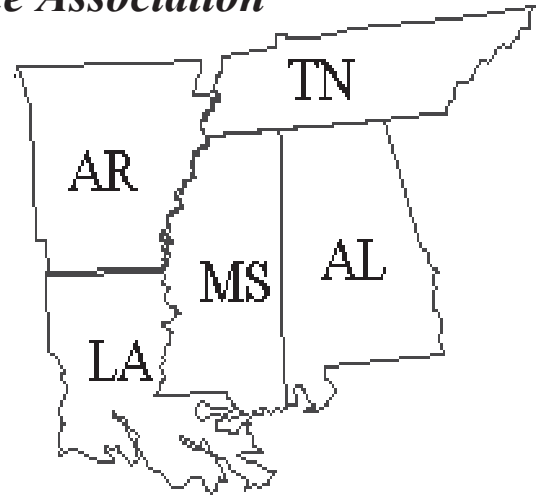


Southern Currents



Notice to the Area Port of New Orleans Trade Community

Date: August 5, 2009

No.: 09-012

SUBJECT: Notification to CBP of Dunnage Discharges

In July 2006, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) issued instructions that properly marked vessel dunnage could be discharged without prior approval from CBP. Since that 2006 instruction, dunnage has increasingly posed a higher degree of pest risk. Due to that increased risk and in the interest of agricultural safeguarding, the CBP Office of Field Operations, Agriculture Programs and Trade Liaison (APTL), is updating its policy regarding the offloading of dunnage.

Prior to any discharge of dunnage, CBP must be notified prior to the vessel's arrival. Notifications to CBP in the Port of New Orleans should be made to the Operations Desk at 504-623-6600. Local CBP management will continue to reserve the right to assess the needs and request CBP Agriculture Specialists to perform an inspection during discharging or prior to vessel departure based on risk such as the country of origin or previous interceptions.

Note: APTL has provided an update of this change on its Q&A section. To view the change, please go to http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/trade/trade_programs/agriculture/wpm/.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Merlin Hymel, Assistant Area Port Director, Trade at 504 670-2088.

/s/

Mitch M. Merriam
Area Port Director
Area Port of New Orleans, LA