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QUOTA UPDATES

The quota updates for this week include:

1. EU Quota fill-rates
2. US Absolute Quota fill-rates
3. US Tariff Rate Quota fill-rates.

ON THE ANVIL

Updates being processed:

Argentina
Australia
Austria
Botswana
Brazil
Canada
Chile
China
EU
India
Israel
Lesotho
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Mexico
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New Zealand
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South Africa
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Switzerland
Taiwan

LANDED COST UPDATES

AMERICAS

ARGENTINA

Tariff schedule has been updated with changes in general duty rates, product descriptions, addition and deletion of certain HTS positions.

Source: Argentina Customs

COSTA RICA

Costa Rica Customs issued changes in duty and new HTS numbers.

Source: Costa Rica customs

URUGUAY

Uruguayan Customs issued changes in duties, descriptions and added new numbers to Uruguay Tariff Schedule. This update will also include the duties applicable to Preferential Agreements between Uruguay and several other Latin American countries.

Source: Uruguayan Customs (Dirección Nacional de Aduanas)

AISA-PACIFIC

SOUTH KOREA

Ministry of Strategy and Finance announced the new Transportation, Energy, Environment Tax rates in accordance with the Presidential Decree 20744.

Source: Ministry of Strategy and Finance

INDIA

Change in Customs and ADC (Excise) rates as per the Budget- 2008 changes Published in Customs and Excise Tariff Book.

Source: Customs Department, Government of India

EUROPE

PORTUGAL

VAT rates have been updated for the year 2008.

Source: Ministry of Finance

MIDDLE-EAST/AFRICA

NAMIBIA

Changes in HS description, duty rates, fuel levy and road accident levy.

Source: SARS

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Customs announced change in default duty for foodstuff, building materials and consumer goods as per the customs website.

Source: Saudi Customs

SWAZILAND

Changes in HS description, duty rates, fuel levy and road accident levy.

Source: SARS

GHANA

Addition of HS numbers, duties and taxes for products like Beer, Carbonated Soft Drinks, Cigarettes, Negrohead, Food preparations and Malt products.

Source: Ghana Customs

TRADE WATCH

Reebok agrees to pay \$1 million Fine.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has issued a notice and press release announcing that it has reached a provisional settlement agreement with Reebok International Ltd. in order to settle allegations that Reebok imported and distributed charm bracelets that contained toxic levels of lead in violation of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act.

The CPSC alleges that Reebok knowingly introduced or delivered for introduction into interstate commerce, etc. approximately 300,000 Heart-Shaped Charm Bracelets which were provided as free gifts with the purchase of various styles of children's footwear. The charm bracelets were subsequently subject to a recall announced by CPSC and Reebok in 2006.

As part of the provisional settlement agreement, Reebok agrees to pay a \$1 million civil penalty, the largest civil penalty for a FHSA violation.

The US and EU Began C-TPAT/AEO Mutual Recognition Process in 2007

In 2007, the US and the EU initiated efforts to implement Mutual Recognition of CBP's Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) and the EU's Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) supply chain security programs.

CBP has not made the Roadmap available, but states it outlines six areas that the US and the EU will address to achieve the goal of implementing Mutual Recognition: political, administrative, legal, policy, technical/operational, and evaluation. The Roadmap also sets forth key benchmarks for measuring progress in each area.

Mexico to Open Bidding on \$4 Billion Port to Service Asian Trade to US

The *Los Angeles Times* reports

REGULATORY UPDATES

AMERICAS

CANADA

Canada Border Services Agency has issued an update for Anti Dumping and Countervailing duties.

Source: Canada Border Services Agency

MEXICO

Update on Anti-dumping Duties on carbon steel sheets from China.

Source: Secretariat of Economy

AISA-PACIFIC

JAPAN

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has decided to lift an import prohibition on poultry products originating in South Dakota, US under the Domestic Animal Infectious Disease Control Law.

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

TAIWAN

Export Licenses for Tariff 2008.

Source: Directorate General of Customs

MIDDLE-EAST/AFRICA

MAURITIUS

Import Controls affecting products across the tariff.

Source: Mauritius Customs

SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Customs announced change in default duty for foodstuffs, building materials and consumer goods as per the customs website.

