
STEEL LICENSE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



Volume 3

July 2003

The purpose of this newsletter is to reinforce the Import Administration Steel License Team's commitment to customer service. Specifically, we want to communicate any changes to the license system, steel license program, and other items of interest. We hope you find this information to be useful.

Welcome

As summer gets underway, things certainly aren't slowing down for the Steel Licensing Team. Since the last newsletter, we've implemented a few new features and enhanced some old ones. One item that should be of particular interest to registered users is the ability to self-correct a license. We are also continuing to refine the Expanded Surge Monitor, an important initiative that has already directly impacted a number of trade issues. In this issue, we also congratulate our 100,000th license winners. Lastly, the International Trade Commission mid-term hearings began this month. If the mid-term review results in any changes to the licensing program, we will report them as soon as possible. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Best Regards,

The Steel Licensing Team

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New Feature! Correct-a-License is Here

How many times have you filled out a license only to have to correct the information after you have submitted it? We have just added a new feature to allow you to self correct your license. We hope this feature will be a time-saver and should keep you from having to cancel and re-enter the data for the license. We also hope it will encourage increased data checking on the part of those applying for licenses.

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To use this new feature, log onto the system with your user identification as usual, but, instead of applying for a new license, click on the option to correct a license. A list of your last 500 license numbers will appear. Click on the license number you want to correct and enter weight (in kilograms) of the 1st product on your license in the box. Requiring some information from the original license is a security feature to ensure that you are authorized to access the license.

Once your license opens, you can correct any of the fields. Once finished, you will have to resubmit. You will then have the opportunity to reprint the license, and an email confirmation will be sent to you. Remember to verify that all information is correct and be certain that data fields match the information on your Customs documentation, including the 99 codes.

Guidelines on when to correct:

- product classification is wrong
- entered value or quantity (in kilograms) is off by more than 5%
- contact information changes
- typos (ex: country of origin, manufacturer, dates) ❖

New HTS Codes

The 484f Committee is an inter-agency committee that semiannually discusses refinements to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule. This committee is chaired by the International Trade Commission, and also has members from the Census, Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), and the United States Trade Representative (USTR), and is charged with refining the tariff codes at the nine and ten-digit level.

This committee met on June 19, 2003 and deleted three HTS codes related to steel, which are replaced by six new HTS codes. These six new codes are available within the licensing system:

Deleted HTS Codes	New HTS Codes
7209160090	7209160070
	7209160091
7209170090	7209170070
	7209170091
7209186000	7209186020
	7209186090

Low Value Licenses

The Department of Commerce began issuing low value licenses on May 28th. The Department’s intent was to simplify the application process for very small covered entries – some licenses had previously been issued for as little as 18 cents when it was within a larger shipment.

To date, 45 companies have been issued low value license numbers. As with other licenses, we stress that it is vital to enter the license numbers accurately into the Customs system. The Department monitors the use of the low value licenses (as well as regular licenses) carefully; the low-value licenses can be revoked if misused.

For more information on the low value license application process, please contact steel_license@ita.doc.gov or call (202) 482-2105. ❖

Technical Corrections Issued for Chapter 99 Numbers

The United States Trade Representative (USTR) issued technical corrections to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) on June 9, 2003 in the Federal Register. This document is also available as a link from this address within the USTR website: <http://www.ustr.gov/sectors/industry/steel.shtml>

This document has led to two deletions and two additions to the Chapter 99 codes available within the licensing system:

Deleted HTS Codes	New HTS Codes
9903808100	9903783300
9903811300	9903821800

For the most recent list of covered products, please refer to the Products Covered by the Remedy page on the Steel Licensing website: http://ia.ita.doc.gov/steel/license/remedy_concordance.html ❖

Expanded Surge Monitor Update

Import Administration uses the statistical information collected from the license to form the basis (along with Census import data) of its surge monitoring program and early warning system. The system is intended to alert the public about changes in the quantities, types, or origins of steel imports. Aggregate data from these steel licenses is posted regularly on the Import Administration website to provide an early-warning of potential import surges --available about two to three weeks earlier than the preliminary Census statistics and about five to six weeks ahead of the official Census statistics.

The surge monitor can be accessed by anyone (i.e., a user ID is not required), simply go to <http://ia.ita.doc.gov/steel/license>. The files incorporating the license data are available through the link entitled "Expanded Surge Monitor". The data is compiled in both a graphical and table format. Graphs showing annual imports (covering 1996 – 2003) have recently been added to the surge monitor, with the intent of placing the monthly graphs in a historical context.

