



Industry-agency information sharing key component of government resource allocation planning

Issue:

Customs and Border Protection, other inspection agencies, and Congress must prepare today for future trade volumes.



Challenge:

Predicting future trade flows are notoriously difficult. Agencies and Congress must rely on existing cross-border volumes as indicators of future needs, while industry is preparing production schedules to meet future global demands that are outside the visibility of government.

Proposal:

A systematic and secure method for industry to share market predictions and production plans with government to ensure that inspection agencies are sufficiently prepared to process trade flows efficiently and with minimal delay.

Critical Elements:

- Any information shared by industry with government must not be shared outside the intended agency.
- Industry may share information with government via a disinterested, apolitical third party to present information in the aggregate, and to preserve individual company data anonymity.
- Any information shared by industry with government may only be used to prepare for future trade flows.
- Government must acknowledge that it will be in possession of confidential, proprietary information.
- Government must acknowledge that projections are made to the best of a company's knowledge at that time, and that a company cannot be held liable for a projection that ultimately proves unreliable.
- Government must explicitly acknowledge that the information provided is for planning purposes only. There is no implied or stated commitment on the part of the importer that the information will represent actual volume. The importer shall not be fined or penalized if the importer's estimates are wrong. The information provided will be the most accurate information available at the time of provision.

Desired Outcome:

With the ability to better understand industry's future plans for production volumes and shipping schedules, border inspection agencies like CBP will be better prepared for future trade flows, resulting in greater efficiencies and fewer delays.

