



Ottawa, May 12, 2003

CUSTOMS NOTICE N-514

Customs Notice – Memorandum of Understanding for the Exchange of North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)-Related Information

1. This notice advises that the Commissioners of the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) and the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on April 23, 2003, detailing an arrangement to exchange NAFTA-related information.

2. The CCRA and the CBP have committed in Chapter 5 of the NAFTA to co-operate in enforcing their respective customs-related laws or regulations that implement the NAFTA. To fulfill that commitment, both agencies have agreed to bilaterally exchange the following NAFTA-related information: determinations, re-determinations, and further re-determinations of origin, audit reports, advance rulings, and the annual audit plan.

3. The CCRA and the CBP believe that the exchange of information will ensure and enhance consistency in the application of NAFTA rules of origin and ensure that only originating goods receive the preferential tariff treatment provided for in the NAFTA. Both agencies also foresee this MOU as a common tool to facilitate the sound administration of the NAFTA and to provide assistance to exporters in an effort to increase informed compliance across our border.

4. Therefore, effective April 23, 2003, the CCRA and the CBP will exchange the results related to audits and verifications commenced after that date, conducted pursuant to article 506 of the NAFTA, and NAFTA advance rulings and determinations, re-determinations, and further re-determinations of origin requested after that date.

5. The exchange of information under this MOU will be based upon the principles of reciprocity and confidentiality of information. However, either agency can refuse to provide the information if it believes that it is not in the best interest of its country.

6. For more information regarding this notice, please contact:

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