

Mississippi Development Authority
P.O. Box 849
Jackson, MS 39305

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sherry R. Vance, director of communications, 601.359.3041

Date: January 23, 2003

**MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO HOST
INTERNATIONAL IMPORT SEMINAR**

Topics include Overview of Importing, The Role of U.S. Customs, Success Stories and Resources for Assistance

JACKSON, Miss.,- The Mississippi Development Authority, (MDA) along with the Mississippi World Trade Center and Small Business Development Center Hinds International Trade Center will present a half-day seminar (8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.) on Importing Products from Overseas: Sourcing, Procedures and Success Stories at the Mississippi World Trade Center on Thursday, January 30, 2003. The cost for the event is \$25.00. On site registration is available from 7:30 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. at the rate of \$35.00.

According to Robert J. Rohrlack, Jr., executive director, MDA, “Mississippi is a serious player in the world market. We believe it’s time for people outside the borders of Mississippi to realize we can compete anytime, anywhere, and with anyone.”

Presenters will include Rick Oates, Freight Forwarder & Customs; Marion Riley, Jr., U.S. Customs Service; Rodney Barbour, Barbour International; Steve Holifield, Peavey Electronics; Cheryl Patton, Pearl River Trading Company; Gena Lentz, Mississippi Development Authority; and Barbara Travis, Mississippi World Trade Center.

“Companies can increase profits by being aware of the role importing can play in their business. This seminar will be beneficial to Mississippi companies who import or plan to do so in the future,” added Rohrlack.

For additional information, contact Gena Lentz with the Mississippi Development Authority. Telephone: 601.359.6672, E-mail – glentz@mississippi.org

###