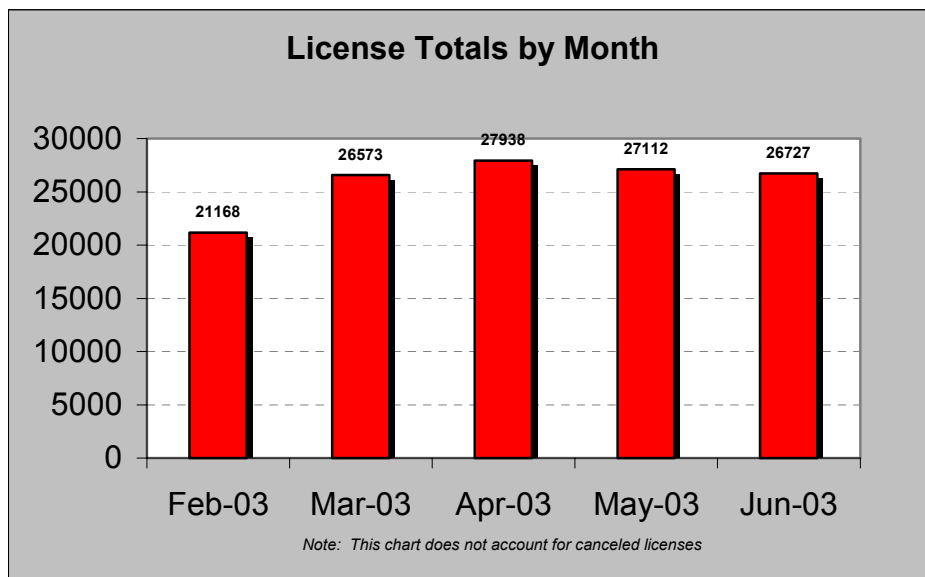
The import monitoring system also allows its users to identify surges of covered imports from excluded countries. The administration can take appropriate actions should imports from excluded countries undermine the effectiveness of the remedy. The authority for steel licensing is tied to the Section 201 remedies and will expire when the 201 safeguard remedies are terminated.

The surge monitor will continue to be updated on a weekly basis—please be aware that the license data does not undergo the same scrutiny that the census data does. Therefore, these data could differ substantially from the final Census data. In particular, the last month of license data cover only a partial month. Any comments or suggestions to improve the system are welcomed. ❖

A Troubleshooting Suggestion

Most browsers work equally well for most users. However, some users (particularly those outside the US) have had some trouble processing licenses after we made a system software upgrade in June. If you have had access problems, a suggestion is to install Netscape 7 on your computer before you try and submit another steel license. We have tried this trick successfully with several other steel brokers when Internet Explorer 6 did not work for them. The URL link to downloading Netscape 7 is: <http://channels.netscape.com/ns/browsers/default.jsp> ❖

Fun & Fascinating Statistics



Question: Most licenses issued in one day??

Answer: March 25 with 1,970 licenses issued

Question: Most licenses issued in a one week time frame??

Answer: The week ending on June 21 with 6,716 licenses issued.

Question: How many Commerce employees are dedicated to the Steel Licensing Program??

Answer: Seven, they are Julie Al-Saadawi, Alessandra (Alex) Cortez, Julia Hancock, Ozelm Koray, Steve Winkates, Mike Quigley, and Rob Beadle – all under Kelly Parkhill's management.

Question: On what date did the Steel Licensing Program issue its 100,000th License??

Answer: Wednesday, May 28 at 1:59 PM, Eastern Standard Time.

Question: How many licenses were corrected using Correct-a-License as of July 10??

Answer: 111

Question: When will the 250,000th license be issued??

Answer: ??

100,000th License Sweepstakes

As was announced in the May newsletter, the Steel Licensing Team held a contest to mark the issuance of the 100,000th steel license. With much anticipation, the 100,000th license was issued on May 28 at 1:59 PM EST. But, since three people had filed milliseconds apart, and there was really no way to distinguish who had filed first, we chose three winners. The winners are:

Ms. Cindy Dunsmore

Cindy Dunsmore is employed by Danzas AEI and has been with the company for 10 years. Cindy is the Import Manager for the Michigan District, located in Port Huron, MI. She is responsible for all entry summary processes within Michigan and manages 40+ employees.

Ms. Darlene Prokop

Darlene Prokop is a Classification Team Lead for FedEx Trade Networks Transport & Brokerage in Tonawanda, New York. She administers the team assigned to handling all steel shipments for the Northern Border. Darlene worked closely with others at FedEx Trade Networks Transport & Brokerage to establish procedures for handling Steel License Applications.

Ms. Theresa Skotzke

Theresa Skotzke's career began in 1987 and includes 14 years of experience. She took a position in 1997 with UPS Supply Chain Solutions as a midnight release clerk and was promoted to a supervisory position within 6 months. Her position included supervising 14 employees in Port Huron and Sault Ste Marie, Michigan. Since her career began with UPS Supply Chain Solutions, she has seen their location grow from 14 to approximately 40 employees of which she supervises 17. Her future plans include taking the October 2003 U.S. Customs Brokers Examination and then obtaining a business management degree.

The Steel Team would like to take this opportunity to thank the contest winners and recognize their contribution to the overall Steel Licensing initiative. The significance of 100,000 steel licenses issued is important because it draws attention to the fact that there has been tremendous cooperation on the part of the steel importing community. Thank you for helping us achieve this milestone.

As always, we encourage you to contact us with your ideas and suggestions.

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