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U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Office of Trade entered 2020 in a sprint, collaborating with our partners at the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of State to raise awareness for Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Throughout the month of January, we leveraged multiple communications platforms to spread the word about CBP's Forced Labor Division and the work we do to ensure the integrity of U.S. supply chains.

Implementation of the Japan Free Trade Agreement also took place in January, accompanied by the necessary updates within the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE), CBP's cargo processing system. With several major milestones to look forward to this year, including preparation for the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), we fully expect January's exciting and busy pace to carry into the coming months. Stay tuned for updates as we tackle the unique challenges of 2020's evolving trade landscape.

-Brenda Smith, Executive Assistant Commissioner, Office of Trade

## Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month

According to a 2016 study by the International Labor Organization, there are approximately 40.3 million victims of modern slavery worldwide. Of those, approximately 25 million people are trapped in forced labor, and nearly 10 million are children. The majority of forced labor victims, 16 million people, are exploited in private sector industries such as agriculture, mining, and construction, and 4 million people are subjected to forced labor imposed by state authorities.

The CBP Trade Forced Labor Division was formed after the passage and implementation of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015, which expanded CBP's authorities outlined in Section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930, including regulating imports linked to forced labor. However, it was the Tariff Act of 1930 that first outlined the division's mission: to deter and disrupt the entry of goods of forced labor origins into U.S. commerce.

In 2019, the Forced Labor Division issued seven withhold release orders and detained approximately \$15,970,000 worth of goods – a culmination of about 18 months of casework for each commodity, spanning diverse geographic regions from Africa, Asia and South America. This effort is one of many ways that CBP holds U.S. businesses accountable for ensuring that forced labor has no part in our supply chains.

On December 31, President Trump issued a proclamation designating January 2020 as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Trafficking Victims Protection Rights Act, which helped create a framework to combat human trafficking at the federal level. Throughout the month, CBP's Office of Trade collaborated with the DHS Blue Campaign, a national public awareness campaign designed to educate the public, law enforcement, and other industry partners, to leverage a variety of communications platforms to share more about CBP's role in ensuring the integrity of the U.S. supply chain. CBP's Office of Trade took part in Wear Blue Day, the Blue Campaign's public awareness initiative to raise awareness for human trafficking.

For more information about the work we do to prevent forced labor products from entering the U.S. commerce [click here](#), or follow us on Twitter for important information and updates.



## New on @CBPTradeGov

- 🐦 1/1 - The US – Japan Trade Agreement goes into effect on Jan. 1. This agreement will reduce tariffs on several types of imports into the United States. Importers can find information on this trade agreement here: <https://t.co/F9JfK1eDEt> @AmChamJapan @usembassytokyo
- 🐦 12/16 - CBP Type 86 entries in #ACE have exceeded 1 million! #CBP introduced a new way to file transactions less than \$800 in Sept. Since then, the number of entries has grown significantly including more than 70,000 filed in a single day. Learn more: <https://t.co/jlY4otLsrF>

## CBP Trade in the News

- ◆ [CBP taps nine firms for e-commerce data pilot](#) – *American Shipper* - 1/9
- ◆ [No more fake luxury goods, thanks to US-China trade deal](#) – *Fox News* – 1/18

The *Trade News Snapshot* is a monthly newsletter from the Office of Trade highlighting important programs, information, and updates for our trade partners and the public.

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## Japan Free Trade Agreement

The U.S. and Japan achieved a trade agreement regarding market access for certain agricultural and industrial goods with plans to pursue subsequent negotiations for an expanded free trade agreement. The Japanese legislature approved the agreement on December 5, 2019. Presidential Proclamation 9974 was issued on December 26, 2019, establishing an entry into force date of January 1, 2020. On December 30, 2019 the Federal Register Notice ([84 FR 72187](#)) was issued to implement the Agreement.

