

ILLINOIS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CALENDAR

August 24, 2026

The *Illinois International Business Calendar* is published by the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago (ITA/GC). The *Calendar* is also available on our website: www.itagc.org. It is published every Friday, and available at no charge.

Inclusion Policy: As a public service to the international business community, we publish a listing of **international business events** for which we receive **written** notification, preferably by e-mail (info@itagc.org). Any organization may submit events that would be of interest to **and are open to** the Illinois international business community. There is no charge. All calendar listings are subject to the editor's discretion. Inclusion of an event does not imply endorsement by any of the sponsoring organizations.

Founded in 1978, the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago (ITA/GC) is a not-for-profit, 501(c)6 voluntary business association dedicated to promoting international commerce in all its forms. The ITA/GC provides a forum for the exchange of practical information and insight within the international business community. Members share interests in import and export matters, in international investment, alliance, and licensing opportunities, and – in the broader sense – doing business across the world.

The ITA/GC's focus is on practicality: on building knowledge and enabling relationships that help people do international business. While our scope of interest is diverse – all aspects of trading and commercial activity across all geographies and all industries – our work is simple: **to help others gain understanding that is personal, current and actionable.**

New events, and events with additional/revised information, are indicated in Green.

FEATURED ITA/GC PROGRAMS

HELPING YOU GAIN UNDERSTANDING THAT IS PERSONAL, CURRENT & ACTIONABLE

- Aug. 25** ***LEVERAGING NEW FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES IN A CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENT.*** Special Panel Discussion & Reception sponsored by the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago. Amid these tumultuous times for U.S. exporters & importers, there appear a few rays of genuine optimism for leveraging new financing opportunities: The SBA has new lending thresholds, and the EXIM Bank has new programs. Getting access to capital can be challenging to help support the growth & expansion of your business: hear from an SBA Finance Manager to learn about the opportunities available to your business through your bank to monetize your assets, take on larger contracts & fuel growth globally. Our panelists are intimately familiar with these and will bring real-world examples of how they work in practice. Panelists: **Mariel Huasanga**, Regional Director, EXIM Bank; **Keith Schlegel**, Finance Manager, U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Manufacturing and Trade; **Ursula Wegrzynowicz**, Market Executive, Impello Global Insurance Services; **Gayle Roenbaugh** (Moderator), Director, Office of Manufacturing and Trade, U.S. Small Business Administration. 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. (Reception follows); Carlucci Rosemont, 6111 North River Road, Rosemont, IL. ITA/GC Members - \$35; Non-members - \$50. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/leveraging-new-financing-opportunities-in-a-challenging-environment-tickets-1996172311118>.
- Sep. 23** ***EUROPEAN PROFESSIONALS NETWORKING.*** Event sponsored by the European Chambers of Commerce and others, including the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**, is tailor-made for both young professionals and experienced specialists alike looking to expand their network. Discover opportunities to get involved with local internationally focused organizations and meet like-minded professionals. 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., Magik Street, 2150 South Canalport, Chicago. Members of sponsoring organizations - \$50; Non-members - \$60; walk-ins - \$65. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.gaccmidwest.org/us/events/european-professionals-networking-magik-street>.

Of Note:

USMCA Joint Review Tracker: The [International Compliance Professionals Association](#) now publishes this weekly update – “what has changed, what has not, and what it means for your compliance program.” A very useful summary of recent developments and implications for the compliance environment, it is available for free.

Canadian American Business Council (CABC) Launches New Economic Report on the Impacts of US-Canada Tariff Escalation and USMCA: On August 10 CABC released its latest economic report, [Economic Impacts of US-Canada Tariff Escalation Under the USMCA](#), providing a comprehensive analysis of the bilateral commercial relationship and the likely economic consequences of three distinct potential outcomes of USMCA negotiations.

Global Trade Tracker: The Council on Foreign Relations [Global Trade Tracker](#) allows you to gauge trends in international trade through time. Compiled from IMF trade data for 215 countries, it provides values for each country’s trade in tangible goods and, for countries reporting the necessary data to the IMF, it also shows the value on their current accounts (that is, adding in services trade, payments to investors abroad, and other foreign funds transfers).

Coal & Mining Connect: The U.S. Commercial Service offers this [exclusive online platform](#) designed to link U.S. exporters, manufacturers, and service providers with qualified international buyers, partners, and distributors across the global coal and mining industry. Annual fee: \$270 includes: Provider Directory Access; Direct Connections; Search & Filter Tools; Webinar Package.

Weapons of Brass Destruction? Trump’s Tariffs Target Musical Instruments as a National Security

Threat: [The Peterson Institute for Global Economics](#)’ Cullen S. Hendrix takes us once more down the seemingly bottomless hole of tariffs with this month’s proposal to impose tariffs on imported brass wind instruments such as trombones, trumpets, and tubas as a threat to national security. “If implemented, this inclusion would harm music retailers and school music programs while opening the door to considering virtually any imported good as such a threat.”

Nigeria: Coal Fired Power Project: Partners working with the U.S. Consulate in Lagos, Nigeria have shared a need to identify a strategic partner for a planned 350MW coal fired power project involving the acquisition, relocation, refurbishment, and recommissioning of an existing plant to address regional power shortages. U.S. companies with strengths in financing, project development, EPC/engineering, industrial equipment supply, energy infrastructure, agribusiness, or critical minerals are encouraged to express interest. Contact Ryan.Russell@trade.gov to learn more.

Empty Containers a Freight Issue for Global Trade Growth: [American Shipper](#) reports global trade is turning in a surprisingly strong performance this year – along with a rising tide of empty containers that have always been problematic for shipping lines and ports. A.P. Moller-Maersk Chief Executive Vincent Leclerc complained that empty-linked congestion at ports and terminals was to blame for liner schedule issues.

Relief for Nigeria, Others as US Senate Extends Duty-free AGOA Trade Pact till 2028: The United States Senate has approved a two-year extension of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, AGOA, paving the way for eligible sub-Saharan African countries to continue enjoying duty-free access to the US market until December 2028, according to [allAfrica.com](#). The deal covers agricultural products, footwear, automobiles, textiles, apparel and other manufactured goods worth billions of dollars annually.

Trump’s Trade War Timeline 2.0: An Up-to-date Guide: This timeline, originally published February 25, 2025 by the [Peterson Institute for International Economics](#), is updated periodically to document US trade actions during President Donald Trump’s second term in office. It tracks the development of the most notable trade actions by the United States and other countries with links to the latest available data and PIIE analysis. Entries focus primarily on official government announcements and actions.

