

## **U.S. Consignee Identification Requirements**

### **Service Update**

#### **Ultimate Consignee Identification Number Requirements for Shipments Entering the United States**

The U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has announced policy changes affecting the customs clearance process into the United States.

**As of October 1, 2004**, the U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will deny clearance of shipments that lack the U.S. Ultimate Consignee's proper Importer Identification Number.

#### **New CBP Importer Identification Number Requirements:**

For shipments valued at USD\$2,000 and over (Formal Entries), the applicable U.S. Importer Identification Number of the Ultimate Consignee must be presented to CBP prior to clearance into the U.S.

For shipments valued between USD\$200 and USD\$2,000 (Informal Entries), the U.S. Importer Identification Number or the Ultimate Consignee's full name and address must be presented to CBP prior to clearance into the U.S.\*

Shipments valued up to USD\$200 (Section 321's) are not affected by this policy change.

\*Use of name and address information in lieu of the appropriate identification number for shipments between \$200 and \$2,000 may result in additional scrutiny of the shipment by CBP and cause delays.

#### **What is a proper U.S. Importer Identification Number?**

The Employer Identification Number (EIN)

If the Ultimate Consignee has not been issued an EIN, their Social Security Number (SSN) is acceptable

The EIN and SSN are both issued by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service to U.S. businesses and citizens.

#### **Who is the Ultimate Consignee?**

The Ultimate Consignee is the party in the U.S. to whom the foreign shipper sold the imported goods.

If the merchandise has not been sold, the Ultimate Consignee is defined as the party in the U.S. to whom the foreign shipper consigned the imported goods.

If the imported goods have not been sold or consigned to a U.S. party then the Ultimate Consignee is defined as the proprietor of the U.S. premises to which the goods are to be delivered.

#### **Impact to the U.S. Customs Clearance Process**

For goods valued at \$2,000 and over, if the EIN or SSN is not available when the goods arrive at the port of entry, **CBP will deny entry of the goods into the United States.**

For goods valued between \$200 and \$2,000, if the EIN/SSN or the Ultimate

Consignee's name and address are not available when the goods arrive at the port of entry, **CBP will deny entry of the goods into the United States.**

Although the Ultimate Consignee's name and address are acceptable on goods valued between \$200 and \$2,000, UPS recommends that shippers always provide the Ultimate Consignee's EIN or SSN for all shipments to the U.S. regardless of value to avoid possible delays.