

## Client Advisory

December 2000

# President Signs New Trade Bill

On November 9, 2000, the President signed into law a new trade bill, the Tariff Suspension and Trade Act of 2000 (H.R. 4868), which makes certain technical amendments to the *Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States* (HTSUS) and U.S. Customs laws. Among the changes made by this bill are provisions that:

- Permit the duty-free entry of prototypes used exclusively for development, testing, product evaluation or quality control under Chapter 98 of the HTSUS;
- Ban the import, export or trade in dog and cat fur products;
- Modify the requirements for the importation of cigarettes;
- Permit an importer to request that U.S. Customs treat multiple shipments of certain merchandise (*e.g.*, disassembled items or those that cannot be transported in one shipment) as a single entry;
- Authorize the Treasury Secretary to prescribe an alternative mid-point interest accounting methodology for the underpayment of duties;
- Require the Treasury Secretary to consult with importers concerning reporting and record retention requirements related to changes in providing Customs with data for admissibility and release of goods, and implementing an import activity summary statement;
- Reduce the duty rates for certain goods (*e.g.*, personal or household articles, bona fide gifts, etc.) entered under Chapter 98, HTSUS;
- Allow U.S. Customs to charge user fees for services provided to ferries;
- Authorize the Treasury Secretary to publish regulations to establish a separate class of bonded warehouse for storage and manipulation of international travel merchandise; and
- Amend Chapter 98, HTSUS, to provide for duty-free treatment of personal effects or equipment of athletes that participate in international competition, as well as items exhibiting the culture of a country participating in such an event.

Please note that these items constitute only a partial list of the provisions in the Tariff Suspension and Trade Act of 2000. Additionally, some of these provisions take effect immediately upon enactment of the new law (*i.e.*, November 9, 2000), but others do not take effect until 30 or 90 days afterwards. Please notify KMZ Rosenman if you would like a complete list of the new law's provisions or additional information about the Tariff Suspension and Trade Act of 2000.

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