Ranked: The World’s Largest Cities (1950-2100): This [visualization](#) ranks the 15 most populous cities worldwide from 1950 to 2100 using population estimates from the European Commission’s JRC via [Our World in Data](#). By 2050, the 15 most populous cities worldwide will all be in either Africa or Asia. Dhaka, Bangladesh is projected to peak in population around 2075 with nearly 60 million inhabitants.

Media Credentialing Opens for the G20 Trade Ministerial in Milwaukee: On Wednesday, September 30, and Thursday, October 1, Ambassador Jamieson Greer will host the G20 Trade Ministerial in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. During the ministerial, USTR will lead discussions with the G20 Trade Ministers on a range of issues, including eradicating forced labor in global supply chains, updating the Most-Favored Nation (MFN) principle, denouncing the weaponization of trade in food, and addressing structural excess capacity and production. For more information and event updates, please visit www.G20.org.

Mapped: Every U.S. State's Economy, Matched to a Country: In this [Visual Capitalist](#) rendering each U.S. state is paired with the country closest to it in nominal gross domestic product (GDP) in 2025, using data from the [Bureau of Economic Analysis](#) and the IMF's [World Economic Outlook](#). California's \$4.3 trillion economy is closest in size to the United Kingdom, while Texas' \$2.9 trillion GDP is comparable to Russia's. California, Texas, New York, and Florida would each qualify as G20-sized economies if they were independent countries.

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The State of U.S. Tariffs: The [Budget Lab](#)'s August 11 update: The average statutory tariff rate now stands at 11.0%, roughly where it settled after Section 122 tariffs expired on July 24th; We estimate the ultimate consumer price impact of current-law tariff policy to be about 0.7%; Estimated household costs due to tariffs total about \$1,100 annually under current law; Over the next ten years, we estimate that current-law tariffs will raise about \$1.9 trillion.

Stagnated American Export Licensing Regime Eroding Competitiveness with China: The [U.S.-China On August 7 the Business Council](#) conducted a flash survey in July to gauge companies' experience navigating the US export licensing regime under the second Trump administration. The 31 respondents — primarily representing the technology, industrial and manufacturing, energy, and healthcare industries — painted a stark picture of licensing delays and unclear procedures, unwillingness of export control agencies to engage with industry, and unnecessarily burdensome policies and out-of-date regulations.

DATA GEM: Learn How to Easily Find Export and Import Data with USA Trade Online: The [U.S. Census Bureau](#) has created the Data Gems: a series of "how-to" videos available for data users who are looking for an easy and quick way to enhance their knowledge of Census data. They will introduce you to various concepts and techniques to improve your ability to navigate our website and use our data-access tools.

UNCTAD's Trade and Development Foresights 2026: As reported by the [Hinrich Foundation](#), the UN Trade and Development's (UNCTAD) report, [Trade and Development Foresights 2026: Global Economy Faces a Geopolitical Challenge](#), warns that global growth is expected to slow as the Middle East conflict disrupts energy markets, financial conditions, and shipping routes, including through the Strait of Hormuz. Rising uncertainty will weigh on trade, investment, and supply chains, with real merchandise trade growth projected to fall from 4.7% in 2025 to 1.5%–2.5% in 2026.

The World's Most Powerful Passports (2016 vs. 2026): Citing the [Henley Passport Power Index](#), this [Visual Capitalist](#) graphic compares the world's most powerful passports in 2016 and 2026, showing how the global hierarchy has changed over the past decade. Asian passports occupy the top four positions in 2026, led by Singapore (192), Japan (188), South Korea (188), and the UAE (188). The UAE has added 153 visa-free destinations over the past 20 years, one of the largest gains in global mobility.

CBP Office of Field Operations Launches New Strategy to Safeguard America's National and Economic Security: On August 6 CBP's Office of Field Operations unveiled the "[OFO Strategy 2026-2030](#)," a new roadmap that outlines how OFO will continue to safeguard U.S. travel, trade, and agriculture, directly protecting our national and economic security. The OFO Strategy focuses on four key goals to ensure continued mission excellence: *National Security; Economic Security; Integration; Workforce Cultivation*.

One of the World's Smallest Countries Has a New Name: The [New York Times](#) reports the South Pacific island of Nauru wants its name to more closely match how it is said in the language spoken by its people: [Naoero](#). That's the new name for the small South Pacific country formerly known as Nauru. Its Parliament unanimously approved the change in May and the name became official, President David Adeang said last week,

Fertilizer Trade Impacted by Strait of Hormuz Conflict: In this [Data Blog](#) by the WTO Secretariat, the authors observe that trade in urea and phosphate fertilizers has been severely disrupted by the conflict in the Persian Gulf. Certain economies in Africa and Asia are particularly vulnerable to resulting fertilizer shortages and price hikes. Opening of the Strait of Hormuz - a key channel for fertilizer trade - will in due course contribute to easing trade frictions and restore stability to global markets.

Atlas of Global Development 2026: Across the global development landscape, which countries are moving the fastest, and which are losing ground? The 2026 edition of the [World Bank](#)'s *Atlas of Global Development* puts progress at its center. Looking at how fast countries are moving toward better outcomes and facing different challenges, from their own individual starting points, this edition introduces a new framework to track development over the past 75 years, revealing how countries have advanced across key dimensions.

Call for U.S. Buyers: Taiwan Trade Shows & Sourcing Programs (Spring–Summer 2026): The Taiwan Trade Center, Chicago (TAITRA) invites U.S. companies, particularly those in manufacturing, technology, automotive, and food industries, to explore sourcing opportunities in Taiwan through upcoming trade shows and buyer programs. Eligible buyers may qualify for travel incentives (flight and/or hotel support), subject to availability. Companies planning to source from Taiwan are welcome to contact the Taiwan Trade Center, Chicago for more information and application details: Taiwan Trade Center, Chicago - chicago@taitra.org.tw.

U.S. Commercial Service Updated User Fee Schedule Now in Effect: The new Fee Schedule is [here](#), effective July 22, 2026.

Aug. 25 **EXPORTING TO BRAZIL.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will cover the opportunities and challenges that companies may face in Brazil and will include strategies for entering the market. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/prj4cgq>.

