

USDA Delays Implementation Date for Increased Inspection and the Collection of User Fees at the U.S./Canada Border

Yesterday, The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced the delay of the removal of the exemption from user fees for commercial trucks, commercial railroad cars, commercial aircraft, and international air passengers entering the U.S. from Canada. The removal of the exemption was scheduled to be implemented on November 24, 2006. When implemented, the interim rule will institute increased inspection of APHIS shipments and the collection of user fees for commercial conveyances, as well as international air passengers entering the U.S. from Canada.

APHIS provides that this delay will allow affected groups to prepare for the new inspection and user fee collection procedures.

The interim rule that established these changes was published in the *Federal Register* on August 25, 2006 and was summarized in a *NGJ International Trade Update* published on October 13, 2006 that is available online at <http://www.ngjensen.com/news/itu/2006-10-13.pdf>

New Implementation Schedule

Effective January 1, 2007, air passengers arriving in the United States from Canada will no longer be exempt from the international air passenger user fee. A user fee of \$5.00 U.S. will be collected from each air passenger entering the U.S.

Effective March 1, 2007, the remaining provisions of the rule will take effect, including the removal of the user fee exemption for all commercial conveyances entering the United States from Canada. A user fee of \$5.25 per crossing or \$105.00 for the year will be charged to each truck in fiscal year 2007. This user fee for trucks will be charged **in addition to** the \$5.00 user fee or \$100.00 for the year currently in place. A user fee of \$7.75 per crossing will be charged for each loaded rail car in fiscal year 2007.

The full text of the USDA News Release is available online at

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/lut/p/s.7_0_A/7_0_1RD?printable=true&contentidonly=true&contentid=2006/11/0451.xml

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