

## CLIENT ALERT

### Customs 10+2 Initiative

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Importers face a new filing obligation arising before the entry documents are filed, and indeed before merchandise is even loaded into a container: a recent Customs proposal would mandate the submission of an Importer Security Filing ("ISF") 24 hours prior to container loading. The ISF would require ten data fields, including:

- (1) Manufacturer (or supplier) name and address
- (2) Seller (by owner) name and address
- (3) Buyer (or owner) name and address
- (4) Ship-to name and address
- (5) Container stuffing location
- (6) Consolidator (stuffer) name and address
- (7) Importer of record number/foreign trade zone applicant identification number
- (8) Consignee number(s)
- (9) Country of origin
- (10) Commodity Harmonized Tariff Schedule number

Customs is accepting comments on the proposal, known as the "10 + 2 Rule," until March 18, 2008. To date, the trade has been critical of the proposal because compliance with the ISF filing requirements will alter the way many companies do business. Creating new data gathering systems will be a significant burden, and many transactions (particularly CIF sales, which would make compliance with the rule difficult) now will require entirely new commercial arrangements.

For more information, please contact the professional(s) listed below, or your regular Crowell & Moring contact.

**Alexander H. Schaefer**

Partner – Washington, D.C.

Phone: +1 202.624.2773

Email: [aschaefer@crowell.com](mailto:aschaefer@crowell.com)