October 2026 - Info Expeditor

CBFANC - Calendar of Events

WECCON 2026
11/05/2026- 11/08/2026

Veterans Day (Federal Holiday)
11/11/2026

Thanksgiving Day (Federal Holiday)
11/26/2026

CBFANC Annual Meeting & Holiday Party
12/10/2026

Christmas Day (Federal Holiday)
12/25/2026

What's New?

- Happy Halloween from CBFANC!
- CBFANC Board of Directors 2027 Elections
- CBFANC Welcomes New Members
- IEEPA Refunds Update
- WESCCON 2026 - LAST CHANCE!
- Holiday Happy Hour and Annual Membership Meeting
- Invitation to Sponsor our Holiday Event
- CSMS # 70013692 - Change in Submission Method for Organization Broker License Applications – September 30, 2026
- CSMS # 70162211 ACE Portal: Addition of Verification Step for ACH Refund Changes - Coming October 10
- CSMS # 69990316 - MANDATORY: Complete Broker Continuing

Happy Halloween from CBFANC!

CBFANC Board of Directors

CBFANC Board of Directors 2027 Elections

CBFANC Chairperson Sung John Lee

CBFANC Board of Directors 2027 Elections

Education Requirements by January 31, 2027
- LAPD uncovers $1M in stolen BNSF and Union Pacific rail cargo at Los Angeles–area shoe retailer
- TIN# 70049295 - Houston Area: NEW CES - East Coast Centralized Examination Station
- CBFANC Needs YOU!
- CBFANC - Calendar of Events
- CBFANC Board of Directors
- CBFANC Social Media

Events Around the Bay

- P.A.E.I - Professional Association of Exporters and Importers
- www.paei.org.

- OWIT NC - Organization of Women in International Trade Check website for updates
- Monterey Bay International Trade Association (MBITA) - Monterey Bay International Trade Association
  Check Website for updates
- Norcal W.T.C. - The Northern CaliforniaWorld Trade Center
  Check Website for updates
- PTA. - Pacific Transportation Association
  Check Website for updates

CBFANC Board of Directors

President - Director:
Chris Ramos
Chairperson of the Board:
Sung (John) Lee
1st VP - Director:
Sarah Stroth
2nd VP - Director:
Lori Azzopardi
3rd VP - Director:
Peter Gong
Treasurer:
Chris Garcez
Secretary-Director:
Sung (John) Lee
Director:
Felicia Addison
Director:
Liz Chapman
Director:
Mindy Li

We are seeking member participation on the CBFANC Board of Directors.

If you are a professional member of CBFANC and are interested in serving on the CBFANC Board of Directors, please request another member to nominate you for the upcoming elections.
Nominations can be sent to: info@CBFANC.org

If you know a fellow CBFANC professional member who you think would be a great addition to the Board of Directors, contact the person and endorse with a nomination in their favor to
info@CBFANC.org

Board terms are for three years.
The board meets every month for dinner or online meetings.

This is your chance to be an industry leader, engage with agency partners and help shape the future of our trade.
Nominations will be welcomed through October with elections held by **November 6, 2026.**

The election results will be announced at our annual meeting/holiday gathering to be held on **December 10, 2026**

Director:
Yunjie (Jenny) Zhao
Senior Advisor:
Evey Hwang
Secretariat:
Debbie Edwards

CBFANC Social Media

Please connect with us!

- **X Formerly Twitter - @cbfanc**
- **LinkedIn - Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of Northern California (CBFANC) | Groups | LinkedIn**
- **Facebook - CBFANC**

CBFANC Welcomes New Members

Peter Gong, CBFANC Membership Chairperson

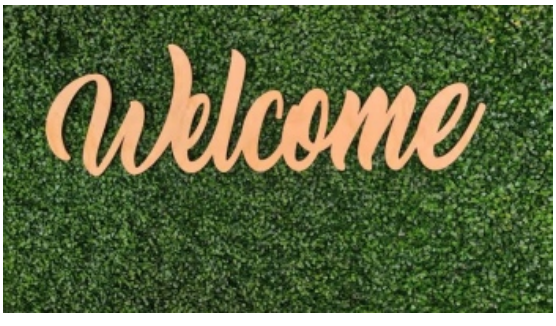
🎉 CBFANC is pleased to welcome our newest members!

We're excited to have you join our community of customs brokers, freight forwarders, importers, exporters, and trade professionals. We look forward to connecting, learning, and growing together.

Please join us in welcoming our newest members to the CBFANC family!

