

#### **A. New Business in the US/NL**

1. I want to **set up** a business in or expand my business **in the Netherlands**. Where do I start?
2. I want to **set up** a business in or expand my business **in the US**. Where do I start?
3. I am a Dutch business and I am **looking for a partner/client in the US**. Where do I look?
4. I am a US company looking to **sell my product in the Netherlands**. Where should I start?
5. I am a Dutch company **seeking out a US supplier**. What should I do?
6. I am looking for information on a **transport, logistics, and/or distribution company**. Where can I find a company to help me?
7. What **law firms** could help me **set up my business in the US**?

#### **B. Finding Businesses, Goods, and Services in the US/NL**

1. What are some **banks** in the US/NL?
2. Where can I find information on **trade associations in the US/NL**?
3. Where can I find **brokers or realtors in the Netherlands**?
4. Where can I find businesses in the **Netherlands** and their **contact information**?
5. Where can I find a **list of Dutch companies in the US**?
6. I am in need of a **lawyer/accountant in the US/NL**. Where should I start to look?
7. I am in need of a **Dutch-speaking accountant in the US**. Where should I start to look?
8. I am looking for a **specific manufacturer of a product in the NL**. Where can I look?

#### **C. Exports, Imports, and Taxes**

1. Where can I find information on **exporting Dutch products and services**?
2. Where can I find information on **importing into the Netherlands** (exporting from the US)?
3. Where can I find out information on **taxes** (business and otherwise) in the US/NL?
4. Can I bring a **dairy product or a meat product into the Netherlands for non-commercial** purposes?
5. Can I bring a **food product other than a dairy or meat product into the Netherlands**?
6. I represent a Dutch company that is interested in **exporting foods and agricultural products to the United States**. What are the **US import requirements** for these products?
7. I am looking for information on the **agricultural sector in the United States**. Where can I find information?

#### **D. Economy, Wages, and General Info for the US/NL**

1. Where can I find information on the **European Union** and the Euro?
2. Where can I receive general information on the **American economy**?
3. Where can I receive general information on the **Dutch economy**?
4. I am interested in learning more about **wages in the US/NL**. Where can I find information?
5. What are the **major Dutch holidays**?

#### **E. Questionable Businesses/Preventing Fraud**

1. I have been approached by a lottery/bank/trust fund through e-mail **claiming that I won a big prize/large amount of money**. Should I be concerned?
2. I am questionable about a business. How can I perform a **background check** on a business?

#### **F. Travel and Moving and Importing**

1. What are the **visa and entry requirements for Dutch travelers to the US? For US travelers to the Netherlands**?
2. Can I bring... How much can I bring **into the Netherlands**?
3. Can I bring... How much can I bring **into the US**?
4. Can I bring my **weapon** into the Netherlands?
5. I am moving to the Netherlands. Where can I find some information to ease this **transition**?

#### **G. Directories**

1. I need a **phone number of a Dutch/U.S. company or a private person** in the NL/US. Where do I look?

## **A. NEW BUSINESS IN US/N**

### **1. I AM a US business and want TO SET UP A BUSINESS IN or EXPAND my business INTO the NETHERLANDS. Where do I start?**

**A.** The Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency (NFIA) facilitates American companies' direct investments in the Netherlands. Whether developing a first European presence or reconfiguring existing European operations, companies can obtain information, strategic perspective and practical help from the business consultants of the NFIA. NFIA is interested in American companies who will send more than 5 people to the Netherlands or will employ more than 5 people. The NFIA has offices in New York City, Boston, Chicago, Austin, San Mateo, and Atlanta and has helped hundreds of North American companies initiate or expand operations in the Netherlands. As a government agency, the NFIA provides information and practical assistance free of charge. Services, all provided on a confidential basis, include providing insight and data on site selection and logistics strategies and intensive, personal guidance on such matters as available incentives, permit procedures and tax structures. The NFIA introduces corporate investors to a variety of Dutch networks and service suppliers in business, to government authorities at the national and regional levels, to academic and private sector consultants, and to others integral to the investment process and continued successful operations. Please see the NFIA website at: [www.nfia.com](http://www.nfia.com).

