

**PORT (CARGO)  
INFORMATION  
NOTICE**  
  
NUMBER: 2018-006  
ISSUE DATE : JUN 18 2018**SUBJECT:** Rule Changes Concerning In Bond Processing and Facilities Information and Resources Management System (FIRMS) Code Requirement**DISTRIBUTION:** All Calxico, Otay Mesa, Tecate, and San Diego Customhouse Brokers, Importers and Other Interested Parties**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this Port Information Notice (PIN) is to provide guidance to comply with the regulatory requirements established on September 28, 2017. One of the new regulatory requirements established was for the trade community to include, as a data element of a mandated electronic arrival of in-bonds, the Facility Information Resource Management System (FIRMS) code where the goods would be arrived at the destination port.

The FIRMS code is required to allow U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) the ability to identify the specific location where shipments are arrived and to allow for verification at arrival. While many facilities already have a FIRMS code, there are others that may have not yet been assigned one, as well as issues with reporting direct export of in-bond shipments at land border ports of entry.

**REFERENCE:**

- CSMS message # 17-000621, which notified the trade community of implementation of the new in-bond changes to the in-bond regulations (Title 19, U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 18, 122 and 123).
- CSMS message # 18-000013, which notified the trade community of an Extension of In-Bond Regulation Enforcement Dates. (Title 19, U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 18, 122 and 123).
- CSMS message # 18-000335, which notified the trade community validation to ensure the FIRMS code reported in the e214 transmission has an active type 4 bond associated with their ACE account.
- 82 Federal Register 45366-45408, Dated September 28, 2017

**BACKGROUND:**

On September 28, 2017, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) published a Federal Register Notice (FRN) with a Final Rule concerning changes to the In-Bond regulations (Title 19, U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, Part 18). A copy of this FRN is available at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/09/28/2017-20495/changes-to-the-in-bond-process>.

With the implementation of Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) Cargo Release functionality for in-bond shipments, carriers and their agents have the capability to arrive and export in-bonds in ACE. It is important to note that while all bonded facilities are required to have an active FIRMS code and that this information must be recorded in ACE.

In-bond freight is not required to be arrived at only bonded facilities, as a result, additional FIRMS codes will need to be assigned to ensure that correct reporting is enabled.

Listed below are some examples of facilities and locations where FIRMS codes may be required;

- Ocean Terminals.
- Air Carrier Facilities.
- Container Freight Stations (CFS) and Centralized Examination Stations (CES)
- Trucking and Rail inland terminal facilities and yards.
- Importers facilities where entered goods are delivered directly.
- Any other location where shipments are arrived pending release to the importer.

In addition to locations where the trade community may be arriving shipments under their control, there are also land border locations where shipments under an Immediate Exportation or Immediate Transportation and Transportation & Exportation bond proceed directly out of the United States.

Listed below is the FIRMS codes for the Otay Mesa Port Of Entry

- W078 CBP. Otay Mesa Port of Entry Export Facility
- W084 CBP. Otay Mesa Port of Entry Import Facility

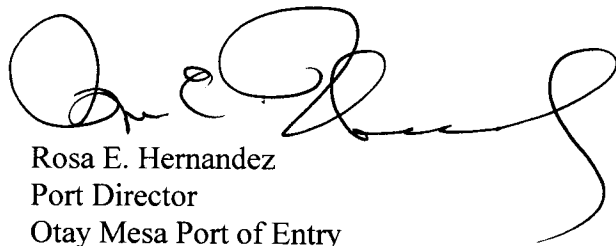
The information provided below sets forth the mandatory dates for compliance with the recent rule changes, and the requisite in-bond processing procedures

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Should you have questions regarding FIRMS codes, please contact Otay Mesa Post Audit Team at (619) 671-8057/8143/8264.

For questions regarding this Port Information Notice, please contact Otay Mesa Trade Supervisor Yvonne De La Cruz at (619) 671-8154 or Trade Branch Chief Carlos Robles at (619) 671-8131.

We appreciate your assistance in disseminating this information to your clients. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact my staff.



Rosa E. Hernandez  
Port Director  
Otay Mesa Port of Entry