

### **U.S. “Farm Bill” Provisions Expected to Impact U.S. Entries of Canadian Softwood Lumber**

A bill that recently passed the U.S. House and Senate by strong margins contains provisions that are expected to place new requirements on future U.S. entries of softwood lumber from Canada.

The provisions contained in the legislation provide for the establishment of a softwood lumber “importer declaration program” (“IDP”). Under the IDP, importers would be required to provide the following information with entry summary documentation filed with U.S. Customs and Border Protection:

- The export price for each shipment of softwood lumber or softwood lumber products covered by the legislation;
- The estimated export charge, if any applicable, to each shipment of softwood lumber or softwood lumber products; and
- Importer declarations regarding the information being provided.

Importers are not currently required to report this information with CBP.

News reports indicate President Bush intends to veto the bill, but that the margins by which the bill passed the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate (318-106 and 85-15, respectively) are strong enough that a veto likely would be overridden.

The legislation also requires the President to “establish an electronic record” that includes the information noted above, so we anticipate CBP will provide information at a later date regarding entry filing procedures under the IDP. We are attempting to obtain additional details in this regard and intend to report further as those details become available.

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