

JAMES JENKINS

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Trade Compliance Specialist with over 14 years of progressive experience in manufacturing and global customs operations. Proven expertise in HTS and ECCN classification, Free Trade Agreement (FTA) analysis, and origin management across diverse international markets. Adept at interpreting technical documentation, collaborating cross-functionally, and leveraging systems like Oracle and Descartes to ensure compliance and operational efficiency. Skilled in developing automation tools for certificate generation and conducting tariff impact assessments to support strategic decision-making. Recognized for driving audit readiness, broker oversight, and continuous process improvement in global trade environments.

SKILLS

- **HTS & ECCN Classification** – Expert in assigning accurate Harmonized Tariff Schedule and Export Control Classification Numbers for industrial components and assemblies.
- **Technical Interpretation** – Proficient in reviewing engineering drawings, Bills of Materials (BOMs), and product specifications to support classification and compliance decisions.
- **FTA Compliance & Origin Management** – Lead annual supplier solicitations for updated FTA certificates and country of origin declarations; ensure documentation accuracy.
- **Process Automation** – Develop tools and workflows to automate the creation of Certificates of Origin and FTA documentation, enhancing efficiency and reducing manual errors.
- **FTA Analysis & Qualification** – Skilled in analyzing product eligibility under various Free Trade Agreements using product-specific rules of origin and Regional Value Content (RVC) calculations.
- **Classification Documentation & Audit Preparedness** – Maintain detailed records to support audits, binding ruling submissions, and internal reviews.
- **Trade Compliance Systems** – Experienced in Oracle and Descartes platforms for managing trade compliance data, including entry of classification and Country of Origin.
- **Broker Oversight & Metrics Review** – Host monthly broker meetings to review performance metrics, resolve outstanding issues, and ensure compliance.

WORK HISTORY

10/2023 to Current

Senior Global Customs Specialist

Hypertherm Associates – Hanover, NH

- Prepare and issue Certificates of Origin, including Free Trade Agreement (FTA) certificates such as USMCA, KORUS, ILFTA, and AUSFTA, for individual shipments and blanket requests.
- Classify manufacturing equipment, components, and accessories in accordance with applicable tariff schedules to ensure accurate import declarations.
- Analyze and interpret tariff changes impacting imported goods; provide strategic reports to leadership outlining potential cost and compliance implications.
- Conduct audits of customs broker entries to ensure accuracy and compliance; initiate Post Summary Corrections (PSCs) when discrepancies are identified.
- Lead monthly performance and compliance review meetings with customs brokers, focusing on key metrics and resolution of outstanding issues.
- Submit Binding Ruling requests to U.S. Customs and Border Protection to confirm tariff classifications and mitigate risk.
- Assign and maintain region-specific Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) codes for global distribution centers, including Europe, Brazil, Singapore, and China.

01/2020 to 10/2023

Global Customs/Export & Trade Compliance Specialist

Hypertherm Associates

- Support Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) and Export Control Classification Number (ECCN) classification for industrial components and assemblies.
- Review supplier specifications and technical documentation to ensure accurate classification decisions.
- Conduct annual solicitations to suppliers for updated Free Trade Agreement (FTA) certificates and country of origin declarations; maintain compliance records accordingly.
- Worked across departments to ensure consistent classification practices.
- Maintained classification databases and supported internal audits.

01/2012 to 01/2020

Process Support Technician / Machine Operator

Hypertherm Associates

- Gained hands-on experience in manufacturing processes and product lifecycle.

EDUCATION

01/2020

Associate of Science: Advanced Manufacturing

Columbia College - SC

01/2012

Certificate: Advanced Machine Tool

River Valley Community College