Regulatory Alert Update: Handling of Shipments Related to the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics/Paralympics in South Korea

January 29, 2018

The 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympic and Paralympic games will take place in South Korea from February 9 to February 25 and March 9 to March 18, 2018 respectively.

Shipments brought into South Korea for Pyeongchang Olympic/Paralympic purposes are subject to Special Exemption Procedures (SEP), which gives exemptions on duties and taxes. There is no need to apply for SEP for goods for personal use that are valued under USD150 as these are tax exempt.

According to the official guideline by the Pyeongchang Organizing Committee for the 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (POCOG), only the official logistic supplier, Hanjin Transportation (Hanjin), offers SEP on duties and taxes at an additional charge.

Customers who ship Olympic and Paralympic-related materials to South Korea should indicate "POCOG SEP APPLY" on the consignee section of the air waybill and commercial invoice of their shipments. This is a requirement by POCOG to apply for SEP and helps us identify applicable shipments.

Upon arrival of applicable shipments, FedEx will contact recipients for confirmation and forward applicable shipments to Hanjin for SEP customs clearance and domestic delivery. The SEP-related costs will be charged directly by Hanjin, and FedEx will not be able to refund any portion of shipping charges for those shipments.

From February 1 to March 18, 2018, FedEx Express is unable to transport any shipments to the Olympics/Paralympics restricted areas in South Korea as the only official transportation supplier is permitted access. FedEx Express provides consignees with the option to receive their shipments outside the restricted areas without an additional charge. FedEx Express will directly contact the consignee in Korea before a shipment's delivery and provide information about how to receive the shipment outside the restricted areas.