



~ **HIGHLIGHTS** ~ **NEWS** ~ **ARTICLES** ~ **DEPARTMENTS** ~

PCC Mission to D.C.!!!



Chris Garcez, Renata Rios, Sarah Stroth, Evey Hwang, Congresswoman Jackie Speier, Jack Hubbard and Peter Friedmann

Customs Committee

Renata Pearson

CBP SFO - New Acting Port Director

Adele Fasano began on Wednesday, May 16, 2016 as the Port of San Francisco's new CBP Acting Port Director while Port Director Ricardo Scheller continues his assignment at CBP Headquarters.

Ms. Fasano is the current Port Director for New York/Newark. Prior to overseeing Customs operations in NY/NJ, she worked as the San Diego District Director, Immigration and Naturalization Service.

We are pleased to have Ms. Fasano joining us in San Francisco for the next three months.

CHB Exam Results Are Out for the April 2016 exam:

1) CHB Exam Results Letters --

- All results letters were mailed & people have received them on both East & West Coasts
- Scantron docs will arrive in approximately in 1 week for participants to review (coming from scoring company)

2) Exam and Answer Key posted --

- Q37 - CBP allowed two answers - Both D & E have been accepted.
- No need for any give away questions

3) National Exam Results --

- **Exam Participants - 1376 people participated**
- **Passing Participants - 299 people passed**
- **Pass Rate - 21.7%**

ACE Aphis Tips

The following tips have been acquired for submitting ACE entries that include APHIS information. It is hoped sharing these tips may be useful for the trade community.

Per phone conversation with a CBP Agriculture Specialist Bronson in Alameda, currently backlogged with document handling requests, it is very helpful to them if DIS submissions are sent as a single entry packet, for example, document type CBP20 Entry Summary Package, containing all necessary documents for a shipment, rather than being sent as separate entities CBP109 CBPF3461, CBP02 Commercial Invoice, CBP01 Packing List, CPB11 Bill of Lading, etc. What is happening for them on the receiving end, is that each separate item (CBP01, CBP02, CBP11) must be opened separately and examined separately by their team. This is very time consuming. It is easier for them to open one file only.

Documents should be sent using the new ACE computer system. The ACE transmissions are generally well received. However, needed original documents (for example the phytosanitary certificate) must also be sent to their office at the same address as has been utilized in the past.

That address remains:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
2430 Mariner Square Loop Suite C
Alameda, CA 94501

For Aphis information, ACE is requiring Product Details. Selection of the FDP (FDA Product Code) for submission of this information may seem easier, but can result in a warning message: "CODES GPC, TSN, UNS PREFERRED BY PGA" This warning message can be eliminated by using a GPC code, available from <http://www.gs1.org/gpc>. After using "Find the GPC code for your product online", I found it useful to select "English" "GPC as at Dec 2015 (Latest Publication)", then listing the name of the item in "Search", with "Brick or Attribute"., then clicking on the most related options presented to obtain the 8 digit code.

When presenting information for Aphis, my computer system refused to transmit without providing

- Original Location
- Place of Transshipment
- Transit Country

This information is generally obtainable from the steam ship line website.

A likely useful "Intended Use" code could be 230.000 For Consumer Use as a Human Food. Some of the codes that we see in our computer system may not be equivalent to what is received by CBP. For example, if I transmit 135.035 Animal or Plant for commercial sale, CBP officers apparently receive 130.035 (Consumer use as a nonfood product).

Best regards to the trade community,
Debbie Dittmer, Mid-America Overseas, Inc.

Oakland drayage drivers look to smartphones for turn time efficiency

Courtesy: Bill Mongelluzzo, Senior Editor – JOC.COM

Harbor truckers in [Oakland](#) have gone live with a mobile app that provides real-time data via smartphones that dispatchers and drivers can use to optimize harbor visit times. The product also generates historical data that can be used to plan daily dispatches by when and where truck lines are usually the shortest.

The [DrayQ](#) product is one of dozens of applications exploding on the market that truckers, equipment providers, terminal operators, beneficial cargo owners and forwarders are using to work around bottlenecks in port-related freight transportation.

"There's no more guesswork for truckers picking up or delivering cargo in Oakland," John Driscoll, port maritime director, said Tuesday. "Now they can plan their days with real-time information."

Although port authorities and trucking organizations in Oakland and Los Angeles-Long Beach have been leading the way in implementing global-positioning satellite and Bluetooth technologies to increase cargo velocity, ports and [truckers on the East](#) and Gulf coasts are anxious to follow. Technology products are expected to surface at other ports in short order.

