

March 25, 2020

Mr. John Ossowski
President, Canada Border Service Agency
191 Laurier Ave. West, 6th Floor
Ottawa, ON K1A 0L8

Dear Mr. Ossowski:

The Freight Management Association of Canada (FMA) was created by Canadian industry during the crisis that was World War I, and has been representing the freight transportation issues of Canadian industry for the past 104 years. The current COVID-19 pandemic is the third major crisis that FMA and its member companies have had to address over the past century and our many member companies are very active in this crisis where the Canadian and provincial governments have requested the support of industry.

One issue that our member companies have raised, where we need the assistance of CBSA, is the remittance of customs duties and taxes by importers and their customs brokers that are due at the beginning of each month, that were incurred in the previous month. The remittance for the month of March is due on April 1.

Given the requirements of all levels of government for maintaining isolation and working from home, meeting the April 1 deadline for March remittances will be extremely difficult and, the same difficulty will face importers and their customs brokers for the next few months, FMA supports the request of the Canadian Society of Customs Brokers (CSCB) for relief from the hard deadlines required under the current regulations. FMA respectfully requests that the deadlines for submitting remittances remain flexible up to and including the month of June.

The FMA membership includes many of the major Canadian retail companies and other companies in industries from agriculture, natural resource production, food processing, manufacturing, and retailing. The list of our member companies can be found on the FMA website at <http://www.fma-agf.ca/membership/member-companies>

Should you or your officials wish to discuss, please contact FMA president, Mr. Ballantyne at 613-294-4569 or at ballantyne@bellnet.ca.

This is an urgent issue for many companies, both large and small, and we would request that CBSA give urgent consideration to this request.

Sincerely,



R.H. Ballantyne, P.Eng.
President, FMA



Gary Fast
Chairman FMA &
Vice-President Transportation
Canadian Tire Corporation