Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, 77 FR 4822 (January 31, 2012); the Seneca Nation of Indians, 80 FR 40076 (July 13, 2015); the Hydaburg Cooperative Association of Alaska, 81 FR 33686 (May 27, 2016); and the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, 82 FR 42351 (September 7, 2017).

Puyallup Tribe of Indians WHTI-Compliant Native American Tribal Card Program

The Puyallup Tribe of Indians (Puyallup Tribe) has voluntarily established a program to develop a WHTI-compliant Native American tribal card that denotes identity and U.S. or Canadian citizenship. The cards incorporate physical security features acceptable to CBP as well as facilitative technology allowing for electronic validation of identity, citizenship, and tribal membership by CBP.

CBP has tested the cards developed by the Puyallup Tribe pursuant to the above MOA and related agreements, and has performed an audit of the tribe’s card program. On the basis of these tests and audit, CBP has determined that the Native American tribal cards meet the requirements of section 7209 of the IRTPA and are acceptable documents to denote identity and citizenship for purposes of entering the United States at land and sea ports of entry from contiguous territory or adjacent islands.

The Puyallup Tribe of Indians WHTI-compliant Native American tribal cards as a WHTI-compliant document is conditional on compliance with the MOA and related agreements.

Acceptance and use of the WHTI-compliant Native American tribal cards is voluntary for tribe members. If an individual is denied a WHTI-compliant Native American tribal card, he or she may still apply for a passport or other WHTI-compliant document.

Designation

This notice announces that the Commissioner of CBP designates the Native American tribal card issued by the Puyallup Tribe in accordance with the MOA and all related agreements between the tribe and CBP as an acceptable WHTI-compliant document pursuant to section 7209 of the IRTPA and 8 CFR 235.1(e). In accordance with these provisions, the approved card, if valid and lawfully obtained, may be used to denote identity and U.S. or Canadian citizenship of Puyallup Tribe members for the purposes of entering the United States from contiguous territory or adjacent islands at land and sea ports of entry.

Dated: December 2, 2019.

Mark A. Morgan,
Acting Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

[FR Doc. 2019–26444 Filed 12–6–19; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 9111–14–P

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
U.S. Customs & Border Protection

Modifications to the Section 321 Data Pilot

AGENCY: U.S. Customs and Border Protection, DHS.

ACTION: General notice.

SUMMARY: On July 23, 2019, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) published a general notice in the Federal Register (84 FR 35405) announcing the Section 321 Data Pilot, a voluntary pilot in which participants agree to electronically transmit certain advance data elements related to de minimis value shipments potentially eligible for release under section 321 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (“section 321 shipments”). Section 321 provides for an administrative exemption from duty and taxes for shipments of merchandise imported by one person on one day having an aggregate fair retail value in the country of shipment of an amount specified by the Secretary by regulation, but not less than $800. The July 2019 notice provided a description of the Section 321 Data Pilot, the eligibility requirements, and the application process for participation.

The Section 321 Data Pilot is intended to improve CBP’s ability to effectively and efficiently assess the security risks of shipments potentially eligible for...
release under section 321 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1321(a)(2)(C)). The Section 321 Data Pilot tests the feasibility of collecting data elements, beyond those currently required by regulations, and of collecting data from non-traditional entities, such as online marketplaces. The July 2019 notice stated that the pilot would initially be limited to 9 participants and invited participation from all stakeholders in the e-commerce environment, including carriers, brokers, freight forwarders, and online marketplaces. Pilot participants agree to electronically transmit certain advance data elements to CBP regarding section 321 shipments arriving by air, truck, or rail. CBP excluded from the scope of the pilot shipments arriving by ocean, mail shipments covered by 19 CFR part 145, and shipments destined for a Foreign Trade Zone. CBP uses the advance information transmitted through the pilot to identify and target high-risk shipments, including for narcotics, counter-proliferation, and health and safety risks. The results of the Section 321 Data Pilot will help CBP determine whether additional mandatory advance reporting requirements are necessary in the e-commerce environment.

