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Customs Extends de minimus Data Pilot

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has extended the term and is soliciting additional participants for the Section 321 Data Pilot, a "public-private partnership that mitigates risk and expedites legitimate low value e-commerce shipments." The expansion of the pilot opens the door for widespread adoption of the known shipper scheme introduced in 2019.

Section 321 shipments enter under *de minimis* procedures which allow small packages valued at \$800 or less to enter the United States tax and duty-free. CBP estimates that 85% of all shipments entering the United States meet this exemption, the highest in the world. China, the largest beneficiary of the waiver, enforces a *de minimus* of 50 yuan (\$7.90).

According to Customs, the 321 Data pilot has resulted in faster and more accurate risk assessment and adjudication and fewer CBP holds. "CBP has processed more than 380 million shipments via the Section 321 Data Pilot since it was initiated in August 2019," said **Executive Director of CBP's Trade Policy and Programs, Brandon Lord.** "CBP is excited to expand the pilot, as bringing on board additional partners will allow the agency to test new technologies and the collection of non-traditional data elements to identify additional facilitation benefits for the trade community and CBP."

The Section 321 Data Pilot was implemented on August 22, 2019, to test risk segmentation benefits of accepting advance data from e-commerce supply chain partners, including nine voluntary pilot participants from a wide range of e-commerce supply chain actors: **Amazon, eBay, Zulily, FedEx, DHL** and **UPS**, technology firm **PreClear,** and logistics providers **XB Fulfillment** and **BoxC Logistics**.

While importers can only take advantage of the Section 321 benefit on one single transaction per day, **shipments direct to consumers permit entire retail ecosystems to flourish duty-free**. CBP <u>reports</u> total imports under the exemption were \$685 million in 2022, down 11% on the prior year, the only area of imports to witness a decline.

© Copyright 2023 Gilston-Kalin Communications LLC P.O. Box 7592, Arlington, VA 22207 All rights reserved. Subscription and corporate site license information 301.460.3060 <u>www.wttonline.com</u> Editor: Frank Ruffing +1.703.283.5220. fruffing@traderegs.com With Fulfilled by Amazon sales exceeding \$100 billion last year, CBP's figures may be inaccurate. These "agency" transactions are not "imports by Amazon," and the program encourages participating merchants to ship in smaller lots, to conserve warehouse space and avoid customs clearance delays. CBP's <u>November report</u> that the *value of Section 321 imports fell by a third from 2020 to 2021* (contradicted on their website) has raised questions about the accuracy of CBP Import data.

New and existing pilot volunteers must transmit certain required data elements to CBP and will have the flexibility to transmit optional data elements as they are able to test the viability of sharing additional information. There is no limit to the number of volunteers CBP will accept for the expanded pilot, which will end in August 2025 unless further extended. To volunteer to participate in the pilot, or for more information about the pilot or e-commerce in general, contact ecommerce@cbp.dhs.gov.

China Blacklists US Defense Contractors

China touted its own sanctions blacklist, placing **Lockheed Martin** and **Raytheon Missiles & Defence** to China's "Unreliable Entity List" over their participation in arms sales to Taiwan.

"Unreliable Entities" are

- prohibited from engaging in import and export activities related to China;
- prohibited from making new investments in China; and

• subject to fines of twice the contract value of their arms sales to Taiwan since September 2020, when the list was established. Further fines will be imposed if payment is not made within 15 days.

The use of the measure "is strictly limited and aimed at very few foreign entities breaking the law," according to the Ministry of Commerce. In February 2022, Lockheed and Raytheon were targeted by China over a missile defense system the two firms agreed to provide to Taiwan. Raytheon units Pratt & Whitney and Collins Aerospace remain unaffected by the move.

Missing from the announcement was Boeing, Taipei's supplier of Harpoon anti-ship missiles. Last September, China levied sanctions against Boeing Defense, Space & Security chief executive Ted Colbert and Raytheon chief executive Gregory Hayes in retaliation for those missile sales.

Justice and BIS / Export Enforcement Task Force

The National Security Division of Justice and the Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) are joining with the FBI, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and 14 U.S. Attorneys' Offices – to create a "Disruptive Technology Task Force" to enforce export controls.

"Our goal is simple but essential: to strike back against adversaries trying to siphon our best technology," said **Deputy Attorney General Lisa O. Monaco**. "Using real-time intelligence and 21st century data analytics, the Disruptive Technology Strike Force will bring together the Justice and Commerce Departments' expertise to strike back against adversaries trying to siphon off our most advanced technology, and to attack tomorrow's national security threats today."

