



FTA

Foreign Trade Association

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Thank you to everyone who attended our holiday luncheon this week. The event was a memorable one and it was a pleasure enjoying one another's company once again. This will be the final newsletter of 2021 with the next two Fridays being Christmas and New Year's Eves. We will return with our next edition on Friday, January 7th. From everyone at the FTA, have a happy and safe holiday.

FTA's 2021 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

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2021 HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

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Number of the Day:

-9.6%

The annualized drop in November container imports in the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach from 2020. The YOY figures from October registered a 10.1% decline, despite a ship queue that now exceeds 100 vessels.



DISCLAIMER: The weekly FTA Newsletter includes content from recognized and respected national and worldwide sources. Some of these sources may link a payroll, requiring a subscription.

OSRA 21 Coalition Update

The Advocacy Committee of the FTA has been working in collaboration with the other national and local trade associations seeking passage of the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2021. On Dec. 8, 2021, under [House of Representatives Suspension Rules](#), (which allow non-controversial bills to be voted on quickly), the House passed [HR 4996](#) by a vote of 364 to 60. Now the Senate is working on a companion bill and despite the momentum gained, adoption in the Senate will be a challenge. As a Senate bill is introduced we will provide the details.

SoCal Infrastructure Coalition: WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Infrastructure is one of the words on everyone's lips these days given the amount of money associated with the bills being discussed in Congress as we go to press. The FTA is part of a SoCal coalition that is discussing possible uses of the money once approved by Congress. Bearing in mind the pressing port congestion issue, one broad topic the coalition is trying to tackle is how possible infrastructure funding could be used to at least partially address the congestion challenges currently being faced. The goal of the coalition is to find a handful of priorities on which everyone can agree and raise those topics with Members and Senators as these bills work their way through the legislative process.

FTA wants to hear from its members about possible infrastructure projects in the SoCal area, whether designed to help impact port congestion or otherwise. Send your suggestion to ac@tradeandcargoconsulting.com

FTA ADVOCACY MEETING

Do you have import, export and other trade related issues about which you are concerned? FTA's Advocacy Committee is the place to raise those issues. Our next meeting is January 6, 2022 from 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM PT - Meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86986932640>



Outside the Box

Innovation, sustainability and vision make Long Beach the Port of Choice.



Port of **LONG BEACH**
THE PORT OF CHOICE

Government Actions and Trade

Asia Waits for U.S. to Walk the Talk on Trade

Secretary of State Antony Blinken came to Southeast Asia with a similar message to other American officials who recently visited: The U.S. is standing up against China, bolstering alliances, and providing vaccines and infrastructure.

South Korea to Apply for CPTPP Free Trade Pact Membership

South Korean Finance Minister Hong Nam-ki said Monday the country's government will begin the process to join a massive Asia-Pacific free trade deal, adding it to a growing list of applicants that includes China and Taiwan.

U.S. Falling Behind on Global Trade, Expert Says

Many people in many sectors of U.S. agriculture are becoming increasingly concerned the U.S. is losing ground in global trade to international competitors.

Biden Team Slow to Move as US Lagging Behind Competitors in Striking Trade Deals

Right now, there are no new trade deals getting lined up for agriculture or other industries. The purchase demands for the U.S.-China Phase One Agreement also expire Dec. 31 with no clear pathway to extend or renew it.

UK Agrees World's Most Comprehensive Digital Trade Deal with Singapore

It is the first digitally-focused trade agreement ever signed by a European nation. This comprehensive digital trade deal was agreed in record time by International Trade Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan and Singapore Minister-in-charge of Trade Relations S. Iswaran after just six months of negotiations.

Lithuania Shows China's Coercive Trade Tactics are Hard to Counter

Beijing has been targeting foreign companies or industries to "punish" their governments for policies with which it disagrees. Measures have included a suspension of rare earth exports to Japan after a maritime clash off the disputed Senkaku Islands, a curb on Norwegian salmon imports after the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to dissident Liu Xiaobo and a ban on Australian wine and barley imports in retaliation for Canberra's demand for an inquiry into the origins of Covid-19.

A Free and Open Indo-Pacific - United States Department of State (speech)

Antony J. Blinken, Secretary of State

Universitas Indonesia Jakarta, Indonesia December 14, 2021

South Korea's TPP Bid Adds to Trade Pact Complexities

The complex relationship between Seoul and Tokyo is just one of many among the growing list of countries now seeking to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), to give it its full name. Australia is set to benefit from a wider membership base, particularly if it can convince the United States to join.

Fact Sheet: Export Controls and Human Rights Initiative Launched at the Summit for Democracy | The White House

Today at the Summit for Democracy, the United States, Australia, Denmark and Norway announced the Export Controls and Human Rights Initiative to help stem the tide of authoritarian government misuse of technology and promote a positive vision for technologies anchored by democratic values.

