

# CALIFORNIA CHAMBER of COMMERCE



## **2011- International Trade**

The California Chamber of Commerce is a broad-based non-profit membership organization through which business, industry and agriculture join forces to work for positive action on key legislation and regulatory issues affecting California's economic and job climate.

The organization, established in 1890, is the largest and most broadly based employer representative in Sacramento. Its members include more than 15,000 firms of all kinds and sizes, as well as 450 affiliated local chambers of commerce and 200 trade associations. Through its grassroots action program, the California Chamber reaches out to a statewide network of 430,000 small business owners.

The California Chamber also offers a variety of services to help businesses comply with complex laws and regulations, as well as compete in the international marketplace.

## **Overview**

The California Chamber supports free trade worldwide, expansion of international trade and investment, fair and equitable market access for California products abroad, and elimination of disincentives that impede the international competitiveness of California business.

## **International activities include:**

1. Monitoring state and federal legislative issues as well as bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations that are beneficial to international business.
2. Assisting members with general export and import activities.
3. Serving as a clearinghouse for exchange of information on international trade.
4. Maintaining liaison with government agencies and private organizations domestically and abroad.
5. Stimulating cooperation among members by encouraging exchange of information, experiences and opinions related to international trade.
6. Sponsoring/co-sponsoring appropriate international trade and investment missions, trade shows and catalog shows.
7. Hosting/co-hosting appropriate incoming trade and investment missions.
8. Sponsoring/co-sponsoring appropriate international trade events, conferences, educational programs, workshops and seminars.

9. Helping create an international atmosphere among California Chamber members to foster better understanding of international trade.

### Council for International Trade

- **The CalChamber Council for International Trade expands California's voice on trade.** The Council boosts the ability of California businesses and organizations to advocate sound international business policies.
- **The CalChamber Council for International Trade is focused on sound policy.** The Council works with state and federal administrations and lawmakers to influence international business policies that support California's global success, job creation and sustainability.
- **Leadership on these issues is more important than ever.** With free trade agreements pending before Congress, we are at a historic time to take action. California business and trade leadership on domestic and global issues remains a key in fostering California competitiveness.

### Chamber Positions

Overall, recognizing the current U.S. and California trade deficits, the California Chamber:

- **Supports** achieving and maintaining a stable and competitive relationship between the U.S. dollar and the currencies of our major trading partners.
- **Supports** actions designed to eliminate barriers that impede U.S. and California commerce domestically and abroad by aggressively negotiating fair and equitable market access for California agriculture, manufactured products and services.
- **Promotes** the education of California's citizens, legislators and businesses about the benefit of trade to the state's economy.

### **Legislative Issues**

The California Chamber of Commerce has supported a number of state and federal programs, but it should be noted that the Chamber also dissuades the introduction of legislation that is unnecessary, unconstitutional or violates existing trade agreements. The Chamber:

- **Opposes** protectionist-oriented legislation that will result in higher prices to the consumer for the specific product protected and in limited choices of products for consumers. Protectionist legislation causes a net loss of jobs in related industries, retaliation by our trading partners, and violates provisions of the World Trade Organization, as well as, bilateral free trade agreements.
- **Opposes** state and local legislation that imposes sanctions on businesses that are engaged in trade with foreign countries and/or conflict with federal international policies.
- **Supports** legislation to allow California companies to compete more effectively in foreign markets, as well as to attract foreign business to California.

### **California Chamber Trade and Investment Missions**

As part of the California Chamber's ongoing effort to promote international trade and investment opportunities for California businesses, members of the Board of Directors, International Trade Committee and Chamber officials have participated in missions abroad in conjunction with the opening of the state's former trade and investment offices in Tokyo, London, Mexico City, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Taipei, and Johannesburg.

Members and Chamber officials also have participated in international trade events in Expo '86 in Vancouver, Expo '88 in Brisbane, Japan, Korea, the People's Republic of China, Taiwan, Chile and the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Further, California Chamber Board members and officials have accompanied four California Governors to various worldwide destinations, including Mexico City, Canada, Japan, Australia, Southeast Asia, Europe, China/Hong Kong and South Korea.

### **California Chamber International Website**

Detailed information vital to the businesses that make California one of the largest exporting states in the nation and one of the ten largest economies in the world is

available on the **international trade section of the California Chamber website** at <http://www.calchamber.com/international>.

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The international trade web page outlines the Chamber's activities to assist members with general export and import needs. The international web page also covers trade legislation/ issues, answers to frequently asked questions, web links to additional international trade organizations, and trade statistics.

### **Trade Update Newsletter**

The Council for International Trade Update, an e-newsletter from the CalChamber Council for International Trade, is an easy-to-scan digest of the latest news and information about trade policy.

Each weekly newsletter features:

- International headlines
- U.S. trade policy updates
- Relevant information compiled from:
  - *the White House;*
  - *U.S. Department of State;*
  - *U.S. Department of Commerce;*
  - *U.S. Trade Representative;*
  - *World Bank;*
  - *International Monetary Fund;*
  - *World Trade Organization;*
  - *CalChamber Alert;*
  - *CalChamber Daily Headlines; and*
  - *Hundreds of newspapers worldwide.*
- A place for readers to post worldwide events of interest to international trade practitioners.

To be added to the subscriber list for the free e-newsletter, please email us at [international@calchamber.com](mailto:international@calchamber.com)

### **Exporting Guide – 2009 Edition**

The California Chamber of Commerce published the Third Edition of the Exporting Guide for California Businesses in 2009. It includes information needed to get started in exporting: preparing for export, export marketing and distribution, export logistics and

financing, complying with export regulations, forms and checklists with quick access online.

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