

Revenue from low-value shipment duties crosses \$1 billion mark: CBP



The end of the US' de minimis rule started in May on shipments from China and Hong Kong and spread globally in August. Photo credit: Gorodenkoff / Shutterstock.com.

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US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has collected more than \$1 billion in duties on low-value imports since the May end of the duty-free de minimis provision.

The duties collected were generated from more than 246 million low-cost, US-bound shipments since the Trump administration began phasing out the de minimis provision, also known as Section 321 shipments, earlier this year, CBP said in a statement Wednesday.

The US' de minimis program allowed importers one shipment per day valued at \$800 or less to clear customs duty-free and with minimal data elements.

“Reaching the \$1 billion milestone so quickly shows just how much revenue was slipping away under the old rules,” CBP Commissioner Rodney Scott said in the statement. “With this change, American businesses don’t have to compete with duty-free foreign goods, and CBP has stronger oversight of what comes into our country.”

The Trump administration began phasing out the de minimis rule on May 2 on shipments from China and Hong Kong and extended the ban globally on Aug. 29.

The value threshold of the de minimis provision was increased from \$200 to \$800 in 2016, based largely on lobbying from parcel integrators interested in facilitating more frictionless e-commerce cross-border shipments. The higher threshold has been cited as the key driver in the huge growth of those shipments, especially in tandem with CBP’s Type 86 entry program, which allowed de minimis shipments to be cleared faster if moved via intermediaries that partnered with the agency to provide more robust details on the characteristics of the shipments than normal Section 321 entries.

Low-cost e-commerce giants such as China-based Shein and Temu have used the higher threshold to grow revenue exponentially during and after the pandemic.

Safety element

US customs brokers have long argued that raising the de minimis value threshold created more security vulnerability for CBP, given that the limited customs entries associated with 321 filings were not robust enough. Customs brokers lost revenue because of broader use of the de minimis rule, as those shipments did not require formal customs entry, a process that brokers generally charge a fee for.

CBP in its statement touted the safety element of ending the de minimis rule, saying seizures of unsafe and non-compliant low-value goods have increased by 82%, including counterfeits, narcotics, faulty electronics and goods containing hazardous chemicals.

“With increased visibility into data for these low-value shipments, we’re better equipped to detect and disrupt criminal networks from smuggling drugs, counterfeits, and other illegal items — making our country safer,” Susan Thomas, acting executive assistant commissioner for CBP’s Office of Trade, said in the statement.

The amount collected in duties from shipments once protected under the de minimis provision is a fraction of the overall amount of tariff revenue collected by CBP in 2025. The Trump administration stated in recent court filings that it has collected more than \$125 billion in tariffs since the White House announced global tariffs under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act in the spring. But the legality of those

tariffs is being challenged before the US Supreme Court, and a ruling against the administration could trigger massive refunds to importers.

Contact Eric Johnson at eric.johnson@spglobal.com.

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