



## July 23, 2021 Volume 2, Nr. 29

The Federal Maritime Commission has been making headlines the past few weeks. The little-known agency, outside of those in the maritime business of cargo and cruise ship operations, this week [announced a planned audit of the detention and demurrage practices of the nine largest carriers by market share.](#) This is the latest in a recent string of prominent actions by the agency building on the Fact Finding which commenced last year.

### Number of the Day:

# 1.09

Inventory to sales ratio for U.S. retailers in May, up from the 1.07 reading in April that was the lowest in records dating to 1992, according to the Census Bureau.



**FIRMs Code: W517**

## Government Actions and Trade

### **U.S. Anti-China Digital Trade Deal Seen as 'Dead in the Water' for Joe Biden in Asia**

The proposed deal could set out standards for the digital economy, including rules on use of data, trade facilitation, and electronic customs arrangements.

### **AP Interview: U.S. Firms in Hong Kong Face Risks, Says AmCham**

U.S. businesses operating in Hong Kong should reassess their operations and decide if the risks of operating there are worth the reward, the president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong said in an interview Monday with The Associated Press.

### **Issuance of a Hong Kong Business Advisory**

On July 16, the U.S. Department of State, along with the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, issued a business advisory to caution U.S. businesses about emerging risks to their operations and activities in Hong Kong.

### **President Biden Announces 11 Key Nominations**

President Joe Biden announced his intent to nominate the following 11 individuals to serve in key roles:

### **Britain Sets Out Plan to Stimulate Trade with Developing Economies**

Britain will set out a plan on Monday to stimulate trade with 70 developing economies by lowering tariffs and simplifying rules, its latest push to promote freer global commerce after regaining control of its trade policy following Brexit.

### **Japan, Australia to Promote Regional Trade Deals**

Japan and Australia agreed Thursday to promote the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership regional trade deals to revitalize the COVID-19 pandemic-hit regional economy.

### **U.S. Clashes with Mexico, Canada on Car Rules in USMCA Risk**

The dispute focuses on how to calculate the percentage of a vehicle that comes collectively from the three countries under the U.S.-Mexico-Canada agreement, according to people familiar with the matter, who asked not to be named because conversations are private.

### **Peruvian Congress Ratifies the Trans-Pacific Partnership Treaty**

In supporting the proposal, the president of the Congressional Foreign Relations Commission, Gilmer Trujillo, of the Popular Force (FP), pointed out that the CPTPP seeks to establish a free trade zone by incorporating or referring to the text of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Treaty (TPP).

### **Taiwan Angers China with First Europe Office Using its Name**

The government in Taipei will open its office in the Baltic nation of Lithuania, Taiwan's Foreign Minister Joseph Wu told a briefing Tuesday. Taiwan's other diplomatic outposts on the continent are under the name of "Taipei."

### **China is Buying Up American Farms. Washington Wants to Crack Down.**

Bipartisan pressure is building to stop foreign nationals from purchasing American farm operations and receiving taxpayer subsidies.

### **Biden to Tap Former Ambassador to France as His Ambassador to the UK After Lengthy Search**

President Joe Biden will name Jane Hartley as his ambassador to the United Kingdom after a lengthy search, a person familiar with the decision told CNN.

### **China Wants a Chip Machine From the Dutch. The U.S. Said No.**

Some of the tech industry's most important machines are made next to corn fields in the Netherlands. The U.S. government is trying to make sure they don't end up in China.

### **Tokyo Olympics: Covid-19 Cases Hit 71 Before First Matches Begin on Wednesday**

Tokyo's Olympic organizers reported 71 cases of Covid-19 linked to the event on Tuesday, a day before competitions begin, with the opening ceremony of the Games scheduled for Friday.

