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Earthquake Disrupts Asia Internet / E-mail

Parts of China, Singapore and Hong Kong have lost Internet service after a 7.1 magnitude quake and aftershocks damaged undersea cables. Cable owners rerouted Internet traffic and said phone and Internet access may be impaired for weeks.

At least six undersea cables which pass through Taiwan are broken and a seventh is damaged, said Au Man-ho, director general of Hong Kong's Office of Telecommunications Authority.

It is estimated that it will take at least 2 weeks to repair the damage.

The quake which shook Taiwan Dec. 26 was the largest in the area for 100 years, and was one of 11 temblors in that area over a 24-hour period, according to Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau.

US Government Exams are on the Increase

BDG is a C-TPAT (Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism) certified Customs Broker and Freight Forwarder. Our certification provides BDG customers with fewer government exams than the average due to the preferential treatment we receive. However exams are part of the import process. Below we have outlined the basic exams that may be encountered when importing shipments into the USA. Each exam is mutually exclusive of the other exams so it is possible to have multiple exams on one shipment.

Exams are triggered by a number of factors. Most commonly the exam is purely random. However the government has specific commodities and origins that trigger the examinations to occur more frequently. This information is not shared with the general public.

U. S. Government agencies are inspecting a greater number of containers. Each government agency is tasked with Homeland Security responsibilities. These security responsibilities are being felt in increased exams.

Typically importers can be examined by the following agencies:

- a) USDA – APHIS Exam – Animal Plant Health Inspection Services. (Inspects for Pests)
- b) Customs Vaxis Exam – Container X-Ray (Homeland Security Inspection: Terrorist activities, explosives etc.)
- c) Customs Commercial Exam: (marking, country of origin, smuggling, drugs, classification, counterfeiting, dumping)
- d) OGA Exams: Other Government Agency: FDA – (CSIC and FSIC Exams – Product Safety and FDA Compliance), FCC, F&W, etc.

Each exam can be handled in 4 ways:

- a) Computer Entry Exam (Examination of the entry documents sent via computer by BDG.
- b) Document Exam (Examination of the actual documents: Commerical Invoice, C of O, etc.
- c) Tailgate Exam (Opening of container by customs an item near the door may be physically opened for inspection.
- d) Sampling Exam-(Unloading of container at a bonded warehouse. Products are removed from the shipment for further analysis.

US Customs Commercial Invoice Requirements

[Code of Federal Regulations]
 [Title 19, Volume 2]
 [Revised as of April 1, 2003]

From the U.S. Government Printing Office via GPO Access
 [CITE: 19CFR141.86]

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TITLE 19--

CUSTOMS DUTIES

CHAPTER I--UNITED STATES CUSTOMS SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

PART 141--ENTRY OF MERCHANDISE--
 Table of Contents

Subpart

F--Invoices

Sec. 141.86 Contents of invoices and general requirements.

(a) General information required on the invoice. Each invoice of imported merchandise, shall set forth the following information:
 (1) The port of entry to which the merchandise is destined;
 (2) The time when, the place where, and the person by whom and the person to whom the erchandise is sold or agreed to be sold, or if to be imported otherwise than in pursuance of a purchase, the place from which shipped, the time when and the person to whom and the person by whom it is shipped;
 (3) A detailed description of the merchandise, including the name by which each item is known, the grade or quality, and the marks, numbers, and symbols under which sold by the seller or manufacturer to the trade in the country of exportation, together with the marks and numbers of the packages in which the merchandise is packed;
 (4) The quantities in the weights and measures of the country or place from which the merchandise is shipped, or in the weights and measures of the United States;

(5) The purchase price of each item in the currency of the purchase, if the merchandise is shipped in pursuance of a purchase or an agreement to purchase;

(6) If the merchandise is shipped otherwise than in pursuance of a purchase or an agreement to purchase, the value for each item, in the currency in which the transactions are usually made, or, in the absence of such value, the price in such currency that the manufacturer, seller, shipper, or owner would have received, or was willing to receive, for such merchandise if sold in the ordinary course of trade and in the

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usual wholesale quantities in the country of exportation;

(7) The kind of currency, whether gold, silver, or paper;

(8) All charges upon the merchandise itemized by name and amount, including freight, insurance, commission, cases, containers, coverings, and cost of packing; and if not included above, all charges, costs, and expenses incurred in bringing the merchandise from alongside the carrier at the port of exportation in the country of exportation and placing it alongside the carrier at the first United States port of entry. The cost of packing, cases, containers, and inland freight to the port of exportation need not be itemized by amount if included in the invoice price, and so identified. Where the required

information does not appear on the invoice as originally prepared, it shall be shown on an attachment to the invoice;

(9) All rebates, drawbacks, and bounties, separately itemized, allowed upon the exportation of the merchandise;

(10) The country of origin of the merchandise; and,

(11) All goods or services furnished for the production of the merchandise (e.g., assists such as dies, molds, tools, engineering work) not included in the invoice price. However, goods or services furnished in the United States are excluded. Annual reports for goods and services, when approved by the port director, will be accepted as proof that the goods or services were provided.

