

EXACT NEWS

EXPORT ASSISTANCE CENTER

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It gives me great pleasure to introduce the first issue of the Fiji Trade Commission's Export Assistance Center (ExACT) newsletter catering to Fiji's exporting community. In this and forthcoming communications, we will be addressing various issues that impact your trade operations, especially when you export Fiji products to the U.S.

The Lacey Act – Wood and Wood Products

Beginning December 15, 2008, any export to the U.S.A. containing any wood, paper or paperboard must be accompanied by a declaration stating the scientific name of the plant and the name of the country from where the plant originated.

The amended U.S. Farm Bill makes it illegal to import a broad range of plants and plant products, including timber derived from illegal logging. This will affect imports of all articles made of wood and paper and even includes paperboard that is used for packing. The range of products covered, drills down to paper hang tags and instruction manuals since wood pulp is used to produce these.

For more information, please visit USDA (http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/lacey_act/), Customs and Border Protection (<http://www.cbp.gov>) and APHIS at www.aphis.usda.gov.

Import Safety – A Priority Trade issue

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) enforce regulations to ensure that unsafe products do not enter the country by collaborating with other government agencies, foreign governments and the trade community. The recently formed Consumer Product Safety Commission focuses on safeguarding public health and safety from unsafe importations. Several products such as wearing apparel, food and toys are regulated. More information can be found at <http://www.cpsc.gov/businfo/reg1.html>.

Recently, Wal-Mart announced that certain suppliers must be certified by the Global Food Safety Initiative. Certification requires that all goods must be audited by licensed food safety auditors. Wal-Mart requires full certification by July 2009. Fiji exporters would do well to ramp up efforts to conform to international initiatives being taken. Here is another site to obtain more information on U.S. import safety measures: <http://importsafety.gov/>.

GSP – Generalized Scheme of Preferences

Fiji enjoys duty-free access for many products to the U.S. such as fish, taro, cassava, kava, handicrafts, other agro-produce, etc., because of their GSP status with the exception of items such as textiles, apparel, footwear, luggage and agricultural products that exceed quota limitations. For more information, please look at or visit the site: http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/trade/trade_programs/international_agreements/special_trade_programs/gsp_gen_system/

Self-help export guides

We have published useful export guides such as, 'Entering the U.S. Export Market' (October 2007) and 'Exporting Agricultural and Fisheries Produce to U.S.A.' (November 2008) which are distributed through the offices of the Fiji Islands Trade and Investment Bureau (FTIB) in Suva and Lautoka and at previous U.S. export seminars in Fiji. If you have not received a copy, please contact us or the FTIB office nearest to you.

Trade with USA – October, 2008

Exports to USA in October 2008 was F\$22.54 million, a decline of 22 percent compared to October 2007. However, total Fiji exports for the ten months January to October 2008 was F\$229.3 million, an increase of 5 percent over the same period in 2007.

Imports from the USA for the month totaled F\$15.2 million, an increase of 58 percent, and imports for the ten months January to October was F\$81 million, which is double the 2007 figure of F\$40.5 million.

We invite you to interact with us on email staff@fijitradela.com for any assistance you may need or send us your comments on how we can better serve you.

Sincerely,
Trade Commissioner



ExACT News is a monthly journal published by the Fiji Trade Commission, Los Angeles, providing regulatory and market information to the Fiji-U.S. import export trade community.

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