Source: Saudi Customs

CONTRACT ASSESSORIAL UPDATES

Fuel Surcharge Updates:

EUR-L.AMERICA

ESPMC WITASS members would like to inform customers of the following May BAF levels:

Euro 548/20' 1,096/40' 27/pft

US\$ 548/20' 1,096/40' 27/pft

They would also like to announce the following Low Sulphur Fuel Surcharge for shipments to/from Baltic Sea ports, Hamburg to Le Havre Range, Scandinavian countries, Poland, and UK/Eire:

Euro 7/USD 9 per TEU

EUR-ASIA

FEFC member lines announce the following May 2008 BAF levels:

USD 509 per TEU/USD 25.45 W/M LCL

The following Low Sulphur Fuel Surcharge will also apply to cargo to/from UK, North West Continent, Scandinavia and Baltic Sea Region: USD 8 per TEU/USD .40 W/M

M.EAST-MED

MARCO member lines wish to inform their customers of the following BAF levels, effective May 1:

FCL Cargo USD 300 per TEU

TRADE WATCH contd...

that Mexico's government is preparing to open bidding on the largest infrastructure project in its history, a \$4-billion seaport on Mexico's Baja peninsula, that would link the Pacific Ocean to the US heartland. Vessels bearing shipping containers from Asia would offload them at the new port where they would be taken over newly constructed rail lines to the US.

Canada Customs Brokers EDI Deadline of April 1st

Canada Border Services Agency issued a notice to importers, customs brokers and service providers which is an update to Customs Notice 07-029, *Measures to Increase the Use of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) for Release Purposes*, issued on October 12, 2007. CBSA states that effective April 1, 2008, all customs brokers acting on behalf of importers must be capable of transmitting release requests through EDI. This includes sub-agents acting on behalf of other brokers.

Commercial importers obtaining release of their own shipments must also be EDI-capable by that date. Brokers and importers not EDI-capable by April 1, 2008, will be permitted to present a paper "C" type Form B3, *Canada Customs Coding Form*, for commercial releases.

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You can also contact us at:

MANAGEMENT DYNAMICS, INC.
One Meadowlands Plaza
East Rutherford, NJ 07073
(T) 201 935 8588 (F) 201 935 5187
www.ManagementDynamics.com

CONTRACT ASSESSORIAL UPDATES contd...**Other Surcharge Updates:****EUR-L.AMERICA**

ESPMC WITASS members announce the following Panama Canal Surcharge levels starting in May:

Southbound: Euro 159/TEU

Northbound: US\$ 206/TEU

Members would also like to announce the following rate increases for northbound cargo from Peru and Ecuador, effective in May:

USD 200/20' USD 300/40'

Please see member lines for specific sailings.

CARRIER SERVICE UPDATES**ASIA**

APL is enhancing its Intra-Asia service offering with the introduction of a new Laem Chabang West Asia Express (LWX) service, which will start April 5. APL is the first carrier to provide direct service from Laem Chabang to Karachi. Port rotation will include the following locations: Laem Chabang, Singapore, Karachi, Jebel Ali, and Dammam.

MED-N.AFRICA

CSAV NORASIA is proud to announce the launch of its new independent and fully operated service to Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya. The new North Africa Service (NAS) will call the following ports: Port Said, Algiers, Tunis, and Khoms.

ASIA-US

Evergreen Line announces a new service linking Japan and the US West Coast. The Japan-American Shuttle service (JAS) will commence on May 14, 2008. The following locations make up the port rotation: Osaka, Kobe, Nagoya, Shimizu, Tokyo, and Los Angeles.

US-PR

Horizon Lines would like to inform their customers of a modification to their Gulf Express (GAX) service. Beginning April 18th, northbound and southbound sailings will occur every 14 days, as opposed to every 10 days.

MED-EUR

Maersk Line announces improvements to its Scan Med service. The ports of Rotterdam and Aarhus will now be included; however, Felixstowe service will be discontinued. These changes will be implemented April 6th.



Disclaimer: This is a general-purpose update, and information provided in this alert does not contain a comprehensive analysis of each news item. No liability is accepted for acts or omissions taken based upon the contents of this alert, and readers are advised to study the full details (available from Management Dynamics on request), or seek professional advice specific to their situation, before arriving at any decision.