

April 2, 2025

TO: U.S. Customs Officials

FROM: Tara Holmes, Executive Director, American Cheese Society

RE: Sending Cheeses/Dairy Products for Competition at the 2025 ACS Judging & Competition in Minneapolis, MN.

I am writing today to inform U.S. Customs that _____

(Company Name)

is an official, verified participant in the 2025 ACS Judging & Competition. Product for this event will be shipped to the event beginning on or around Monday, June 9 through Thursday, June 12, 2025. We ask that the cheese and dairy product samples sent by ______

(Company Name)

to our Judging & Competition be accepted and passed by Customs for participation in our event. The cheeses are for competition only.

Our Judging & Competition, now in its 42nd year, is scheduled to take place on Thursday, June 12 and Friday, June 13. In 2024, ACS received over 1,400 entries from cheesemakers in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and South and Central America. This year, we are anticipating about 1,500 cheese and dairy products from our members.

Judging and Competition is set to take place at the following location:

Huntington Bank Stadium 420 23rd Ave. SE Minneapolis, MN 55455

The American Cheese Society (ACS) is the leading organization supporting the understanding, appreciation, and promotion of farmstead, artisan, and specialty cheeses produced in North America. Over 1,800 members strong, ACS provides advocacy, education, business development, and networking opportunities for cheesemakers, retailers, enthusiasts, and the extended industry. ACS strives to continually raise the quality and availability of cheese in North America. Learn more at <u>http://www.cheesesociety.org</u>.

I would like to thank you for allowing these cheese products to enter the U.S. for this prestigious event. If you have any questions, please contact me at <u>tholmes@cheesesociety.org</u> or call 720-328-2788.

Best regards,

Tara Holmes Executive Director, American Cheese Society