As a result of the agreement, the U.S. will reduce or eliminate 241 tariff lines. The affected agricultural products include perennial plants and cut flowers, persimmons, green tea, chewing gum, and soy sauce. The U.S. also will reduce or eliminate tariffs on certain industrial goods from Japan such as machine tools, fasteners, steam turbines, bicycles, bicycle parts, and musical instruments.

For additional compliance guidance, please see the Japan Free Trade Agreement page on [CBP.gov](#).



## Office of Trade Awards Ceremony

On January 23, 2020, CBP's Office of Trade held the fiscal year 2019 Executive Assistant Commissioner Awards at the Homeland Security Investigations National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center in Crystal City, Virginia. Christian B. Marsh, deputy assistant secretary for enforcement and compliance at the International Trade Administration within the Department of Commerce, hosted the event.

CBP Executive Assistant Commissioner Brenda Smith welcomed the awardees to the ceremony and expressed her gratitude for the work the Office of Trade has completed over the past year.

She discussed the numerous achievements including implementation of new trade agreements and trade remedy actions; the Office of Trade's monitoring of the new USMCA, and preparing for its implementation; and significant advancements in the area of e-commerce and forced labor.

The ceremony began by recognizing recipients of the DHS Secretary Awards and CBP Commissioner Awards. Executive Assistant Commissioner awards spanned six categories: the Agility Award, Collaboration Award, SMART Award, Innovation Award, Leadership Award, and the newly introduced Customs Achievement Award. After the ceremony, the awardees and employees were welcomed to a reception to celebrate their accomplishments. Congratulations to all those recognized!

## 2020 Look Ahead – Innovation and ACE

In 2020, CBP will be pursuing innovations in technology including a new acquisition effort aimed at enhancing CBP's trade analytics capabilities. The Advanced Trade Analytics Platform, also known as ATAP, will improve access to the vast universe of trade data and provide enhanced analytic capabilities. ATAP also will provide unified case management, powerful data visualization tools, and improve cross-organizational collaboration information.

Additionally, CBP's Office of Trade is leading the agency's assessment of blockchain technologies as a tool to facilitate trade. Additional tests with the trade community will occur throughout 2020.

CBP will continue to deploy enhancements to the Automated Commercial Environment, or ACE, in 2020, including the first phase of enhancements to truck manifest functionality. More information on this deployment is available on [CBP.gov](#).

## eCBP

The Revenue Modernization, or Rev Mod, program launched an electronic Customs and Border Protection ([eCBP](#)) portal in 2019 to enhance stakeholder payment processes and to introduce a variety of electronic payment options. During the open registration period, eCBP's self-service capability processed 1,327 broker exam applications in August, allowing for significantly reduced processing time for CBP port personnel and the Broker Management Branch. Registration for the April 1, 2020 customs broker exam is open in eCBP from February 3 – March 2, 2020.

Plans are in the works to use eCBP to allow brokers to apply and pay for their licensing, permit, and triennial fees online. This will eliminate manual data entry and paper for entry specialists and broker management officers.

CBP is also planning future deployments to support the traveler communities that handle advance online payments for non-cargo related duties, taxes, and fees.

For dates and additional information, please visit <https://go.usa.gov/xdqvl>.

### Latest Trade Federal Register Notices

- ◆ 84 FR 67279 - [Modifications to the Section 321 Data Pilot](#)
- ◆ 84 FR 67949 - [Agency Information Collection Activities: Petroleum Refineries in Foreign Trade Sub-Zones](#)
- ◆ 84 FR 70561 - [Agency Information Collection Activities: General Declaration](#)
- ◆ 85 FR 3707 - [Notice of Issuance of Final Determination Concerning Certain Videoscopes](#)

### New Cargo System Messaging Service Updates

- ◆ [CSMS #41342466 - UPDATE: Enhancements to ACE Truck Manifest - Phase 1: Updated Deployment Schedule and New Training Video Available](#)
- ◆ [CSMS #41285137 - Initiation of Antidumping and Countervailing Duty Investigations: Forged Steel Fluid End Blocks from the Federal Republic of Germany, India, Italy and the People's Republic of China](#)