prevent objects from moving along the shaft. For example, a bolt will sometimes have a hole drilled through it, near the end, to accommodate a cotter pin. The purpose of the cotter pin is to prevent the nut from disengaging from the bolt.

7318.29 - Other non-threaded fasteners

Adjustable Clevis Pin

Non-threaded iron or steel fasteners, that are not classifiable under one of the previous subheadings for non-threaded fasteners, are classified under subheading 7318.29.00, HTSUS. A clevis pin is an item that is classified under this provision. It performs a fastening function, yet it is not threaded and cannot be classified as a washer, rivet, cotter or cotter pin. The speed nut (pictured to the right), although used on threaded fasteners, cannot be classified as a nut since it does not have a complete thread. This j-type speed nut is classified as a non-threaded fastener under subheading 7318.29, HTSUS.



Speed Nut

MARKING

Part 134 of the Customs Regulations (19 C.F.R. §134), implements the country of origin marking requirements and exceptions of Section 304 of the Tariff Act of 1930 as amended (19 U.S.C. 1304). Every article of foreign origin, unless excepted by law, must be marked to indicate the country of origin. Articles which are incapable of being marked and articles listed on the J-list, found under 19 C.F.R. §134.33, are excepted from individual marking pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1304(a)(3)(A). Bolts, nuts, washers, rivets and screws are items noted on the J-list and are excepted from individual marking. However, the containers in which the fasteners reach the ultimate purchaser are required to be marked to indicate the origin of the contents.[16]

If imported J-list articles or other articles incapable of being marked are to be repacked prior to sale to the ultimate purchaser, the importer must certify to Customs that they will properly mark the new package and/or they will notify the repacker of their obligation to mark the new package.[17]

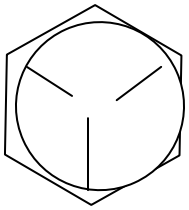
Alternative means of marking fasteners has been approved when a distributor commingles fasteners and is unable to determine the precise countries that the products were imported from. Customs allowed the package to be marked “from one or more of the following countries…” indicating all of the major source countries with the order of the greatest percentage of stock to the least percentage of stock. However,

[16] 19 U.S.C. 1304(b); 19 CFR 134.33 and 19 CFR 134.22(a)
[17] 19 CFR §134.25

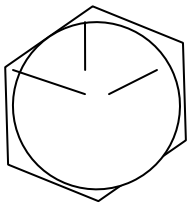
when the country of origin of the fasteners is known, an alternative means of marking was not authorized.[18]

QUALITY STANDARDS

Manufacturer identification symbols and/or grade markings may be found on a fastener. ASTM International sets forth standard specifications for mechanical fasteners including fasteners made of iron or steel. Noted below are representative samples of grade markings you may find on the head of threaded steel fasteners. With each grade, there are certain strength requirements and mechanical properties which the fastener must conform to.

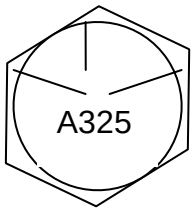


SAE J429 – Grade 5 ASTM A449 – Type 1	¼ thru 1” diameter Over 1” thru 3” diameter

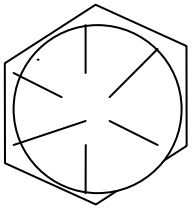


SAE J429 – Grade 5.2 ASTM A449 – Type 2	¼” thru 1” diameter

[18] HQ 735482, May 4, 1995



ASTM A325 – Type 2 ½” to 1 ½” diameter



SAE J429 – Grade 8 ¼” thru 1 ½” diameter
ASTM A354 – Grade BD ¼” thru 4” diameter

When a particular grade of fastener is claimed by the markings on the fastener or the entry documentation, the fastener must meet all of the quality standards of that marking otherwise the shipment may be subject to seizure. Acknowledging the importance of fastener quality, The National Fastener Distributors Association and the Industrial Fasteners Institute formed The Fastener Industry Education Group which put together a paper titled *The Proper Designation and Use of Standards by End-users and Suppliers Is Critical to Fastener Quality*. A copy of this document addressing fastener quality and standards can be obtained online at www.nfda-fastener.org.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Internet

The home page of U.S. Customs and Border Protection on the Internet's World Wide Web, provides the trade community with current, relevant information regarding CBP operations and items of special interest. The site posts information -- which includes proposed regulations, news releases, publications and notices, etc. -- that can be searched, read on-line, printed or downloaded to your personal computer. The web site was established as a trade-friendly mechanism to assist the importing and exporting community. The web site also links to the home pages of many other agencies whose importing or exporting regulations that U.S. Customs and Border Protection helps to enforce. The web site also contains a wealth of information of interest to a broader public than the trade community. For instance, the "Know Before You Go" publication and traveler awareness campaign is designed to help educate international travelers.