Aug. 25 **THE CTPAT ULTIMATUM IN THE CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT OVERHAUL.** Webinar, sponsored by the International Compliance Professionals Association, will cover: The four key areas affected by the implementation of the 2026 Enforcement Overhaul dictated by Executive Order 14411; Shifting from Penalties to Eligibility; Strict IOR Eligibility Standards; Elimination of Informal Entries; Mandatory CTPAT Integration; and the “Good Standing”; Domestic Entities or restructuring responsibilities; Eliminating Informal Pipelines; Supply Chain Traceability and Mapping; The “Get On Board” directive; CTPAT and Broker Integration, and how other entities in the CTPAT Universe are affected: Broker Combination and Practical approaches for preparation. 12:00 p.m. CDT. ICPA Members - \$35; Non-members - \$75. For information & registration, please see: <https://web.cvent.com/event/74e6d7d2-a3f3-493c-b484-e8bfbfb2b6e3/summary>.

Aug. 25 **NAVIGATING TARIFF VOLATILITY: STRATEGIES FOR COST, RISK AND SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE.** Webinar, sponsored by Supply Chain Management Review, will discuss how companies can respond to tariff volatility through smarter procurement and contract management, greater visibility into costs and supplier obligations, and more flexible approaches to inventory and storage. It will also examine how data, technology and cross-functional decision-making can help organizations manage costs today while remaining agile enough to respond to whatever comes next. 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://event.on24.com/wcc/r/5339994/DFED3D8BCE205EF2DE75DF066880C503?partnerref=eb1>.

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- Aug. 25 **EXPANDING INTO SOUTHEAST ASIA – MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES & DIGITAL HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES: CAMBODIA, MYANMAR, PHILIPPINES, VIETNAM.** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will help you gain market insights from healthcare experts across the region through country-specific presentations on AI in Healthcare, Health IT, Genomics, Life Sciences, and Medical Devices, with topics tailored to each market. 8:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/ExpandingintoSoutheastAsiaMedicalTechnologiesDigit/index.php?_gl=1%2A1718hlc%2A_ga%2AMTc4NDE2MjczNC4xNzc5MTMwNjYx%2A_ga_L884J52XQ5%2AczE3ODU3ODY3OTgkbzExMCRnMSR0MTc4NTc4NzUxMCRqNTAkBDaKaDA.%2A_ga_6D3N6M4S6H%2AczE3ODU3ODY3OTgkbzExMiRnMSR0MTc4NTc4NzUwMyRqNjAkBDaKaDA.
- Aug. 26 **WIN AT THE WORLD BANK.** Webinar, sponsored by the World Trade Research Institute, will discuss how to compete successfully for World Bank–funded contracts. We’ll cover the updated procurement framework, real-world examples, and practical strategies to help you position, bid, and win with confidence. 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Fee: \$89. For information & registration, please see: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/fc2cyvm>.
- Aug. 26 **EXPORT MEETS E-COMMERCE.** Webinar sponsored by World Trade Center Utah with Rakuten. Learn how businesses can use established online marketplaces to accelerate international growth. With more than 70 businesses spanning e-commerce, fintech, communications, and digital services, Japan-based Rakuten connects more than 1.2 billion members worldwide. 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_RdLBxNtcSlaXe8dmR4dicg#/registration.
- Aug. 26 **COULD YOUR NEXT SHIPMENT TO MEXICO BE DELAYED? UNDERSTANDING MEXICO’S NEW ELECTRONIC VALUE MANIFEST (MVE).** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will address how import valuation information is documented and reviewed during customs clearance. Speakers will address: *What the Electronic Value Manifest is and why it matters; How the requirement may affect U.S. export sales; What documentation U.S. exporters may need to provide; Practical steps to improve consistency and reduce the risk of delays.* 12:00 – 1:15 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$25. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/mexico-mve/>.
- Aug. 26 **US SEMICONDUCTOR EXPORT CONTROLS: LAY OF THE LAND AND WHAT’S ON THE HORIZON.** Webinar, sponsored by the Customs and International Trade Bar Association, will address the regulatory framework surrounding advanced semiconductors, semiconductor manufacturing equipment, and related technologies, as well as developments affecting the Outbound Investment Security Program, overseas data centers, the UAE’s treatment under the Export Administration Regulations, CFIUS, and more. The discussion will focus not only on where the rules stand today, but also on common compliance challenges, practical strategies for navigating them, and what companies should be watching next. Speakers: **Matt Borman**, Senior Counsel at Akin Gump and former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Export Administration at the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Industry and Security, and Janet Kim, Partner at Baker McKenzie. The program will be led and moderated by **Kerry Contini**, Partner at Baker McKenzie and **Marvin McPherson**, Associate at Barnes, Richardson & Colburn. 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://citba.org/ev_calendar_day.asp?date=8%2F26%2F26&eventid=96.
- Aug. 26 **FALL NETWORKING EVENT.** Midwest International Trade Association invites you to expand your global perspective and grow your professional network. Dr. **Jayson Beckman**, Michael Yanney Chair in International Trade and Finance at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and nationally recognized expert in international agricultural trade, will share timely insights on global markets, trade policy, and the non-tariff barriers shaping today’s international business environment. 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., Elevator, 1200 North Street, Lincoln, NE. MITA Members - \$20; Non-members - \$25. For information & registration (by **August 19**), please see: <https://mitaonline.org/events/fall-networking-event-elevator-lincoln/>.

