

# 2021

## Volume 3, Issue 7

# TRADE NEWS

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Greetings! The holidays have arrived. Along with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, we have been even busier than usual lately, educating the public about Intellectual Property Rights and our joint #ShopSmart campaign. Of course, our work is never finished, and as the year draws to a close, I find myself wondering what challenges and accomplishments the new year will bring. I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of the last five months at the helm of the Office of Trade. I know we will continue executing CBP's vital trade mission, but come January we will charge right out of the chute with a new forced labor campaign as part of National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Be sure to follow the @CBPTrade Twitter account. Meanwhile, here's wishing each and every one of you a successful and collaborative New Year! I can't wait to see what we accomplish together next year.

-AnnMarie Highsmith, Executive Assistant Commissioner, Office of Trade

## Behind the Scenes of America's Free Trade Agreements Frontline Article



Trillions of dollars in international imports flow each year through 328 ports of entry like major arterial networks connecting producer, to importer, to consumer in a constant and cyclical circulation of goods and revenue. It is the lifeblood of the American economy, supporting U.S. industry and businesses to keep America's economic heartbeat strong and steady. They arrive in every form imaginable – electronics, clothing, pharmaceuticals, furniture, cars and more. Sometimes they arrive ready to sell, and sometimes they represent the raw materials or parts required for further production like metals, timber and textiles.




Thousands of trade specialists and personnel at U.S. Customs and Border Protection work tirelessly to facilitate this cycle so U.S.

businesses and stores of every kind have access to merchandise from around the world to stock their shelves and consumers can choose from a variety of wares whether browsing online, at the mall, in supermarket aisles or at the local car dealership. Choosing products based on origin, price point, personal values and quality are all part of the American shopping experience. But how do Canadian blueberries make it into our local grocery, thousands of miles away, at such an affordable cost despite the labor, shipping and duties associated with their migration from one country to another?

Our freedom to pick and choose between our favorite clothing brands, sustainable goods, tropical produce and cars is due in part to 15 U.S. free trade agreements. These agreements create the regulatory and legal frameworks that make it possible for countries around the world to exchange goods with the U.S. in ways that prove mutually beneficial to importers, exporters and consumers. Behind each trade agreement is a team of CBP experts who inspect incoming packages and review scheduled shipments to make sure that American buyers have access to what they want, when they want it, so American industry has access to buyers and sellers in the international market.

"We are a high consumer society," explained Maya Kamar, director of the Textiles and Trade Agreements Division in CBP's Office of Trade. "Free trade agreements facilitate access to international markets for both consumers and businesses. This creates greater variety for the consumer, while ensuring greater market access for American businesses who wish to sell their goods outside of the United States," she said. "Without free trade agreements, which is 25% of all the merchandise that is being imported into the United States, the choices would be more limited." [Read more.](#)

## Popular on @CBPTradeGov

-  12/1: Remember, #ShopSmart this holiday season! We've partnered with @USChamber to share ways to protect you and your loved ones from fake goods, which can be dangerous to your health and safety. Learn more: <http://go.usa.gov/xeyqz>
-  12/4: This week, Executive Assistant Commissioner AnnMarie Highsmith travelled to New York to meet with @CBP employees and important industry stakeholders and discuss recent accomplishments and #CBPTrade updates. #TradeMatters
-  12/8: It's #PretendToBeATimeTravelerDay! Travel back in time to the earliest days of the U.S. Customs Service by visiting the history page on our website: <https://go.usa.gov/xewjf6>

## CBPTrade in the News

- [CBP Finds Cargo Container From China Crammed With Counterfeits](#) – *Sourcing Journal* – 12/3/21
- [Consumer advocates warn holiday shoppers about dangers of counterfeit toys](#) – *Bay News 9* – 12/12/21
- [Cincinnati CBP Seize Fake Jewelry and Scarves Worth over \\$3 Million](#) – *CBP Newsroom* – 12/13/21

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## Unbox Real Happiness: Don't Let Counterfeit Goods Ruin Your Holidays

Counterfeit goods are a problem all year long, but the increased demand for gifts, household products, virtual learning tools and even health products means that the holiday season is an especially busy time for crooks who are looking to make a profit by selling knock off goods to unsuspecting consumers. Counterfeit products cost the global economy more than \$500 billion a year.