## Chinese Suppliers to Apple, Nike Shun Xinjiang Workers as U.S. Forced-Labor Ban Looms

Chinese factories that supply Apple Inc. and Nike Inc. and make other products sold in the U.S. are shunning workers from Xinjiang, as Western countries increase scrutiny of forced labor from the remote northwestern region where Beijing has been accused of committing genocide against local ethnic minorities.

# TRADE AND TRANSPORT ATTORNEYS



**ROBERTS & KEHAGIARAS LLP**  
ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

[LEARN MORE](#)

## FTA NEWS



**FTA**  
Foreign Trade Association

**Location:**  
Zoom Webinar

**Date:**  
Thursday, August 5, 2021  
Friday, August 6, 2021

**Program:**  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM PDT

**Credits:**  
6 CES Credits

**Cost:**  
\$150 Early Registration  
\$200 Late Registration



Foreign Trade Association Presents:

### Customs Compliance For Import Personnel

**2-Day Virtual Course**  
**Compliance Summer Camp for Import Personnel**

This is a 2-day course intended to cover the subjects and information needed by importer employees responsible for Customs and import compliance. These include internal controls, customs broker selection and monitoring, bonds, powers of attorney, managing HTS classifications and assists, post entry claims and compliance issues. The class also covers participation in Customs initiatives, including Trusted Trader and ACE Portal.

**Topics to be Covered:**

- Establishing & utilizing internal controls
- Customs broker selection, powers of attorney & broker monitoring
- Types of entries, customs bonds, paying duty & handling liquidations
- Determining and declaring a Customs value for a company's transactions
- Classifying imported articles, saving and utilizing classification information
- Qualifying for the Customs Trusted Trader program
- Centers of Excellence & Expertise
- ACE Portal benefits
- Qualifying (or not) for duty free exemptions and free trade agreements
- Using TIBs, bonded warehouses, Foreign Trade Zones & drawback
- Dumping and Countervailing duties, 232 and 301 duties
- Dealing with import restrictions and other agency requirements
- Post entry actions - amendments, protests, claims, tenders and disclosures
- Record keeping requirements and complying with the rules
- Responding to Customs requests and actions
- Dealing with liquidated damages, penalties & audits



**Instructor:** Bruce Leeds, Attorney, Braumiller Law Group  
Bruce has decades of experience in international trade law and has successfully served his clients in diverse capacities, from classification and due diligence, to FTA compliance and drawback. He has significant expertise with importing and exporting high tech products.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Cancellations must be received in writing by 5 pm Friday, July 7, 2021 to receive a refund or to avoid being charged. Payment for this event is not deductible as a contribution or gift under federal law, but is most likely deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense.



## 2-Day Virtual Course - Customs Compliance for Import Personnel

This is a 2-day course intended to cover the subjects and information needed by importer employees responsible for Customs and import compliance.

### Pricing:

**\$150 - Early Bird Registration**

**\$200 - Late Registration**

**REGISTER  
HERE**

## FTA's Fall 2021 Customs Broker License Exam Course

This comprehensive course to prepare for the upcoming Customs Broker License

Exam provides detailed review in areas such as:

- Customs Broker Regulations
- Entry Requirements
- Valuation of Imports
- Harmonized Tariff Classification
- Free Trade Agreements and Other Duty-Free Exemptions
- Fines and Penalties
- Various other topics typically covered on the exam
- Exam-Taking Techniques

### Pricing:

**Member: \$445.00**

**Partner: \$500.00**

**Non-Member: \$550.00**

**REGISTER  
HERE**



**Foreign Trade Association**

**11 WEEK EXAM PREP COURSE**  
Monday evenings 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Starts: Jul. 19, 2021  
Ends: Sep. 27, 2021  
\*No class on Monday, Sep. 6, 2021. Class will take place on Tuesday, Sep. 7, 2021.