- Aug. 26 ***EXPANDING INTO SOUTHEAST ASIA – MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES & DIGITAL HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES: INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE, THAILAND.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, will help you gain market insights from healthcare experts across the region through country-specific presentations on AI in Healthcare, Health IT, Genomics, Life Sciences, and Medical Devices, with topics tailored to each market. 9:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/ExpandingintoSoutheastAsiaMedicalTechnologiesDigit/index.php?_gl=1%2A1718hlc%2A_ga%2AMTc4NDE2MjczNC4xNzc5MTMwNjYx%2A_ga_L884J52XQ5%2AczE3ODU3ODY3OTgkbzExMCRnMSR0MTc4NTc4NzUxMCRqNTAkBDaKaDA.%2A_ga_6D3N6M4S6H%2AczE3ODU3ODY3OTgkbzExMiRnMSR0MTc4NTc4NzUwMyRqNjAkBDaKaDA.
- Aug. 27 ***BUILDING EUROPE’S NEXT HYPERSCALE DATA CENTERS: WHY LATVIA?*** Webinar, sponsored by Mission Latvia, will discuss why leading developers are evaluating Latvia for 50–300 MW AI and cloud data center campuses, powered by competitive renewable energy, resilient infrastructure, and fast-growing digital connectivity. 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://latvianchamber.wildapricot.org/event-6772407>.
- Aug. 27 ***SUMMER NETWORKING.*** Event sponsored by the International Trade Club of Chicago. 5:30 p.m., Two Brothers Roundhouse, 205 North Broadway, Aurora, IL. Fee: \$15. For information & registration, please see: <https://itcc.wildapricot.org/event-6790970>.
- Aug. 31 ***CUBS - BREWERS GAME WITH THE LOGISTICS COUNCIL OF MILWAUKEE.*** The Traffic Club of Chicago and the Logistics Council of Milwaukee are sponsoring this evening at Wrigley Field, including a Pre-Game Party and tickets to the game. 4:00 – 10:00 p.m., Wrigley Field, 1060 West Addison Street, Chicago. Members - \$100; Non-members - \$150. For information & registration, please see: <https://members.traffic-club.org/events/Details/cubs-brewers-game-with-the-logistics-council-of-milwaukee-1779402>.
- Sep. 1 ***MRO MEETINGS IRELAND 2027.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, describes the first event of its kind in Europe, created specifically for professionals operating within maintenance, repair, and overhaul, as well as wider aviation services. It will bring together key airlines, leasing companies (engine and aircraft), manufacturers and service providers from across the global supply chain. 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/587a4818-eb4e-465b-97d2-bec2b982e6ed@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- Sep. 2 - ***JAPAN ANALYTICAL & SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS SHOW (JASIS).*** Catalog show, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service Japan, brings together manufacturers, researchers, and professionals from the life sciences, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, electronics, environmental, and academic sectors at one of the region’s largest exhibitions for analytical, scientific, laboratory technologies, bio-related instruments, automation equipment, and production process equipment. Reach prospective buyers with your catalogs displayed at the U.S. embassy’s booth. Fee: \$240. For information & registration, please reach out to: hiroyuki.hanawa@trade.gov.
- Sep. 2 ***YOU’RE READY TO EXPAND GLOBALLY. IS YOUR IP READY?*** Webinar sponsored by Barnes & Thornberg with the Hong Kong Business Association of the Midwest and IBS Global Consulting. Expanding into Hong Kong, mainland China, and broader Asian markets represents one of the most significant growth opportunities available to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) today. But the intellectual property landscape in this region is evolving rapidly. Without strategically selected IP protections in place and a clear understanding of recent legal developments, that opportunity can quickly become a liability. **Grant Peters** and Barnes & Thornburg will walk SME leaders through the critical steps to assess, prepare, and protect their intellectual property before entering Hong Kong, China, and key Asian markets. You will leave with a clear, practical understanding of what you need to include in your strategic analysis, and what you cannot afford to overlook. 10:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/joinmeeting/register/mzXWfV4oTTqaH3DPw6hq1g#/registration>.

- Sep. 2 ***GROWING GLOBAL MARKETS FOR WOMEN'S HANDMADE CRAFT.*** Webinar sponsored by Women Entrepreneurs Grow Global. Presentation by **Susan Hull Walker**, Founder and Creative Director, Ibu Movement who will share: *How to build a global brand without sacrificing authenticity; Why purpose-driven businesses have a competitive advantage; The power of trust-based partnerships in global business; Practical strategies for scaling a mission-led business; How women entrepreneurs are reshaping the future of luxury.* 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6883466614638259808?mc_cid=4be556f2a6&mc_eid=6499c7d108.
- Sep. 2 ***CPSC eFILING IS LIVE: TURNING CERTIFICATE CHAOS INTO AN AUDIT-READY WORKFLOW.*** Webinar, sponsored by the American Apparel & Footwear Association, explores how leading importers are strengthening contract-to-cash discipline across international freight operations. Using practical shipper examples, the session will examine how organizations improve forecast accuracy, reduce cost leakage from misapplied contract terms, and bring greater structure to detention, demurrage, chassis, and yard storage management. The discussion will also address how procurement, logistics, and finance teams can better align around shared data to support day-to-day execution and longer-term decision-making. 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://www.aafaglobal.org/AAFA/Webinars/2026/2026_Landing_Pages/WEB260902.aspx?utm_campaign=11400726-All%20Webinars&utm_medium=email&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-8snG1_0FNP_XD8NQThBI8NCp9vAXM_kKXWeAi8x-sY8drl-3JMQPZC4gieUe2C9XoYSHZ02jLXjYEjSJjKCZBEiCW7fw&_hsmi=434027190&utm_content=434027190&utm_source=hs_email.
- Sep. 8 The ***NEW NORTH AMERICAN COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP.*** Hybrid roundtable sponsored by the U.S.-Mexico Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest. This discussion will examine the outcome of the 2026 USMCA review and its implications for trade, investment, and business strategy across North America. 9:00 – 10:30 a.m. CDT, Citibank, 227 West Monroe Street, Suite 2500, Chicago. On-site Members - \$35; Non-members - \$50. Online Members - \$20; Non-members - \$35. For information & registration, please see: https://www.usmcocma.org/event-details/the-new-north-american-commercial-relationship?utm_campaign=62f8fa4f-a7c8-4d72-a879-a6c380af91a6&utm_source=so&utm_medium=mail&cid=b3679a42-d0d8-41b9-8ecc-c72d9ebe6646.
- Sep. 8 ***GLOBAL AI AND CYBERSECURITY CHALLENGES IN 2026 (FOCUSING ON GLOBAL TRADE).*** Webinar, sponsored by the Indiana and Missouri District Export Councils, will explore the intersection of AI and Cybersecurity and its impact on supply chains, trade policy, and global economic competitiveness. They'll offer practical insights into how U.S. companies can navigate emerging risks and opportunities in 2026 and beyond. 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/global-ai-and-cybersecurity-challenges-in-2026-focusing-on-global-trade-tickets-1997483590189?aff=oddtcreator>.
- Sep. 8 ***AI IN TRADE COMPLIANCE: FROM SOLID GROUND TO STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE.*** Program sponsored by the Madison International Trade Association with M.E. Day, Husch Blackwell and others. Learn how global trade professionals and executives can securely harness their proprietary trade data to unlock clear financial intelligence, streamline cross-border operations, and build long-term supply chain resilience without compromising security or regulatory integrity. Featuring real-world Do's and Don'ts from Trek's trade compliance journey, this session delivers actionable insights to help you move from risk to strategic advantage. 2:00 – 4:15 p.m. (Networking Reception follows), Husch Blackwell Conference Room, the Huron Building, 511 North Boardway, Suite 1100, Milwaukee, WI. MITA Members - \$35; Non-members - \$50. For information & registration, please see: <https://mitatrade.org/events/>.

