

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Customs and Border Protection Announces Automation of Cargo Processing in U.S. Virgin Islands

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U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) said Tuesday it has embarked on an automated cargo process that will modernize and enhance the traditional way of processing cargo in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

In an effort to increase the safety of employees and the community, CBP said it implemented an online electronic box where shipping documents can be uploaded 24/7. Overnight or after regular hour submissions will receive a response by the next business day, unless the submission is rejected due to errors or lack of documentation, CBP said.

“Receiving this information beforehand will allow CBP to conduct the appropriate reviews or examinations,” stated Marcia Murrell, assistant area port director-trade.

Completed submission must include an excise tax form issued by the VI Bureau of Internal Revenue, according to the release.

CBP clarified and reminded the public that the VI Bureau of Internal Revenue is the entity that is responsible for the process and collection of excise taxes. CBP is responsible for duty collection and admissibility of imported goods, which may result in an examination to ensure all federal and local government requirements are met prior to release.

“CBP is excited to continue on its path to fully automate and simplify cargo processing in the USVI,” stated Ms. Murrell. “We look forward to continuing our efforts in providing a more efficient cargo clearance product to the trade community.”

CBP encouraged customers to contact the on-duty supervisor for assistance if they are experiencing unusual delays or have questions regarding the electronic clearance process. CBP Cargo Operations can be reached during normal business hours Monday through Friday in St. Thomas at 340-714-1600 or on St. Croix at 340-778-1580.