Taso Zografos, account program manager at Leidos — the Reston, Virginia, company that developed DrayQ — said he has been contacted by port authorities or trucking organizations in Seattle-Tacoma, New York-New Jersey, Norfolk, New Orleans and Houston about the product. He also sees usage occurring at inland ports and among beneficial cargo owners.

Container ports on all three coasts are struggling with marine terminal [congestion](#). Increasing vessel sizes and [cargo surges](#) from the mega-ships are overwhelming the terminals and resulting in truck visit times of two hours or longer on busy days. [Chassis shortages](#) contribute to the delays at some ports. Having access to both real-time and historical data has long been considered a potential tool to mitigate delays and increase cargo velocity.

To read article in its entirety, click [here](#).

June 15th FDA ACE 100% Live!

On June 15th, the Food & Drug Administration presents

Summer 2016 – the FDA's Transition to ACE

FDA ACE will be live on June 15th with the ACS entry portal closed – Are you prepared for the Compliance?

Automated Commercial Environment/International Trade Data System (ACE/ITDS)

In collaboration with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and 46 partner government agencies, the Food and Drug Administration has been working to modernize business processes through the implementation of the Automated Commercial Environment/International Trade Data System (ACE/ITDS).

ACE/ITDS is a single access point whereby industry can electronically submit all data required by various government agencies involved in international trade. ACE will replace the Automated Commercial System and be fully functional by December 2016.

Presenting at this June 15th Seminar

Darlene B. Almogela – Director of Investigations Branch, San Francisco District
Jeanmaire Hryshko – Supervisory Investigator, San Francisco Office
Juan Morales – Supervisor, San Francisco District Office
Will update with others – waiting on conformation

High Volume Fliers (HVF) – FDA encourages your Compliance Personnel to attend this Seminar

Bring your Operations staff, your Compliance Staff, your Questions direct to the FDA!

More to follow...

FDA ACE Seminar Registration Here!

[Add Attendee Information!](#)

[Front Page CBFANC.ORG](http://FrontPage.CBFANC.ORG)

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|---|--|---|
| When Wednesday, June 15th 8:00 am Registration 8:30 to 12:00 p.m. Seminar Registration Closes 12 Noon June 13, 2016 | Cost Member Price: \$65.00 Non-Member Price: \$80.00 NCBFAA NEI CCS Credits available — \$10.00 | Where CitiGarden Hotel 245 S. Airport Blvd. South San Francisco |
|---|--|---|

Quick Links for CHB & ACE Documents

May 2016

[Quick Links to Important Documents](#)

Starts June 25th - CBFANC CHB Exam Prep Course

CHB Exam Prep Course - Fall 2016 Advance Your Career – Sign up NOW!

[Register Here!](#)

Double your chances to pass - Take the CBFANC course!
CBFANC students pass rate was 100% higher
than national average for the last exam

**106 hours during 9 Class days, 1 Final Exam & Review Session, 10 one-on-one Con-calls
AND
Get-together after the Federal Exam to determine how well you succeeded**

You will be empowered to confidently sit for the exam

Course dates: June 25, 2016 – Oct 5, 2016

CHB Exam Prep Course is designed for those individuals who truly have a desire to learn and understand the Customs Regulations and Harmonized Tariff Schedule in a compact environment. You must have the desire and fortitude to dedicate yourself to the learning process by attending every class and completing every assignment.

It will be intense! You will learn more than you ever thought possible!

If you plan to sit for the Customs Broker's Exam and want to exponentially increase your chance of being successful, join the CBFANC course which has been taught for 16 years in the San Francisco Bay Area.

This is a hands-on course, not a boring lecture series with a talking head in front of the room!

We engage you to secure your success! Classes are held in the Socratic method which means that the Instructor and the students ask and answer questions. As a CHB Exam Prep training program, we understand your goal of preparing and successfully passing the exam. With this in mind, the structure of the course enables students to answer questions with minimal assistance from the instructor.

THE DETAILS...

Starts:

June 25, 2016

Deadline to join: Registration & payment must be received by June 18

Course schedule/days:

9 – Sat 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
1 – Sat 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
11 – Mon night Concalls
6:00 pm – 9:00pm

We call it the CHB Exam Prep Course for a reason!

It is intensive and focused. Over the years we have distilled the essentials to understanding necessary for you to pass – as in military training you have to do the work, but unlike having an angry faced sergeant screaming in your face trying to push you to fail, our instructor is about empowering you with the tools, skills, and knowledge to succeed!

- It's **compact** because in today's world, no one has time to meet several times per week, commute to and from class after work, fit in picking up kids and work late hours.
- It's **intensive** because we power-pack your time with the knowledge needed to confidently sit for the exam
- It's **focused**:
 - A) We have distilled the knowledge you need to successfully
 - B) Class time is focused on the essentials while the support network is in place for you to stay focused on your mission to pass
 - C) You have to be focused and do your share of the heavy lifting – study!

