

Helping NW PA Businesses Navigate Changing Import Tariffs

Importing and exporting goods has always been a complex task because of government regulations. But in the past year, that process has become even more challenging because of the new federal regulations involving tariffs. There have been six tariff changes in 2018 and 12 revisions to the of the United States, which is the primary resource for determining tariff classifications for goods imported into the U.S. The most recent list included more than 5,000 line-item changes including everyday goods like furniture and lighting.

“I had to get out a special stapler because the list is more than half an inch thick,” said Gretchen Blough, a licensed customs broker and brokerage manager for Erie’s Logistics Plus Customs Broker Solutions. There’s also potentially even more changes on the way.

Logistics Plus guides customers through complex process

The tariff changes and revisions have come so quickly that many importers in northwestern Pennsylvania and throughout the United States are confused about how it affects their business. Those importers are turning to companies like Logistics Plus for answers.

“It’s our job to guide customers through every complex step of the customs process,” Blough said. “That means we have to stay up to date on every change and revision.”

Logistics Plus customs brokers and global trade compliance experts provide clients with peace-of-mind by making sure all the up-to-date necessary paperwork, documentation and fees are accounted for in the customs process. This attention to detail is necessary not only so that the import and export process goes as smoothly as possible, but to ensure customers aren’t paying too much on their goods, Blough said.

“We look at everything from the country of origin to whether it’s worth pursuing a petition for exclusion from the new tariffs,” she said. Any savings Logistics Plus customs brokers can find for their clients is a bonus. “The cost of these tariffs that clients are paying will eventually get passed along to the consumer,” Blough said. “So, making sure we’re doing everything we can to minimize costs for our clients helps not only their bottom line but ultimately means savings for consumers.”



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