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Validating the Power of Attorney

07/22/2009

Because the Power of Attorney (POA) can authorize the movement of conveyances or merchandise into the United States, it is critical that it be examined carefully. By ensuring each POA is valid, the broker joins U.S. Customs and Border Protection on the nation's frontlines in verifying the data used to screen what enters this country.

In addition to security, the broker's own professional business interests and continuing to demonstrate "reasonable care" require verification of the POA grantor's identity and authority (position in a company or partnership) to enter into a POA.

Here are some ways the broker can validate a Power of Attorney:

- To the greatest extent possible, have POAs completed in person so the grantor's identification (driver's license, passport, etc.) can be reviewed.
- Check applicable Web sites to verify the POA grantor's business and registrational State authorities.
- If the principal uses a trade or fictitious name in doing business, confirm that the name appears on the POA.
- Verify that the importer's name, importer number and Employer Identification Number (also known as the Federal Tax Identification Number) on the POA match what is on file with the U.S. Government. (See the Bureau of Industry and Security, U.S. Department of Commerce) ("[Lists to Check](#)")

If you have any questions or comments about POA requirements and validation procedures, please contact a member of the Broker Management Branch, Trade Compliance and Field Office of Field Operations, at (202) 344-2580.

see also:

on cbp.gov:

[Memorandum : Guidance: Suggested Steps for Obtaining a Valid Power of Attorney \(pdf - 47 KB.\)](#)

on the web:

["Lists to Check"](#)