

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**Customs Service**

[T.D. 97-43]

Revocation of Customs Broker License

AGENCY: U.S. Customs Service,
Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: Broker license revocation.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Commissioner of Customs, pursuant to Section 641, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, (19 U.S.C. 1641), and parts 111.51 and 111.74 of the Customs Regulations, as amended (19 CFR 111.51 and 111.74), canceled the following Customs broker license with prejudice.

Port	Individual	License No.
New York ...	Mark V Custom-house Brokers, Inc.	9719

Dated: May 23, 1997.

Philip Metzger,

Director, Trade Compliance.

[FR Doc. 97-14504 Filed 6-3-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**Customs Service**

[T.D. 97-42]

Revocation of Customs Broker License

AGENCY: U.S. Customs Service,
Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: Broker license revocation.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Commissioner of Customs, pursuant to Section 641, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended, (19 U.S.C. 1641), and parts 111.51 and 111.74 of the Customs Regulations, as amended (19 CFR 111.51 and 111.74), canceled the following Customs broker license without prejudice.

Port	Individual	License No.
Chicago	ASG Forwarding, Inc.	5898
New York ...	Joseph DiSano	2567
New York ...	Albert Weber	2245
Seattle	Alexandr M. Bryce, Jr.	2668
Seattle	Susanne J. Theuer	6767
Mobile	Steve Mace	12254
St. Louis ...	Ruth M. Stewart, C.H.B.	3883

Dated: May 23, 1997.

Philip Metzger,

Director, Trade Compliance.

[FR Doc. 97-14503 Filed 6-3-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**Customs Service**

[T.D. 97-44]

Revocation of Customs Broker License

AGENCY: U.S. Customs Service,
Department of the Treasury.

ACTION: General notice.

SUMMARY: The following Customs broker license number was erroneously included in a list of revoked Customs brokers licenses. License 7114, issued in the Los Angeles Customs port, remains a valid license.

Abraham Shiepe—7114

Dated: May 23, 1997.

Philip Metzger,

Director, Trade Compliance.

[FR Doc. 97-14505 Filed 6-3-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**Customs Service****Procedures if the Generalized System of Preferences Program Expires**

AGENCY: Customs Service, Treasury.

ACTION: General notice.

SUMMARY: The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) is a preferential trade program that allows eligible products of many developing countries to enter the United States duty-free. The GSP is currently scheduled to expire at midnight on May 31, 1997, unless its provisions are extended by Congress. This document provides notice to importers that claims for duty-free treatment under the GSP may not be made for merchandise entered or withdrawn from a warehouse on or after June 1, 1997, if the program is not extended before that date. The document also sets forth mechanisms to facilitate refunds, if the GSP is renewed retroactively.

DATES: The plan set forth in this document will become effective as of June 1, 1997, if Congress does not extend the GSP program before that date.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For specific questions relating to the Automated Commercial System:

Arthur Versich, Office of Automated Commercial System, 202-927-1042.

For general operational questions:

Formal entries

John Pierce, 202-927-1249

Informal entries

Thomas Wygant, 202-927-1167

Mail entries

Dan Norman, 202-927-0542

Passenger claims

Robert Jacksta, 202-927-1311

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

Section 501 of the Trade Act of 1974 (the Act), as amended (19 U.S.C. 2461) authorizes the President to establish a Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) to provide duty-free treatment for eligible articles imported from designated beneficiary countries. Beneficiary developing countries and articles eligible for duty-free treatment under the GSP are designated by the President by Presidential Proclamation in accordance with sections 502(a) and 503(a) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 2462(a) and 2463(a)). Pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2465(a), as amended by the GSP Renewal Act of 1996 (the Act, Pub.L. 104-188, 110 Stat. 1775, at Stat. 1917), duty-free treatment under the GSP is presently scheduled to expire on May 31, 1997.

Congress is currently considering whether to extend the GSP program. If legislation is enacted but does not become law before the GSP expires, language may be included that would renew the GSP retroactively to the date of its presently scheduled expiration and Customs will need to reliquidate numerous entries to make refunds of duties collected. However, if Congress does not pass legislation renewing the GSP before midnight, May 31, 1997, no claims for duty-free treatment under the program may be allowed on entries made after that time.

Recognizing the impact that retroactive renewal and consequent numerous reliquidations would have on both importers and Customs, Customs has developed a mechanism to facilitate refunds, should GSP be renewed retroactively. Set forth below is Customs plan that will be implemented on June 1, 1997, if the GSP has not been extended by that date.

Formal Entries**Claims—Duties Must Be Deposited**

No claims for duty-free treatment under the GSP may be made for merchandise entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption on or after June 1, 1997. Duties at the most-favored-nation rate must be deposited, or a claim may be made under another

preferential program for which the merchandise may qualify (for example, the Andean Trade Preference Act or the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act).

