

OCT - 5 2009



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

PORT OF SAVANNAH PIPELINE # 2009-15

INS-SV:FO:LFB

TO: All Vessel Carriers, Steamship Companies, Vessel Agents, and
Other Interested Parties
Ports of Savannah and Brunswick

FROM: Area Port Director
Savannah, Georgia

SUBJECT: Pipeline 2009-13 Amended to Reflect Increase in APHIS Commercial
Vessel User Fees and Delay in Effective Date

The purpose of this pipeline is to amend Pipeline 2009-13 issued on September 15, 2009 announcing the increase in APHIS Commercial Vessel User Fees on October 1, 2009. The new APHIS User Fee amounts are delayed until November 1, 2009.

USDA APHIS is amending the user fee regulations by adjusting the fees charged for certain agricultural quarantine and inspection (AQI) services that are provided in connection with certain commercial vessels, commercial trucks, commercial railroad cars, commercial aircraft, and international airline passengers arriving at ports in the customs territory of the United States. The recent downturn in the U.S. economy has negatively impacted travel volumes, and, as a result, USDA APHIS user fee collections, which fund these services, have diminished. Although the volume of international travel and trade has decreased, inspection and related support services continue to be provided at their existing levels, so expenses have not decreased. As a result, USDA APHIS user fee collections have not been sufficient to provide those services and maintain a reasonable reserve balance. USDA APHIS is therefore increasing the AQI user fees in order to provide adequate funds for these purposes.

Beginning November 01, 2009, the APHIS user fee increases are as follows:

- Commercial Vessels will increase from \$494.00 to \$544.00
- Commercial Aircraft will increase from \$70.75 to \$78.00
- Commercial Trucks will increase from \$5.25 to \$6.00
- Commercial Railroad Cars will increase from \$7.75 to \$8.75
- International Air Passengers will increase from \$5.00 to \$5.50

- Commercial truck transponders will increase from \$105.00 to \$120.00

For further information you may refer to Federal Register Notice Volume 74, Number 186 (Monday, September 28, 2009) Pages 49311-49315.

Please refer any questions from trade, concerning program operations, to Mr. William E. Thomas, Director, Quarantine Policy, Analysis, and Support, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 131, Riverdale, MD 20737; (301) 734-5214. For information concerning rate development, contact Mrs. Kris Caraher, User Fee Section, Financial Services Branch, Financial Management Division, MRPBS, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 55, Riverdale, MD 20737-1232; (301) 734-0882.

Questions regarding this notice may be directed to the Vessel and Entrance personnel in Savannah at (912) 721-4840, option 5. You may also contact Supervisory Agriculture Specialist Kyle Brinkley at (912) 721-4854 or Supervisory Customs & Border Protection Officer Tracy Harris (912) 721-4907. In Brunswick, please contact the Port Director's staff at (912) 262-6692.


John S. Porter
Area Port Director