

January 2002 International Trade News Letter

In this Issue: BDG Web Site Improvements

New DG Regulations

Annual ACH Notification To All Importers

BDG International's Service Spotlight: BDG's Web Site Improvements

BDG has begun upgrades to our web site at www.bdginternational.com. We started by improving our quotation form. The form looks the same but now when the form is completed and sent to BDG it will transmit directly to the department for which the quotation request is intended. In the past the form would transmit to a central e-mail location and then be distributed to the correct department.

This upgrade will allow BDG to process your request submitted over the internet more efficiently. Look for more changes to our web site in 2002 as we continue to integrate it further into our operations.

The 24 Hour Emergency Telephone Number on DG Dec's Can Not Be a Toll Free Number

We have received confirmation from the FAA concerning the 24 hour emergency telephone number that is required to be typed on Dangerous Goods Declarations for airfreight shipments.

In the past there has been considerable confusion concerning this number. Many have asserted that since the requirement to show the number is a United States government exception to the regulations, and enforceable only within the USA, the number can be a toll free number since it only needs to be dialed from within the USA. Others have stated that the number cannot be a toll free number because toll free numbers don't work if dialed from outside the USA, and the people handling the shipment need the emergency handling info to be available to them, regardless of where they're located, in case of a spill. The FAA

has now ruled that the latter argument is the enforceable one. Effective immediately, all Dangerous Goods Declarations must have a non-toll free number shown on them. A toll free number is acceptable, as long as a number that can be dialed from outside the USA is also shown.

Two other related notes to remember. First, this 24 hour emergency number must appear on the freight as well as the declaration for all Dangerous Goods. Second, the number shown must be a legitimate number. The person calling must be able to obtain proper emergency procedures and information for the handling of spills and other emergencies for the specific goods shipped, at any time of the day or night. This is of critical importance. The FAA has advised us that when they audit shippers and forwarders for compliance, the first thing they do is gather copies of Dangerous Goods Declarations and call the 24-hour emergency telephone numbers. If they get a recording, or if the shipper's receptionist answers, the shipper will be fined.

ACH ANNUAL NOTIFICATION

Under the requirements of Section 111.29 of the Customs Regulations, it is BDG's responsibility to notify our import clients on an annual basis of the payment options to customs.

"If you are the importer of record, payment to the broker will not relieve you of liability for Customs charges (duties, taxes, or other debts owed Customs) in the event the charges are not paid by the broker. Therefore, if you pay by check, Customs charges may be paid with a separate check payable to the "U.S. Customs Service" which shall be delivered to Customs by the broker."

BDG International, Inc. can help set up credit on your behalf with U.S. Customs Automated Clearing House Program. The ACH program will withdraw the duty payment directly out of your account and send it to Customs. We recommend ACH for importers who have duties that exceed \$5,000.00 per entry.

Duties are required to be paid by the tenth working day, counted from the date of the entry. If the payment is made after the tenth day, penalties will be levied by customs. We are proud to say, BDG has never had to pay penalties for a late payment. If you choose the ACH to be processed from your account, there are very easy steps to ensure that late payment will not be made. Let us know if you are interested.

Most of our clients elect to have BDG make payment of duties on their behalf. BDG pays your duties via the Automated Clearing House program. Each week we send payment of all duties owed for that week. We receive a confirmation from customs that they have received the payment and paperwork required. Our accounting department then receives the final confirmation from the bank confirming that the payment had been withdrawn properly. All import

entries require the payment process to be followed. Even if the amount owed is "Zero" due to no duties or taxes required, the broker is still required to go through the motions of making a "Zero" duty payment.

If you have questions please contact Lisa V. Waller

(Tel: 800-327-6392 or email: lisaw@bdginternational.com)

BDG International is an International Freight Forwarder, NVOCC, Custom House Broker, and Duty Drawback Specialist. We provide international transportation worldwide via air or ocean. Our services include complete export/import documentation support.

We invite you to contact our offices with any questions you may have.

BDG International, Inc.

846 Foster Ave.

Bensenville, IL 60106

Phone: 800-327-6392

Fax: 630-595-3049

www.bdginternational.com

E-Mail Addresses: import@bdginternational.com //

airfreight@bdginternational.com // ocean@bdginternational.com