

Southern Currents



Notice to the Area Port of New Orleans Trade Community

Date: February 22, 2010

No.: 10-005

SUBJECT: Bond Centralization Program Expansion

As part of the ongoing efforts to centralize all continuous bond processing, the Revenue Division, Office of Administration, Customs and Border Protection, announces that effective March 1, 2010, all continuous bond applications (regardless of activity code) should be submitted directly to the Revenue Division for processing. As of March 1, 2010, filers should no longer submit activity code 1A, 2, 3, 3A, 3A3, 4, 5, terminal operator, or importer security filing continuous bond applications to a port or drawback office. In addition, all term bonds (including airport customs security area bonds) will be filed directly with and approved by the Revenue Division. Most single transaction bonds will continue to be submitted to the appropriate port office.

The Revenue Division will review the bond submissions and, if all documents are properly and accurately completed, the continuous bond will be approved. Bond principals and sureties will be notified of bond approvals pursuant to existing notifications procedures established by the Office of Administration.

The filing of all new continuous bond submissions directly with the Revenue Division does not impact or negate other activities that may still be required at the local port. The principal, or their agent, is responsible for contacting the appropriate port office in order to complete any additional application actions prior to beginning operations associated with a new continuous bond. The principal or their agent will continue to submit all necessary application documents to the port. For example, the port may require background investigations, security checks, a physical examination of premises (i.e. site visit), or other documentation prior to approving a bonded carrier, cartmen, bonded warehouse, terminal operator, or foreign trade zone activation.

The principal or their agent will be responsible for insuring that the proper documents are filed with the Revenue Division to obtain the continuous bond. The principal may obtain approval of the continuous bond at any time prior to the initiation of operations in the port. The port should utilize ACE or ACS to verify that the appropriate continuous bond is in effect prior to the final authorization of any new operations within the port limits.

Distributed by Gulf States Maritime Association

Questions related to continuous bonds may be sent via email to cbp.bondquestions@dhs.gov.

The Office of Administration will notify the trade by posting the above information at the following internet site:

http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/trade/priority_trade/revenue/bonds/pilot_program/

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



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