

THE ROLE OF THE CUSTOMHOUSE BROKER

The Customhouse Broker is a vital link in the clearance of merchandise entering the United States. The Customs Broker is a professional advisor to Importers through his or her knowledge of the manners and procedures for imported merchandise. The Broker is uniquely qualified to handle the practical aspects of bringing commercial shipments into the United States. A Customhouse Broker, on behalf of Importers, handles more than ninety percent of all shipments.

The United States government licenses a Customhouse Broker. The Broker acts as the Importer's agent in his or her business dealings with Customs. Except for the Importer himself, the Customhouse Broker is the only party authorized by law to transact Customs business with regard to the entry and clearance of merchandise.

For most Importers, the Customhouse Broker is their direct link with the U.S. Customs Service. Because of their continuous interaction with the Customs Service, Brokers are often able to prevent Importer's problems before they develop and, should they develop, assist in their resolution. A Customs Broker is frequently the Importer's only point of contact with the U.S. Customs Service, helping the Importer understand his critical responsibility to Customs in matters of proper valuation and duty classification of his imported goods. In addition, a modern Customs Broker will provide important services and advice on the technical requirements of importing, preparing and filing entry documents, obtaining the necessary bonds, depositing U.S. import duties, securing release of the goods and arranging delivery to the importer's premises or warehouse. The Customs Broker strives to establish a partnership with the Importer in all matters concerning their imports. The Customs Broker will assist the Importer in meeting the burden of Informed Compliance.

In all, Customhouse Brokers currently play a vital role in facilitating the entry, clearance and movement of import cargo and will become even more essential in the future. With over 200 laws that Customs has implemented and must enforce, experienced Customhouse Brokers constitute a most valuable resource for Customs in their efforts to facilitate trade.

Like M.E. Dey, most modern Customhouse Brokers believe that the work of 'Customhouse Brokerage' is only a portion of the service that can be provided to an Importer. M.E. Dey offers overseas consolidations, ocean and airfreight routing at competitive prices, marine insurance, domestic routings, auditing of import processes, Unused Merchandise Drawback, foreign trade zone entries, consultations and other important services that many Importers require. Accordingly, M.E. Dey can offer door-to-door service, if this fits the goal of the Importer, or we can simply arrange for Customs clearance. You, as a M.E. Dey customer, have a unique opportunity to tailor your Customhouse Broker services to your needs.