Customs World Strategy, Inc. - Professional Member
Customs World Strategy, Inc. was established in 2011 and is a small company specializing in customs and trade services for businesses in the wine industry. I serve as CEO, with Steven Fike as CFO/COO and Lisa Fike as Vice President. I previously held various positions with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, with my last position being Senior Client Representative in the San Francisco office. We look forward to becoming active members of the CBFANC community, sharing our experience, building professional relationships, and participating in continuing education opportunities. - ***Kay Fike***

FlexHaul Inc. - Associate Member
FlexHaul helps customs brokers and forwarders clear entries faster. Our AI reads the documents, suggests the HTS classification, drafts the 7501, and flags the duty exposure from the latest Section 301, 232, and AD/CVD changes, so your entry writers move in minutes and keep their attention on the hard calls. We built this alongside working brokers, and we are still learning from the people who do this every day. Reach out (Richard.chen@flexhaul.ai) as we'd love to solve problems for you! - ***Richard Chen***



IEEPA Refunds Update

Susan Kohn Ross - Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP

Su Ross, Partner - MSK, LLP

A good portion of what has gone on with the IEEPA refund cases has been fast moving and covered at a high level in the various forms of the press. There were, however, a couple of developments last week which are worth highlighting. First, CAPE Phase 3 is finally open, so even those with finally liquidated entries may now make refund claims. At the same time, attorneys representing importers who had their eligibility to claim in CAPE established by July 30 received emails from CBP authorizing those refunds to be filed. The latest Brandon Lord declaration can be seen HERE. Sadly, while it does state CBP will be notifying the attorneys for other importers deemed eligible at later dates, there is no timeline given. So, even while Phase 3 now works, it still does not provide everyone eligible with a means to seek their refunds.

That leads to a couple of impactful questions:

1. When will Phase 3 be available for all to make their refund claims? and
2. What is the impact of the class certification order which was published last Thursday, October 8?

Regarding the class action topic, we now also have the decision in the Freestyle case, the one seeking class action certification, which was granted on October 8, 2026. The outcome applies to any importer who did not separately file its own case at the Court of International Trade. A copy of the CIT order can be seen HERE.

The Government's arguments were found to fall short and so while class action certification has been granted, that case is not going to result in refunds for at least some time. First, as a result of the order, the Government has been directed to respond to the complaint. The parties face a closed hearing on October 13, 2026 and are also under order to provide a scheduling order by October 22, 2026.

So, while the CIT order now puts CBP and DOJ in the position there is a court order in place for anyone who makes a claim (regardless of the liquidation status of their entries), its impact will not be felt for some time. Given the vigorous efforts by DOJ and CBP to resist making any refunds at just about all cost, it would be foolhardy to think the possibility of an appeal is not being considered.

As such, it would be reasonable for the trade community to

consider the Freestyle order to be a move in the right direction, but one whose full benefit is going to take time to become fulfilled.

WESCCON 2026 - LAST CHANCE!

Pacific Coast Council Associations

WESCCON 2026: Light in the Trade Zone

When the Path is Unclear, WESCCON Lights the Way

Omni La Costa, Carlsbad, CA

November 5th – 8th

Last year WESCCON sold out — don't get left in the dark!
🔗 Register Here

www.pacificcoastcouncil.org/wesccon

After you register for WESCCON, you will receive the link to book your hotel room.

Let WESCCON Light the Way at the Largest Gathering of Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders on the West Coast!

Why Attend?
✅ Connect with industry peers and gain insights on:

- **New tariffs and Section 301 duty reviews**
- **Global conflict impacts on trade**
- **Carbon border adjustments**
- **And much more!**

🎓 Earn Continuing Education Credits
📢 Hear from Top Experts
💼 Sponsorship Opportunities Available - Contact Info@PacificCoastCouncil.org

💸 Want to go for FREE?
Apply for the WESCCON Scholarship—it covers your registration, hotel, and airfare! This is your chance to experience the best the industry has to offer—on Avalon Risk Management and us. Click Here to apply! (Deadline July 1st)

✉️ Questions? Contact Info@PacificCoastCouncil.org
🌐 Visit the WESCCON Website

Questions? Email us at info@pacificcoastcouncil.org.

Endless thanks to our Sponsors – your continued support fuels WESCCON's success and keeps this community thriving. Thank you to our 2026 sponsors!

Holiday Happy Hour and Annual Membership Meeting

CBFANC Event Committee

Time to Get Ready and Celebrate!

