



De Minimis in the Trade Community

The number of de minimis shipments entering the U.S. has increased by 88% since 2018. CBP has implemented various programs to better collect and accurately track package data. The trade community is also expected to abide by trade laws even when importing de minimis shipments.

Entry Type 86 Test



Program Overview

- A **Section 321 low-value shipment** may be entered, using reasonable care, by the owner, purchaser, consignee, or a designated customs broker (see **19 CFR 143.26b**).
 - Includes filings subject to partner government agency (PGA) data requirements, through the **Automated Broker Interface (ABI)**.
- Improve import safety and security by providing **greater visibility** into low value shipments for both CBP and PGAs while ensuring regulatory requirements are met.



General Requirements

- Requires **Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS)** information, which provides a classification of the merchandise.
- Permitted goods include:
 - Goods that have an aggregate **retail value of \$800 or less** in the country of shipment
 - **Any PGA regulated commodities** that require a PGA message set and are not subject to fee collection
- Goods **NOT** permitted include:
 - Goods subject to **Antidumping/Countervailing Duty (AD/CVD)**
 - Goods subject to **quota**
 - Goods taxed under the **Internal Revenue Code (i.e., alcohol, tobacco, etc.)**
 - Goods subject to **PGA fees not otherwise waived by the PGA**

Key Personnel in the Import Process

Listed below are the Trade and CBP personnel involved in the import process for de minimis shipments.

Trade Personnel



Consumers purchase merchandise through online or other channels and information is sent to the seller to fulfill the order.



Customs Brokers conduct customs business on behalf of the owner, purchaser, or consignee of eligible shipments.



Foreign Sellers fulfill orders of merchandise and deliver shipments to the carrier prior to shipment into the U.S.



Carriers transport shipments through all modes of transportation, including air, truck, and vessel, and are required to file the cargo declaration detailing imports.

CBP Personnel



CBP Officers assess risk and inspect high-risk shipments to ensure dangerous goods are not released into the commerce of the U.S. while facilitating the flow of legitimate trade.



Agricultural Specialists assess risk and inspect high-risk shipments to prevent exotic pests, foreign animal diseases, and potential agricultural-bio-terrorism from entering the U.S.



Import Specialists assist with the shipment inspection and verification processes; Enforce trade laws and play a key role in investigations involving high-risk shipments.



Entry Specialists oversee broker licensing and enforcement to ensure that brokers are abiding by the regulations when filing on behalf of their clients.