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The strike force will be co-led by **Assistant Attorney General Matthew G. Olsen** of the Justice Department's National Security Division and **Assistant Secretary for Export Enforcement Matthew Axelrod** of the Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security.

The initiative will focus on end users of national security concern who seek technologies related to supercomputing and exascale computing, artificial intelligence, advanced manufacturing equipment and materials, quantum computing, and biosciences. Technologies in these fields can be used to improve calculations in weapons design and testing; improving the speed and accuracy of military or intelligence decision-making; and breaking or developing unbreakable encryption algorithms that protect sensitive communications and classified information.

"Advances in technology have the potential to alter the world's balance of power," said Assistant Secretary Axelrod. "This strike force is designed to protect U.S. national security by preventing those sensitive technologies from being used for malign purposes."

The strike force's work will focus on investigating and prosecuting criminal violations of export laws; enhancing administrative enforcement of U.S. export controls; fostering partnerships with the private sector; leveraging international partnerships to coordinate law enforcement actions and disruption strategies; utilizing advanced data analytics and all-source intelligence to develop and build investigations; conducting regular trainings for field offices; and strengthening connectivity between the strike force and the Intelligence Community.

CFIUS in Focus. Monaco's announcement was during a <u>speech</u> Februrary 16th at Chatham House in London, during which she discussed Justice's work on cyber security, as well as "updating our regulatory tools to ensure we protect against foreign investments that threaten our national security."

"CFIUS began in an era of brick-and-mortar transactions. Today, the greatest risks come not from investment in our physical assets, but from transactions where datasets, software, and algorithms are the assets, Monaco said. "We are exploring how to monitor the flow of private capital in critical sectors and ensure that our own 'outbound investment' in dual-use technology doesn't provide our adversaries with a national security advantage," Monaco added.

US, Vietnam Reviving TIFA Talks

The top US and Vietnamese trade officials plan to hold a meeting of the bilateral **Trade and Investment Framework Agreement** this year in order to intensify trade discussions. There has not been a TIFA meeting since 2019.

US Trade Representative Katherine Tai was in Hanoi last week for a meeting with Vietnam's Minister of Industry and Trade Nguyen Heng Diên. The two officials said they have tasked their teams to intensify technical discussions under the TIFA on a range of issues, including labor reforms, environment, digital trade, agriculture and intellectual property.

Ms. Tai also used the meeting to discuss US priorities for its 2023 host year for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, particularly on creating resilient and sustainable trade policy. Ms. Tai will host a meeting of the APEC Ministers Responsible for Trade in May.

A U.S.-led Pacific trade framework that excludes China will deliver practical benefits for business, the U.S. Trade Representative said on a visit to Vietnam, adding that the postwar history between Washington and Hanoi shows how today's economic and geopolitical problems can be solved, *Nikkei Asia* reported.

Ms. Tai also addressed concerns of forced labor in the supply chain of nearby Xinjiang, China, saying the issue matters to the "integrity" of Vietnam-U.S. trade. She pointed to the two sides' successful handling of other problems, namely currency manipulation and the timber trade, as well. Vietnam posted a \$116 billion trade surplus with the United States last year, led by shipments of goods such as electronics, clothing and footwear, including 80% of US solar panels, according to <u>Reuters</u>.

Tai pushed back against critics of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework. One of the biggest criticisms of the IPEF is that it lacks the tariff cuts that make up trade deals like the former Trans-Pacific Partnership, which the U.S. exited. "I agree, I have heard skepticism," Tai told reporters. "I do not hear it from our trading partners. I hear it mostly from observers and commentators."

IPEF priorities like fair taxes and clean energy are being negotiated by 14 nations. If they can agree to make their customs procedures digital and interoperable among all member states, for example, that would benefit exporters and importers, Tai said. "They will know how improved trade facilitation between these 14 countries will translate into dollars and cents for them," the first Asian-American USTR said.

Trump's Phase One Deal a Dud – White House

President Biden believes the US-China phase one trade deal negotiated by the previous Administration was a failure, according to his spokeswoman. "Phase one did not work. It did not have a meaningful purpose," **Karine Jean-Pierre** told reporters. "The PRC did not meet its commitment, even in first year of the phase one deal going into effect during the Trump Administration."

