



**CHEESE IMPORTERS
ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA**

Bulletin 17-6 February 22, 2017

CIAA Bulletin

**An Exclusive CIAA Member
Update**

CIAA Opposes Border Adjustment Tax

In a [letter to the Chairmen and Ranking Members](#) of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee, the Cheese Importers Association of America expressed its opposition to the proposed Border Adjustment Tax (BAT).

"Imported cheeses often represent products that have been produced for hundreds of years under strict control procedures. While these cheeses are often copied, they have not been truly duplicated. As a result, the imposition of a 20 percent tax in addition to import fees already imposed risks pricing these products out of the market, depriving American consumers of desirable specialty food items. Such a tax also risks the employment of workers at some of our member companies whose jobs depend upon maintaining at least current volumes of imports. It may also risk the viability of some of our member companies who may find it impossible to continue operations should the volume of imports drop substantially as a result of the higher tax. It is important to keep in mind that importers create jobs, offer value and choice to consumers, and contribute to the nation through the taxes they already pay."

No specific legislative language has yet been provided, so a full assessment of the proposal is not possible. There are concerns that a BAT could be in violation of trade agreements. Even absent trade agreement issues, countries exporting to the United States could decide to impose similar retaliatory action on American products sent to those countries.

"The CIAA agrees that we need proper and fair trade policies that facilitate the movement of American products to other nations while allowing the products of those nations to come into the United States. This can be most effectively accomplished by a concentration on negotiating trade deals, including continuing efforts on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). We look forward to working with on this positive agenda."

We will keep you informed of any further developments.

CIAA Offers Recommendations for Improvements to FDA Biennial Food Facility Registration

Several CIAA members reported difficulties in renewing their required biennial food facility

registration this past year, and others have reported problems with invalid registration numbers since that time. In an effort to improve the renewal process, following conversations with FDA officials [CIAA has written to FDA](#) offering several recommendations for improvements.

Those recommendations include:

- Provide a simple checklist with each renewal indicating what steps registrants should follow;
- Registration renewal should not be confirmed until all steps are completed;
- Modify the renewal system so that final submission is not possible until all required steps are completed;
- Provide clear instructions in the FDA confirmation email regarding steps that must be taken to authorize the US Agent; and
- Provide a series of reminder emails when it is time to renew passwords.

We will continue to work with FDA to improve the system prior to the 2018 renewal period.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Roger Szemraj at rszemraj@theciaa.org or (202) 789-1212.

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 1, 2017 (approximately)

FAS issues final notice of calendar year 2017 licenses to licensees.

March 15, 2017

The license fee for each license issued is due and payable in full no later than March 15 of the year for which the license is issued. Licenses issued after March 15 of any quota year are payable in full no later than 10 days from the date of issuance.

Fee payments are payable to the Treasurer of the United States and shall be made solely utilizing the electronic software designated for the purpose by the Licensing Authority.

May 4, 2017

Member Meeting

9:30 am - 11:30 am

Saddle Brook Marriott, Saddle Brook, NJ

May 5, 2017

CIAA Dinner Dance

Maca lusos, Hawthorne, NJ

July 1, 2017

Last day for an exporting country that is not designating importers for calendar year 2017 to notify FAS.

August 31, 2017

Last day to Enter dairy products into U.S. Customs territory that may be used to qualify and establish eligibility for a calendar year 2017 license.

* If a deadline date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, the deadline will be the next business day (Section 6.36(a) of the Dairy Tariff-Rate Import Quota Licensing Regulation). This does not apply to dates of entry for eligibility.

Cheese Importers Association of America

Ken Olsson

President

email: president@theciaa.org

phone: 202-547-0899

Cheese Importers Association of America

204 E Street, NE

Washington, DC 20002

202-547-0899 Fax: 202-547-6348

Email: info@theciaa.org