



November 20, 2020 Volume 1, Nr. 12

BREAKING NEWS: The Federal Maritime Commission [announced](#) that Commissioner Dye will lead an investigation into detention and demurrage, export container availability and container return practices at New York, New Jersey, Los Angeles, and Long Beach.

We know that next week people are going to be starting to check out and enjoy some time with their family for the Thanksgiving holiday. In observance of the holiday, the FTA weekly newsletter will not be published on November 27th. We encourage everyone to stay safe, maintain social distance, and [heed the guidance from the CDC on celebrating Thanksgiving](#).

Links and stories of interest:

Costco Drops Chaokoh Coconut Milk Over Allegations of Forced Monkey Labor

PETA investigators from its Asia division found cruelty to monkeys at farms and facilities used by Theppadungporn Coconut Co., according to the animal rights group.

South Korea Tests a Drone Taxi Over Seoul, Using Bags of Rice as Passengers

Border Patrol Agents Find One Year Old Child

Border Patrol Agents discover a one year old child abandoned among a group of 18 illegal aliens.

17 Fun Quarantine Thanksgiving Ideas to Help You Have a Festive Feast

Government Actions and Trade

CBP's Baltimore Field Office is Among Nation's Best at Intercepting

Stolen Vehicles Being Shipped Overseas

The only thing that stands between criminals and their profit are U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers who conduct diligent outbound cargo examinations at our nation's seaports.

Furniture Trade Groups, Environmental Watchdog Oppose Section 301 Vietnam Tariffs

U.S. trade groups questioned the evidence behind the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative's assertions that Vietnam is importing illegal timber

Importer Says CBP's EAPA Investigations Deny Constitutional Due Process Rights

Aspects Furniture filed a wide-ranging legal challenge on Nov. 4 of CBP's regulations and procedures for Enforce and Protect Act investigations.

Trade Restrictions Relax After Early Pandemic Surge

After rushing to protect supplies of medical equipment early in the pandemic, many governments have eased barriers

Vale and Chinese Port Sign \$651 Million Deal for Iron Ore Storage

Vale, the world's second-biggest iron ore miner, and Ningbo Zhoushan Port will each hold 50% in the joint venture (JV)

Asia-Pacific Countries Sign Major Trade Pact in Test for Biden

The pact will bind their economies closer together and signals Beijing's growing influence in the region.

UL World Anti-Counterfeiting Week

CBP is committed to halting the movement of counterfeit products across borders and reducing the potential health and safety risks they pose to the public.

FTA
Foreign Trade Association

Event Sponsor:
BRAUMILLER
LAW GROUP, PLLC
INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Customs Proposal for Continuing Education Requirements for Customs Brokers

Ticket Prices
\$25 for membership and
\$45 for non-members

Date: December 1, 2020
Time: 1:00 p.m. -2:00 p.m. PST
Location: Zoom Webinar

[Register Here](#)

US Customs & Border Protection published an advance notice of proposed rulemaking on Oct. 29, 2020 on continuing education requirements for Customs brokers. This webinar will cover what is being proposed in this announcement, including:

- Continuing education hours requirement
- What classes and webinars are eligible and accredited
- How the requirement will be documented and submitted
- What if continuing education requirement is not met
- CBP's solicitation of input on proposal
- How to submit comments and suggestions



BRUCE H. LEEDS
Attorney and LCB
Braumiller Law Group PLLC

Bruce Leeds is Of Counsel to Braumiller Law Group PLLC, a law firm specializing in export and import compliance. He is a board member and past President of the FTA and has taught many classes and webinars for the association. He started his career as an Import Specialist with CBP and went on to export and import compliance positions with Hughes Aircraft Company and The Boeing Company. He is a licensed customs broker and is a Certified Customs Specialist. Mr. Leeds is a US Army veteran.

Customs brokers - this one is for you.

December 1st from 1 - 2 PT, Bruce Leeds from Braumiller Law Group PLLC is going to be discussing the impact of continuing education for licensed customs brokers as proposed in the NPRM dated October 29th. Hear what the agency has in mind and share your thoughts with Bruce and learn how to submit your own comments.

Thanks to our sponsor, [Braumiller Law Group](#).

Members: \$25.00

Non-members: \$45.00

Get to know your local CES stations on December 8th.

Hard to believe that Customs started the CES program in 1993, but there are three of these facilities operating in the LA/LGB port complex area to provide valuable services for cargo that must be examined before being released locally or moved elsewhere. Learn about these three locations from representatives from NFI/Cal Cartage, FCL Logistics and Price Transfer. Join us December 8th from 1 - 2 PM for a webinar.