Asked if President Biden intends to make use of enforcement provisions in the deal, she sought to disassociate the current Administration from the deal, making it clear that the President sees the agreement as belonging to the Trump White House. "Let's not forget that it's not ours, it's theirs," she said referring to the previous Administration.

President Biden feels that the deal "did not meaningfully address our fundamental concerns with the PRC's trade practices. That is just the fact," she said Tuesday.

Instead, the Biden White House is focused on defending US economic interests "in ways that will work, including in coordination with our allies and partners through initiatives like the Trade and Technology Council and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, and by investing more at home through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act, through the CHIPS Act, and through the Inflation Reduction Act."

Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman underscored the Administration's determination to work with allies to address concerns with China, including economic coercion, unfair trade practices and human rights violations. In an appearance at the Brookings Institution, Ms. Sherman urged US allies to oppose any military action by China against Taiwan, saying it would result in a repeat of global

shortages and economic instability created by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. She pointed to the enormous amount of trade that passes daily through the Taiwan straits.

Separately, **House Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee Chairman Adrian Smith (R-Neb)** warned that the Administration's failure to negotiate new free trade agreements puts China at a competitive advantage. The most effective way to compete with Beijing is to put in place FTAs that provide improved market access and are enforceable, he said. Mr. Smith said he does not oppose the Administration's regional initiatives like the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework and Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity, but they will not provide US exporters with new market access. The Administration should start by completing negotiations on a free trade deal with the United Kingdom begun by the Trump Administration, he told Brookings attendees.

WTO / Canadian Data Rules Proposal

Geneva (via Washington Trade Daily) – Canada has tabled a proposal at the World Trade Organization to ensure that governments do not "use personal information obtained to discriminate against or persecute natural persons on manifestly wrongful grounds," for consideration of plurilateral Joint Statement Initiative on e-commerce group members, WTD has learned.

To counter any misuse of data collected from businesses by governments, Canada says its proposal seeks "to promote the trust and confidence of users and businesses in the digital economy, a desire shared by (JSI) participating Members." The proposal, according to Canada, "would provide the global business community with assurance that governments will protect the personal information of their users when subject to requests for such information."

In the process, "the users who submit personal information to businesses and other private entities online would have more confidence that their personal information will not be used against them when disclosed to government authorities," Canada said in its paper issued on Friday. Canada reckons that "it is important that users and businesses benefit directly from any new rules on e-commerce, given they are the main actors in digital trade."

Prevent Discrimination

Further, according to Canada, the proposed commitments may "help to prevent discriminatory requirements from being imposed on foreign businesses." In the absence of commitments, "governments could subject foreign businesses to requests for user data, while not subjecting their domestic businesses to the same requirement. Such a step could effectively discourage individuals from providing personal data to foreign businesses, and lead to discriminatory measures which negatively affect digital trade."

Canada wants its proposal to be subject to dispute settlement procedures, arguing that it has "consulted extensively with domestic and international stakeholders, all of whom have indicated strong support for these commitments." The proposal is also "commercially relevant as it focuses on the relationship between businesses and governments." Canada argued that many "Members believe that rules on e-commerce should, among other goals, enhance confidence and trust in the digital economy, including through privacy-related measures. By building trust and confidence, this would result in even further economic growth of the digital economy, to the benefit of all." Lastly, Canada argues that "given the continued growth of digital trade, and the sharing of users' personal information with businesses that this entails, there is a growing need for Members to take on relevant privacy disciplines."

A group of JSI members, including the United States along with Australia, Canada, Japan, Singapore, Taiwan and the United Kingdom, circulated a proposal late last year on cross-border data flows by electronic means. This has proven to be a difficult area with several JSI members, including the European Union, China and Russia among others having their specific concerns.

It remains to be seen how the EU China, and Russia will respond to this proposal. Any progress on cross-border data flows remains unlikely at a time of entrenched differences between the US on one side, and China and Russia on the other, said several people who asked not to be quoted.

Russia not Welcome at US-China Table

Geneva (via Washington Trade Daily) – The United States has rejected a request from the Russian Federation to participate in the consultations of the ongoing World Trade Organization trade dispute between China and the United States over Washington's sanctions/restrictions on Chinese companies in the arena of semiconductor manufacturing items and other items, as well as their related services and technologies destined for or in relation to China, WTD has learned.