- Sep. 14 - **INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.** Expand your business in Latin America and the Caribbean through this free virtual program hosted by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Connect+ features expert-led market training and one-on-one B2B networking with potential buyers, distributors, suppliers, and strategic partners across the region. 12:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DEqCXoFCTve_2EM8_nluA#/registration.
- Sep. 15 **WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH JAPANESE.** Sponsored by Japan Intercultural Consulting, this webinar is a golden opportunity to get your questions answered by an expert who is highly skilled in explaining the intricacies of Japanese business and society. The seminar will also feature explanations of proper Japanese etiquette for meals and social activities. 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$325. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/working-effectively-with-japanese-online-seminar-tickets-1795529058749?aff=erellivmlt>.
- Sep. 15 **FTAS: WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?** Webinar, sponsored by Star USA, will provide an update on USMCA, Canadian tariffs, and other key developments, along with practical guidance to help your company prepare for potential changes. Topics include: *The latest developments affecting USMCA, Canadian tariffs, and other key Free Trade Agreement programs; How changing trade policies could impact FTA eligibility, duty savings, and compliance obligations; Practical steps companies can take now to prepare for potential changes and reduce compliance risk.* 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: https://starusa.org/events/september2026/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=August%2026%20Newsletter&utm_content=August%2026%20Newsletter+CID_ed73aefae2a2b47eff0babdd6436d977&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Learn%20More%20%20Register.
- Sep. 15 **GERMAN NIGHT RECEPTION (IMTS).** Networking event, sponsored by the German American Chamber of Commerce Midwest, during the IMTS show. Join this exclusive gathering of leaders from the German, U.S., and global manufacturing communities. 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., McCormick Place, 2301 South Martin Luther King Drive, South Building I Vista Room Lobby, Chicago. Early Bird Fee (through July 31): \$65. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.gaccmidwest.org/us/events/german-night-reception-imts-2026-powered-by-wintrust-bank>.
- Sep. 16 - **ACE EXPORT COMPLIANCE TRAINING.** Sponsored by the Arizona District Export Council and the U.S. Commercial Service, this virtual export compliance training brings federal experts directly to you. Officers from the U.S. Census Bureau will cover regulations and filing requirements of the Foreign Trade Regulations (FTR), as well as how to classify your commodities using the Schedule B, and provide a thorough overview of export filing through the Automated Export System (AES) in the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE). Officers from the Bureau of Industry and Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Office of Foreign Assets Control will walk you through export controls and how to keep your shipments moving and your business compliant. You'll leave knowing how to file accurately, reduce risk, and avoid the mistakes that trigger costly penalties and seizures. 11:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$150. For information & registration, please see: <https://azdec.org/event/ace-export-compliance-seminar-2026/>.
- Sep. 16 **PARTNERING FOR COMPLIANCE™ – FIREARMS: EXPORTING & IMPORTING.** Virtual program sponsored by Partnerships International. Speakers are drawn from: Directorate of Defense Trade Controls; Bureau of Industry & Security; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Braumiller Law Group. 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$250. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.partneringforcompliance.org/pfcfirearms26.pdf>.

- Sep. 16 ***MINING & MINING-RELATED EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES IN AFRICAN MARKETS.*** Webinar, sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, brings together industry leaders, trade specialists, and government experts to spotlight export opportunities in Chad, Algeria, and Egypt. Participants will gain actionable insights on critical minerals, supply chain diversification, and the latest financing options. Discover how U.S. companies are winning in these markets, learn risk mitigation strategies, and connect with a global network of trade professionals. 8:00 a.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.trade.gov/en/TradeGov/Mini-9884-1786118865/form.php>.
- Sep. 17 ***GLOBAL TRADE AT A CROSSROADS: PERSPECTIVES FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE.*** Program sponsored by OWIT Chicago Midwest presents fresh perspectives from policy experts to real-world practitioners. Whether you're curious about the latest trade trends or want to connect with industry pros, this event is your go-to spot! 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, 320 South Canal Street, Suite 3300, Chicago. Fee: \$15. For invitation & registration, please see: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/global-trade-at-a-crossroads-perspectives-from-policy-to-practice-tickets-1998432847443>.
- Sep. 17 ***TRADE AT THE CROSSROADS.*** The International Trade Council of Greater Kansas City's 81st Annual Meeting. Presentation by **Pete Mento**, Director of Global Trade Advisory, Baker Tilly U.S., who will break down today's rapidly changing trade environment into practical business insights. This timely discussion will explore the issues shaping global commerce today and what organizations should be watching in the months ahead. 5:30 – 8:00 p.m., Milburn Country Club, 7501 West 69th Street, Overland Park, KS. ITCGKC Members - \$60 (by Sept. 3; \$70 thereafter); Non-members - \$80 (by Sept. 3; \$90 thereafter). For information & registration, please see: <https://itcgkc.org/event-6780496>.
- Sep. 17 ***DRIVING INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENTS, WHILE CONNECTING TODAY'S LEADERS WITH THE NEXT GENERATION.*** Gala & Awards Dinner sponsored by the Italian American Chamber of Commerce Midwest. Honorees include **Alexi Giannoulis**, Secretary of State, State of Illinois, and **John R. Colletti**, Managing Partner, Gibsons Restaurant Group. 6:00 p.m., CineCity Studios, 2429 West 14th Street, Chicago. Fees: vary. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.iacc-chicago.com/gala>.
- Sep. 22 ***GROWING GLOBAL 2026 – GLOBAL CONNECTIVITY: A CONVERSATION WITH EXECUTIVES FROM AIR CANADA, BRITISH AIRWAYS, LUFTHANSA AND SOUTHWEST AIRLINES.*** Sponsored by World Trade Center St. Louis, this program will feature a timely conversation around international air connectivity, global commerce, economic development, and the partnerships helping to position St. Louis on the world stage. Speakers include: **Hubert Frach**, Vice President Sales North America – British Airways; **Vincent Gauthier-Doré**, Managing Director for Canada and U.S. Sales – Air Canada; **Dirk Janzen**, Vice President, The Americas – Lufthansa; **Daniel Jones**, Vice President, Network Planning – Southwest Airlines; **Debbie Monterrey** (Moderator), KMOX Morning News Anchor. 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., The Ritz-Carlton, 100 Carondelet Plaza, St. Louis, MO. Fee: \$100. For information & registration, please see: <https://stlpartnership.com/events/growing-global-2026/>.
- Sep. 22 ***U.S. TARIFFS IN TRANSITION: IEEPA REFUNDS, NEW TARIFFS, AND A RESILIENT APPROACH TO COMPLIANCE.*** Webinar, sponsored by the Professional Association of Exporters & Importers, will explore the rapidly evolving U.S. tariff landscape, duty recovery opportunities, and practical strategies to help businesses navigate increasing trade uncertainty. Key topics: *Current U.S. tariff landscape and recent changes affecting importers; IEEPA refunds via CAPE, litigation, and other processes; Key developments to monitor over the next 6 months; Strategies to mitigate tariff exposure through valuation, supply chain management, and trade programs; Managing increased Customs enforcement and audit risks; Keeping import compliance programs resilient amid ongoing regulatory uncertainty.* 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. CDT. PAEI Members – No fee; Non-members - \$50. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.paei.org/event/u-s-tariffs-in-transition-ieepa-refunds-new-tariffs-and-a-resilient-approach-to-compliance/>.