"Fake goods pose real dangers to your health and safety and jeopardize the U.S. economy," said AnnMarie Highsmith, Executive Assistant Commissioner of CBP's Office of Trade. "Every year, CBP seizes a variety of counterfeit goods worth billions of dollars. Between Oct. 1, 2020 and July of this year, CBP made 22,849 seizures worth \$2.5 billion. That's \$2.5 billion in legitimate revenue that has been taken from the pockets of law-abiding American businesses to line the pockets of criminals and criminal organizations."

CBP knows businesses can't do it alone. That's why the agency is partnering with industry to educate Americans about the dangers of counterfeits.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) signed a first-of-its kind memorandum of understanding to strengthen efforts to stop the importation of counterfeit and pirated goods into the U.S. As a continuation of this partnership, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and CBP are raising awareness ahead of the holiday shopping season about the dangers of counterfeit goods and how to avoid falling for scams, encouraging consumers to "unbox real happiness" instead. [Read more.](#)

## Executive Assistant Commissioner Highsmith Visits the New York Field Office

Recently, Executive Assistant Commissioner for Trade, AnnMarie Highsmith, traveled to New York and Connecticut to meet with CBP and Office of Trade staff from the New York Field Office as well as important trade stakeholders. While visiting CBP offices at One World Trade Center, EAC Highsmith met with CBP Office of Chief Counsel staff and provided brief updates on current OT priority issues and engaged on topics of interest to the New York Office. In addition to holding an all-hands meeting for New York employees of the Office of Trade, she also met with Office of Field Operations leadership in New York, the Centers of Excellence and Expertise, with which OT works closely and held a New York/New Jersey Freight Forwarders and Brokers roundtable with important trade stakeholders in the area. Before leaving New York, EAC Highsmith traveled slightly north to meet with Grace Farms Foundation, an interdisciplinary humanitarian mission committed to ending modern slavery.



## Looking Ahead: Human Trafficking Prevention Month

January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month. As a global leader in forced labor enforcement, CBP investigates allegations of forced labor around the world. At the Office of Trade, we're passionate about the fight against modern slavery and human trafficking and will be posting information about our mission and partners in the fight against forced labor. The iComms team plans a public education campaign that focuses on the Office of Trade's forced labor enforcement efforts and successes. As part of the Office of Trade's contribution to the January campaign, the iComms team intends to enlighten the public on Withhold Release Orders and Findings, and why they are important within the context of National Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness month. We will post videos throughout the month, so keep an eye on our Twitter account, @CBPTradeGov and our website [www.cbp.gov/trade](http://www.cbp.gov/trade) to follow along.



### Latest Trade Federal Register Notices

- [Agency Information Collection Activities: Trusted Traveler Programs and United States APEC Business Travel Card](#); 86 FR 69661 (Dec. 8, 2021)
- [Extension and Amendment of Import Restrictions on Archaeological Material and Imposition of Import Restrictions on Ethnological Material of Egypt](#); 86 FR 68546 (Dec. 3, 2021)
- [Extension of Import Restrictions Imposed on Certain Archaeological and Ethnological Material of Bolivia](#); 86 FR 58544 (Dec. 3, 2021)
- [Certificate of Origin \(CBP Form 3229\)](#); 86 FR 67962 (Nov. 30, 2021)

### New Cargo System Messaging Service Updates

- [CSMS #50373728](#) - Initiation of Antidumping Duty Investigations: Emulsion Styrene-Butadiene Rubber from the Czech Republic, Italy, and the Russian Federation
- [CSMS #50334739](#) - INFORMATION: Jan. 3, 2022, Quota opening: QB 22 – 201 2022 Beef
- [CSMS #50335079](#) - INFORMATION: Jan. 3, 2022, Quota opening: QB 20-212 2022 Tuna Opening Moment
- [CSMS #50334343](#) - INFORMATION: Jan. 3, 2022, Quota opening: QB 22 – 211 2022 Peanut Butter /Paste