As reported earlier, China called on Washington to address export controls put in place against China, insisting that "these measures are inconsistent with the United States' obligations under various provisions of the covered agreements" of the WTO rulebook.

Russia sought to join the proposed Article Four consultations between China and the United States as a third party under Article 4.11. Washington acknowledged the letter from Russia "requesting to join in the consultations requested by China as circulated in document WT/DS615/1."

The United States, however, rejected Russia's request because of Moscow's "premeditated and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine." Washington said it "does not intend to engage in business-as-usual activity with the delegation of the Russian Federation, including direct engagement on this matter. Furthermore, the United States does not consider Russia's claim of substantial interest to be wellfounded."

In a separate request made by Taipei, Washington agreed to allow the country to participate in the consultations on grounds of "substantial interest", noting that Taiwan "refers to its semiconductor industries' 26 percent share of global semiconductor revenue in 2021 and close bilateral trade ties with the United States."

*** Briefs ***

BIS Expedites Earthquake Relief Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) has expedited the processing of export licenses related to Turkish and Syrian relief efforts, including waivers for aissistance to "*nongovernmental humanitarian organizations (NGOs)* in-country, including in areas under the control of the Assad regime and non-state actors," according to a statement.

Syria is subject to comprehensive export controls as part of a broad U.S. government sanctions program. All items, except for most food and medicine require a license for export and reexport to Syria. Examples of items now eligible for expedited licensing include heavy equipment, telecommunications hardware and software, portable generators and other power generation equipment, medical devices, water purification and sanitation equipment and shelter materials.

"Despite substantial and necessary export controls on the Assad Regime, the United States will work to support the legitimate humanitarian needs of Syria's impacted communities," said **Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security Alan Estevez.** As a member along with the United States of all four multilateral export control regimes and a NATO ally, most items needed to aid the Turkish people do not require an export license

Mexico Resolves to Prohibit Imports Produced with Forced Labor. The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement requires each Party to prohibit the importation of goods into its territory from other sources produced in whole or in part by forced or compulsory labor, including forced or compulsory child labor. "Mexico's new rule barring the import of products made with forced labor is an important step to expunging this morally abhorrent and unfair trade practice from North American supply chains," said **Senate Finance Committee Chairman Ron Wyden** (D-Ore) in a statement.

The US Department of Labor "<u>Child Labor and Forced Labor Reports – Mexico</u>" notes "In 2021 Mexico made moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor However, children in Mexico are subjected to the worst forms of child labor, including in commercial sexual exploitation, sometimes as a result of human trafficking, and in illicit activities, such as the production and trafficking of drugs. Children also perform dangerous tasks in agriculture, including in the production of chile peppers, coffee, sugarcane, and tomatoes. In 2021, the government eliminated many social programs that increased educational access and reduced risk for child labor in marginalized communities.

Mexican Corn Imports continue to occupy policymakers. While the Mexican government announced last week it will not forbit the import of GMO corn for animal feed and industrial use, it continues to ban its use as human food, along with the herbicide glyphosate. Roundup Ready House Ways and Means Committee Chair Jason Smith (Mo) and Trade Subcommittee Chair Adrian Smith (Neb) renewed calls for the administration to initiate a formal dispute under the USMCA.

In a letter to **USTR Katherine Tai** and **Agriculture Secretary Tim Vilsack**, the Republican leaders said "We are supportive of efforts 'to hammer out a solution,' but we must emphasize that these restrictions have been hanging over the heads of American farmers for over two years now and the Government of Mexico has not addressed core U.S. concerns." New **Chief US Agriculture Trade Negotiator Doug** **McKalip** said the Administration is determined to make sure Mexico complies with its USMCA commitments. Considerable resources are being devoted to the biotech issue, he told a meeting of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture last week.

Buy American Rules for EV Stations. President Biden announced plans to build out a nation-wide network of electric vehicle charging stations that will require the purchase US-manufactured chargers. "Effective immediately, all EV chargers funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law must be built in the United States," according to the White House Fact Sheet.

In a separate announcement [88 FR 10619] **The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issued a temporary public interest waiver to waive Buy America requirements** for steel, iron, manufactured products, and construction materials in electric vehicle (EV) chargers. EV charger *housing* components that are predominantly steel and iron are excluded from the waiver and must meet current FHWA Buy America requirements.

The plan is part of the President's goal to build a national network of 500,000 electric vehicle chargers and have EVs make up at least 50 percent of new car sales by 2030, all while advancing an industrial strategy to continue to build-out the domestic EV and EV charging industry, according to a White House fact sheet.