- Sep. 23 **EUROPEAN PROFESSIONALS NETWORKING.** Event sponsored by the European Chambers of Commerce and others, including the **International Trade Association of Greater Chicago**, is tailor-made for both young professionals and experienced specialists alike looking to expand their network. Discover opportunities to get involved with local internationally focused organizations and meet like-minded professionals. 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., Magik Street, 2150 South Canalport, Chicago. Members of sponsoring organizations - \$50; Non-members - \$60; walk-ins - \$65. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.gaccmidwest.org/us/events/european-professionals-networking-magik-street>.
- Sep. 24 **TRADE COMPLIANCE IN FOCUS: CBP ENFORCEMENT TRENDS AND PRIORITIES.** Seminar sponsored by the Chicago Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association. Former CBP Regulatory Audit Field Director, **Danielle Bickel**, and former CBP Senior Auditor, **Kathryn Herrity**, share insights into current enforcement trends and priorities, with a focus on valuation and trade remedies. Learn what CBP is targeting now and how to stay ahead of compliance risks. 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., Schaumburg Corporate Center, Conference Room A and B - Floor 1, 1501 East Woodfield Road, Schaumburg, IL. CCBFA Members – No fee; Non-members - \$35. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.ccbfa.org/events/deleon-trade-trade-compliance-in-focus-cbp-enforcement-trends-and-priorities>.
- Sep. 24 **ADVANCED MANUFACTURING COFFEE CHAT - ADVANCED MANUFACTURING IN ASIA - 3D PRINTING, INDUSTRY 4.0 AND INDUSTRIAL ROBOTICS.** Sponsored by the U.S. Commercial Service, this virtual event offers a valuable platform for U.S. companies to gain insights from industry experts from Japan, Indonesia, and Singapore within the 3D Printing, Industrial Robotics, and Industry 4.0 sectors. Our Commercial Specialist will also be providing market briefings and key insights on developing your market-entry strategy in the region. 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. CDT. No fee; advance registration required. For information & registration, please see: <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/eb183467-3e77-4f40-9a55-307769340797@a1d183f2-6c7b-4d9a-b994-5f2f31b3f780>.
- Sep. 29 **WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH AMERICANS (アメリカ人と効果的に働く方法).** Virtual program, sponsored by Japan Intercultural Consulting and conducted entirely in Japanese, is designed to help Japanese gain a better understanding of their American colleagues' behavior and gain skills for improving communications. Topics include: *Thinking about Culture; Case Studies: Communicating with Americans; Case Studies: Leadership Style and Verbal Direction; Specific Cultural Challenges; Blending American and Japanese Styles; Key Skills for Effective Communication.* 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$325. For information & registration, please see: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/working-effectively-with-americans-online-seminar-tickets-1795564063449?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true.
- Oct. 2 - **2026 WITA ACADEMY VIRTUAL INTENSIVE TRADE SEMINAR.** Virtual program, sponsored by the Washington International Trade Association, will help attendees increase their professional knowledge by learning the nuts and bolts of trade policy directly from career trade policy professionals from across government, industry, and law. The topics over the 3-day program include: *Trade Law Primer (Sections 122, 232, 301, 338, IEEPA and update on legal challenges); Interagency Process in the Trump Administration; The Congressional Role in Trade Policymaking; AD/CVD/Safeguards – Role of ITC and Commerce; USTR Role in Monitoring and Enforcement; Customs and Border Protection; Export Controls, Sanctions, and Investment Controls; U.S. Trade Update – Ongoing Negotiations and Tariffs; WITA International/Trade Around the World – Global Trade Initiatives; USMCA 6-Year Review – Status Update – Review Process.* 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. CDT. Government rate - \$105.49; WITA member - \$209.19; Non-member - \$312.89. For information & registration, please see: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2026-wita-academy-virtual-intensive-trade-seminar-early-bird-tickets-tickets-1996707392561?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true.