The Holland International Distribution Council, [www.hidc.nl](http://www.hidc.nl), provides assistance to US and other foreign companies seeking to help with logistics and distribution of their products in the Netherlands or via the Netherlands to the rest of Europe. Note: HIDC does not provide matchmaking services with product representatives or agents/dealers/distributors.

The Netherlands Chamber of Commerce, [www.kvk.nl](http://www.kvk.nl), will likewise help US companies locate an importer, agent, distributor, wholesaler or direct customer in the Netherlands.

#### **Amsterdam**

IH Department (Internationale Handel, International Trade)  
Puck Denisse, 31 20 531 4439, email [Jh@amsterdam.kvk.nl](mailto:Jh@amsterdam.kvk.nl)

#### **Rotterdam**

Tel. 31 10 402 7777, email [Info@rotterdam.kvk.nl](mailto:Info@rotterdam.kvk.nl)

#### **Den Haag**

Tel. 31 70 328 7100, email [Vestdenhaag@denhaag.kvk.nl](mailto:Vestdenhaag@denhaag.kvk.nl)

#### **Utrecht**

Tel. 31 30 236 3211, email [Info@utrecht.kvk.nl](mailto:Info@utrecht.kvk.nl),

For info on other provincial Chambers of Commerce, go to [www.kvk.nl](http://www.kvk.nl).

The US Embassy in the Hague, [thehague.usembassy.gov](http://thehague.usembassy.gov), is also a primary contact for US businesses seeking to do business in the Netherlands. Contact Mr. Richard Huff, U.S. Commercial Service, US Embassy, Lange Voorhout 102, 2514 EJ The Hague, The Netherlands. Phone. 31 70 310 2209.

The American Chamber of Commerce in the Netherlands, [www.amcham.nl](http://www.amcham.nl), is another point of contact for US businesses in the Netherlands. Amcham publishes a very useful company directory (of US companies in the Netherlands and Dutch companies in the US) and represents US business interests towards the Netherlands Government.

The Netherlands Franchise Association, [www.nfv.nl](http://www.nfv.nl), and <http://www.europeanfranchising.com/memberstates/netherlands.aspx> provide info on franchising in the Netherlands.

For more information you can look under the **Business and Economics** area in the **Doing Business in the Netherlands** section at [www.netherlands-embassy.org](http://www.netherlands-embassy.org).

Loyens and Loeff is a Benelux law firm with offices in the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and the financial capitals of the world. The firm publishes a very handy publication entitled “Legal Aspects of Doing Business in the Netherlands,” which can be ordered via the firm’s New York offices, tel 212 489 0620.

Haffmans Law is an international business law firm. The firm helps small and medium-sized businesses with legal aspects of doing business in the USA and/or in the Netherlands (EU). Marcia B. Haffmans, Attorney at Law, T: 612 377 0391, [www.haffmanslaw.com](http://www.haffmanslaw.com)

BUHOVA is a privately-run office of trade information, [www.buvoha.com](http://www.buvoha.com), and its website provides information about many Dutch businesses/prospective partners. Membership is required to access some info.

## **A. NEW BUSINESS IN US/NL**

### **2. I AM a Dutch business and want TO SET UP A BUSINESS in or EXPAND my business INTO the US. Where do I start?**

**A.** The primary contact for Dutch businesses wanting to learn more about the US is the Economic Information Service (Economische Voorlichtingsdienst, EVD), an agency of the Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs in the Hague. [www.evd.nl](http://www.evd.nl). The EVD website has lots of information about the US economy, import/export rules and regulations, labor, environment and tax law, entrance strategies, etc. It also provides info on how to locate specific US market sector information. **For more information see:** [www.evd.nl/1column.asp?url=landen%2Fland%2Easp?land=vst](http://www.evd.nl/1column.asp?url=landen%2Fland%2Easp?land=vst)

Dutch businesses new to exporting are also advised to contact the Chamber of Commerce of the Netherlands, [www.kvk.nl](http://www.kvk.nl), and order the booklet “Nederland over de grens.”

