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U. S. CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION
AREA PORT OF GREAT FALLS MT
INFORMATION NOTICE

BULLETIN NUMBER: 2011-015

DATE: May 31, 2011

SUBJECT: Permitted Cargo at Northern Border Ports in Montana and Idaho

The Northern Border Cargo Release System was designed to facilitate the flow of commercial cargo along the northern border, while at the same time maintaining a CBP enforcement posture in the areas of interdiction and regulatory compliance. All land vehicles carrying commercial cargo across the northern border must enter at a commercial port, with the exception of "permitted" shipments, which may enter at an authorized port location.

Ports of entry on the northern border that lack volume and infrastructure for cargo processing are commonly referred to as permit ports. A "permit" can be defined as the prior approval for an importer of record (IOR) or broker to obtain release of commercial merchandise at a port of entry other than at a commercial port.

In the post 9/11 environment, the Office of Field Operations (OFO) recognizes the release of cargo at the northern border ports using the existing permit process does not meet the higher security standards that should be applied to commercial importations into the United States. As a result, OFO has addressed the growing changes in the northern border cargo release system and has provided an updated evaluation process for brokers and importers requesting to obtain release of commercial merchandise at a port of entry other than a commercial port.

GENERAL APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Commercial cargo requiring a formal entry must have an approved permit when entering at a permit port. Failure to have an approved permit will result in the denial of entry, and the shipment will not be allowed to proceed inland via a permit port.

Permits will not be issued for shipments requiring exam at a commercial port.

Originating in-bonds will not be processed at permit ports (trucks only).

Household effects entering by a common carrier utilizing CF 3299 or like form will not be processed at a permit port.

Effective immediately all new permit applications and permit renewal applications must be submitted utilizing the new format and demonstrate the following:

1. File a completed application forty-five (45) days prior to the initial importation utilizing the permit application attached to this notice.
2. Provide a sample of the commercial invoice and detailed description of the commodity (including the 10-digit HTS) for the transactions covered by the permit request.
3. If a change in an approved permit occurs (new IOR, change in commodity, destination, etc.), a modified application must be submitted. (*See Permit Modification Process below*)

An IOR or broker requesting to have cargo released at a permit port within the Area Port of Great Falls must submit an application to the following address:

For Montana and Idaho Permit Ports send to:
Customs and Border Protection
Asst Area Port Director, Trade
2108 21st Ave S
Great Falls MT 59405
Email address: greatfallspemits@cbp.dhs.gov

Once approved, a permit is valid until cancelled or revoked. If a temporary permit is requested, an expiration date will be assigned. Customs and Border Protection will conduct periodic audits of all permits.

APPLICATION MODIFICATION PROCESS:

1. If a change to an approved permit occurs (new IOR, change in commodity, destination, etc.), a modified application must be submitted.
2. The IOR or broker must submit a modified application forty-five (45) days prior to any requested changes.
 - a. CBP will notify the IOR or broker within thirty (30) days of receipt of the approval or denial of any requested changes.
 - b. Until approval of the requested changes is received, any shipments not specifically covered by the approved permit will be denied entry, with the exception of change in carrier only which is not necessarily grounds for denial.

PERMIT DENIAL PROCESS:

Permits may be denied based on the following criteria:

1. The application is incomplete.
2. Enforcement or trade related concerns.
3. No hardship established.
4. Application does not indicate anticipated annual volume. Less than 5 shipments annually may be cause for denial. (This provision may be waived at the discretion of the AAPD, Trade.)

5. Merchandise requires mandatory examination that cannot be done at the permit port. (Example: Merchandise requires examination by an Agriculture Specialist or another government agency.)
6. Merchandise requires additional documentation for release not available to the examining officer.

A denied permit may be resubmitted after amending the initial application and providing supplemental information.

PERMIT REVOCATION PROCESS:

1. Permits may be revoked based on the following criteria:
 - a. Enforcement related issues.
 - b. Attempting to enter at a port not listed on the approved permit.
 - c. Attempting to enter with a commodity not noted on the approved permit.

This Information Notice supersedes any previously issued notice by Great Falls Area Port on permit process.

If you have any questions or encounter limited special circumstances that will cause undue hardship with the permit application requirements, please contact Assistant Area Port Director, Trade Ross Lyle at (406) 453-7631, ext 203 or Supervisory Entry Specialist Mary Munger at (406) 453-7631, ext 301.

Ross Lyle
Assistant Port Director-Trade