Thanks to our sponsor, [FCL Logistics](#)

Members: \$25.00

Non-members: \$45.00

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LOGISTICS

Getting to know the Centralized Examination Stations of LA/LB, and how to keep your cargo moving through the process

Ticket Prices
\$25 for membership and \$45 for non-members

Date: December 8, 2020
Time: 1:00 p.m. -2:00 p.m. PST
Location: Zoom Webinar

[Register Here](#)

Since their inception in 1993, Centralized Examination Stations facilitate shipments, which required CBP inspection, to minimize delays in the examination. LA/LB is lucky to have three sites who are authorized to perform these examinations. Come hear from all three CES sites as they share the 'tips and tricks' that will keep your cargo flowing.



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REGISTER TODAY

Environmental

IMO Plan to Curb Shipping's Carbon Emissions Triggers Criticism

Some countries and non-government organizations said the measures were inconsistent with the Paris Agreement. The IMO's much more ambitious target — to halve shipping's outright emissions by 2050— wasn't a central part of the discussions.

Shipping Industry Proposes \$5 Billion Program to Help Decarbonize Shipping

The call comes ahead of this week's meeting of IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) to consider important next steps in the IMO's initial strategy for reducing greenhouse emissions from maritime transport.

Could the Shipping Industry Derail Plans to Address the Global Climate Emergency?

Countries from across the world have this week been debating how to address shipping's enormous climate impact at a key meeting held virtually by the UN's International Maritime Organization.

REV Ocean Pursues High-Impact Environmental Solutions

Crazy is probably a word that's been bandied about frequently with regard to REV Ocean, but usually in a positive sense — usually with respect to the scale, scope and ambition of a project that, quite literally, sounds more like a Hollywood script than reality.

Asian Logistics, Maritime, and Aviation Conference Opens

Under the theme “Capturing Opportunities Amidst Volatility”, more than 60 experts and leaders from the logistics, maritime and aviation industries share their insights at the two-day event.

How China's Belt and Road Could Help or Hurt the Oceans

Many have voiced fears about how the huge infrastructure project might expand China’s military and political influence across the world.

FTA Call for Nominations for the 2021 Board of Directors

The FTA is conducting its annual call for nominations of members for the 2021 Board of Directors. For those that are not members and wish to be on the board, you must apply for membership first to be able to participate in the election. This is a great opportunity to become a member and take advantage of our current 50% off discount on individual and corporate memberships.

The FTA Board of Directors is responsible for managing and ensuring the future success of the Foreign Trade Association. These responsibilities include the oversight and management of policies, communication strategies, and financial matters. Members of the FTA Board also serve on one, or more, of the seven standing committees. This cycle provides for a constant revitalization of the Board and gives potential Board members a finite number of years to commit their services. The revolving terms also allow other members of the FTA to participate on the Board.

Please help by nominating candidates, of whom you believe will serve the organization well (you may choose to nominate a current FTA Board member whose term is expiring). You are also welcome to self-nominate, as you desire.

SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION TODAY

Maritime

Container Spot Rate Records Don't Mean Sky's the Limit

Many trans-Pacific shippers still have contract rates far below current spot rates, and while they cannot necessarily ship all their cargo on those low rates and at the same time get the space and equipment they need, they still do benefit.

U.S. Import Boom Delaying Cargo at Nation's Busiest Port

The typical holiday shipping peak is exaggerated this year because retailers and manufacturers are racing to restock depleted warehouses

Port of Long Beach Breaks Monthly Cargo Record Again, Continuing Historic Recovery Run

The surge comes as retailers continue to prepare for the holiday shopping season, a rise in e-commerce and an increased demand for gardening

equipment, pet supplies and musical instruments, according to the Port of Long Beach.

Containerized Grain Shippers Feeling Brunt of Tight Market

Rail service has been meeting shippers' demands this fall but pandemic concerns loom.

FTA Membership Opportunity

Interested in Becoming a Member of the Foreign Trade Association?

The FTA is offering 50% off on Corporate and One Company Representative memberships for new members from now until the end of December.

- **Corporate = \$300 (Regularly \$600)**
- **Individual = \$150 (Regularly \$300)**

To qualify as a new member, there must be at least an 18-month lapse from the previous membership. An individual who has left a company that was or is a member is also eligible for this promotion.

Other conditions and restrictions apply. Visit our website to learn more and join today!

