



DEC 14 2005

Mr. Michael Ford
Chairman
National Council on International Trade Development
818 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Ford:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Confidentiality of Automated Export System (AES) data. I want to assure you and the National Council on International Trade Development members that the information contained on the Shipper's Export Declaration (SED) or AES record is confidential. The confidentiality provisions, on the release of information on the SED or AES record is contained in the Foreign Trade Statistics Regulations, Title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 30.91. That provision states that the information on the SED or AES record may not be disclosed to anyone except the U.S. Principal Party in Interest or their agent and only when such a copy is needed to comply with United States official legal and regulatory export control requirements.

In addition, the information on the SED or AES record can not be provided to foreign governments. The Foreign Trade Division is committed to maintaining the confidentiality of information filed with the U.S. Census Bureau. Providing this information to foreign governments would be contrary to the national interest as it would seriously impact further attempts to complete the mission of the Census Bureau. If you have any further questions concerning this policy, you may call Mr. Jerome Greenwell, Chief, Regulations, Outreach, and Education Branch, on (301) 763-2238.

Sincerely,

William G. Bostic, Jr.
Chief, Foreign Trade Division