The 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), enacted as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) [Pub. L. 117-58], includes \$5 billion over five years that will be made available under the new National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) Formula Program to "provide funding to States to strategically deploy EV charging infrastructure and to establish an interconnected network to facilitate data collection, access, and reliability." This \$10,000 per station federal subsidy is on top of the <u>Alternative Fuel Vehicle Refueling Property Tax Credit</u> under the Inflation Reduction Act, which provides a tax credit of 30% of the cost or 6% in the case of property subject to depreciation, not to exceed \$100,000.

CHIPS Funds for Buybacks? A group of Congressional Democrats is calling on the Commerce Department to prevent funds intended to promote semiconductor manufacturing in the United States from being used to directly or indirectly subsidize corporate stock buybacks.

In a letter to the **Director of Commerce's CHIPS program Office, Michael Schmidt**, the lawmakers said that the largest US semiconductor economies have spent hundreds of billions on stock buybacks in recent years. Buybacks by CHIPS recipients threaten to undermine the critical economic and national security goals of the CHIPS Act and enrich corporate executives and shareholders at taxpayers' expense, according to the lawmakers.

The letter urges the CHIPS Program Office to consider the following provisions when finalizing its Notice of Funding Opportunity and implementing the CHIPS program:

- ensure CHIPS fund recipients do not engage in stock buybacks;
- restrict CHIPS awardees from engaging in stock buybacks for at least 10 years;
- implement additional restrictions on buybacks;
- require CHIPS awardees to certify that they will not conduct stock buybacks

• Signing the letter are Democrats Sens. Elizabeth Warren (Mass), Tammy Baldwin (Wisc), Ed Markey (Mass) and Independent Bernie Sanders (Vt), along with Reps. Sean Casten (III), Bill Foster (III), Pramila Jayapal (Wash) and Jamaal Bowman (NY).

FCPA / Petrobras "Car Wash" Indictments. A Connecticut man and a foreign national have been charged with conspiracy, multiple counts of violating the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), and money laundering in connection with an alleged scheme to pay bribes to Brazilian officials to win contracts with Brazil's state-owned and state-controlled energy company, Petróleo Brasileiro S.A. – Petrobras (Petrobras). The indictments are part of a larger investigation by Brazilian authorities known as Operation Car Wash begun in 2014.

Glenn Oztemel (64) and Eduardo Inneco (73), employed by Freepoint Commodities, LLC are alleged to have paid consulting fees and commissions to Innecco, knowing that Innecco would pay a portion of those funds to Brazilian officials as bribes. To conceal the scheme, Oztemel, Innecco, and their co-conspirators allegedly used coded language to refer to the bribes and communicated using personal email accounts, fictitious names, and encrypted messaging applications.

Oztemel and Innecco are each charged with conspiracy to violate the FCPA, conspiracy to commit money laundering, three counts of violating the FCPA, and two counts of money laundering. They face up to five years in prison for each of the bribery conspiracy and bribery charges, and up to 20 years in prison for each of the money laundering conspiracy and money laundering charges.

Bi-partisan Puppy Bill Advances. Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) and Tina Smith (D-Minn.) reintroduced legislation to combat the spread of foreign animal diseases entering the United States. *The Healthy Dog Importation Act* would expand the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (USDA-APHIS) program by providing additional tools to monitor and safeguard the health of dogs being imported into the country. CDC estimates that up to 1.245 million dogs are imported into the U.S. each year.[text]

Exim Backs Turkish Sale for Boeing, Silent on India The US Export–Import Bank Board of Directors approved a final commitment loan guarantee to support the export of more than \$673 million of Boeing 787-9 aircraft to Turkish Airlines. EximChair Reta Jo Lewis had no comment on the White House's announcement of over 200 Boeing aircraft to Air India. "We estimate that a majority of the narrowbody fleet will be financed via the sale-leaseback mechanism, while the wide-body fleet will involve finance leases or an outright purchase," Satyendra Pandey, managing partner at aviation advisory AT-TV, told Indian journal *Business Today*. "These can involve a combination of bank financing, EXIM and ECGD financing and maybe even bond issuances," he added.

