

May 22, 2012

## International Trade News:

### Recent Changes in Guatemala Customs Laws

Effective March 2012, the government of Guatemala signed into Law a new Customs Decree; Number 10-2012.

The changes are extensive, but we would like to point out the most notable ones as it relates to our documentation requirements:

- Vessel / aircraft manifests need to be electronically transmitted to Customs Authorities no later than 24 hours prior to vessel arrival at Guatemalan ports. Therefore, agents need to receive all pre-alerts (including all documents) at least 2 business days prior to shipment's arrival, without exception.
- Corrections to documents will no longer be allowed if within 24 hours of vessel / aircraft arriving to a Guatemalan port.
- A full descriptive detail of the freight charges must be shown on the Bill of Lading and Airway Bills. House documents need to be rated.
- Discrepancies of Consignee information between House documents and fiscal information (legal name and fiscal address) will be penalized by Customs. Said information needs to be confirmed and double checked by the shipper.
- Gross Weight on all documents needs to be expressed in Kilograms.

Penalties for non-compliance are expected to be fully enforced on June 15, 2012, with fines ranging between \$250-\$2000 depending on the frequency of occurrence and incident, and an ultimate risk of loss of international trade privileges to any organization with frequent non-compliance.

We kindly ask you to forward this information to shippers at origin. In the event of any inquires or doubt in reference to this issue, shippers should contact receivers in Guatemala for clarification of requirements.

Thank you,

MIA Branch  
Ocean World Lines, Inc.  
RF International Ltd.  
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