II. Modifications to the Section 321 Data Pilot

This notice announces that CBP is modifying the Section 321 Data Pilot to include shipments arriving by ocean and international mail shipments. This document also modifies the provisions governing misconduct under the pilot and extends the duration of the pilot an additional twelve months.

A. Expansions of the Section 321 Data Pilot To Include Shipments Arriving by Ocean

In the July 2019 notice, CBP stated that the pilot applied to section 321 shipments arriving in the United States by air, truck, or rail. CBP is now expanding the pilot to include shipments arriving by ocean. As described in detail in the July 2019 notice, CBP receives certain advance electronic data for shipments arriving in the United States by ocean. For example, regulations promulgated pursuant to the Trade Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107–210, 116 Stat. 933 (Aug. 6, 2002)) require ocean carriers to transmit for each shipment the shipper’s name and address, the consignee name and address, a description of the cargo, including the cargo’s quantity and weight, and information regarding the vessel’s voyage, including carrier code, date of arrival, and point of origin. See 19 CFR 4.7a. Additionally, regulations promulgated pursuant to the Security and Accountability for Every Port Act of 2006 (Pub. L. 109–347, 120 Stat. 1884, October 13, 2006 (SAFE Port Act)) require importers and carriers to submit additional data before the cargo is brought to the United States. See 19 CFR part 149 (Importer Security Filing or ISF regulations). The data required by the ISF regulations include name and address of the seller, buyer, and manufacturer or supplier, the consignee identifying number, the ship to party (the first deliver-to-party scheduled to receive goods as the goods have been released from custody), country of origin, Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) number, container stuffing location, and the name and address of the consolidator. 19 CFR 149.3(a).

These existing regulatory requirements do not provide CBP with the information necessary to effectively and efficiently assess the security risks of section 321 shipments arriving by ocean. This is because they generally apply to carriers and importers, who may not possess all of the relevant information relating to an e-commerce shipment’s supply chain. In addition, the required information does not always adequately identify the entity causing the shipment to cross the border, the final recipient, or the contents of the package. For instance, under the ISF regulations, an importer may list a domestic deconsolidator as the “ship to party”. There is no specific requirement to identify the final recipient of the shipment in the United States. This hinders CBP’s ability to effectively target or identify high-risk shipments and CBP officers must use additional time and resources to inspect section 321 shipments. Expansion of the Section 321 Data Pilot to include shipments arriving by ocean will enable CBP to more effectively target or identify high-risk shipments by requiring additional data elements related to such shipments. Such expansion will also enable CBP to test the feasibility of collecting advance data from typically non-regulated entities utilizing ocean transportation. It will also enable CBP to collect data regarding additional relevant shipments. Based on the initial operation of the pilot, CBP has learned that many e-commerce entities utilize all modes of transportation and that excluding ocean shipments from the pilot would exclude a substantial number of relevant shipments of potential participants. By expanding the scope of the pilot to include all modes of shipment (air, rail, truck, and ocean), the results of the pilot will be more relevant to possible future regulatory effects, trade facilitation benefits, or other initiatives in the e-commerce environment as a whole. For these reasons, CBP is expanding the Section 321 Data Pilot to include shipments arriving in the United States by ocean.

B. Expansion of the Section 321 Data Pilot To Include International Mail Shipments

The July 2019 notice stated that the Section 321 Data Pilot would not apply to mail shipments covered by 19 CFR part 145. Part 145 applies to mail imports that are subject to Customs examination. CBP has determined that excluding these mail shipments from the pilot decreases CBP’s ability to develop strategies for section 321 shipments as a whole because it is common in the e-commerce environment for entities to use international mail to ship section 321 shipments. CBP has also learned through the initial operation of the pilot that excluding international mail shipments may impose an additional burden on pilot participants because they would need to separate data relating to mail shipments from data relating to other section 321 shipments. Accordingly, CBP is expanding the pilot to include section 321 shipments covered by 19 CFR part 145.3 (Shipments destined for a Foreign Trade Zone continue to be excluded from the scope of the pilot.)