USDA / Japan Trade Mission The Agriculture Department's Foreign Agricultural Service announced yesterday it is seeking participants for a two-city trade mission to Japan. The June 5-8 trade mission will offer US agribusinesses the potential to increase or expand their sales to Japan, one of the United States' top five agricultural export markets, according to FAS. Participants will travel to Tokyo and Osaka, connecting with potential customers and learning first-hand from government and industry leaders about local market conditions. FAS staff in Japan will arrange meetings between US businesses and potential buyers in the country. Participants will also visit local retail stores and food manufacturers to round out the program. Applications to participate in the trade mission are due by February 27

WTO's Ellard on Environmental Goods Agreement. As World Trade Organization members look at how trade measures can be used to combat climate change, restarting negotiations on an environmental goods agreement should be an option, WTO Director General Angela Ellard said at the Washington International Trade Association's annual conference.

Negotiations on an EGA broke down in 2016. But a deal to promote trade in environmental goods and services particularly would help developing countries concerned they are being left behind by industrialized countries' de-carbonization measures, she noted. The WTO has estimated that an EGA covering a range of products could provide a 5 percent increase in exports by 2030 and a 0.6 percent decrease in emissions. "I hope that our members agree that we want to step up and do this," Ms. Ellard said. There are signs that WTO members want to reinvigorate the EGA talks, "but we need more enthusiasm to get this launched," she said.

The first step would be coming up with a list of products. That list could be based on Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum's already agreed upon list of environmental goods. Given technological advances since the WTO's EGA talks stalled out, the list would have to be updated.

BIS / Cuba – Licensing Comments Sought Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) is requesting public comments on the effectiveness of its licensing procedures as defined in the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) for the export and reexport of agricultural commodities to Cuba. BIS will include a description of any comments it receives in its biennial report to the Congress, as required by the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000, as amended (TSRA). [88 FR 10286]

232 NdFeB Permanent Magnets Report BIS is publishing a report that summarizes the findings of an investigation into the effect of imports of neodymium-iron-boron (NdFeB) permanent magnets on the national security of the United States. This report was completed in June 2022 and posted on the BIS website in September 2022. BIS has not published the appendices to the report in this notification of report findings, but they are available online at the BIS website, along with the rest of the report. [88 FR 9430]

*** Calendar ***

CBP hosts trade outreach events via free webinars Beginning February through September 2023, each webinar will commence at 1:30 p.m. Eastern time and run for about an hour *(click title for link).*

"Let's Get Informed!" - Unformed/Formed UppersTuesday, February 28, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. ESTGlobal Business Identifier (GBI) InitiativeTuesday, February 28, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. ESTForced Labor Technical Expo (in-person)Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. ESTClassification of Stamps of Heading 9704Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. EST

USDA's 99th annual Agricultural Outlook Forum (AOF), will be held in-person at the Crystal City Gateway Marriott on *February 23-24, 2023,* and all sessions will be livestreamed on a virtual platform. More than 30 sessions and 100 agriculture leaders and subject matter experts will discuss key issues impacting the sector [Info]

WITA 2023 Congressional Trade Agenda. Friday, March 3, 2023. 9:30 am - 11:00 am ET. Featured Speakers:

Sally Laing, Chief International Trade Counsel, U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, Democratic Staff Mayur Patel, Chief Counsel, International Trade, U.S. Senate Committee on Finance, Republican Staff. Josh Snead, Republican Chief Trade Counsel, Trade Subcommittee, House Ways and Means Cttee. Alexandra Whittaker, Democratic Chief Trade Counsel; Staff Director Trade Subcommittee, House Ways and Means Cttee. Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC [Registration]

EU-US Trade & Technology Council: WG10 Roundtable on due diligence

3 March 2023, 12:30 CET - 3 March 2023, 19:30 CET [hybrid register] TTC Working Group 10 will host a roundtable discussion. [event website]. Register [register] by Tuesday 28 February 2022, 18:00 CET / 12:00 EST.

The Forced Labor Technical Expo Tuesday, March 14, 2023 (opening remarks & industry presentations, including a DHS-led panel discussion, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., EST), and Wednesday, March 15, 2023 (opening remarks & industry presentations, including a CBP-led panel discussion, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., EST).CBP welcomes industry event attendance as well as stakeholders impacted by the need to comply with UFLPA and §19 U.S.C. 1307. The event will be held at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center (RRB), 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Atrium Concourse Level, Washington, DC. Attendees should register through the Trade Events page. https://www.cbp.gov/trade/forced-labor-technical-expo-2023 [88 FR 9891]