You must do your homework! We give you the tools to make it as easy and simple as possible but you will be required to study 15-20 hour a week outside the classroom.

Sign up NOW to enhance your professional life, increase your earning potential and create new opportunities for yourself and your family. All of the features below provide you with the benefits you need to succeed – all in 3 months for a lifetime of benefits – you can do it!

Supportive Environment

- One-on-One time with instructor - Overcome test fear
- Weekly check in calls on study progress and to enhance learning
- Maintain your focus & study with encouragement
- Students support each other to succeed - You are not alone...

1 – Wed afternoon 2 pm – 6 pm + One-on-One Concall Session w your instructor
Note: You will have a 1 hour lunch break during each classroom session

Where:

CitiGarden Hotel
245 South Airport Blvd
South San Francisco, CA 94080

Registration

Cost: \$1295.00

Upon registration, students will be provided with online access to course materials and will have a one-on-one discussion with your instructor to get you started immediately.

Hardcopy Training Manuals will be provided in class

Federal Exam Date:

Wednesday, October 5th

Location announced by CBP

Prerequisite - Know the Basics:

- INCO terms

Typical homework:

- Reading assignment from the training manual
- Reading assignments from the Customs Regulations and Tariff
- Tabbing and Highlighting your reading materials
- Timed exams

- We prep you for the real thing!

Typical class session:

- Review of assignment, questions and tests
- Weekly Valuation exercises
- Topic Discussion & Handouts

- Q&A throughout each session

- Networking breaks
- One-on-One time with instructor

After your successful exam:

- Apply for your license within 3 years
- Pass the background check

CBP Requirements:

- You must be 18 to sit for the CHB Exam.
- You must be 21 to receive your CHB license
- You must be a U.S. Citizen
- You must be of good moral character

Thorough Exam Preparation

- You will take a minimum of 6 to 10 actual CHB exams throughout the course to become familiar with the format and be comfortable with the process. (performed outside class time)
- In depth exam question analysis and interpretation - slow is fast
- Learn how to Identify and pass the challenging questions

Student interaction encouraged and networking opportunities

- Informal Study-Buddy groups – students that study together pass at a higher rate
- Pot-luck snack breaks – brain breaks and social interaction
- Post-grad professional networking - a career supporting network for years to come

Powerful Study tools

- iPhone Flash Card App for the Regulations Table of Contents – study anywhere & anytime
- Electronic Lesson Plan – demystifies the material and provides overview
- Blend of printed books and electronic tools – covers all learning preferences

(Special Note: You may use any printed materials during the actual CHB Exam – Electronic tools are not permitted)

Professional advancement

- Greater earning potential for licensed CHB vs clerks and compliance specialists
- Direct path to career advancement - from clerk > supervisor > management
- Increased job opportunities and career paths

Pro Tip:
**Advise Importers of the Opportunity to File
Petitions for Duty Suspensions This Fall**

Do you know an importer whose products are:
1) not of a type manufactured in the United States, and 2) currently subject to import duties?
If so, please forward this article to them.

The Miscellaneous Trade Bill (MTB) is a legislative process with a long history. The MTB affords importers of certain eligible products with the opportunity to request duty suspensions. After recent revisions to the MTB process, the window for importers to apply for duty suspensions will open in October 2016.

The American Manufacturing Competiveness Act of 2016 (AMCA) was recently signed by President Obama in May 2016. The AMCA provided for the reform of the MTB process. Under the new process, the International Trade Commission (ITC) will solicit petitions for duty suspensions and shall subsequently undertake investigation to determine whether the petitioned goods are eligible for inclusion due to the absence of manufacturing capability in the United States. The ITC shall also attempt to quantify the monetary impact of such suspensions to the revenue of the U.S. Treasury. (Readers should note that the MTB provides a cap on products such that no more than \$500,000.00 in import tariffs may be foregone in a given calendar year). At the conclusion of its investigation, the ITC is to consolidate all eligible goods into a single piece of proposed legislation called the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill.

The AMCA specifically provides that the ITC is to publish notice opening the MTB petition process by October 15, 2016. Hence, the period between now and October allows importers time to review product lines and identify items that may potentially be eligible for duty suspensions. Come October, importers should be fully prepared to file petitions for suspension, together

with appropriate disclosure forms, and any necessary supporting information. Depending on the particular item, it may be wise to conduct further market research to determine the extent of U.S. manufacturing, or to plan strategically as to how to frame a MTB petition. For example, given the prerequisites, an importer may wish to consider different formulations of the duty suspension request. While a generalized product description may be accurate, a more specific description (or several highly specific product descriptions) may be more successful in meeting both meet the monetary caps, and/or fall outside of known U.S. manufacturing capabilities. Further, since certain types of products are more politically sensitive than others, it may also wise to have the MTB concept vetted in advance of filing to potentially side-step an active opposition.

