



March 25, 2026

TO: U.S. Customs Officials

FROM: Tara Holmes, Executive Director, American Cheese Society

RE: Sending Cheeses/Dairy Products for Competition at the 2026 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 2026 ACS Judging & Competition. Product for this event will be shipped to the event beginning on or around Monday, May 18 through Thursday, May 21, 2026. 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 43rd year, is scheduled to take place on Thursday, May 21 and Friday, May 22. In 2025, 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 <http://www.cheesesociety.org>.

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 tholmes@cheesesociety.org or call 720-328-2788.

Best regards,

Tara Holmes
Executive Director, American Cheese Society