**Credits:**  
20 CCS provided by NCBFAA

**Cost:**  
Member Price \$445  
Non Member Price: \$550  
Partner Price: \$500

**Note:** Note: Course materials are not included in the registration fee.

**Location:** Virtual classes will be held for now.



100 W. Broadway, Suite 602  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
P. 888-223-6459

**FOREIGN TRADE ASSOCIATION PRESENTS**  
**Customs Brokers License Examination Course**

This comprehensive course to prepare for the upcoming Customs Broker License Exam provides detailed review in areas such as:

- Customs Broker Regulations
- Entry Requirements
- Valuation of Imports
- Harmonized Tariff Classification
- Free Trade Agreements and Other Duty-Free Exemptions
- Fines and Penalties
- Various other topics typically covered on the exam
- Exam-Taking Techniques

In addition to being well-prepared for the exam, the course will also assist in developing a better understanding of critical areas of Customs Compliance even for people not planning on taking the brokers exam. The knowledge you receive will assist in enhancing skills for career advancement. If you already possess a broker's license, this is an excellent review course. Certified Customs Specialists completing the course will receive 20 CCS credits from the NCBFAA.

The course is recommended for individuals with some experience in customs brokerage or import operations. If in doubt about your level of experience, please call the instructor, Erik Smithweiss, at 213-624-1970.

**INSTRUCTORS:**  
**Erik Smithweiss & Tony Piscitelli**

**Erik Smithweiss** is a partner with Grunfeld, Desiderio, Lebowitz, Silverman & Klestadt. Erik has over 20 years experience in the field of customs law and procedure and has taught customs broker exam preparation courses for over ten years.

**Tony Piscitelli** is the owner of TP CBP Importing Compliance, which offers consulting and training services. Tony was a Compliance Specialist with Expeditors International for 11 years as well as a 32-year career with U.S. Customs and Border Protection in NY and Los Angeles. Tony has taught customs broker exam preparation courses for over 6 years.

**Course Material**  
CBP has yet to announce the next exam date in October 2021. Reference materials and an amended flyer will be issued when CBP publishes the exam notice listing the required HTS and 19 CFR, which the students will be required to purchase.

**REGISTER NOW**



**ROANOKE**

**Surety Bonds | Insurance | ATA Carnets**

**www.RoanokeGroup.com** **1.800.ROANOKE**

## Environmental

### California's Electric Car Revolution, Designed to Save the Planet, Also Unleashes a Toll on It

The state of California is inexorably intertwined in this drama. Not just because extraction companies are aggressively surveying the state's landscapes for opportunities to mine and process the materials. But because California is leading the drive toward electric cars.

### Apple's Biggest iPhone Production Site Hit by Flooding in Central China

The severe flooding in central China cut power temporarily at Apple Inc.'s biggest iPhone manufacturing site as water seeped into some areas and the site's operator gave many workers time off, said factory employees there.



## **New Jersey Amps Up Fight Against Beachside Towns Opposed to Offshore Wind**

Much like the resistance to fracking in parts of the U.S. and the U.K., oceanfront towns have fought against power lines running ashore from wind farms, even as the massive turbines themselves are mostly out of sight.

## **Environmental NGOs Highlight Retailers as Top Maritime Polluters**

The groups Pacific Environment and Stand.earth, are focusing on the retail industry, including Walmart, Ashley, Target, Home Depot, Ikea, and Amazon, as the top maritime polluters as the NGOs launch a new campaign calling for the carriers and their customers to stop moving commerce on fossil-fueled ships.

## **Study Finds Most Ships Speeding Through North Atlantic Right Whale Protection Areas**

Most vessels are breaking speed limits to protect critically endangered North Atlantic right whales, threatening the extinction of the species, according to a new report released by the ocean conservation group Oceana.

## **Drones for Environmental Protection: Oceans Unmanned and The Ocean Cleanup Join Forces**

The two will work together, using drones to evaluate and improve ongoing efforts to capture and remove marine debris in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. "Later this summer, a team of Oceans Unmanned operators equipped with several UAS will deploy offshore with The Ocean Cleanup researchers for a six-week campaign to conduct daily aerial surveys in an attempt to quantify the distribution and abundance of marine debris.