While estimated duties must be deposited, all filers who file entry summaries through the Automated Broker Interface (ABI) may continue to file using the Special Program Indicator (SPI) for the GSP (the letter "A") as a prefix to the tariff number for all merchandise that would have qualified for the GSP if the GSP were still in effect. Customs Automated Commercial System (ACS) will be reprogrammed to accept the SPI "A" with the payment of duty.

Filers using the ABI may reprogram their software so that the SPI "A" can still be used as a prefix to the tariff number, but with the payment of duty. While reprogramming is strictly voluntary, continued use of the SPI "A" has some benefits. One benefit of continued use of the SPI "A" is that the filer will not have to write a letter to Customs requesting a refund if the GSP is renewed with retroactive effect. Use of the SPI "A" will enable Customs to identify affected line items and refund duties without a written request from the importer. In other words, after May 31, 1997, the SPI "A" will constitute an importer's request for a refund of duties paid for GSP line items, should GSP renewal be retroactive. Other benefits are that ACS will perform its usual edits on the information transmitted by the filer, thereby ensuring that GSP claims are for acceptable country/tariff combinations and eliminating the need for numerous statistical corrections.

This plan was used when the GSP expired on September 30, 1994, and was later renewed with retroactive effect and again when the GSP expired on July 31, 1995, and was later renewed with retroactive effect.

If the GSP expires, the Customs Headquarters-developed computer program will refund all duties deposited for imports that otherwise would have been eligible for GSP duty-free treatment if the GSP is later renewed with retroactive effect. The computer program will identify those entries filed through the Automated Broker Interface (ABI) using the SPI "A" and will be able to process most refunds without requiring further action by ABI filers.

Filers who do not wish to reprogram will be required to request refunds identifying the affected entry numbers in writing if the GSP is renewed retroactively.

ABI filers continuing to use the SPI "A" may use it as they do now (for

example, for warehouse entries and for formal consumption entries).

Importers may not use the SPI "A" if they intend to later claim drawback. Use of the SPI "A" is the importer's indication that he wishes to receive a refund if the GSP is renewed retroactively. To claim both this refund and drawback would be to request a refund in excess of duties actually deposited. Importers who are unsure as to whether they will claim drawback are advised not to use the SPI "A". If the GSP is renewed retroactively, and they have not yet claimed drawback, they may request a refund by writing to the port director at the port of entry. If the GSP is not renewed retroactively, they will still have the option of filing a drawback entry.

Continued use of the SPI "A" is not available to non-ABI filers.

Statistics

For statistical purposes, ACS will internally convert any SPI "A" transmitted via ABI after May 31, 1997, into a SPI "Q". If the GSP is renewed retroactively to that date, Census will convert all "Q" statistics into "A" statistics, thereby ensuring that next year's competitive need limitations under the GSP are accurate. This will also vastly reduce the number of statistical corrections that would have to be done by import specialists.

Refunds

If the GSP is renewed with retroactive effect, Customs will reliquidate all affected ABI entry summaries with a refund for the GSP line items. Field locations shall not issue GSP refunds except as instructed to do so by Customs Headquarters.

If a filer files an ABI entry summary with the SPI "A", no further action will need to be taken by the filer to request a refund; filing with the SPI "A" constitutes a valid claim for a refund. Refunds for summaries filed without the SPI "A" must be requested in writing. Instructions on how to request a refund in writing will be issued if the GSP is renewed with retroactive effect.

Informal Entries

Refunds on informal entries filed via ABI on a Customs Form 7501 with the SPI "A" will be processed in accordance with the procedures outlined above.

Baggage Declarations and Non-ABI Informals

When merchandise is presented for clearance, travelers and importers will be advised verbally or by a written notice that they may be eligible for a refund of GSP duties.

Travelers/importers may write a statement directly on their Customs declarations (CF 6059B) or informal entries (CF 363 or CF 7501) indicating their desire for a refund. If GSP duty-free status is reenacted with a retroactive provision, no further action to obtain a refund will be required on the part of the importer who has written such a statement. Failure to request a refund in this manner does not preclude them from making a timely written request in the future.

Mail Entries

A written notice will be sent to the addressees with the CF 3419A (Mail Entry) informing them that they may be eligible for a refund of GSP duties.

The addressees may submit a claim requesting a refund of GSP duties and return it, along with a copy of the CF 3419A to the appropriate International Mail Branch (address listed on bottom right hand corner of CF 3419A). It is essential that a copy of the CF 3419A be included as this will be the only method of identifying GSP products and ensuring that duties and fees have been paid.

Dated: May 30, 1997.

A.W. Tennant,

Field Operations Acting Assistant Commissioner.

[FR Doc. 97-14539 Filed 6-3-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Internal Revenue Service

Proposed Collection; Comment Request for Revenue Procedure 97-29

AGENCY: Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Treasury.

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Treasury, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). Currently, the IRS is soliciting comments concerning Revenue Procedure 97-29, Model Amendments and Prototype Programs for Simple IRAs.

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before August 4, 1997 to be assured of consideration.