- Oct. 6 - ***JOIN THE U.S. PAVILION AT MRO BRAZIL.*** Discover opportunities in Brazil's US\$2.5 billion aircraft maintenance, repair, and overhaul market—one of the world's top five aircraft maintenance hubs. By exhibiting in the U.S. Pavilion at MRO Brazil, companies gain a platform to showcase capabilities and connect directly with leading Brazilian buyers, integrators, and operators. Space in the U.S. Pavilion at MRO Brazil is limited so companies are encouraged to contact Renato Sabaine (Renato.sabaine@trade.gov) at the U.S. Consulate General in São Paulo as soon as possible to secure a spot in the program.
- Oct. 9 ***THE 2026 CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL GALA.*** Hosted annually by World Business Chicago and Chicago Sister Cities International, the Gala welcomes members of the Chicago Consular Corps—one of the largest in the U.S., representing over 80 countries—as distinguished guests. This distinguished evening celebrates the international community that makes Chicago a true global city. In addition to funding WBC'S work, a portion of the proceeds funds the Chicago Consular Corp's annual International Student Professional Development Grant at the University of Illinois Chicago (UIC). 6:00 p.m., The Field Museum. Details forthcoming. Please see: https://worldbusinesschicago.com/gala/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=gala&utm_content=savethedate&utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Save%20the%20Date%3A%20The%20Chicago%20International%20Gala%20-%20October%209&utm_campaign=Gala%20initial%20std.
- Oct. 15 ***IACAC AIRLINE NIGHT.*** The International Air Cargo Association of Chicago (IACAC) is excited to invite you to our First-ever IACAC Airline Night 2026—an evening dedicated to bringing together professionals from across the aviation, air cargo, logistics, and supply chain industries. 5:00 – 9:00 p.m., Belvedere Events & Banquets, 1170 West Devon Avenue, Elk Grove Village, IL. Vendor tables available (\$300). Fee: \$45. For information & registration, please see: <https://iacac.com/event/iacac-airline-night/>.
- Oct. 16 ***2026 GERMAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MIDWEST ANNUAL GALA.*** The GACC Midwest promises an evening dedicated to celebrating the excellence, innovation, and enduring commitment of the German American business community. The Gala will bring together industry leaders and C-level executives to honor long-standing membership anniversaries and recognize the outstanding contributions of valued members and companies across the Midwest. Guests will enjoy high-level networking and dinner, engaging entertainment and live music. In addition, we'll have an exciting silent auction benefiting the German American Apprenticeship and Education Foundation—highlighting our shared investment in workforce development and future talent. 6:00 p.m., The InterContinental Hotel Chicago Mag Mile, 505 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago. GACC Members - \$285; Non-members - \$350. For information & registration, please see: <https://www.gaccmidwest.org/us/events/gacc-midwest-annual-gala/2026-gacc-midwest-annual-gala>.
- Oct. 20 ***COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY WITH JAPANESE.*** Virtual seminar, sponsored by Japan Intercultural Consulting, is focused on: *Indirect communication; Ambiguous and context-dependent messaging; English as a non-native language.* This in-depth seminar offers practical strategies for strengthening working relationships and achieving better results with Japanese colleagues, subordinates, customers, and supervisors. By the end of the seminar, participants will be better equipped to: Interpret indirect or ambiguous messages more accurately; Communicate clearly and respectfully across language and cultural gaps; Reduce misunderstandings while preserving relationships; Increase confidence and effectiveness in day-to-day interactions with Japanese counterparts. 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. CDT. Fee: \$195. For information & registration, please see: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/communicating-effectively-with-japanese-tickets-1980001138706?aff=oddttdcreator&keep_tld=true.

- Oct. 22 ***THE NEW TRADE FRONTIER: TECHNOLOGY, GOVERNANCE, AND GLOBAL RISK.*** American Association of Exporters & Importers Fall 2026 Virtual Conference will bring together government officials, legal experts, industry practitioners, and technology leaders to examine how emerging technologies and trade policies are transforming global commerce. Through expert-led discussions, interactive polling, and practical case studies, attendees will explore the future of trade governance, AI-driven compliance strategies, import and export risk management, data governance, and the changing global trade landscape. The program will conclude with a forward-looking keynote from former WTO Deputy Director-General **Angela Ellard** on navigating the next chapter of international trade. 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. CDT. AAEI Members - \$150; Non-members - \$250. For information & registration, please see: https://members.aaei.org/ap/Events/Register/4IF9m08hRCMCx?utm_source=EMAIL&utm_medium=TradeCompass&utm_campaign=FC26.
- Oct. 26 - ***EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT ECO EXPO ASIA 2026, HONG KONG.*** Illinois companies in the environmental sector are invited to join the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Trade & Investment on a Trade Mission to Hong Kong, and co-exhibit in the Illinois Pavilion at Eco Expo Asia. Eligible Illinois companies for this mission will receive: *Complimentary Exhibit Space; 25-75% partial reimbursement for lodging and airfare costs in accordance with guidelines; Pre-show promotion; Matchmaking Assistance; In-country briefing and networking events; Assistance with travel and logistics.* Fee: \$1,000. Application deadline: **September 10**. For information & registration, please contact: kelly.hou@illinois.gov.
- Nov. 6 - ***TRADE MISSION TO AFRICA - KENYA & RWANDA.*** World Trade Center St. Louis invites you to join their first trade mission to Kenya & Rwanda. Mission participants will gain first-hand insights through: Meeting with African business, government, and civic leaders; Market briefings from local experts; Cultural experiences and networking events. Fee: \$5,000 exclusive of airfare. For information & registration, please see: <https://stlpartnership.com/africa-trade-mission-2026/>.
- Nov. 10 ***INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS.*** Seminar, sponsored by the Global Training Center, focuses on Managing Forwarders, brokers & carriers. Learn to control your international shipments by directly coordinating your documents with transportation rules and procedures. Review the air and ocean transportation & documentation process—a comprehensive review of the roles of the forwarder and the customs broker. Learn the evaluation and selection process of the international forwarder, customs broker, and carrier. Coordinate your documents with transportation rules and procedures and gain a solid understanding of the critical components of logistics. Instructor: **Arthur O'Meara**. 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Courtyard by Marriott Chicago O'Hare, 2950 South River Road, Des Plaines, IL. ITA/GC Members - \$620; Non-members - \$645. For information & registration, please see: https://globaltrainingcenter.com/international-logistics-chicago-nov-10-2026/?145944_grid_view=false.
- Nov. 11 - ***EXHIBIT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AT ADVANCED DESIGN & MANUFACTURING, MONTREAL, CANADA.*** Qualified Illinois companies are invited to join the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Trade and Investment, to exhibit in the Illinois pavilion at the Advanced Design and Manufacturing (ADM) Expo in Montreal. Illinois companies who qualify for this mission will receive: *Exhibit Space; 25-75% partial reimbursement for lodging and airfare costs in accordance with guidelines; Briefing Material; Pre-show promotion; Matchmaking Assistance; Assistance with travel and logistics.* Fee: \$1,000. Application deadline: **September 10**. For information & registration, please contact: Chris.Sedgwick@illinois.gov.

