

IMPORTS

Update on CETA & other FTA's

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In addition the EU and UK need to reach agreement on a new FTA to cover bi-lateral trade post Brexit.

ICPA Counsel John Grayston (Europe) and Darrel Pearson (Canada) will use CETA as a case study to highlight how such FTAs really can benefit business and what to expect from future deals with Australia, New Zealand, China and Mexico and UK.

The WTO Adrift--A Period of Transition

This past September, World Trade Organization (WTO) Director-General Roberto Azevedo began his second four-term as head of the inter-governmental entity. The challenges that lie ahead for him are numerous and daunting. Azevedo acknowledges that he faces “a testing time for global trade,” with economic protectionism on the rise and a growing demand on the part of many WTO members to reform the institution. WTO critics are particularly focused on the WTO’s Dispute Settlement Mechanism which has been strained by a growing backload of cases and a stalemate led by U.S. trade officials to fill vacancy positions on the Appellate Body. This presentation will focus on the WTO’s ability to regain its distinction as an effective international trade forum and to deflect growing protectionism.

Binding Tariff Rulings in the EU

It is essential to know the relevant commodity codes for your product portfolio. Otherwise, duties and VAT cannot be established. Using the wrong commodity code can have far-reaching consequences. However, tariff classification can be very complex. To get the correct tariff classification, you can request a BTI. With the Union Customs Code being two years in force now, it seems like a good moment to pause and look at the impact of the new BTI provisions in practice.

Broker Harmonization from an EU perspective (operational and digital).

The session will cover broker harmonization efforts across EU 30 countries (EU + Norway and Switzerland). Broker harmonization includes import and export clearance for all modes of transportation. Specifically, the first part of the session will address challenges across different member states from an operational for each mode of transport. The second part of the session will discuss why and how Henkel choose to create an EDI (electronic data interface) connection to its preferred customs broker and the unique challenges faced by Henkel from an IT perspective as individual member states have different IT platforms.

Preferential Trade Arrangements of the EU - History, State of Play and Future".

The EU’s free trade policy and practice have changed dramatically over the last decades. From multilateral to bilateral and regional agreements, from neighbors to the entire world, from rigid to flexible rule sets. Nowadays, numerous arrangements allow for many opportunities. However, not only the number of agreements but also the differentiation and complexity of the rules will further increase. This definitely leads to more efforts and higher risks for economic operators and calls for a targeted approach to seize the opportunities and reduce associated risks. To this end, the session will elaborate on best practices and their necessary adaption against the background of the ongoing developments

Simplified Processes inbound & Outbound

As companies continue to look for efficiencies in the manner in which it carries out day to day business, more and more are looking to simplifications in the area of customs and trade. In the ever changing international trade landscape, simplifications may become more of a requirement or indeed necessity, in order to ensure timely movement of goods across international borders. We will explore options available and scenarios in which they might be used.

Duty Saving Strategies

Duty Deferral or Trade Zone programs have become key components of duty savings strategies for leading companies around the world. Whilst they have different names depending on which country you are in: US Foreign-Trade Zone, EU Customs Regimes, China Trade Processing or IMMEX to name but a few; the underlying benefits are all very similar.

Procedures under a Trade Zone program generally allows you to avoid paying duty when you re-export, or to delay the payment of duty until goods enter the customs territory for final consumption.

Join Thomas Lobert, Global Solutions Manager at Integration Point, who will discuss some of the strategies and steps to optimize duty savings as well as a brief overview of some Duty Deferral programs around the world with a focus on the EU Customs Regimes

Influencing the adoption of customs measures

The session will examine how traders can make their views heard in the adoption of customs measures by the EU or the World Customs Organization, and the reasons why it is important to participate in a timely manner in these decision-making processes. The relevance of obtaining access to documents will also be considered. Finally, we will review how to challenge the validity of EU customs measures before the EU Court, when these measures turn out to be unfavorable
Further Amendments to the Union Customs Code (UCC) Legal Package

Waste Shipment Regulation

We live in a world where disposing of goods in landfills is not acceptable anymore. Circular Economy's initiative from governments around the world like the EU Directive on Circular Economy and the Waste Shipment Regulation put the onus on producers. Most companies do not realize the hidden value beyond the first life of a product, however regulations on the movements of goods that may be seen as waste versus second hand are very strict and companies needs to understand these.