We suggest that importers new to the process consider contacting a trade law firm which has been following the AMCA, and which holds experience in the legislative process of the MTB. Such a firm can quickly help the importer assess which products may be most appropriate for petitions to the ITC.

Matt Nakachi is a partner in the Customs & international law firm of Junker & Nakachi, based in San Francisco.

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FDA San Francisco District Import Contact Information

FDA San Francisco District Information and Communication Procedures

To contact us, please follow the instructions below. Remember, correct and complete information will greatly speed up the processing of your entry. For questions, email is preferable to fax and phone calls. Entry documents should be uploaded into ITACS. For information and how to access ITACS, please see <http://www.fda.gov/ForIndustry/ImportProgram/ucm296314.htm>

In collaboration with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and 46 partner government agencies, the Food and Drug Administration has been working to modernize business processes through the implementation of the Automated Commercial Environment/International Trade Data System (ACE/ITDS). For additional information and resource materials about ACE/ITDS, please see <http://www.fda.gov/forindustry/importprogram/entryprocess/importsystems/ucm456276.htm>. For questions about getting started filing in ACE/ITDS, data requirements, or ACE/ITDS-related technical assistance, email: ACE_Support@fda.hhs.gov.

ENTRIES THAT HAVE NOT BEEN DETAINED OR REFUSED

a) Questions regarding Documents for Review

- Email: sanimportsentryreviewers@fda.hhs.gov
- Fax: (510) 337-6706

Questions regarding import documents requested for further review. Please send entry documents (Customs Form 3461, Invoice, Bill of Lading, etc.) electronically through ITACS at <https://itacs.fda.gov>. If ITACS is not available, submit the documents to the email group or fax number listed above.

b) Availability – ITACS

- Email: sanimportsstatus@fda.hhs.gov
- Fax: (510) 337-6706

Please submit availability/location of goods through ITACS. Provide the firm name, complete address including a suite number if applicable, zip code, contact name and phone number, and hours of operation.

If you encounter any ITACS issues, please send an email to the ITACS Help Desk at ITACSSupport@fda.hhs.gov.

c) Status - ITACS

- Email: sanimportsstatus@fda.hhs.gov
- Phone: (510) 337-6722
- Fax: (510) 337-6706

You can use ITACS to check the status of individual entries and lines. Questions regarding the status include questions such as: "When is an Investigator coming out to examine my

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shipment?” or “An examination of the product was made and a sample was not collected – what is the current status of this shipment?” Also, please use this email to inform us of updates or changes to firm addresses.

SAMPLED, DETAINED, OR REFUSED ENTRIES

- Email: sanimportscompliance@fda.hhs.gov
 - Please include the entry number and the product
- Fax: (510) 337-6703

Please contact the Compliance Officer identified on the Notice of FDA Action. Prior to contacting the Compliance Officer, please read the Notice of FDA Action in its entirety.

ECD stands for Estimated Completion Date. If you see a Notice of FDA Action with a “SAMPLES COLLECTED” heading and it has the words “ECD” or “Estimated Completion Date” followed by a date on it, please do NOT contact sanimportscompliance@fda.hhs.gov until AFTER the Estimated Completion Date printed on the notice.

Once an entry has been sampled, detained, or refused, please do not use ITACS to correspond with the Compliance Officer.

OASIS SYSTEM PROBLEMS

- Email: sanimportsstatus@fda.hhs.gov

Questions regarding software problems, such as entry reject.

PRIOR NOTICE AND FOOD FACILITY REGISTRATION QUESTIONS

For Prior Notice and Registration technical questions (e.g., passwords) as well as general questions regarding Food Facility Registration, contact the FDA Industry Systems Help Desk at (800) 216-7331 or (301) 575-0156.

For Prior Notice general questions, contact the Division of Food Defense Targeting (Prior Notice Center) Hotline at (866) 521-2297. These numbers are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

[Revised 2016.03.25 L VF]



2016 Educational & Program Events

(Working Calendar as of May 22, 2016)

June 15th

FDA Transition to ACE
CitiGarden Hotel, SSF

June 25th - October 5th

CHB Fall Exam Prep Course
CitiGarden Hotel, SSF

September 13th

BIS: Complying with US Export Controls
Via PAEI – click [here](#) for more information.

October 13th-16th

WESCCON 2016
Loews Coronado Bay, San Diego, CA

