



CBSA Today: Commercial News for Stakeholders

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As you know, I joined the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) last spring as Associate Vice-President of the Programs Branch, and I have had the pleasure of meeting and working with many of you over the past number of months. As I assume the role of Vice-President of the Programs Branch, I look forward

to continuing to build on these relationships in order to better serve Canadians and Canadian business.

The work of the CBSA is critical to the economic and security priorities of Canadians, and the Agency is actively engaged in developing and implementing programs and processes that advance these priorities. Input from stakeholders in the Border Commercial Consultative Committee (BCCC) is crucial to ensuring that we get these programs and policies right. In my recent discussion with Janice McBride, I confirmed my commitment to meaningful engagement with stakeholders and developing a shared industry-CBSA agenda to advance our collective interests through the BCCC. I look forward to discussing this and other priorities at our next meeting in February 2014.

As we move forward with Beyond the Border and other important modernization efforts, we will work closely with members of the BCCC and other stakeholders to ensure we are looking at all angles

and answering the right questions to make sure we have a comprehensive approach that considers all perspectives in order to effectively shape the way forward.

Richard Wex, Co-Chair
Border Commercial Consultative Committee

eManifest Regional Client Support

Service excellence is a key priority of the CBSA. As part of its commitment to providing the best possible service to all of its clients, the Agency has established a national network of regional CBSA officers to provide support to external clients on eManifest processing issues. eManifest Regional External Client Support Officers (eRECS officers) are located at the 10 highest volume commercial ports across Canada to provide dedicated and specialized operational support, regional outreach and client service to external clients on real-time eManifest processing issues on a 24/7 basis.

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In addition, eRECS officers provide regional service to external eManifest clients about eManifest crossings at ports of entry within a particular region through dedicated telephone lines. The telephone numbers for the top 10 eManifest ports of entry are available on the CBSA Web site at www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/prog/manif/contact-regs-up-supreg-eng.html.

eRECS officers also participate in bi-weekly consultative conference calls with other CBSA support areas, including the Technical Support Unit, Training and Integration Unit, and the eManifest and ACROSS Help Desks personnel. The calls aim to ensure the timely identification and resolution of internal and external implementation issues. Since the launch of the support network in spring 2013, eRECS officers have helped facilitate thousands of eManifest crossings.

CBSA Retains Anti-dumping and Countervailing Program

Have you ever noticed that Canadian-made refined sugar dominates our grocery store shelves? Or that Canadian companies are still able to be competitive in our domestic markets in the face of increased low-cost importations?

Although it was previously announced that the CBSA's Anti-dumping and Countervailing Program would be moving to the Canadian International Trade Tribunal, it was decided in October 2013 that the Program would remain with the Agency. Canada's Anti-dumping and Countervailing Program creates a level playing field on which all products, whether domestically made or imported, can compete. This is achieved through the imposition of duty on unfairly traded imports, either dumped or subsidized, pursuant to the [Special Import Measures Act](#).

As of January 2014, 41 such measures are in force, which cover a wide variety of industrial and commercial products, ranging from steel products to bell peppers. These measures have directly helped to protect over 37,000 Canadian jobs and \$7.8 billion in Canadian production. For more information about the Anti-dumping and Countervailing Program,

please visit the CBSA Web site at <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/sima-lmsi/menu-eng.html>.

Commercial Marine Examination Review

In the coming months, the CBSA will undertake a review of its commercial marine examination processes. Concerns expressed by Agency stakeholders and risks identified in the CBSA Enterprise Risk Profile and National Border Risk Assessment indicate that the marine commercial mode and current CBSA processes represent both high costs to stakeholders and vulnerabilities to the Agency.

The review will commence in January 2014 and will focus on identifying ways to improve the security at Canada's marine ports of entry, while minimizing intrusions and impacts of marine examinations, which is paramount to facilitating trade and promoting the competitiveness of Canadian marine ports. Through engagement with external stakeholders, CBSA headquarters and regional stakeholders, the review will allow the CBSA to identify the most significant program gaps and to address overarching concerns related to facilitation and examination costs.