The web address of U.S. Customs and Border Protection is http://www.cbp.gov

Customs Regulations

The current edition of Customs and Border Protection Regulations of the United States is a loose-leaf, subscription publication available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402; telephone (202) 512-1800. A bound edition of Title 19, Code of Federal Regulations is also available for sale from the same address. All proposed and final regulations are published in the Federal Register, which is published daily by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, and distributed by the Superintendent of Documents. Information about on-line access to the Federal Register may be obtained by calling (202) 512-1530 between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Eastern time. These notices are also published in the weekly Customs Bulletin described below.

Customs Bulletin

The Customs Bulletin and Decisions ("Customs Bulletin") is a weekly publication that contains decisions, rulings, regulatory proposals, notices and other information of interest to the trade community. It also contains decisions issued by the U.S. Court of International Trade, as well as customs-related decisions of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Each year, the Government Printing Office publishes bound volumes of the Customs Bulletin. Subscriptions may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents at the address and phone number listed above.

Importing into the United States

This publication provides an overview of the importing process and contains general information about import requirements. The current edition of Importing Into the United States contains much new and revised material brought about pursuant to the Customs Modernization Act ("Mod Act"). The Mod Act has fundamentally altered the relationship between importers and U.S. Customs and Border Protection by shifting to the importer the legal responsibility for declaring the value, classification, and rate of duty applicable to entered merchandise.

The current edition contains a section entitled "Informed Compliance." A key component of informed compliance is the shared responsibility between U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the import community, wherein CBP communicates its requirements to the importer, and the importer, in turn, uses reasonable care to assure that CBP is provided accurate and timely data pertaining to his or her importation.

Single copies may be obtained from local offices of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or from the Office of Public Affairs, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20229. An on-line version is available at the CBP web site. Importing into the United States is also available for sale, in single copies or bulk orders, from the Superintendent of Documents by calling (202) 512-1800, or by mail from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, P.O. Box 979050, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000.

Informed Compliance Publications

U.S. Customs and Border Protection has prepared a number of Informed Compliance publications in the "*What Every Member of the Trade Community Should Know About:…"* series. Check the Internet web site http://www.cbp.gov for current publications.

Value Publications

Customs Valuation under the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 is a 96-page book containing a detailed narrative description of the customs valuation system, the customs valuation title of the Trade Agreements Act (§402 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended by the Trade Agreements Act of 1979 (19 U.S.C. §1401a)), the Statement of Administrative Action which was sent to the U.S. Congress in conjunction with the TAA, regulations (19 C.F.R. §§152.000-152.108) implementing the valuation system (a few sections of the regulations have been amended subsequent to the publication of the book) and questions and answers concerning the valuation system.

Customs Valuation Encyclopedia (with updates) is comprised of relevant statutory provisions, CBP Regulations implementing the statute, portions of the Customs Valuation Code, judicial precedent, and administrative rulings involving application of valuation law. A copy may be purchased for a nominal charge from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7054. This publication is also available on the Internet web site of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

The information provided in this publication is for general information purposes only. Recognizing that many complicated factors may be involved in customs issues, an importer may wish to obtain a ruling under CBP Regulations, 19 C.F.R. Part 177, or obtain advice from an expert (such as a licensed Customs Broker, attorney or consultant) who specializes in customs matters. Reliance solely on the general information in this pamphlet may not be considered reasonable care.

Additional information may also be obtained from U.S. Customs and Border Protection ports of entry. Please consult your telephone directory for an office near you. The listing will be found under U.S. Government, Department of Homeland Security.

"Your Comments are Important"

The Small Business and Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and 10 regional Fairness Boards were established to receive comments from small businesses about Federal agency enforcement activities and rate each agency's responsiveness to small business. If you wish to comment on the enforcement actions of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, call 1-888-REG-FAIR (1-888-734-3247).

REPORT SMUGGLING 1-800-BE-ALERT OR 1-888-NO-DROGA

Visit our Internet web site: http://www.cbp.gov