

Trade Compliance Resolutions for the New Year

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Five years ago I [shared with you a list of New Year's resolutions](#) for trade compliance professionals. Of course you've accomplished all of those suggestions, haven't you? Time, however, has a way of changing perspective. Since first drafting that article the trade compliance landscape has shifted. There are new priorities and regulators have stepped up their enforcement efforts in those areas. I still stand by the recommendations I made then but I'm adding a few to the list.

1. Register for an ACE portal account.

You've been putting it off, I know. But what are you waiting for? The Automated Commercial Environment has been a thing for a long time now. Through an ACE portal account you can gain access to you import customs entry and export EEI data. Yes, the system has some quirks and is not the most user-friendly interface. Don't let that be an excuse for not signing up. Instead think of it as free software and then imagine how much it would cost you to compile this data on your own. It's a bargain at twice the price! Registration instructions are [available at the CBP website](#). Oh, and once you gain access to your account, resolve to use it!

2. Screen your import supply chain for AD/CVD risk.

The federal government has taken a more proactive approach towards unfair trade practices relating to dumping and foreign export subsidies. Since 2016, CBP has had expanded authority to investigate cases of antidumping and countervailing duty evasion. Importers should review existing AD/CVD orders that encompass their products regardless of the origin of the goods, and take steps to ensure there is no evasion within their supply chains. Importers should also monitor the increasing AD/CVD investigations. Information about existing orders and investigations is available at the [US International Trade Commission website](#).

3. Screen your export supply chain for AD/CVD and other trade barriers.

Exporters should not become complacent. Other countries impose AD/CVD orders against certain U.S. goods. The trade remedy compliance staff of the U.S. International Trade Administration [tracks these cases at their website](#). They would also like to hear from you if you encounter any other trade barriers at destination.

4. Screen for forced labor risk in your supply chain.

This issue snuck up on the import community towards the end of 2017. While it has long been illegal to import goods produced with forced or prison labor, recent legislative changes have placed the onus on importers to demonstrate that their supply chains do not rely on this insidious practice. [We discussed techniques you could use to screen your supply chain here](#).

5. Tighten your NAFTA controls.

Perhaps it is just a coincidence, but it appears that the NAFTA renegotiations may have triggered a heightened enforcement effort. All three countries seem to be exercising their right to initiate verifications of NAFTA claims. If you do not have the documentary evidence to support your NAFTA certificate of origin, this would be the opportune time to shore up your NAFTA record keeping controls.

What else?

You say you are on top of all of these issues? Well good for you! You're starting out the year on the right foot. Your resolution? Keep up the good work!