

# **Information Notice**

**U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Buffalo Field Office  
300 Airborne Parkway, Suite 300, Buffalo, New York 14225**

**Date: 4/2/2020**

**Number: DFO: TO: 2020-003**

Distribution: Brokers, Filers, Importers, Carriers and other interested parties

Subject: Imports of Pandemic Response Materials

## **PURPOSE:**

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is facing an increase in the number of shipments claiming to be for pandemic relief efforts as COVID-19 cases continue to grow. Some of those shipments have proven to be legitimate; others are being imported by those who seek to profit off vulnerable segments of our population.

CBP seeks to expedite legitimate shipments of relief materials, while taking appropriate enforcement action against nefarious actors.

## **BACKGROUND:**

CBP is America's frontline. We remain committed to protecting our nation and its people while facilitating the entry of legitimate cargo and passengers. Our ability to expedite legitimate pandemic relief materials helps protect America's citizens and lawful permanent residents, and will help slow the spread of COVID-19.

## **ACTION:**

Effective immediately, importers or their agents are encouraged to provide advanced notification to CBP when they are expecting shipments of pandemic relief materials, whether that includes pharmaceutical products, personal protective equipment, building supplies, or other items. This includes shipments in all modes of transportation, already arrived and pending release, and is particularly true for shipments CBP has placed on hold.

For shipments arriving through the Buffalo Field Office (BFO) Area Ports of Entry, please use the following points of contact –

- Port of Alexandria Bay – APD Tim Walker, [Timothy.J.Walker@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:Timothy.J.Walker@cbp.dhs.gov), (315) 482-4423
- Port of Buffalo – Buffalo Ace Desk, [BUFFALOACEDESK@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:BUFFALOACEDESK@cbp.dhs.gov), (716) 888-4940
- Port of Champlain – Broker compliance Desk [brokercompliancechamplain@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:brokercompliancechamplain@cbp.dhs.gov)

Issues with shipments arriving at any other port of entry should be directed to the arrival port.

Importers and their agents can also contact their servicing Center of Excellence and Expertise. Contact information for each of the Centers is below. CBP has a national toll-free number (866-295-7624) to contact the Centers; however, since most Center personnel are currently teleworking due to the pandemic, email is the recommended method of contact.

Center	Email Address	866- 295-7624, extension
Agriculture & Prepared Products	<a href="mailto:CEE-Agriculture@cbp.dhs.gov">CEE-Agriculture@cbp.dhs.gov</a>	02
Apparel, Footwear & Textiles	<a href="mailto:CEE-Apparel@cbp.dhs.gov">CEE-Apparel@cbp.dhs.gov</a>	04
Automotive & Aerospace	<a href="mailto:CEE-Automotive@cbp.dhs.gov">CEE-Automotive@cbp.dhs.gov</a>	03
Base Metals	<a href="mailto:CEE-Basemetals@cbp.dhs.gov">CEE-Basemetals@cbp.dhs.gov</a>	05
Consumer Products & Mass Merchandising	<a href="mailto:CEE-Consumer@cbp.dhs.gov">CEE-Consumer@cbp.dhs.gov</a>	08
Electronics	<a href="mailto:CEE-Electronics@cbp.dhs.gov">CEE-Electronics@cbp.dhs.gov</a>	07
Industrial & Manufacturing Materials	<a href="mailto:CEE-Industrialmaterials@cbp.dhs.gov">CEE-Industrialmaterials@cbp.dhs.gov</a>	09
Machinery	<a href="mailto:CEE-Machinery@cbp.dhs.gov">CEE-Machinery@cbp.dhs.gov</a>	10
Petroleum, Natural Gas & Minerals	<a href="mailto:CEE-Petroleum@cbp.dhs.gov">CEE-Petroleum@cbp.dhs.gov</a>	06
Pharmaceuticals, Health & Chemicals	<a href="mailto:CEE-Pharmaceuticals@cbp.dhs.gov">CEE-Pharmaceuticals@cbp.dhs.gov</a>	01

Should you have any questions regarding this information notice please contact the following:

BFO Program Manger Jason Ilkiwskyj – [Jason.J.Ilkiwskyj@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:Jason.J.Ilkiwskyj@cbp.dhs.gov);

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BFO ADFO-Trade Sharon Swiatek – [Sharon.Swiatek@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:Sharon.Swiatek@cbp.dhs.gov)

/s/ Sharon Swiatek

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