

## BPE Global Hot Topic— March 2025

### "Embracing Calm Amidst Trade Compliance Chaos"



In today's tumultuous trade landscape, the wisdom of "letting go" resonates deeply. This Buddhist-inspired concept offers a powerful approach to navigating the complexities of global commerce. As trade professionals, we must focus on what we can influence and understand, rather than becoming overwhelmed by factors beyond our control.

It's crucial to recognize the nature of trade-related news. Headlines are often designed for impact rather than accuracy. Everyone on LinkedIn has an opinion or wants to offer a sound bite to stay relevant in the algorithm, but it can become a lot of noise. To stay truly informed, we should prioritize authoritative sources such as the Federal Register and official regulatory guidance like the Cargo Systems Messaging Service from CBP. By doing so, we can filter out unnecessary sensationalism and maintain a clearer perspective.

Our supply chains and data are areas where we can exert significant control. While rapid changes may be on the horizon, we can prepare. Determine your best sources of external information, and gather your ACE reports and other internal trade data to:

1. Thoroughly assess our supply chains
2. Understand supplier locations
3. Run scenarios for various tariff outcomes
4. Conduct risk assessments
5. Create contingency plans for potential manufacturing relocations

It's wise to be prepared for change, but major investments in supply chain restructuring should wait until regulatory updates are officially implemented.

Free trade agreements (FTAs) deserve special attention in this climate. Review your FTA utilization, focusing on declaration volumes and types. Scrutinize Certificates or Declarations of Origin from exporters, ensuring they contain all required elements such as product descriptions, tariff classifications, certification dates, and validity periods. Implement a robust record retention system to facilitate quick responses to regulatory inquiries.

While we can't control government actions, regulatory responses, or staffing levels at trade agencies, we can manage our reactions to these challenges. Stay informed

through reliable sources, collaborate with industry colleagues, and arm yourself with accurate data and facts.

By concentrating on these controllable aspects, we can navigate turbulent times more effectively. Remember, BPE Global is available to provide support and guidance through these uncertain periods.

How are you maintaining your composure amidst the trade uncertainty? We'd love to hear your strategies and insights! Hayley Jung is a Director of BPE Global. You can reach Hayley by email at [hjung@bpeglobal.com](mailto:hjung@bpeglobal.com).