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**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

JUN 1 2 2025

INFORMATION BULLETIN NUMBER: MTFO FY25-TO-003

TO: IMPORTERS, CUSTOMSHOUSE BROKERS, AIR CARRIERS FREIGHT FORWARDERS, CONTAINER STATION OPERATORS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

SUBJECT: New Procedure for the Chain of Custody and the Condition of Entry Processing

The purpose of this Information Bulletin is to notify you of the new procedure for processing the Chain of Custody (523A) and the Condition of Entry by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) at Ports of Entry within the Miami and Tampa Field Offices.

Effective June 6, 2025, the Florida Liaison Group III, a collaborative working group between U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and members of the Trade community ended a one year working group developing a procedure for tracking the movement of quarantine cargo requiring treatment from CBP's custody to USDA. Moving forward, CBP and USDA will cease paper communication pertaining to the Chain of Custody (523A) and the Condition of Entry (COE). The Chain of Custody and the Condition of Entry information will be shared electronically between agencies. Furthermore, for the stakeholders requiring USDA treatment (i.e. fumigation) outside of the Port of Arrival (POA) or the Port of Inspection (POI), CBP will now remove the hold authorizing the movement to a USDA approved facility and replace the hold with a Permit to Transfer (PTT) transaction in the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE). USDA will acknowledge receipt of the cargo in an internal system and apply treatment. Stakeholders can view all transactions through ACE. Please be advised that shipments that arrive at the Miami Plant Inspection Station (MPIS) that have not been transferred by CBP electronically will not be accepted by MPIS.

Any issues or concerns regarding this Information Bulletin should be directed to Miami and Tampa Field Offices, Trade Operations Division at mtfotrade@cbp.dhs.gov. Any issues or concerns related to Miami Plant Inspection Station, should be directed to Miami Area Port Supervisor at emelio.ayala@usda.gov.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carlos C. Martel".

Carlos C. Martel
Director Field Operations
Miami and Tampa Field Offices
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

DISCLAIMER: This material is intended to provide guidance. Recognizing that many complicated factors are involved in Customs and Border Protection (CBP) matters, entities may want to obtain a binding ruling under 19 C.F.R. Part 177. Reliance solely on this information may not be considered reasonable care. For in-depth information on the concept of reasonable care, the Trade community is referred to Treasury Decision 97-96, published in the Federal Register on December 4, 1997, and Customs Bulletin dated December 17, 1997. Please visit CBP's website at: www.cbp.gov.