- Nov. 11 **TARIFF CLASSIFICATION.** Seminar, sponsored by the Global Training Center, is for import, export, FTA determination & clarification on Section 301 and Section 232. The classification & valuation of goods are major decisions! Critical information is not only for duty purposes but also to determine whether goods are subject to quotas, restraints, embargoes, or other restrictions. Shipments with incorrect classifications may not reach their destination, and/or you may be subjected to penalties. Join us for this interactive, in-person workshop. Registration includes a valuable reference book. Instructor: **Arthur O'Meara**. 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Courtyard by Marriott Chicago O'Hare, 2950 South River Road, Des Plaines, IL. ITA/GC Members - \$620; Non-members - \$645. For information & registration, please see: <https://globaltrainingcenter.com/tariff-classification-chicago-nov-11-2026/>.
- Nov. 12 **IMPORTING PROCEDURES.** Seminar, sponsored by the Global Training Center, focuses on the importance of accurate paperwork and timely reporting. Designed to help commercial importers become more aware of their regulatory obligations, learn your broker's responsibilities, and develop strategies for improving trade compliance within their organization. This course focuses on the import entry processes and the fundamental disciplines required for making an entry. Instructor: **Arthur O'Meara**. 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Courtyard by Marriott Chicago O'Hare, 2950 South River Road, Des Plaines, IL. ITA/GC Members - \$620; Non-members - \$645. For information & registration, please see: <https://globaltrainingcenter.com/importing-procedures-chicago-nov-12-2026/>.
- Nov. 12 **PASSPORT TO FRANCE.** Sponsored by the French American Chamber of Commerce Midwest Chicago, this event celebrates French food and culture with signature cuisine from top chefs and restaurants, bringing together an exceptional array of businesses. 6:00 – 10:00 p.m., Artifact, 43.25 North Ravenswood Avenue, Chicago. FACC Members - \$140 by September 1; \$160 thereafter; Non-members - \$200. For information & registration, please see: <https://p2f-tix.carrd.co/>.
- Nov. 13 **IMPORTING 201.** Seminar, sponsored by the Global Training Center, builds upon techniques presented in our Importing Procedures course and explains how to implement and strengthen your import controls. Course also describes what you should do to prepare for the eventuality of a CBP audit. Instructor: **Arthur O'Meara**. 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Courtyard by Marriott Chicago O'Hare, 2950 South River Road, Des Plaines, IL. ITA/GC Members - \$620; Non-members - \$645. For information & registration, please see: <https://globaltrainingcenter.com/importing-201-chicago-nov-13-2026/>.
- Nov. 16 - **HONG KONG TRADE MISSION 2026.** IBS Global Consulting, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Business Association of the Midwest and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), is organizing this mission in conjunction with the 27th Hong Kong Forum, the annual flagship event of the Federation of Hong Kong Business Associations Worldwide. The mission offers U.S. businesses firsthand insights into technology trends, market opportunities, and information on conducting business in Hong Kong, one of Asia's most vibrant business hubs. Companies in Emerging Technology & Innovation (e.g., MedTech, FoodTech, EdTech, and FinTech); Healthcare (e.g., Medical Devices and Pharmaceuticals); AI and Robotics; ICT and Digitalization; Logistics; Professional Services (e.g., Consultants, Legal Services); and Financial Services are encouraged to apply. Fee: \$1,250; deadline: **October 2, 2026**. For information & registration, please see: <https://ibsglobalconsulting.com/hong-kong-trade-mission-2026>.
- Dec. 5 - **SAUDI ARABIA, U.A.E. & EGYPT TRADE MISSION.** The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers (GSGP) s leading this multi-sector trade mission. The goal of this mission is to assist small to medium-sized companies from the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region to export products and services to these important markets. Each mission participant will receive a customized schedule of B2B meetings with prospective customers and business partners. Registration deadline: **September 18, 2026**. For information & registration, please see: <https://gsgp.org/projects/international-trade/trade-missions/saudi-arabia-uae-and-egypt-trade-mission-2026/>.

- Feb. 10 - ***SOUTH AFRICA AND KENYA TRADE MISSION***. The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers (GSGP) is leading this multi-sector trade mission. The goal of this mission is to assist small to medium-sized companies from the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region to export products and services to these important markets. Each mission participant will receive a customized schedule of B2B meetings with prospective customers and business partners. Registration Deadline: **November 4, 2026**. For information & registration, please see: <https://gsgp.org/projects/international-trade/trade-missions/south-africa-and-kenya-trade-mission-2027/>.
- Apr. 3 - ***BRAZIL AND PARAGUAY TRADE MISSION***. The Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers (GSGP) is leading this multi-sector trade mission. The goal of this mission is to assist small to medium-sized companies from the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region to export products and services to these important markets. Each mission participant will receive a customized schedule of B2B meetings with prospective customers and business partners. Registration Deadline: January 8, 2027. For information & registration, please see: <https://gsgp.org/projects/international-trade/trade-missions/brazil-and-paraguay-trade-mission-2027/>.
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About the ITA/GC

Founded in December 1977, **The International Trade Association of Greater Chicago (ITA/GC)** was incorporated in January 1979 as an Illinois not-for-profit, voluntary business association dedicated to promoting international commerce in all its forms by providing a forum for the exchange of practical information and insight within the international business community. The ITA/GC's focus is on practicality: on building knowledge and enabling relationships that help people do international business. While our scope of interest is diverse – all aspects of trading and commercial activity across all geographies and all industries – our work is simple: **to help others gain understanding that is personal, current and actionable**.

Annual membership dues are: Individual - \$150; Consular/Diplomatic - \$75 (up to 3 members); Academic/Faculty - \$200 (up to 8 designated faculty members); Student from a participating academic institution - \$25; Regular student - \$50; Associate/Non-resident (more than 150 miles from O'Hare International Airport) - \$50; Retired/Job Transition - \$50; Corporate (up to 8 designated members) - \$300. For a Membership Application, please call 773/725-1106; e-mail: info@itagc.org; or visit: www.itagc.org.

Follow the International Trade Association of Greater Chicago on LinkedIn:



About Barnes Richardson

Barnes Richardson (<http://www.barnesrichardson.com>) has been focused on international trade regulation and customs law since 1919. Our practice is global and includes matters originating both within and outside of the United States. We are a proud member of Meritas, an international group of law firms providing local, reliable, and efficient legal representation all over the world. We have provided customs or trade advice to over one-third of the manufacturers in the Fortune 100.

About KSM

KSM (Katz, Sapper & Miller) is one of the top 50 largest independent advisory, tax, and audit firms in the United States. Through our deep experience across multiple disciplines and industries, we provide clients with the inspiration, insight, and technical expertise they need to achieve great things. KSM's international team provides tax planning and consulting services to help businesses and individuals navigate all aspects of cross-border activity. Headquartered in Indianapolis, we operate multiple offices and serve an impressive roster of clients who count on us to be their trusted advisors. Learn more at ksmpa.com.