February 2, 2012

Argentina: Additional Import Restrictions Go Into Effect February 1, 2012

All exporters to Argentina need to be aware that beginning on February 1, 2012, all individuals or companies who plan to import merchandise into Argentina must fill out a Sworn Affidavit of Intention to Import (DJAI) with the Argentine Revenue and Customs Authority (AFIP) prior to completing a purchase order for the goods to be imported. Most companies and individuals who import goods utilize the services of an Argentine Customs Broker and should have their customs broker make file the DJAI through the online Custom's system known as MARIA. In the case of importers who do not utilize a Customs Broker, they already access to the MARIA system and will file their own DJAIs.

This requirement has a legal basis in Resolutions 3252, 3255, and 3256 published in the Official Gazette in January of 2012 by AFIP. Importers must fulfill the aforementioned prior to gaining approval from AFIP to gain access to foreign exchange to pay foreign suppliers as well as to file an application for a Non-Automatic Import License (NAIL) if the imported item falls under one of 600 HS Codes requiring a NAIL. U.S. exporters should alert their Argentine importer to pay special attention to the rapidly changing array of customer and import requirements that the Argentine Government is increasingly using in an effort to curb imports.

The Secretary for Domestic Commerce, Guillermo Moreno, has announced that importers will be required to fill out a separate Petition Form (Nota de Pedido) and send it directly to the Secretariat at notadepedido@mecon.gob.ar as of 02/01/2012. While there has been no official announcement of the requirement in the Argentine Government's Official Bulletin, nonetheless, business associations and the business press are advising that importers should also fill out the Nota de Pedido and send it to the Secretariat of Domestic Commerce in parallel with filing their DJAI. However, on the first day of functioning of this parallel system, the aforementioned email address stopped functioning due to the large volume of emails received. CS Buenos Aires will keep U.S. exporters apprised of changes to/or the possible elimination of this requirement through http://export.gov/mrktresearch/index.asp. Meanwhile, Argentine importers (clients of U.S. exporters) are advised to continue to attempt to file this document through notadepedido@mecon.gob.ar. While CS Argentina could not find a download of the Nota de Pedido on Argentine Government websites, the Argentine Chamber of Commerce has made one available at www.cac.com.ar/documentos/41_NOTA%20DE%20PEDIDO-1.pdf

Procedures:

The Customs Broker and Importer will receive an answer to the affidavit within 10 days of filing it online. Argentine importers will be informed of status of their DJAI via the AFIP application Mis Operaciones Aduaneras (www.afip.gob.ar/moa/). The four status categories are: "Oficializada" (received), "Salida" (approved), Anulada (as yet undefined by AFIP) and Cancelada (as yet undefined by AFIP). While AFIP has promised to review the DJAIs within 72 house of receipt, other adhering Argentine Government agencies which by nature of the proposed import or authority in the area of international commerce are authorized to review a DJAI may be granted an additional 7 calendar days to make their judgment known to AFIP. Those DJAIs which are approved will be marked "Salida" and will be valid for 180 days.

Given the fluid nature of the new customs regime, Commercial Service Buenos Aires will provide additional information as it becomes available which can be accessed at http://export.gov/mrktresearch/index.asp.

Required Information to be supplied in the DJAI:

- C.U.I.T. (Registration Number on AFIP), importer and declarer
- FOB Value and Currency of the transaction.
- Mercosur Harmonized System Code/ AFIP Code.
- Type and Quantity of Goods.
- Status of Goods
- Country of Origin
- Last Country of Shipment

For More Information:

For additional information, please contact Commercial Specialist Mariangeles Perez-Manoileff, Mariangeles.Perez-Manoileff@trade.gov (54) 11 5777-4456, at the U.S. Embassy in Argentina or Ashley Rosen of the Department of Commerce, Office of Market Access and Compliance, Ashley.Rosen@trade.gov (202) 482-6311.

The U.S. Commercial Service — Your Global Business Partner

With its network of offices across the United States and in more than 80 countries, the U.S. Commercial Service of the U.S. Department of Commerce utilizes its global presence and international marketing expertise to help U.S. companies sell their products and services worldwide. Locate the U.S. Commercial Service trade specialist in the U.S. nearest you by visiting **http://www.export.gov/eac**.

Comments and Suggestions: We welcome your comments and suggestions regarding this market research. You can e-mail us your comments/suggestions to: Customer.Care@mail.doc.gov. Please include the name of the applicable market research in your e-mail. We greatly appreciate your feedback.

Disclaimer: The information provided in this report is intended to be of assistance to U.S. exporters. While we make every effort to ensure its accuracy, neither the United States government nor any of its employees make any representation as to the accuracy or completeness of information in this or any other United States government document. Readers are advised to independently verify any information prior to reliance thereon. The information provided in this report does not constitute legal advice. The Commercial Service reference to or inclusion of material by a non-U.S. Government entity in this document is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an endorsement by the Commercial Service of the entity, its materials, or its products or services

International copyright, U.S. Department of Commerce, 2012. All rights reserved outside of the United States.