C. New Misconduct Section

The July 2019 notice included a section VI, entitled “Misconduct Under the Pilot”, which described the penalties CBP may impose on pilot participants for misconduct and the applicable procedures. CBP is revising the section VI language to clarify that those pilot participants who are unable to provide data elements contemplated by this test will not be subject to civil or criminal penalties, administrative sanctions, or liquidated damages solely for such inability. However, the revised language clarifies that test participants who repeatedly provide false, inaccurate or misleading data will be subject, at CBP’s discretion, to civil and criminal penalties, administrative sanctions, or liquidated damages or removal from participation. Additionally, the revised

---

3 Under current regulations, there is no requirement to submit advance electronic data to CBP for mail shipments. However, section 6003 of the Synthetics Trafficking and Overdose Prevention Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115–271, 123 Stat. 4073 [STOP Act of 2018]), requires CBP to issue regulations requiring the U.S. Postal Service to transmit certain advance electronic data to CBP for international mail shipments. CBP is in the process of drafting those regulations.
language clarifies that CBP may immediately remove a participant from the pilot for the repeated failure to provide data or the repeated submission of false, inaccurate or misleading data. CBP is also replacing the phrase “discontinuance from participation” with “removal from participation” for clarity. The language below replaces in full the misconduct section in the July 2019 notice and reads as follows:

VI. Misconduct Under the Pilot

A pilot participant may be subject to civil and criminal penalties, administrative sanctions, liquidated damages, or removal from participation in the Section 321 Data Pilot for any of the following:

(1) Failure to follow the rules, terms, and conditions of this pilot;
(2) Failure to exercise reasonable care in the execution of participant obligations; or
(3) Failure to abide by applicable laws and regulations.

Test participants who are unable to provide data elements contemplated by this test will not be subject to civil and criminal penalties, administrative sanctions, or liquidated damages solely for such inability. Test participants who repeatedly provide false, inaccurate or misleading data will be subject, at CBP’s discretion, to civil and criminal penalties, administrative sanctions, liquidated damages or removal from participation.

If the Director, Intellectual Property Rights and E-Commerce Division, Office of Trade, finds that there is a basis for removal of pilot participation privileges, the pilot participant will be provided a written notice proposing the removal with a description of the facts or conduct warranting the action. The pilot participant will be offered the opportunity to appeal the decision in writing within 10 calendar days of receipt of the written notice. The appeal of this determination must be submitted to the Executive Director, Trade Policy and Programs, Office of Trade, by emailing e-commercesmallbusinessbranch@cbp.dhs.gov.

The immediate removal will remain in effect during the appeal period. The Executive Director, Trade Policy and Programs, Office of Trade, will issue a decision in writing on the removal within 15 working days after receiving a timely filed appeal from the pilot participant. If no timely appeal is received, the notice becomes the final decision of the Agency as of the date that the appeal period expires.

D. Twelve Month Extension

The Section 321 Data Pilot was originally intended to run for approximately one year. CBP is extending the pilot to run an additional twelve months, through August 2021. The additional time is necessary in order for pilot participants to modify their communication systems in order to execute the provisions of the pilot and for CBP to collect a sufficient amount of data from the participants.

Subject to the amendments herein, all other provisions of the July 2019 notice, except for section “VI. Misconduct Under the Pilot,” remain applicable to the Section 321 Data Pilot. CBP reiterates that it is not waiving any regulations for purposes of the pilot. All of the existing regulations, including the Trade Act of 2002 requirements and the ISF regulations described above, continue to apply to pilot participants.

Dated: December 4, 2019.

Robert E. Perez,
Deputy Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection.