

**Centers of Excellence and Expertise
Operational Expansion
March 23, 2016**

Delegation Order, Number 14-004, effective on September 11, 2014, delegates all authorities provided for in Title 19, Code of Federal Regulations that are vested in Port Directors, to the Directors, Centers of Excellence & Expertise (Center Directors). The Delegation Order does not remove any authority from the Port Directors but serves to share trade authority until full regulatory changes are completed.

On March 23, 2016, the Center Directors for the Agriculture & Prepared Products (APP); Automotive & Aerospace (AA); Base Metals (BM), Consumer Products & Mass Merchandising (CPMM); Industrial & Manufacturing Materials (IMM); and the Machinery (MACH) Centers of Excellence and Expertise (Centers) will assume trade authority for post-release trade processes of entry summaries from Ports of Entry within the following Field Offices:

Atlanta	Baltimore	Boston
Buffalo	Chicago	Detroit
El Paso	Houston	Laredo
Los Angeles	Miami	New Orleans
New York	Portland	San Diego
San Francisco	Seattle	Tampa
Tucson		

A list of processing ports and the associated Center team codes are included in the attachment.

Entry summary filing procedures and document submission processes will remain the same for brokers and importers. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will consolidate post-release processing to provide an increased level of uniformity and certainty.

An appropriate level of trade staff at these Service Port locations will be transitioned to the Centers to support Center operations. The Center Director will have full authority for trade decisions for the respective industry tariff lines. Guidance regarding the execution of the Delegation Order can be found on CBP.gov or via the following link:

[Delegation Order Guidance for the Trade Community](#)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Centers of Excellence and Expertise transform the way CBP approaches trade operations and works with the international trade community. The Centers represent CBP's expanded focus on trade processing by aligning with modern business practices, focusing on industry-specific issues, and by providing tailored support to unique trading environments. The Centers were established to increase uniformity of practices across ports of entry, facilitate the timely resolution of trade compliance issues nationwide, and further strengthen critical agency knowledge on key industry practices. Additional information can be found at [Centers of Excellence and Expertise Information | U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#).