

which an exporter or producer of merchandise believes to be contrary to the provisions of Annex 311 of the NAFTA and which may be protested by the importer pursuant to §514, Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (19 U.S.C. 1514), and part 174 of this chapter. Notification of an adverse marking decision is given to an importer in the form of a Customs Form 4647 (Notice to Mark and/or Notice to Redeliver) and/or by assessing marking duties on improperly marked merchandise. Examples of adverse marking decisions include determinations by the port director: that an imported article is not a good of a NAFTA country, as determined under the Marking Rules, and that it therefore cannot be marked "Canada" or "Mexico"; that a good of a NAFTA country is not marked in a manner which is sufficiently permanent; and that a good of a NAFTA country does not qualify for an exception from marking specified in Annex 311 of the NAFTA. Adverse marking decisions do not include: decisions issued in response to requests for advance rulings under subpart I of this part or for internal advice under part 177 of this chapter; decisions on protests under part 174 of this chapter; and determinations that an article does not qualify as an originating good under General Note 12, HTSUS, and the appendix to this part.

(b) An *exporter* of merchandise is an exporter located in Canada or Mexico who must maintain records in that country relating to the transaction to which the adverse marking decision relates. The records must be sufficient to enable Customs to evaluate the merits of the exporter's claim(s) regarding the adverse marking decision.

(c) A *producer* of merchandise is a person who grows, mines, harvests, fishes, traps, hunts, manufactures, processes or assembles such merchandise in Canada or Mexico.

§ 181.113 Request for basis of adverse marking decision.

(a) *Request; form and filing.* The exporter or producer of the merchandise which is the subject of an adverse marking decision may request a statement concerning the basis for the decision by filing a typewritten request, in

English, with the port director who issued the decision. The request should be on letterhead paper in the form of a letter and clearly designated as a "Request for Basis of Adverse Marking Decision" and shall be signed by the exporter, producer or his authorized agent. The provisions of §174.3 of this chapter shall apply for purposes of signature by a person other than the principal.

(b) *Content.* The Request for Basis of Adverse Marking Decision letter shall set forth the following information:

(1) The name and address of the exporter or producer of the merchandise and the name and address of any authorized agent filing the request on behalf of such principal;

(2) A statement that the inquirer is the exporter or producer of the merchandise that was the subject of the adverse marking decision;

(3) In the case of a Canadian exporter or producer, the employer number assigned by Revenue Canada, Customs and Excise; in the case of a Mexican exporter or producer, the Federal taxpayer registry number (RFC); and the Customs identification number of an authorized agent filing the request on behalf of such principal;

(4) The number and date of each entry involved in the request;

(5) A specific description of the merchandise which is the subject of the adverse marking decision; and

(6) A complete statement of all relevant facts relating to the adverse marking decision and the transaction to which it relates, including the date of the decision.

§ 181.114 Customs response to request.

(a) *Time for response.* The port director will issue a written response to the requestor within 30 days of receipt of a request containing the information specified in §181.113 of this part. If the request is incomplete, such that the transaction in question cannot be identified, the port director will notify the requestor in writing within 30 days of receipt of the request regarding what information is needed.

(b) *Content.* The response by the port director shall include the following:

(1) A statement concerning the basis for the adverse marking decision;