

APPLIES TO THE PORT(S) OF: Seattle, Tacoma, Port Angeles, Port Townsend,
Aberdeen, Everett, Spokane, Moses Lake

ORIGINATING OFFICE: SEATTLE, WASHINGTON



**U.S. CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION
TRADE INFORMATION NOTICE**

NUMBER: 09-30
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SUBJECT: Use of Rice Straw (*Oryza sativa*) as a Freight Packing Material

DISTRIBUTION: Customs Brokers, Importers, Freight Forwarders, Other Interested Parties

Due to an increase in rice straw (*Oryza sativa*) interceptions in the Seattle Area Port, and in the spirit of informed compliance, this Trade Information Notice is being provided to all interested members of the trade community with information regarding to the restrictions on the importation of rice straw (*Oryza sativa*) as a packing material or in a commodity, per Title 7 Code of Federal Regulations Part 319.55.

Shipments containing rice straw as a packing material or in a commodity are restricted entry into the United States to help prevent the introduction of injurious fungous diseases of rice, including downy, mildew (*Sclerospora macrospora*), leaf smut (*Entyloma oryzae*), blight (*Oospora oryzaetorum*), and glume blotch (*Melanomma glumarum*), as well as dangerous insect pests. Such pests and diseases exist in Europe, Asia, Africa, Central America, South America, and other foreign countries and localities. The introduction of any one of these pests could result in substantial economic hardship to the domestic rice industry, as well as in other domestic industries in the *Poaceae* family that might be a host to one or more of these pests – including, but not limited to, Barley, Corn, Oats, Wheat, Rye, Sorghum, Wheat and Millet.

To gain entry of rice straw, an importer must have obtained a USDA APHIS import permit for the commodity prior to arrival, and additionally must arrange for a steam sterilization treatment (treatments T303-b-1 or T303-b-2) upon arrival. This entry information is for the Area Port of Seattle only, as restrictions vary based on the port of arrival. Failure to meet USDA APHIS entry requirements will result in exportation or destruction at the owner's expense.

More information on rice straw regulations can be found on Table 3-126 in the [USDA Miscellaneous and Processed Products manual](#) as well as [Title 7 Part 319.55](#) of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Any questions regarding this Trade Information Notice should be directed to local Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Agriculture personnel prior to importation. CBP Agriculture personnel may be reached at (206) 553-1581 for maritime cargo, and (206) 553-2070 for air cargo. Jose Francisco Gonzalez, Chief CBP Agriculture Specialist, may be reached at (206) 553-2499.

Rolando Suliveras Jr.
Area Port Director, Seattle