U.S. Pitches Deal on Trump-Era Tariffs Japan Wants Removed

The U.S. made an offer to Japan aimed at resolving disputes over tariffs imposed on Japanese steel and aluminum under former President Donald Trump in 2018, people familiar with the situation said

Global Britain Struggles to Get US Attention Over Steel Fight

International Trade Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan traveled to Washington last week to urge her counterparts to lift the punishing national security tariffs on steel and aluminum that former President Donald Trump imposed in 2018.

U.S.-China Frictions Undercut Efforts to Settle Global Trade Disputes

Rising tensions between the U.S. and China are hampering efforts by members of the World Trade Organization to repair its ability to settle international trade disputes. China's entry into the WTO 20 years ago this month came with expectations that Beijing would gradually adopt Western free-trade practices.

TRADE AND TRANSPORT ATTORNEYS



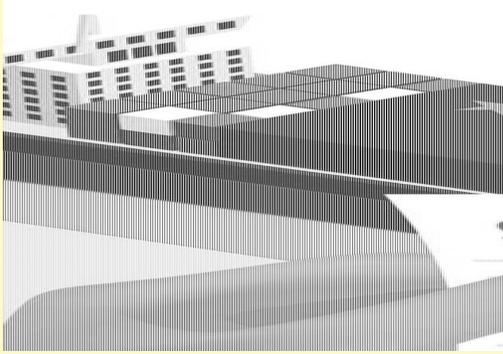
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ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

[LEARN MORE](#)

FTA NEWS

FTA AND UPCOMING SECTION 301 PROGRAM

The Foreign Trade Association is closely monitoring the Section 301 Action filed



with the Court of International Trade and Section 301 updates provided by the USTR. We are pleased to announce that we will be preparing a program that will shed light on the recent changes. Details on this program are soon to follow!

FTA Webinars/Courses



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 April 2022. 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.

11 WEEK EXAM PREP COURSE
Monday evenings 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Starts: Jan. 24, 2021
Ends: Apr. 4, 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 660
Long Beach, CA 90802
P: 888-223-5459

REGISTER NOW

January 24, 2022 - April 4, 2022

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- Exam-Taking Techniques

Time: Mondays, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM PT

Pricing:
\$445 - Members
\$500 - Partner
\$550 - Non-members

DETAILS TO FOLLOW SOON!

Environmental

'More Money Than Drugs or Guns': the Illegal Eel Trade

Shrinking eel stocks and measures like fishing quotas have helped fuel a billion-dollar black market in the delicacy, dubbed “the greatest wildlife crime on the planet” by one conservationist.

Used Electric Car Sales Jump in China With Tesla, Xpeng, Li Auto, Nio Sought

China’s efforts to build a thriving market for secondhand vehicles, pretty much from zero, are slowly starting to deliver results, including in the electric car segment.

Is Your Christmas Tree Good for the Environment? Depends on How You Use It

Decorating with evergreen trees did not start as a Christmas tradition at all. We know this because evergreen trees were used for winter decoration in the BC (Before Christ) years. At this point, the trees were not decorated. Tree decoration did not take place until the year 1510 in Riga, Latvia. The first-ever reference to a “Christmas tree” occurred in Germany in 1531.

Mitsubishi Shipbuilding Unveils Hybrid Electric Coastal Tanker Design

Known as “RoboShip”, the design will feature a hybrid electrical propulsion system that includes large-capacity storage batteries and generators that will allow CO2-free operations during port operations, such as loading and unloading, docking and undocking, and entering or leaving port

Switzerland Supports WTO Initiatives to Intensify Work on Trade and Environmental Sustainability

On 15 December Switzerland participated in the adoption of three ministerial declarations on trade and environmental sustainability at the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva. The three ministerial declarations urge the WTO to step up its work on trade and environmental sustainability, plastics pollution and fossil fuel subsidy reform.

Amazon’s Use of Plastic Soared in 2020, Environmental Group Says

Buoyed by the coronavirus pandemic, Amazon’s retail business in 2020 generated 599 million pounds of plastic packaging waste, a 29 percent

increase from the year before, according to the environmental group Oceana.

Cheetah Cubs Threatened by Pet Trade, Global Warming in Somaliland

The Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) and the government of Somaliland - which broke away from Somalia in 1991 - have been rescuing trafficked cheetah cubs in the region for the past four years. Only around 6,700 adult cheetahs are left in the wild worldwide, and the population is still declining, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Component Shortages Hit EVs as Class 8 Orders Plummet

While a traditional truck could require up to 500 semiconductors, an electric one could require up to 5,000.



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**



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HELLO!

New Members!

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!

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New York | Portland | San Francisco | Seattle

Maritime

'Halloween Costumes are Still Coming Through the Ports'

When you look at the millions of containers processed through our nation's ports, many Americans do not realize that a single container can have hundreds of different products within each box. With the pressure to fulfill the holiday deadlines of their customers, logistics companies like C.H. Robinson are deploying employees to open these containers and sort out time-sensitive items in an effort to get them on store shelves on time.

The Wheels on the Chassis Go Round and Round ... Not

A significant number of chassis are stuck beneath containers, both empty and loaded, parked in yards awaiting trucks to haul them away. Others are awaiting maintenance or repair, or squirreled away at some undisclosed inland site.

