



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

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Number 07-007

PORT OF COLUMBUS PIPELINE

TO : Importers, Brokers, Importing Air Carriers, In-bond Air Carriers, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officers, and Other Interested Parties.

SUBJECT: Single Entry for Split Shipments

The Tariff Suspension and Trade Act of 2000 amended Section 484 of the Trade Act of 1930 by adding a new paragraph (j) to provide for the treatment of certain multiple shipments of merchandise as a single entity. This pipeline addresses the change to section 1484(j)(2) which offers relief to importers whose shipments, which they intended to be carried on a single conveyance, are divided at the initiative of the carrier. This pipeline applies only to split shipments arriving by air, as the vessel module of the Automated Manifest System (AMS) does not record multiple arrivals for a bill of lading record.

For purposes of filing a single entry, a split shipment must meet the following conditions:

- The shipment was delivered to and accepted by the carrier in the exporting country under one air waybill and was thus expected by the importer of record to arrive in the U.S. as a single shipment.
- The shipment was thereafter divided by the carrier, acting on its own, into different portions that are transported and consigned to the same party in the U.S.
- After the first portion arrives, all the succeeding portions must arrive within 10 calendar days of the date of the first portion.

Participants in Air AMS are capable of submitting electronic information for split air waybills and reporting unique arrival information, boarded quantity and weight for each part of the split. However, the Automated Commercial System (ACS) selectivity module is not currently designed to accommodate more than a single arrival in the electronic record of the CBP Form 3461. Therefore, importers/entry filers and CBP Officers must use the following procedures when single entries are filed for split shipments.

Importer/Entry Filer Procedures

When CBP Form 3461 is used for split shipments, the filer must note the split shipment information on the form. For purposes of completing boxes 12, 13, 16 and 17, the filer must include the transportation information for the first portion of the split shipment. For the purposes of completing boxes 21, 22, and 23, the filer must enter all air waybills and total quantities for which a single entry is requested. In box 29, the filer must enter the following information for all portions of the split shipment covered by the single entry:

- Carrier Code
- Flight/Trip Number
- Arrival Date
- Piece Count for that Arrival

The electronic equivalent of the CBP Form 3461 does not contain data fields for the filer to note the above information for split shipments. If the filer has used Electronic Invoice Processing (EIP), or if the entry is released in ACS cargo selectivity without the requirement to present paper documents, the importer must notify CBP of the split arrival information on a copy of the CBP Form 3461.

If the importer was unaware that the carrier had split the shipment prior to filing a CBP Form 3461 or electronic equivalent, the importer may notify CBP using the above procedures as soon as they become aware of the split.

CBP Procedures

Since ACS cargo selectivity can only accommodate transportation information for one arrival, the electronic status notifications sent to AMS participants as a result of ACS cargo selectivity will reflect the carrier code, flight/trip number, arrival date and quantity in the ACS cargo selectivity record. In order to transmit an electronic release permit for each portion of a split shipment, CBP Officers must use the data provided by entry filers in box 29 of the CBP Form 3461 to post such releases to each portion of the air waybill covered by the single entry.

Since filers are required to enter all air waybills and total quantities in boxes 21, 22, and 23 of the CBP Form 3461 covering split shipments, an overage will be created for the specified arrival. CBP Officers will use function code SSAC to change the ACS cargo selectivity record to reflect the boarded quantity as manifested in Air AMS for the arrival specified in the ACS cargo selectivity record. Each subsequent part of the arrival covered by the entry will be posted using function code AWBP with the same entry type and entry number.

Future enhancements to Air AMS will automatically post an electronic status notification to each portion of a split shipment when the ACS cargo selectivity information matches a split air waybill record in Air AMS. Until such programming changes can be made,

entry filers and CBP Officers must use the above procedures to process single entries covering split air waybills.

Additional information on the processing of split shipments is available in question 11 of the “Air Frequently Asked Questions on the Trade Act of 2002 – Mandatory Advanced Electronic Cargo Information” located on the CBP website at http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/import/communications_to_trade/advance_info/.

Should you have any questions concerning this pipeline, please contact Craig L. Vette at 614-497-1865.

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