FRIENDS ● FUN ● FOOD ● RAFFLE ● LAUGHS

CBFANC cordially invites you to our
2026 Holiday Happy Hour and Annual Membership Meeting

When and Where:
Thursday, December 10, 2026
4:00pm – 7:00pm

Kincaid's Fish, Chop & Steakhouse
60 Bay View Place
Burlingame, CA 94010

Please join us in-person for our annual meeting with the current CBFANC Board of Directors
We'll announce the winners from our 2027 year elections and see members and colleagues of our community to celebrate the holidays!

Remember to bring an unwrapped toy to benefit children in our community plus get a free raffle ticket!

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and festive cocktails!
Plus a chance to win raffle prizes!
We can't wait to see you there!

Click here to register!

Invitation to Sponsor our Holiday Event

CBFANC Event Committee

An Invitation to Sponsor our "Holiday Happy Hour" Event

December 10, 2026
4:00-7:00pm

Kincaid's Fish, Chop & Steakhouse
60 Bay View Place
Burlingame, CA 94010

The holidays are just around the corner and CBFANC is getting into the Holiday Spirit! We are incredibly excited to celebrate this great event and enjoy a spectacular time to be had by all.

Through your sponsorship, you are supporting an organization that works to benefit its members through continued education and improved service standards. In addition, the association is dedicated to keeping its members current on issues affecting our industry. Sponsor this holiday event and assure your company's direct exposure to old friends and potential new customers by creating a festive positive memory.

Here are ways to support and be recognized:

Sponsor – Platinum $1,500 includes 2 attendees
Sponsor – Diamond $1,000 includes 2 attendees
Sponsor – Gold $750 includes 1 attendee
Sponsor – Silver $500
Sponsor – Bronze $250

All sponsorships include exposure on our website and signage at the event.
Do not miss out — secure your spot as a primary sponsor.

Call us at 510-864-2233 or Email to info@cbfanc.org about any questions.

Thank you for your support!

Sponsors Register Here!

CSMS # 70013692 - Change in Submission Method for Organization Broker License Applications – September 30, 2026

U.S. Customs & Border Protection

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

CBP is automating the submission method for Organization Broker License Applications. As of September 30, 2026, organization license applicants will complete and submit all applications and associated fees through the eCBP portal. Organization license applications that are hand-delivered, mailed, or emailed on or after September 30, 2026, will be returned to the applicant for submission through the eCBP portal.

Organization broker license applicants will log into eCBP using the same Login.gov account used when they applied for the Customs Broker License Exam. eCBP accepts credit and debit card payments. No additional fees are charged for payments, and receipts are provided electronically.

The change in submission method does not confer any processing position benefit. Organization license application submissions through eCBP will place an application into the already existing queue of applications.

For more information on the eCBP portal, including FAQs and Quick Reference Guides, visit the eCBP Broker homepage and eCBP Broker Resources page.

For policy questions regarding organization license application submission, contact the CBP Broker Management Officer at the application processing location. Broker Management Officer contact information by location is available on the CBP Customs Brokers webpage.

For technical questions regarding the eCBP portal, contact the RevMod Service Desk (RMSD) at revmodservicedesk@cbp.dhs.gov or call 1-800-366-8732 Ext 4670.

CSMS # 70162211 ACE Portal: Addition of Verification Step for ACH Refund Changes - Coming October 10

U.S. Customs & Border Protection

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Beginning October 10, 2026, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will require email or short message service (SMS) verification for Automated Clearinghouse (ACH) refund information changes made in the Automated Commercial Environment Secure Data Portal (ACE Portal). Following this update, authorized ACE Portal users will receive a security token via email, with the option to also receive it via SMS message, when attempting to add or modify ACH refund information within an ACE Portal importer sub-account. **Security token verification will be required to successfully complete the ACH information change**. In addition, other authorized users under the applicable importer sub-account will have the option to enable notifications and receive email or SMS message alerts following any ACH refund information changes.

Following last month's addition of SMS as an ACE Portal login authentication method, this additional verification step enhances ACE Portal security while maximizing flexibility for users. Detailed instructions on how to manage ACH refund information and associated email and SMS information for verification in the ACE Portal will be included in an upcoming update to the *ACE Portal: ACH Bank Information for Electronic Refunds* training guide.

For other ACE Portal assistance, contact ACE.Support@cbp.dhs.gov.

