

March 2018

To whom it may concern,

Reporting House B/L information by NVOCCs under the Japan's Advance Filing Rules on Maritime Container Cargo Information

Japan Customs is sending this letter to remind you, NVOCC, to adequately fulfill the obligation under the Advance Filing Rules (AFR) on Maritime Container Cargo Information.

Japan Customs has implemented the AFR since March 2014 to enhance the security of the global supply chain against terrorism. The Japan's Customs Law stipulates the AFR, which require a consignor such as an NVOCC who intends to load a maritime container cargo on a vessel scheduled to enter a port in Japan to file the cargo information based on House B/L electronically via the NACCS (Japan's single window system for import/export related services) to Japan Customs, no later than 24 hours, in principle, before the departure of the vessel from the port of loading.

Under the AFR, there are still some cases that the cargo information is filed with inappropriate descriptions or filed after the filing deadline. NVOCCs who are obliged to file the cargo information based on House B/L should be aware of the following:

1. NVOCCs are required to file appropriate cargo descriptions by the deadline in order for Japan Customs to conduct risk analysis of the cargo information properly.
2. NVOCCs are required to file appropriate cargo descriptions, by sharing the relevant information (Vessel Information, such as vessel code and voyage number, Master B/L Number, presence or absence of House B/L, etc.) together with shipping companies who are obliged to file the cargo information based on Master B/L.

In case shipping companies or NVOCCs have failed to file the cargo information by the deadline, a penalty could be imposed as provided in the Japan's Customs Law; an imprisonment with labor for up to a maximum period of one year, or a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand yen. In addition, any maritime container cargo with no or delayed filing by the deadline cannot be discharged without a permission by Customs which has a jurisdiction over the port of discharge. Thus, an inappropriate filing could

lead to a delay in discharging or delivering the cargo, which would cause damage to shipping companies or consignees.

In Japan, the Rugby World Cup is scheduled during the year 2019 and the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games are to be held in 2020. The government of Japan as a whole has been making every effort to tackle terrorism and more strengthen its measures against terrorism.

For the purpose of enhancing the security of the global supply chain and the smooth trade of the maritime container cargo, Japan Customs thanks for your continuous understanding and support on this matter.

For more information about the AFR, please visit the Japan Customs website:

<http://www.customs.go.jp/english/summary/advance5/index.htm>

If you have any inquiry, please contact us via the following e-mail:

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Sincerely yours

Japan Customs