Join Ian Lovell, Global Director Asset Recovery at Teleplan International, who will talk about the EU Waste Shipment Regulation and present an example of the benefits and value add beyond the first life of a product

EXPORTS

Surviving a C-TPAT foreign validation audit

One of the last steps to full-fledged membership by U.S. based participants in the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism is the C-TPAT validation procedure. This session will address the foreign supplier's security measures, procedures, policies and documentation that U.S. Customs will review during a C-TPAT foreign validation audit. This program is a must for companies supplying products to U.S. C-TPAT participating firms.

Status Update of the Reform of the EU Dual-use Regulation

Export Controls on Pharma, Biotech, Chemicals and Materials

If your company makes things, it uses materials. A surprising, fundamental set of U.S., EU, and, in fact, multilateral controls apply to these basic inputs that compliance personnel need to understand. Moreover, the manufacturing equipment used to handle those chemicals and materials for petrochemical, biotech, pharma, chemical and many other types of manufacturing are often controlled for export. Also, the technology needed to develop, produce, and sometimes even use this equipment can also be controlled for export. As one example, the chemical and oilfield fluid handling equipment category (think pumps and valves) is one of the most frequent recipients of export licenses in the U.S. (Not to mention being a principal target of the Russia "frontier" oil and gas sanctions.) This category has also been a longstanding target of enforcement efforts, with over 80 companies receiving penalties in recent years. Any company in the business of making products for international sale must understand the often-ignored, but cornerstone materials and equipment controls to have an effective compliance program and help prevent violations.

Ensuring Supply Chain Integrity: Reducing Risk through Supplier Diligence

This session takes the perspective of the trade compliance director or manager in helping first identify where risk resides in the supply chain, particularly among suppliers. Then it investigates what best practices can be performed to reduce risk and how to implement those best practices.

10 Key Steps to Export Compliance

If your company imports something incorrectly you will most likely end up having to pay any duty and tax due, possibly get a fine or penalty, and certainly a telling off from Customs....

If your company exports something incorrectly you could end up paying millions in fines, have your right to export reduced or removed, with all its attendant publicity and damage to your business, and in extreme cases you, or your boss, could end up in prison. And that is not including what the US authorities will do to you if you have broken their laws! This lecture details ten key steps your company can follow to ensure compliance and avoid this doomsday scenario and let you sleep (a little more) easily at night.

Importer & Exporter of Record Determination and Liability

This session on Importer and Exporter of Record Determination and Liability will address the latest EU developments in this area. The presentation will address the implications of acting as importer of record in the European Union, including with respect to EORI numbers and VAT registration. It will also address the definition for exporter of record, including the requirement to be established in the European Union, and any effects in claiming VAT exemptions for exports. The presentation will refer to these terms as they are applied in the U.S. context to highlight any distinctions between the European Union and the United States.

EU GDPR Data Protection Regulations

Jonathan's talk will look at Europe's new data protection law – the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). He will also talk about the draft UK Bill which has some particular quirks for ICPA members, including possible restrictions on the conduct of investigations. Jonathan will finish with practice tips to help you comply.

US & EU Sanctions Update

Political changes in the US and EU have also led to changes in sanctions programs initiated and enforced by the US and EU. This session will provide an up to date examination of current sanctions law, the impact of those sanctions on sanction targets, the likely future of sanctions and, finally, how compliance can be achieved in periods of rapid change in sanction law.

Update on Brexit

Lux & Bulters

What will be addressed?

The consequences of the UK leaving the EU customs union and the single market for

- importers,
- exporters,
- manufacturers,
- shippers,
- carriers,
- logistics companies,
- customs agents,
- IT system providers

involved in trade (including related services) with the UK.

What will you gain?

The preparations you can or should make to avoid disruptions of your supply chain.

Export and Transactions between EU States, Linking Customs and VAT'

The session will discuss the new exporter of record definition and its implications for customs and VAT. The session will also cover the VAT regime applying on intra-community transactions (transactions whereby goods are transferred from one member state to another) and recent developments in case law on the application of the exemption for intra-community supplies. Furthermore the October 2017 proposals of the EU Commission on a single EU VAT Area and how these will impact cross border trade, will be discussed.

EU FTA UPDATE - are you benefitting from EU FTA preference : if not why not ?

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