CSMS # 69990316 - MANDATORY: Complete Broker Continuing Education Requirements by January 31, 2027

U.S. Customs & Border Protection

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Complete the mandatory 20 hours of Broker Continuing Education (CE) no later than January 31, 2027!
Don't wait for the deadline to certify CE credits or file the Triennial Status Report (TSR).
Individually licensed brokers with an active license must

certify completion of CE credits when they file the TSR. The TSR will be open mid-December 2026 through February 28, 2027. **Please note your CE credits must be complete no later than January 31, 2027.**
Pursuant to 19 CFR 111.30(d) and 19 CFR 111.102, failure to satisfy these requirements will result in the revocation of your customs broker license.
For more information on CE, visit CBP's CE & TSR Webpage: https://www.cbp.gov/trade/programs-administration/customs-brokers/customs-broker-triennial-status-report-tsr-and-continuing-education-ce-requirements.

CE Requirements

Individual brokers are required to complete 20 hours of CE credits to maintain their license for the current triennial.

- **Credit Earning Period: January 1, 2025 – January 31, 2027.**
- **Find Accredited Training:** To ensure your credits count toward the 20-hour requirement, you must complete training provided by a CBP-selected accreditor or the federal government. Accredited training will have the CE logo visible.
- **View Accredited Providers and Eligible Activities:** https://www.cbp.gov/trade/programs-administration/customs-brokers/continuing-education.
- **Documentation:** Brokers must retain proof of CE completion (certificates, course codes, course names, dates, educators' names, and/or transcripts) for at least three years for audit purposes.

TSR Requirements

Filing the TSR requires that Individual brokers with an active license certify CE compliance, pay the triennial fee, and provide CBP with current contact information.

- **Filing Window: Mid-December 2026 – February 28, 2027.** The precise portal opening date will be announced via CSMS 5-7 days prior to opening.
- **Requirement:** Filing of the status report and payment of the $100 triennial fee.
- **How to File:** All filings must be submitted electronically via https://e.cbp.dhs.gov/ecbp/#/main.

Requirement Scope: All brokers must file the TSR. Only individual brokers with active licenses must complete CE credits.

LAPD uncovers $1M in stolen BNSF and Union Pacific rail cargo at Los Angeles–area shoe retailer

Courtesy of Phil Brink, Freightwaves.com

LAPD detectives searched a Whittier, California, shoe retailer Sept. 30, uncovering 59 pallets containing branded merchandise. LAPD connected the goods to stolen BNSF and Union Pacific rail cargo. Recovered property totaled about $1 million. Police also arrested business owner Waseem Saman onsite.

The haul included Nike, New Balance, Brooks and Sanuk footwear, according to LAPD. Investigators also located Yeti cups, jugs, JanSport backpacks, plus Shark vacuums. Authorities served the warrant at Whittier retailer Shoes n Shoes. Brands covered consumer goods spanning apparel, drinkware, luggage, appliances. To read this article in full, click here.

TIN# 70049295 - Houston Area: NEW CES - East Coast Centralized Examination Station

U.S. Customs & Border Protection

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Houston Region

Notice to Trade Stakeholders:

New Houston-Galveston Seaport CBP CES Operations Location

NEW CES - East Coast Centralized Examination Station:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is pleased to announce the tentative opening of the new East Coast Centralized Examination Station (CES), scheduled for October 13, 2026.
Effective October 13, 2026, the trade community is authorized to begin transferring cargo for examination to this facility. This opening is intended to streamline examination processes and enhance the efficiency of trade operations in the region.

Action Required:

- Stakeholders should coordinate with their local Port of Entry regarding specific procedures for Transfer for Exam (TFE) requests to ensure a smooth transition to the new facility. Please ensure all documentation reflects the correct facility designation for any cargo scheduled for transfer on or after the opening date.

For further inquiries or specific operational questions, please contact your local CBP Port of Entry.

CBFANC Needs YOU!

Join a CBFANC COMMITTEE

CBFANC Needs YOU!!

Please feel free to contact us with your feedback, ideas and topics that should be considered.
Whether you're a legal eagle or proverbial party animal, editor and journalist, nerd or geek - we have a spot for you!

Join one of our committees where you can put your talents and interest to use for the betterment of the organization and our community.

Travel to Washington and lobby for causes important to our industry and the security of our country.
Dreaming of improving standards in our trade - join our Education team:

- Go to WESCCON - The premier international trade event in the country!
- Write that expose you always dreamed - join the Newsroom
- Always wanted to hob-knob with the who's who in the trade - join The Agency or Customs
- Are you a graphic designer at heart - come to the virtual side of things on our web committee

To learn more about our wonderful committees and find an area you would like to volunteer for, please click here. As always, any questions at all, please reach out to us at info@cbfanc.org. Thank you!