### **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 us an email by clicking the button below with your suggestions.

**EMAIL YOUR STORY  
IDEA**



YUSEN LOGISTICS

CONNECTING SOLUTIONS TO  
IMPROVE YOUR SUPPLY CHAIN

[www.yusen-logistics.com](http://www.yusen-logistics.com)

1.800.414.3895



### FTA New Member Thank You!

The FTA would like to acknowledge our new members each week in our newsletter. We sincerely appreciate their support and participation. Your FTA leadership continues to focus on delivering value during this time of social distancing and know that as we move back to in-person events that the opportunities will only continue to expand.

Your Name Here!

SUPPORTING WORLD TRADE SINCE 1948



*Coppersmith*  
Global Logistics

Atlanta | Chicago | Dallas | Houston | Los Angeles  
New York | Portland | San Francisco | Seattle

## **'We're Plugging a Gap,' says Forwarder Paying \$100,000 a Day for Small Boxship**

Allseas Global Logistics takes 2,000-teu feeder vessel for Asia-Europe trade.

## **Booming US-China Trade Brushes Off Trump Trade War and Pandemic**

China and the U.S. are shipping goods to each other at the brisk pace in years, making the world's largest bilateral trade relationship look as if the protracted tariff war and pandemic never happened.

## **China's Port Congestion Ties up 565 Bulkers**

Congestion outside Chinese grain and coal ports is affecting the sub-capesize segment, supporting freight rates in the process. Handysize earnings, for example, have gained for the 32nd consecutive day.

## **Understand the Importance of Investing in Safety in Maritime Operations**

Port and maritime operations are subject to various types of risks that, if not managed, can negatively affect all parties involved. In 2020 alone, more than 900 serious-level maritime accidents were recorded worldwide, according to Maritime Bulletin.

## **Port of Los Angeles Hits Record Annual Container Volume of 10.87m teu**

Over the past 12 months, the Port of Los Angeles surpassed eight monthly records, had its two highest-performing quarters, and had its top four individual months in the port's history.

## **U.S. FMC Launches Ocean Carriers Audit Program**

The U.S. Federal Maritime Commission has established an audit program, with a dedicated audit team, to assess carrier compliance with the agency's rule on detention and demurrage as authorities in Washington DC take action to cool down the nation's overheated logistics sector.

## **The Shipping Summer of Chaos**

The domino effect is being felt throughout the industry with analysts at S&P Global-owned supply chain intelligence company Panjiva estimating that it would take "at least 15 days of crossings above the 'normal' 50-60 vessels per day run rate to clear the current backlog".



**KNOWLEDGE...  
EXPERIENCE...  
DEDICATION...**

## UP chief on CNBC this week

During a week when the Union Pacific has embargoed ocean containers from west coast ports to Chicago and with [this story in the WSJ](#) about the labor shortages faced by freight railroads, UP's CEO took to CNBC this week to explain the situation.



## Logistics and Trade

### North Carolina's Largest City Running Short on Liquor

Restaurants and bars in North Carolina's largest city are scrambling to find popular brands of alcohol that have been depleted by supply chain issues and worker shortages.

### Car Dealers Can Keep Rolling After Supply Crunch

Both Lithia Motors and AutoNation —dealers selling new and used vehicles— reported record revenue and profits last quarter. Lithia Motors said on Wednesday morning that its second quarter sales surged 118% compared with a year earlier; AutoNation's sales jumped 54% in the same period.

### FedEx Express and Delhivery Come Together to Unlock Cross-Border Potential in India

FedEx Express India and Delhivery have entered into equity and commercial agreements that will utilize their combined strengths to unlock India's international trade potential. Completion of this transaction is subject to closing conditions, including regulatory approval.