(b) Nonpurchased merchandise shipped by other than manufacturer.

Each invoice of imported merchandise shipped to a person in the United States by a person other than the manufacturer and otherwise than pursuant to a purchase or agreement to purchase shall set forth the time when, the place where, the person from whom such merchandise was purchased, and the price paid therefor in the currency of the purchase, stating whether gold, silver, or paper.

(c) Merchandise sold in transit. If the merchandise is sold on the documents while in transit from the port of exportation to the port of entry, the original invoice reflecting the transaction under which the merchandise actually

began its journey to the United States, and the resale invoice or a statement of sale showing the price paid for each item by the purchaser, shall be filed as part of the entry, entry summary, or withdrawal documentation. If the original invoice cannot be obtained, a pro forma invoice showing the values and transaction reflected by the original invoice shall be filed together with the resale invoice or statement.

(d) Invoice to be in English. The invoice and all attachments shall be in the English language, or shall have attached thereto an accurate English translation containing adequate information for examination of the merchandise and determination of duties.

(e) Packing list. Each invoice shall state in adequate detail what merchandise is contained in each individual package.

(f) Weights and measures. If the invoice or entry does not disclose the weight, gage, or measure of the merchandise which is necessary to ascertain duties, the consignee shall pay the expense of weighing, gaging, or measuring prior to the release of the merchandise from Customs custody.

(g) Discounts. Each invoice shall set forth in detail, for each class or kind of merchandise, every discount from list or other base price which has been or may be allowed in fixing each purchase price or

value.

(h) Numbering of invoices and pages--(1) Invoices. When more than one invoice is included in the same entry, each invoice with its attachments shall be numbered consecutively by the importer on the bottom of the face of each page, beginning with No. 1.

(2) Pages. If the invoice or invoices filed with one entry consist of more than two pages, each page shall be numbered consecutively by the importer on the bottom of the face of each page. The page numbering shall begin with No. 1 for the first page of the first invoice and continue in a single series of numbers through all the invoices and attachments included in one entry.

(3) Both invoices and pages. When applicable, both the invoice number and the page number shall be shown at the bottom of each page. For example, if an entry covers one invoice of one page and a second invoice of two pages, the

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numbering at the bottom of the pages shall be as follows:

Inv. 1, p. 1.
Inv. 2, p. 2.
Inv. 2, p. 3.

(i) Information may be on invoice or attached thereto. Any information required on an invoice by any provision of this subpart may be set forth either on the invoice or on an

attachment thereto.

(j) Name of responsible individual. Each invoice of imported merchandise shall identify by name a responsible employee of the exporter, who has knowledge, or who can readily obtain knowledge, of the transaction.

[T.D. 73-175, 38 FR 17447, July 2, 1973, as amended by T.D. 79-221, 44 FR 46820, Aug. 9, 1979; T.D. 85-39, 50 FR 9612, Mar. 11, 1985]

**Jan. 9 CHINESE CULTURAL BRIEFING
SERIES #3: CROSS CULTURAL
COMMUNICATION**

Program sponsored by the Chicago Chinese Cultural Institute. Program includes insights on the most important communication differences between Chinese and Americans. 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Chicago Chinese Cultural Institute, 2145-B South China Place, Chicago. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please call 312/842-1988 or e-mail: info@chicagocci.com.

Jan. 10 UCP 600 FOR AMERICANS

Seminar sponsored by the United States Council for International Business. Program reviews the 2007 revision of the Uniform Customs and Practice for Documentary Credits letter of credit rules. Presentations by Donald R. Smith, U.S. representative for this revision, and Frank Reynolds. 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Doubletree Hotel, 1200 North Mittel Boulevard, Wood Dale, IL. Fee: \$395. For information & registration, please visit: www.ucp600seminar.org.

**Feb. 6 CHINESE CULTURAL BRIEFING
SERIES #4: CHINESE ETIQUETTE**

Program sponsored by the Chicago Chinese Cultural Institute. Program includes insights on: Appointment making; Respecting authority; Business cards; Handshake/Greetings; Gift exchange; Table manners. 6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Chicago Chinese Cultural Institute, 2145-B South China Place, Chicago. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please call 312/842-1988 or e-mail: info@chicagocci.com.