Port of Baltimore Continues to Welcome Diverted Ships from West Coast Ports

For many people anticipating a new Mercedes-Benz for the holidays, the Helen Delich Bentley Port of Baltimore may be helping deliver that wish – while also helping ease unprecedented levels of congestion at other American ports. On Monday, the Port of Baltimore welcomed the vessel Noble Ace, which discharged 1,800 new Mercedes-Benz vehicles, including approximately 600 that had been scheduled to be unloaded on the West Coast.

Los Angeles Import Volume Sinks as Shipping Traffic Jam Soars

Despite America's epic consumer boom, containerized imports to the Port of Los Angeles plunged to 403,569 twenty-foot equivalent units in November, down 14% from October 2021 and down 13.2% from November 2020. For the

second month in a row, Los Angeles' containerized imports have fallen below levels in the same months in 2018.

Threat of Container Fees has Eased Shipping Congestions: Port of Los Angeles (video)

Gene Seroka of the seaport says although "there's still a lot of work to do," the threat of container fees has worked better than other methods in reducing shipping congestions.

Port of LA's Seroka Says Ocean Shipping Reform Act Will Boost Industry Transparency

The first major update of U.S. international ocean-shipping laws in more than two decades, which passed in the House this week, will help boost transparency in the industry if passed by the Senate, the head of the Port of Los Angeles said.

About That Rate Relief ... Ocean Shipping Costs are Rising Again

Different spot rate indexes give different numbers, but they all paint a similar picture of the container-shipping market, one featuring little relief from ultrahigh transport costs.

Port of Long Beach Breaks Cargo Record

The Port processed 745,488 twenty-foot equivalent units last month, a 4.9% decline from the Port's strongest November on record, achieved in 2020. Imports dropped 5.3% to 362,394 TEUs and exports decreased 6.4% to 109,821 TEUs. Empty containers moved through the Port were down 3.6% to 273,274 TEUs.



Video of the Week

Legos? Legos.

In life, sometimes you just need to utilize the KISS principle - Keep It Simple, Silly. Sal is a former merchant mariner and using Maersk container Lego blocks, he highlights the problem that we here in Southern California are acutely aware of and need to communicate more loudly than vessel count - empty containers.



Logistics and Trade

Supply Chain Issues Start to Hit U.S. Cannabis

Getting basic materials like ceramics, stainless steel and computer chips from China has gotten so difficult that its about to hit one of the few industries that has so far been insulated from supply-chain woes: U.S. cannabis.

Senators Ask Biden to Exempt Truckers from Border Vaccine Mandate

Fourteen Republican U.S. senators have asked President Joe Biden to exempt Canadian truck drivers who cross the U.S.-Canada border from a fast-approaching vaccine mandate for foreign essential workers in January, saying the requirement will disrupt the North American supply chain.

U.S. Truckers Are 'Drowning' in Empty Containers

Restrictions on empty-container returns at major ports are the top issue that needs fixing to help ease U.S. supply chain bottlenecks, the head of the Harbor Trucking Association said, adding that true round-the-clock operations aren't yet in place.

What Can Congress Do to Ease Supply Chain Burdens?

Concern has gone beyond manufacturers and the business community to the general public. Consumers, who previously rarely considered in detail just how basic goods, groceries or retail items ended up magically on store shelves or in warehouses, are squawking loudly about supply chain issues.

Supply Chains Are in Crisis, but Logistics Bosses Are Doing Better Than Ever

Pre-Christmas shortages have exposed the fallibility of global supply chains' promise to deliver all manner of goods almost instantly. Yet logistics firms' profits are at historic highs — showing how they've used the crisis to entrench

their power.

Drewry: Four Potential Supply Chain Disruptors to Watch For In 2022

The fractious relationship between ocean carriers and their freight forwarder and NVOCC customers is seen as one of four key disruptors to the supply chain next year, by maritime consultant Drewry.

Workarounds Became Integral to Supply Chain Management During the Pandemic

Skyrocketing freight rates, port congestion and labor disruptions due to a global pandemic frequently converged to create headaches for companies. Despite it all, companies found ways to work around the issues.

Upcoming Events

December 14 -16 - 4-in-1 Help for Truckers Days - ONE-STOP PORT ACCESS EVENT FOR TRUCK DRIVERS - 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM PT at the Port of Long Beach Terminal Access Center, 1265 Harbor Ave., Long Beach-
This three-day event in the Port of Long Beach will offer a convenient, one-stop way to enroll, register or sign up for your Port access needs - Register at universalenroll.dhs.gov/programs/twic and select “POP-UP: TWIC Port of Long Beach TAC 12/14-12/16”

January 24 - April 4 - FTA Customs Broker License Exam Preparation Course - 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM PT - *Details to follow soon!*

February 27 - March 2 - ICPA Annual Conference- The Grand Hyatt, San Diego, CA - Register [here](#)

May 1 - May 4 - NCBFFA Annual Conference - 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Fort Lauderdale, FL - Register [here](#)