



August 2003 International Trade Newsletter

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Brazilian Customs Strike

Brazilian Customs personnel have decided to go on strike each Tuesday & Thursday throughout the summer. Ports & airports experienced service disruptions last week as almost half of the country's public sector employees went on strike. Customs officials refused to process import or export shipments unless they contained perishable goods, animals or other time critical merchandise.

New SED Regulations

U.S. Bureau of the Census has issued a final rule that will require all Shippers Export Declarations (SEDs) for items on the Commerce Control List (CCL) or the U.S. Munitions List (USML) to be filed electronically by means of the Automated Export System (AES) starting Aug. 18, 2003. For those items regarding which the SED has been filed via AES, carriers are not required to attach a paper copy of the SED to the manifest filed with the Bureau of Customs & Border Protection upon departure. Instead, the manifest should include the transaction identification number or unique identifier to identify the electronic AES record. This number is obtained from the shipper.

Venezuela Pre-Inspections

Effective September 1, 2003, a mandatory shipment pre-inspection will be required for all shipments to Venezuela with a FOB value of USD 5,000.00 or more. The application includes Free Zones and Duty Free Ports. This new requirement was announced by the Venezuela Government which also announced the companies allowed by the government to carry out the inspections as follows:

- Bureau Veritas / BIVAC Venezuela
- SGS / SGS Venezuela S.A.
- Cotecna Inspections / Controles Taliven C.A.
- Intertek Testing Services, Caleb Brett / Caleb Brett Venezuela S.A.

With this decree, shipments valued at FOB USD 5,000.00 or more, with a shipping date of September 1, 2003 and later will require pre-inspection. If there is any shipment or booking made for a shipping date September 1 or later at any Evergreen load port, please inform the shipper to get in contact with the respective consignee to get the cargo pre-inspected. Shipments arriving at Venezuelan Ports and Airports on September 1 or later, but shipped prior to September 1 will not be subject to inspection.

Shipments valued at FOB USD 5,000.00 or less are not subject to inspection, unless multiple shipments/commercial invoices to the same consignee from the same shipper are contained in the same consolidation or arrive on the same vessel. Please note that direct shipments will also be considered, therefore two or more shipments from the same shipper/supplier to the same consignee arriving on the same vessel whose combined FOB value is in excess of USD 5,000.00 will need the pre-inspection in order to be Customs cleared in Venezuela.

Please see below total listing of exceptions that can be customs cleared without pre-inspections:

- Shipments valued under FOB US \$ 5.000,00 (As mentioned above)
- Goods imported under temporary admission (simple and or part of raw material for processing and re-exporting goods ATPA)
- Donations addressed to public or private entities with beneficent purposes
- Merchandise imported and placed in-bond
- Baggage and Personal Effects
- Diplomatic Mission shipments or non governmental foreign Organizations accredited in Venezuela
- Government companies and agencies approved and recognized by the SENIAT (Customs Authorities)
- Parcel post packages with no commercial value.
- Merchandise under re-import process
- Merchandise to substitute defectives as long as identical to the Ones to be compensated.

For each shipment the importer selects the inspection company as well as pays the fees for this service. The responsibility for the inspection lies with the importer, who must inform the shipper of this requirement as well as the inspection company he wishes to certify the shipment with.

Please note that this is the latest information published by the Venezuelan Government, and it is subject to change. We will ensure that any changes or amendments are informed immediately.

BDG International - Pre-Shipment Inspection Hosting Services

BDG International provides hosting services for our clients. Your cargo may be shipped from your facility with all export paperwork to BDG's warehouse. Upon your written instructions BDG will hold your shipment for Pre-Shipment Inspection. The inspection company will contact your office for an appointment. You would refer them to our office and the appointment time is made between BDG and the inspection company.

Contact our offices to learn more.

Advanced Manifest for Import and Export Shipments

As many importers have learned; ocean import shipments are subject to the 24 hour rule. This rule requires that the ocean line or NVOCC moving the import shipment submit the Vessel Manifest to customs prior to sailing. The rule was implemented last Winter and caused quite a stir for a number of months as all the parties learned how the process worked. Get ready for AMS filing on Air Import, Ocean Export and Air Export shipments.

Not only is the U. S. requiring these filings. Europe is jumping on the bandwagon. Shipments to and from Europe to world markets will be required to file their manifests just as in the USA.

The U.S. Government is now proposing the following:

- Air Import: AMS information must be received by customs 4 hours prior to flight arrival. Currently the requirement is 4 hours after arrival. This applies to everywhere except North and South American countries.
- Air Export: AMS information must be received by customs 2 hours prior to departure.
- Ocean Export: AMS Information must be received by customs 24 hours prior to departure.

Currently these rules are undergoing an industry comment period and have not been implemented.

What does this mean to the average Importer and Exporter? It will affect ocean exporters the most. Ocean Exporters will need to have all documentation: SLI's, Commercial Invoices, Packing lists finished and presented to the forwarder in a timely manner. We would suggest that exporters have their documentation completed well in

advance of container loading to ensure the rail, for lack of AMS filings, does not hold your container.

We will keep you updated on the status of these new regulations.

BDG Website Services

- Quotation Requests – On-Line Form
- Air Freight Track and Trace
- Archived BDG Newsletters

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.

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