

Customs Report

By Thomas Crockett • Sep 29, 2025

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A few quick updates from FDRA on the Portland trade event, our next digital sample review, de minimis changes, a socks recall, and a patent case on women’s flats.

FDRA Shoe Trade & Logistics Summit in Portland



We had a lot of fun hosting the FDRA Shoe Trade & Logistics Strategy Summit this month in Portland, OR.

[View the event photos](#)

🗨️ **Great lineup:** Associate General Counsel & VP of Government Affairs Kurt Tandan (adidas) delivered the keynote, with some critical thoughts on navigating the global trade landscape. Pete Mento (DSV) discussed where international trade is heading next and how companies should prepare.

- **Oh, also:** We had excellent panel discussions on ports, logistics challenges, and lesser-known trade issues. Corey Day (Stoel Rives) walked through some new Prop 65 developments. We also had some critical trade conversation through the new breakout sessions.

🎮 **Who Wants to Be a Shoe Millionaire!:** This year we added a fun game of trade and logistics trivia to the event, allowing participants to test their knowledge of complex trade, logistics, and classification issues.

- Congrats to Mark Rave (Ariat) and Quinn O’Rourke (LaCrosse Footwear) for showing tremendous trade knowledge and making it to the final round! Travis Smith (Trade Risk Guaranty) and Mike Ransier (Columbia Sportswear) also had great runs.

👉 **Customs credit:** This year’s event provided continuing education credit for customs professionals.

- This FDRA event was worth 5 Continuing Education Units (CEUs). If you attended and are a licensed customs broker, be sure to maintain the information and event code provided for your own records.

FDRA sample review in November



Be sure to join us for our [digital sample review](#) with CBP Footwear National Import Specialist Stacey Kalkines on Wednesday, November 13th. Stacey is THE footwear classification decision maker at CBP, and this is a great opportunity to ask her questions in an off-the-record setting.

👉 **Important update:** *This year’s event will provide continuing education credit for customs professionals. This FDRA event is worth 3 Continuing Education Units (CEUs)!*

🔥 **Why it matters:** There are more than 🇺🇸 400 ways to classify a shoe, and small changes mean a huge difference in tariff rates — and 💰 costs for companies!

- **Take note:** Please email pictures of your 📷 footwear samples to me at tcrockett@fdra.org ahead of the event, and we will discuss each sample with the expert panel live during the event.

🇺🇸 **Oh, also:** CBP’s Apparel, Footwear & Textiles Center team will join us to talk about the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA), IP protection, and recent enforcement trends.

Go deeper: sign up here: [Digital Tariff & Customs Conference](#)

Footwear recall: heated socks



The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) announced another 🚫 footwear-related recall in August.

- The recall covers certain 🇺🇸 heated socks. The socks can cause pain and discomfort resulting in burns and blisters when worn during high-intensity activities that generate a combination of heat, excessive friction, moisture and pressure, posing an injury hazard. [Read more](#)

Go deeper: CPSC Ombudsman Will Cusey joined us at a previous FDRA Product Safety Digital Conference to talk about what happens during a recall. You can view the CPSC slides from that event here: [FDRA CPSC presentation](#)

De minimis: latest update on major changes to the program



The Federal Register Notice for September 2, 2025 includes CBP’s notice relating to the elimination of de minimis, which was effective August 29, 2025.

- **Tell me more:** As of that date, shipments that had been duty-free are subject to normal as well as additional duties. Mail shipments are subject to fixed rates based on the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) tariffs, applicable to the country of origin of the product. That approach will remain in effect until February 26, 2026, when normal duty will apply.
- **Take note:** There are some exceptions. The exceptions include donations by person, subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S., such as food, clothing, and medicine intended to relieve human suffering. These exceptions also include products that are informational materials, such as films, posters, etc.

Go deeper: Read the Notice [here](#).

Patent case on women’s flats



An administrative law judge at the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) issued a recommended determination that certain women’s flats with colored outsoles infringe one or more design patents.

- **What’s next:** In the event the Commission adopts the administrative law judge’s finding, the footwear would be excluded from entry into the U.S.
- **Give me the details:** The complainant is Gavrieli Brands LLC. The respondents are largely companies based in China, most of whom appear to be trading companies rather than manufacturers.

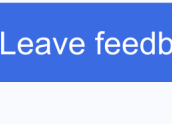
Go deeper: Read more on the case [here](#).

The FDRA Customs Report is a newsletter of customs, administrative, and other developments affecting importers of footwear prepared as a service for FDRA members. Matters reported on or summarized herein may not be construed as legal advice on specific situations.

Thanks for reading this month’s FDRA Customs Report. Feel free to share this newsletter with others on your team. Have a great rest of the week!

Thomas

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