

Practice Contact

Frederick P. Waite
202.467.8852
fpwaite@vorys.com

Customs Laws and Import Compliance

Our attorneys advise clients on many different matters regarding the importation of goods into the United States and the impact of U.S. Customs regulations on corporate operations and global supply chain activities. We regularly assist clients on the proper tariff classification (under the *Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States* or HTS), valuation, origination (country of origin), and marking of imported merchandise. Our practice in this area also includes counseling clients on the availability, requirements, and benefits of preferential trade programs, such as the *Generalized System of Preferences* (GSP), the *North American Free Trade Agreement* (NAFTA), the *Dominican Republic-Central American Free Trade Agreement* (DR-CAFTA), the *African Growth and Opportunity Act* (AGOA), the *Andean Trade Preference Act* (ATPA), and the free trade agreements with Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Bahrain, Oman, Chile, Peru, Australia, and Singapore.

We assist our clients in designing and implementing compliance and assessment programs administered by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). We conduct customs audits and related internal investigations, and we also represent clients involved in penalty proceedings, liquidated damage claims, seizure and forfeiture proceedings, and administrative protests. In addition, we advise clients on matters relating to the establishment and regulation of foreign trade zones (FTZ), temporary importations under bond (TIB), and bonded warehouse operations.

Our firm's representative work in this area includes the following matters:

- Representation of a U.S. manufacturer before CBP which resulted in the eligibility of the client's imported product for preferential duty treatment and the exclusion of that product from the assessment of antidumping duties
- Representation of a U.S. distributor which resulted in the release of its merchandise from detention by CBP and a subsequent written ruling from CBP Headquarters confirming the eligibility of the merchandise for admission into the United

(Customs Laws and Import Compliance Continued)

States under a special statutory provision

- Representation of a U.S. supplier to the automotive industry which resulted in the favorable classification of imported merchandise
- Representation of an international steel trading company before the CBP which resulted in the substantial reduction of the assessed duties and proposed penalties on imported products subject to potential antidumping duties
- Representation of a U.S. manufacturer of fabricated steel products which resulted in the favorable classification of the client's imported merchandise