



OWL Alert

Sequester Effect on US Customs Clearances

No new deal has been reached that would have avoided budget cuts going into effect in the USA, commonly known as the sequester. Information that we've collected from both the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Headquarters and local US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) offices around the country has stated that the spending cuts directly affect budgets with one impact being on the use of overtime. Going forward overtime will be eliminated.

An effect this will have on CBP is its ability to complete VACIS and CES examinations which are most common with fresh produce and perishable imports. We're also expecting some clearances to take longer than usual due to the lack of officers on overtime being used to clear backlogs.

Please be assured that our Import Operations and Customs Brokerage Teams will continue to quickly and diligently process files to prepare them for CBP authorities. We will in no way add to the customs clearance delays that will inevitably occur.

Should you have any questions or concerns about how your shipments may be affected, or would like us to pay particular attention to one of your shipments then please don't hesitate to contact your location [Pacer International/Ocean World Lines office](#).