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**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

PORT OF SAVANNAH INFORMATION NOTICE # 2019-001

TO: Warehouse Operators, Terminal Operators, Vessel Agents, Customs Brokers, Freight Forwarders, Importers, Exporters, Carriers, Other Stakeholders Port of Savannah, Georgia

FROM: Area Port Director
Savannah, Georgia

SUBJECT: Centralized Examination Station (CES) Transfers and Examination Inquiries

This Information Notice supersedes previously issued Port Notices, which address these issues at the Area Port of Savannah. This information is provided to stakeholders to assist with the movement, examination, and questions related to cargo processing at the Savannah Port of Entry.

Background:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has a complex mission with broad law enforcement authorities. CBP enforces laws and regulations associated with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), as well as protects against the unauthorized use of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), to name a few.

For CBP to execute its mission, risk-based analysis is employed along with a myriad of tools and technologies, including examinations using non-intrusive inspections (NII), tailgate exams, partial and/or full examinations. There are instances wherein CBP is mandated to conduct examinations. Examinations of fresh fruits and vegetables are conducted at the port of arrival according to guidelines set by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Examinations are also conducted on shipments from high-risk areas. In conducting any type of examination, CBP takes into account membership in the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) Program. While membership in the C-TPAT program does not exempt an importer from examination, these examinations will be expedited.

Examination and Movement of Cargo: The Centralized Examination Station (CES) is located on the Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) Garden City Terminal in Savannah, Georgia. With the CES being on the terminal, the movement of cargo for examination is simplified. CBP advises GPA of the required move. If the importer elects to move cargo off the port to a bonded warehouse, movement is arranged by the importer or broker under the importer's bond and is required to be moved by a bonded trucker. Prior to movement to an off-site location, a Permit to Transfer (PTT) must be submitted and approved by CBP.

Movement of cargo to the CES or an off-site bonded warehouse will be authorized via Automated Cargo Environment (ACE) transaction codes. A "1X" code and firms code of the inspection facility must be received prior to allow movement of the cargo to an off-port bonded warehouses. PTT applications will be processed in ACE by CBP after any other requirements are met.

Result codes are generated in ACE, ACE Cargo Release or ATSIC when holds, releases and PTTs are processed. Table 1 contains agriculture result codes. The ACE manual provides a complete list.

Cold Treatment Commodities: It is the responsibility of shipping lines to report all shipments of cold treatment commodities arriving at the Area Port of Savannah to CBP, GPA and USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ). Cold treatment fruit temperature data must be reviewed by USDA/APHIS with a determination to allow PTT processing by CBP. Applicants should place comments in the PTT application describing the action required. In the case of shipments that have "passed" cold treatment the comment should read "Move to bonded facility for CBP agriculture exam." If a shipment fails cold treatment, the PTT comment should be "Move to cold treatment facility for retreatment." If a shipment needs additional time for the cold treatment process the PTT comment should be "Move to approved bonded facility to complete cold treatment." Shipments finishing cold treatment on the Garden City Terminal do not need a PTT.

The shipments should be reported by the following categories:

- In-progress – needs more time
- Cold-Treatment – complete
- Cold-Treatment – Failed Requires Retreatment
- Untreated – Requires Cold-Treatment
- Untreated – Condition of Entry Fumigation Required
- Precleared - in the case of commodities coming from a country with a USDA preclearance program in place.

For cold-treatment shipments reported as complete survey temperature data must be downloaded by the shipping line's designated surveyor, and reported in the 556 database for UDSA PPQ review and determination of pass or fail. Use the following e-mail for reporting:

CBP Agriculture – Savannahagriculture@cbp.dhs.gov

USDA PPQ - GASACT@aphis.usda.gov

GPA - customerservice@gaports.com

Table 1. Partial list of result codes generated by ACE, when holds, releases and PTTs are processed. A FIRMS code and manipulation request may also be required.

HOLD TYPE	HOLD CODE	PTT	FIRMS CODE	MANIPULATION REQUEST	REMARKS	RELEASE CODE
AG MISC	2H					2I
AG INTENSIVE	71				ON PORT AT CES	74
	71	1X	YES	YES	OFF PORT EXAM	74
AG BACKIN	72				DOCS	75
AG TAIL GATE	72				ATG	75
TAIL GATE	72				ATG/CONT#	75
CHECKING SEALS	72				ASEAL	75
COLD TREATMENT	72				AGCT FINISH TREATMENT ON PORT	75
COLD TREATMENT	72	1X	YES	YES	AGCT RETREATMENT	75
COLD TREATMENT	72				AGCT ON PORT EXAM	75
COLD TREATMENT	72	1X	YES	YES	AGCT OFF PORT EXAM	75
AG FUMIGATION	73				AFUM ON PORT	76
AG FUMIGATION	73	1X	YES	YES	AFUM OFF PORT	76

Cargo Requiring Re-Export: For cargo pending re-export under an Emergency Action Notification (EAN) an immediate export (IE) in-bond entry will be filed. The IE and export booking confirmation will be reported to savannahagriculture@cbp.dhs.gov. Entries/bills of lading will not be canceled prior to issuance of the IE. Requests to cancel an entry/bill of lading will be rejected if an IE is not on file.

To facilitate the review of any shipment under any type examination, you may include additional information by uploading documents in the Document Imaging System (DIS). For example, if the imported goods bear a trademark for which you are not the owner, you may upload the trademark owner's letter of authorization in DIS.

Contact Information:

Questions related to the movement of cargo to the CES, including the unloading for examination, or the re-loading of cargo should be directed to Georgia Ports Authority Client Relations at governmentservices@gaports.com or (912) 963-5526.

Inquiries about cargo exam holds, PTT's, manipulation requests or CBP exams should be directed to the following e-mail inboxes. Please allow 2 business days once the cargo is moved to the CES to submit any inquiries on cargo holds. This will allow our officers the necessary time to examine shipments and/or provide required information.

Agriculture – Savannahagriculture@cbp.dhs.gov
Trade – Savtrade@cbp.dhs.gov
Outbound – Sav.outbound@cbp.dhs.gov

Examination Costs:

CBP does not charge to conduct examinations and cannot respond to requests for refunds or cost adjustments related to examinations. Individual commercial service providers, such as terminal operators, centralized examination station operators and other bonded warehouses set fees for facilitating CBP examinations at their facilities.

Frequency of Examination Inquiry Requirements:

If the importer and/or broker has reviewed the volume and frequency of importations against the number of examinations, and feels the examination rate is excessive, the broker or importer/exporter may send a request for review to:

Area Port Director
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Area Port of Savannah (1703)
139 Southern Blvd.
Savannah, Georgia 31405

Based on the initial evaluation, CBP may request additional information and/or provide additional instructions.

Questions regarding this information notice should be addressed to Supervisory Agriculture Specialist Milton King at (912)-577-6327 or Assistant Port Director Lynn Brennan at (912) 210-0077.

Thank you for your continued partnership and cooperation.



Lisa Beth M. Brown