

WHO IS THE ULTIMATE CNEE? CUSTOMS WANTS TO KNOW!

ULTIMATE CONSIGNEE REQUIREMENTS from the U.S. CUSTOMS PIPELINE 01-07, SEPTEMBER 25, 2001 “Guidelines for the identification of the Ultimate Consignee at the time of entry or release”

Since 9-11, the U.S. government has been trying to identify who is getting what for import and export. One of the gray areas has been when an importer brings in goods from foreign origin and automatically drops the freight at their customer's door, or another company location (the Ultimate Consignee).

During the entry process the broker is required to input the importer of record, name, address, and its IRS number. This tells customs who is taking responsibility of the import. If the freight being imported is going to a different address than what is listed as the importer of record, customs is requesting the name, address and IRS number of the Ultimate Consignee. This way U.S. Customs (USC) can track shipments to the actual company / warehouse receiving the freight.

Therefore, if you are importing goods that are going to be “drop shipped” to your customer it is best if you can provide the IRS number of the Ultimate Consignee to your broker in advance of the shipment being cleared through customs. There are many variations on how the information can be presented, but the bottom line is that USC wants the NAME, ADDRESS, and IRS number of the company receiving the freight.

If the product is going to be delivered to the importer of record, then the broker will input the importer of record a second time as the Ultimate Consignee. At this point the transaction for the import has been completed and no new information needs to be provided to customs. However if you are having the carrier, or broker deliver direct to your customer or a different company location the IRS number and information should be provided at the time of entry.

(USC does allow a broker, trucker, or carrier of any type to be listed as an Ultimate Consignee of import shipments.)

As per customs : “In cases where the filer fails to provide, or supplies an identification (IRS) number for the ultimate consignee which is inconsistent with the provisions of this pipeline, the Importer of Record and Filer will be referred to the Enforcement Evaluation Team or Broker Compliance Office for appropriate informed or enforced compliance action.”

Thus when importing goods that you know are going to a separate location than your importer of record address you should provide a full name, address and IRS number to your broker.

BDG is set up to keep track of your different delivery locations, whether it is one time or several. Our system is set up to accept an unlimited amount of Ultimate Consignee

address and IRS number. Therefore, if you have a shipment going to XXX in Nebraska once we input the information in our system we will be able to query the same details each time we make a delivery.