Commercial Release Strategy Input Reminder

As announced at the October 2013 BCCC meeting, the CBSA has committed to conducting a complete review of its commercial release process and to developing a new strategy to ensure a simpler, more cost-effective, and efficient release process for both trade and the CBSA.

In developing the new commercial release strategy, the Agency will:

- develop and implement the new strategy in close collaboration with industry;
- leverage the advances made by eManifest and the Single Window Initiative, relating to the provision of pre-arrival data; and
- be open to new and innovative ideas.

The CBSA will undertake external consultations at the inaugural BCCC Cargo and Release Sub-Committee meeting (meeting date to be determined).



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In the interim, we encourage you to provide any early ideas on the new strategy at CRS-SMMC@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca.

Carrier Code Update

The CBSA continues to collaborate with the [Shipping Federation of Canada](#) and the [B.C. Chamber of Shipping](#) to ensure a smooth transition with respect to the elimination of marine agent carrier codes.

Since the publication of the last newsletter, the Agency has also updated the [carrier section on the CBSA Web site](#) to ensure its user friendliness. Carriers are now able to select their mode and view step-by-step instructions on how to apply for a carrier code. In addition, the CBSA will be launching a new form in January 2014 and finalizing a system change that will enable carriers in all modes to change their bonded status without having to apply for a new carrier code. The CBSA will continue to work closely with both shipping associations to ensure a smooth transition.

Integrated Cargo Security Strategy Pilot Assessment Update

As detailed in the Beyond the Border Action Plan and as outlined in the [Integrated Cargo Security Strategy](#) (ICSS), a series of pilots were launched bi-nationally with the United States (U.S.) to test the concept of perimeter security. In support of this initiative, key stakeholders such as BCCC members, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the Canadian National Railway have played an integral role in the development of the ICSS and its associated pilots.

As noted in the Strategy, the CBSA is to conduct joint assessments of the pilot projects together with industry stakeholders, and is pleased to announce that these evaluations are now underway; these evaluations will be instrumental in determining the next steps of the ICSS. To achieve the goals of the Beyond the Border Action Plan, the CBSA has committed to returning to the BCCC and sharing the results of the ICSS pilot assessments with its members. Feedback will be gathered through various methods, including in-person meetings and e-mail

distributions, to ensure that BCCC member views and perspectives are considered in the final assessment of the ICSS.

World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement

On December 7, 2013, the [World Trade Organization \(WTO\) concluded the Trade Facilitation Agreement \(TFA\)](#) at the Ninth Ministerial Conference in Bali, Indonesia.

The TFA establishes binding provisions that will simplify customs procedures globally and accelerate the international movement, clearance and release of goods. The TFA also incorporates a component whereby developing countries and least-developed countries may seek assistance and expertise from countries such as Canada to implement the provisions of the TFA under certain timelines.

As the agency responsible for implementing the vast majority of Canada's commitments under the TFA, the CBSA worked closely throughout the negotiations with Canada's lead department, the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development, and will continue to do so throughout the treaty ratification and implementation process to ensure that Canada fulfills its international commitments. The CBSA will also continue to work with the WTO and the World Customs Organization to support customs administrations in less developed countries in their efforts to fulfill the requirements of the TFA.

It is estimated that the TFA could stimulate the global economy by as much as USD \$1 trillion, as well as create three million jobs in developed countries and up to 18 million jobs in developing countries. The implementation of the TFA will help Canadian businesses to access and operate in emerging foreign markets and contribute to economic activity in Canada. For more information, please visit [Canada and the World Trade Organization \(WTO\)](#).

The BCCC Secretariat

The BCCC forms an integral part of the CBSA's stakeholder engagement activities. If you have ideas



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for newsletter articles and/or questions about the BCCC and its activities, please contact the BCCC Secretariat at BCCC-CCACF@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca.