



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEWS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

FOR RELEASE THURSDAY
July 26, 1973

DOT 51-73
Phone: (202) 426-4321

More than \$4.5 billion now spent annually by American businessmen in preparing and servicing the mountain of paperwork necessary in international trade can be saved, according to a study prepared jointly by the Department of Transportation and the National Committee on International Trade Documentation (NCITD).

The study, "Progress Report on Paperwork or Profits? in International Trade," is an accounting of 28 recommendations for simplifying international trade documentation and procedures made a year-and-a-half ago in "Paperwork or Profits? in International Trade," also jointly prepared by DOT and NCITD.

"The report is encouraging and demonstrates what can be done to solve a tough problem when it is approached with knowledge, imagination, and energy," Secretary of Transportation Claude S. Brinegar said. "We are finally beginning to unsnarl an expensive, frustrating tangle of trade documents that literally goes back to the Phoenicians."

The problem is many faceted and formidable, Secretary Brinegar said, noting that there are now some 125 different types of documents, representing more than 1,000 separate forms in regular or special use in international trade. The average shipment, he said, involves 46 separate documents and more than 360 copies.

The report says that major progress has been made in 12 of the 28 problem areas, somewhat slower progress in nine other areas, and the remainder were described as needing long-range, broad educational programs before measurable change would be achieved.

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In a table to accompany a report on the 12 principal problem areas, the following estimated dollar savings are assigned:

<u>Action Program</u>	<u>Estimated Annual Savings</u> (millions)
Standard Master	\$ 500
Commodity Codes	1,200
Code Blocks	50
Consular Invoice	35
Translations	10
Export Statistics	20
Government Bill of Lading	65
Drawback	5
Export Control	150
Data Transmission	2,500
Letter of Credit	50
Manifests	<u>10</u>
Total	\$4,595

Copies of "Progress Report on Paperwork or Profits? in International Trade" can be obtained from the National Committee on International Trade Documentation, Suite 1406, 30 East 42nd Street, New York, New York 10017.

Federal agencies and international organizations may obtain copies from the Department of Transportation, Office of Public Affairs (S-81), 400 Seventh Street, S. W., Washington, D. C. 20591.

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