

**PORT (CARGO)
INFORMATION
NOTICE**

NUMBER: 2018-002
ISSUE DATE: JAN 31 2018

SUBJECT: Update to the Current Reporting Requirements for the Ultimate Consignee at the Time of Entry or Release

DISTRIBUTION: All Calexico, Otay Mesa, Tecate, and San Diego Customhouse Brokers, Importers and Other Interested Parties

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of this notice is to update the previous PIN 2005-033 (issued in September 2005 regarding CBP policy pertaining to the identification of the Ultimate Consignee at the time of entry or release) due to the decommissioning of the Automated Commercial System (ACS) and migration to the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE), and due to the increased value of an Informal Entry.

The separation point for use of an identification number as opposed to the ultimate consignee's name and address for non-consolidated entries was originally established as the designation of formal versus informal entry. There are many commodities for which ABI requires formal entry for all values over \$250. This forces individuals that import small value, non-commercial merchandise to provide a Social Security number to a foreign shipper for reporting to CBP. This was not the intent of the original policy nor is it in line with initiatives designed to prevent identity theft.

The current policy for consolidated entries separates the requirements based on value with \$2,500 and greater requiring an identification number. This will now be the policy for **all** entries.

For entry release, the current Ultimate Consignee reporting policy is outlined in CBP Directive 3550-079A (<https://www.cbp.gov/document/directives/3550-079a-ultimate-consignee-time-entry-release>) (<https://www.cbp.gov/document/directives/3550-079a-ultimate-consignee-time-entry-release>) were the Ultimate Consignee number is defined as:

- Internal Revenue Service Employer Identification number
- Social Security Number
- CBP assigned Number as requested by the filer through their software vender's ABI program (CBP Assigned numbers are issued to non-resident corporations or individuals and therefore should rarely be used as the Ultimate Consignee number)

ACTION:

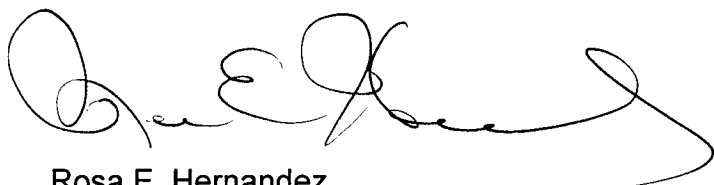
- **Entries valued at or in excess of \$2,500:** The Ultimate Consignee on an **entry valued at or greater than \$2,500** must be identified with an appropriate Ultimate Consignee identification number, and may not be identified with an ABI transmission of the Ultimate Consignee's name and address. If the Ultimate Consignee has not been issued an appropriate identification number, he/she must obtain one before his/her entry can be processed by CBP. If the Ultimate Consignee identification number is not provided at the time of entry or release, entry of the merchandise shall be denied.

- **Entries valued at less than \$2,500:** At a minimum, the Ultimate Consignee must be identified with the Ultimate Consignee's name and address. If a name and address is provided for Ultimate Consignee, the entry will not be allowed to be paperless and entry documents will be required for release. The Ultimate Consignee may also be identified by an appropriate identification number (as noted above), if the entry filer provides one. **When a name and an address is provided for Ultimate Consignee instead of an identification number, the entry will not be allowed to be paperless and entry documents will be required for release.** If the Ultimate Consignee is not identified by either an appropriate identification number or a name and address at the time of entry or release, entry of the merchandise shall be denied.
- **Consolidated Entries:** Consolidated release and entry summary is used by shippers and importers for shipments that have multiple ultimate consignees arriving at the border in a single conveyance. The Ultimate Consignee for each portion of a consolidated entry that equals or exceeds \$2,500 in value must be identified with an appropriate Ultimate Consignee identification number. If the Ultimate Consignee does not have an appropriate identification number, he/she must obtain one before his/her entry can be processed by CBP. If the Ultimate Consignee identification number is not provided at the time of entry or release, entry of the merchandise shall be denied.

For portions of a consolidated entry that are valued at less than \$2,500, the Ultimate Consignee must at a minimum, be identified with the Ultimate Consignee's name and address, but may also be identified with an appropriate Ultimate Consignee identification number if provided by the entry filer. If the Ultimate Consignee is not identified with either the name and address or an appropriate identification number at the time of entry or release, entry of the merchandise shall be denied.

CBP Officers will continue to verify entry documentation to ensure that it conforms to the new Ultimate Consignee reporting policy. Non-compliant shipments will not be released. In addition, entry filers that violate the new policy may be subject to the issuance of penalties for failure to exercise due diligence.

Questions or comments on this policy should be directed to Entry Supervisor Frank Uotani at (619) 671-8030.



Rosa E. Hernandez
Port Director, Otay Mesa