JOIN TODAY

Videos of the Week

Biden's China Policy

The WSJ takes a look at what the anticipated policy will be for President-Elect Biden as he inherits a rocky relationship with China over tariffs, cybersecurity, human rights and an increasingly less-than-independent Hong Kong.



Logistics and Trade

Maersk Line Expects Trade Rebound in 2021

The world's biggest container carrier saw profits soar 83% in the third quarter on recovering volumes, rising freight rates.

Asian Logistics, Maritime and Aviation Conference Goes Online Capturing Opportunities Amid Volatility

ALMAC Online will focus on three key areas – rebuilding supply chain resilience under the new normal, Asia's evolving role in global supply chains, and the trendsetting technologies and innovations for reinvigorating logistics operations and management.

2021 Trade Update: Uncertain Global Scenarios Bear Watching

U.S. shippers will be closely tracking ongoing regulatory issues with China and Southeast Asia, as well as the looming showdown between the United Kingdom and the European Union over Brexit.

Peak Season Congestion Traps Truckers for Hours at LAX Cargo Terminals

The plight of truckers serving the port complex of Los Angeles/Long Beach has led to calls from industry bodies for a stay on demurrage and detention fees. Now, truckers that call at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) have similar tales of frustration.

Port of LA launches Return Signal for Trucking to Address Congestion

Container and chassis congestion at the Port of Los Angeles is so severe that it was about 10 minutes into a press conference Wednesday before Executive Director Gene Seroka got around to announcing an all-time monthly volume record at the port.

Editorial

This week's commentary comes from FTA Board Member Mechelle Smothers, Marketing Director for the Port of Long Beach

The Foreign Trade Zone Program Offers Cost-Saving Benefits in the Midst of a Global Pandemic

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization in March 2020 and everyday life as we knew it evolved to the “new normal” we see today. New health and safety protocols were put in place; the term “social distancing” became a part of our daily vocabulary; and people had to adjust to mandatory Stay-at-Home Orders – which varied by state. During this time period, many non-essential retailers were required to close which resulted in a loss of sales and revenue. In an attempt to decrease expenses, companies were also forced to either furlough or lay off employees.

A lifesaver for many retailers and fashion brands during these unprecedented times is the Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) Program. The FTZ Program is a federal program that was authorized by Congress in 1934 to encourage international trade, as well as create and retain jobs. One of the benefits as an FTZ Operator and/or User is duty deferral. Spring and summer fashion collections were unable to make it onto store shelves in time for the season. However, with FTZ designation, a company may store the merchandise in the warehouse for as long as they need to and defer that duty until the merchandise enters into commerce. Many importers are choosing to hold on to their seasonal spring and summer attire in an FTZ warehouse and selling it next year in 2021.

Other FTZ benefits include duty exemption, inverted tariff relief, merchandise processing fee (MPF) savings, quota avoidance, zone-to-zone transfers, operational efficiencies, and quarterly payments of the harbor maintenance fees.

The 81st Annual Report of the Foreign-Trade Zones Board to the Congress was recently released this past week. In 2019, there were 193 active FTZs during the year and a total of 348 active production operations. FTZs continue to create and retain jobs domestically – employing over 460,000 people across the nation within the same reporting period.

The FTZ Program has been around for a very long time but it is an underutilized tool. It gained interest in recent years as a tariff mitigation strategy, and the FTZ benefits continue to assist importers stay afloat in the midst of a fast-paced, ever changing global pandemic environment.



Got a story idea?

The FTA wants to hear from you! Is there a topic or industry that we're not covering that you'd like to see more of? Drop Mark Hirzel an email by clicking the button below with your suggestions.

[EMAIL MARK TODAY](#)

Other Upcoming Events

December 1 - WEBINAR - What you need to know about the proposed Customs Broker Continuing Education Requirements - 1:00 - 2:00 PM PST - [Registration now open here.](#)

December 8 - WEBINAR - Getting to know the Centralized Examination Stations of LA/LB, and how to keep your cargo moving through the process - 1:00 - 2:00 PM PST -Come hear from all three CES sites as they share the 'tips and tricks' that will keep your cargo flowing. [Registration now open here.](#)

December 17 - WEBINAR - POLB and The Logistical Benefits of the Replacement of the Gerald Desmond Bridge - 1:00 - 2:00 PM PST -. [More details to follow!](#)

January 26 - WEBINAR -Forced Labor in today's global trade environment - 1:00 - 2:00 PM PST -This webinar will offer a unique perspective to importers looking to create or enhance their forced labor compliance programs. [More details to follow!](#)