



March 18, 2008

Number 08-013

PORT OF COLUMBUS PIPELINE

TO: Importer, Brokers, Customs and Border Protection Officers and Technicians and Other Interested Parties

SUBJECT: Use of Blue Folders for Quota-Class Merchandise at the Port of Columbus

U.S. Customs and Border Protection has a national policy that requires certain types of entries to be submitted in color coded folders at the time of presentation. The Cleveland Area Port recently issued Pipeline 08-051 to remind importers and brokers of these requirements.

CBP policy requires quota-class entries to be processed through the Automated Commercial System (ACS) quota module within 6 hours or less of the official time of presentation. The submission of quota-class entries in blue colored folders alerts CBP personnel that the entries must be expeditiously processed through the quota module within the above timeframe.

In addition to type 02, Quota/Visa entries, the timely processing of quota-class merchandise in the quota module of ACS applies to the following additional entry types and situations:

- Type 06, Foreign Trade Zone Consumption entries involving quota-class merchandise.
- Type 07, Quota/Visa and AD/CVD combinations.
- Type 12, Informal, Quota Other than textiles
- Type 32, Warehouse Withdrawal, Quota/Visa.
- Type 38, Warehouse Withdrawal, Quota/Visa and AD/CVD combinations.
- North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Tariff Preference Levels (TPL) claims at the time of entry summary submission when entry or immediate delivery procedures are used to obtain release of specified textile and apparel goods imported from Canada and Mexico.
- Post Entry Amendment (PEAs) involving quota-class merchandise. This includes all tariff preference claims that are subject to a quantitative restraint under any international free trade agreements or special legislation.

Failure to properly report quota-class entries accurately and timely can cause quota to overfill, cause undue hardship on importers, and negatively impact implementation of international trade agreements. CBP closely monitors quota-class entry processing through the quota module to ensure compliance with the above 6-hour requirement.

The Port of Columbus has not required the original submission of quota-class entries to be in blue folders for many years. This decision was made, in part, because such a high percentage of entries submitted in Columbus were quota entries and CBP personnel were therefore aware of the time sensitivity of these entries. As of January 1, 2005, as a result of the final stage of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994, the number and percentage of quota entries has declined significantly.

It is not the intent of this pipeline to change the local policy to start requiring original submissions of type 02, Quota/Visa entries in blue folders at the Port of Columbus. However, it is imperative that all other types of entries involving quota-class merchandise (type 06, 07, 12, 32 and 38) , NAFTA TPL claims at the time of entry summary, and PEAs involving additional quota-class merchandise, be submitted in blue folders. As with type 02, Quota/Visa entries, all the above submissions must reflect a time of submission by date and time stamping the CBP Form 7501.

For PEAs involving quota-class merchandise, the filer must provide a copy of the revised CBP Form 7501 annotated with the statement "FOR QUOTA PUPOSES ONLY". In addition, these PEAs may be submitted with a blue sheet on top of the claim, in lieu of a blue folder, as stated in Cleveland Area Port Pipeline 07-06.

Should you have any questions concerning this pipeline, please contact Craig L. Vette at 614-497-1865, extension 115.

/s/

Craig L. Vette
Port Director