### China Buys Friends With Ports and Roads. Now the U.S. Is Trying to Compete.



Rare bipartisan program dedicates \$60 billion for overseas infrastructure projects including cellular networks, vaccine production and maybe even a crumbling Greek shipyard.

### **Getting the Cap on the Bottle: Inside P&G's Robot Ambitions**

Procter & Gamble Co (PG.N) may be best known for laundry detergent and toothpaste, but its secret sauce is arguably figuring out how to do things like get two red bottles of Olay skin lotion into blister packs as cheaply and accurately as possible.

### **Cargo Congestion on West Coast is a Consequence of Complex Issues**

New research commissioned by the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA) finds that equipment shortages, capacity limits, and logistical chokepoints throughout the entire supply chain have created the backlog of container vessels and marine terminals slowing trade at U.S. West Coast ports.

### **China's Foreign Trade Growth Expected to Slow in H2**

Rising raw material prices and maritime logistics problems will further squeeze margins of trading companies, Li told a media briefing.

## **Upcoming Events**

**July 25-28 2021 - ICPA Summer Conference - Walt Disney World Swan & Dolphin Resort** - Join other international trade compliance professionals for the 2021 ICPA Annual Conference in Orlando, FL - Register [here](#)

**July 26-27 2021 - Global Trade Education Conference (G TEC) - 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM PT** - The NCBFAA Educational Institute invites you to its 7th Annual Global Trade Educational Conference (G·TEC). This two-day event in Baltimore, MD will give customs brokers, freight forwarders, NVOCCs, OTI, service providers, importers, exporters and all global logistics professionals an opportunity to update themselves on industry developments - Register [here](#)

**July 29 - WITLA - International Trade Updates and Business Opportunities in the U.S. with Southeast Asia - 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM PT** - Trade representatives from Consulates General and Trade Offices in Los Angeles and San Francisco will join us to provide a summary update on international trade relations with the U.S. and present their perspectives for opportunities for U.S. businesses - Register [here](#)

**Aug 4 - LACBFFA HTS Classification Workshop 2021 - 10: 00 Am - 12:00 PM PT** - Learn or review how to use the USHTS as a tool for classification and duty estimation. We will cover the General Rules of Interpretation, General notes, Chapter notes and headings - Register [here](#)

**Aug 5- 6 - 2 Day Virtual Course - Customs Compliance For Import Personnel - 9:00 AM - 12: 00 PM PT** - This is a 2-day course intended to cover the subjects and information needed by importer employees responsible for Customs and import compliance - Register [here](#)

**Aug 10 - ACE Reports for Export - 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM PT** - We will look at ACE Reports and show how you can use them to monitor your AES filing and export compliance activities - Register [here](#)

**Aug 11-12- BIS Encryption Controls Virtual Seminar - 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM PT** - The Encryption Controls Virtual Seminar is an in-depth seminar that will focus on the unique provisions related to encryption under the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) - Register [here](#)

**September 12-15 ICPA Fall Conference and Valuation Seminar** -Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center, Grapevine, TX - Register [here](#)

**September 14 - PAEI Webinar: Overview of International Trade & Export Control Developments in Asia Pacific Region -6:00 PM - 7:30 PM PT** - Join us for this interactive “webinar” with our industry experts on an overview of international trade and export control developments in the Asia Pacific region and implications for global supply chains - Register [here](#)

**September 19-21 NCBFAA Government Affairs Conference - 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM PT** - Grand Hyatt, Washington, D.C. - Register [here](#)

**October 14-17 – WESSCON 2021 – 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM PT**- WESSCON offers one of the best opportunity to meet people in the global logistics industry – Register [here](#)

**December 31 - Webinar -LACBFFA APHIS CORE Webinar (Recording + Presentation Materials) - 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM PT** - This workshop provides an overview on how to prepare for the mandatory APHIS Core filing date on 03/15/2021. Available resources and how to obtain admissibility guidance from USDA. Disclaimer tips and APHIS Core message set filing review - Register [here](#)