

YOU CAN KEEP YOUR IMPORT & EXPORT ACTIVITIES CONFIDENTIAL

Customs and Border Protection, (CBP) offers a boatload of data on imports arriving into the USA via vessel to any interested party. Importantly among the 22 data elements published are; description of the goods, the shipper's name and address, consignee's name and address and notify parties for each shipment. ANYONE can ask CBP for this information. If you are an Importer, exporter or consignee, you can take action to hide this information from your competitors (**19 CFR 103.31(c)**).

CBP regulation allows any importer or consignee to request confidentiality of its name and address, the shipper's name and the notify party. In the confidentiality request, the name provided must exactly match the importer/consignee name as it is entered electronically by trade or their carrier/filing party in the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE). A request for confidentiality must include the U.S. mailing address and U.S. EIN of the Importer or consignee. CBP will enter the confidentiality request exactly as provided.

CBP will send confirmation to the requestor that confidentiality has been granted (or renewed), via the same manner in which request was made the initial request, i.e., email, or mail. The acknowledgement does not provide an effective time period but rather the date the confidentiality becomes effective. The confidentiality request will be valid for two (2) years from the date of the CBP acknowledgement letter and covers all ports of entry. Renewal requests should be made at least 60-90 days prior to expiration of the current approval.

CBP warns that it cannot guarantee that the identity (ies) of the parties to the importation(s) will never be published.

Please mail paper requests to the following address:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
8444 Terminal Rd
Beauregard, A-312-5 - Attn: Vessel Manifest Confidentiality
Lorton, VA 22079

-- Or, Email to:

vesselmanifestconfidentiality@cbp.dhs.gov.

The same privilege applies to outbound vessel cargo also. In this application, a shipper, or authorized employee or official of the shipper, must submit a certification claiming confidential treatment of the shipper's name and address. The certification shall include the shipper's Internal Revenue Service Employer Number (EIN).

We have experience in making these requests and would be happy to assist you. Call one of our licensed Custom House Brokers to make arrangements.