The websites of the Netherlands Embassy in Washington, DC and the four Consulates-General in the US have lots of general and specific information about doing business in the US. Please look under the **Business and Economics** area in the **Doing Business in the US** section at [www.netherlands-embassy.org](http://www.netherlands-embassy.org). There is a publication *in the Dutch language* entitled *Zakendoen in de VS* that is a useful starting point for gathering data about (doing business in) the US. Dutch businesses should feel free to contact the trade officers at the Embassy, the Consulates-General or the NBSO (Netherlands Business Support Office) *in the general region in which they are thinking about starting/expanding a business.*

#### **Chicago**

Economic Section, general, 312 856-0110, [chi-ea@minbuza.nl](mailto:chi-ea@minbuza.nl)  
Peter Verheyen (all trade questions), 312 856-0110 x512, [peter.verheyen@minbuza.nl](mailto:peter.verheyen@minbuza.nl)  
Herbert Wennink (all trade questions) 312 856-0110, x542, [herbert.wennink@minbuza.nl](mailto:herbert.wennink@minbuza.nl)

#### **Los Angeles**

Economic Section, general, 310 268-1598, x1020, [los-ea@minbuza.nl](mailto:los-ea@minbuza.nl)  
Jaap Veerman (all trade questions), 310 268-1598, x1022, [los-ea@minbuza.nl](mailto:los-ea@minbuza.nl)  
Conny Lederer and Robert Matousek (all trade questions), 310 268-1598, x1022, [los-ea@minbuza.nl](mailto:los-ea@minbuza.nl)

#### **Miami**

Economic Section, general, 786 866-0486, [mia-ea@minbuza.nl](mailto:mia-ea@minbuza.nl)  
Arend Gouw (all trade questions), 786 866-0483, [arend.gouw@minbuza.nl](mailto:arend.gouw@minbuza.nl)  
Esther van Geloven (all trade questions), 786 866-0486, [esther-van.geloven@minbuza.nl](mailto:esther-van.geloven@minbuza.nl)

#### **New York**

Economic Section, general, 212 246 1429, [nyc-ea@minbuza.nl](mailto:nyc-ea@minbuza.nl)  
Marielle van der Linden (trade, investment and distribution questions), [marielle-vander.linden@minbuza.nl](mailto:marielle-vander.linden@minbuza.nl)  
Tineke de Vries (trade, energy and climate questions), [tineke-de.vries@minbuza.nl](mailto:tineke-de.vries@minbuza.nl)  
Arjan Braamskamp (trade and life sciences questions), [arjan.braamskamp@minbuza.nl](mailto:arjan.braamskamp@minbuza.nl)

#### **San Mateo**

Netherlands Business Support Office (NBSO)  
Ella van Gool, 650 356-0017, [ella@nbso-california.com](mailto:ella@nbso-california.com)

#### **Washington, DC**

Economic Division, general, 202 274-2615, [was-ea@minbuza.nl](mailto:was-ea@minbuza.nl)  
Dale Morris (all trade questions), 202 274-2618, [dale.morris@minbuza.nl](mailto:dale.morris@minbuza.nl)  
Suzanne de Groot (all trade questions), 202 274-2614, [suzanne-de.groot@minbuza.nl](mailto:suzanne-de.groot@minbuza.nl)  
Agricultural Division, general, [WAS\\_LNV@minbuza.nl](mailto:WAS_LNV@minbuza.nl)  
Caroline Feitel, (agricultural products questions), 202 274-2719, [caroline.feitel@minbuza.nl](mailto:caroline.feitel@minbuza.nl)

In the Netherlands there are also privately export organizations like the Fenedex, [www.fenedex.nl](http://www.fenedex.nl), the Netherlands Council for Trade Promotion, <http://www.handelsbevordering.nl/>, Netherlands Export Combination, [www.nec.nl/](http://www.nec.nl/).

The US Small Business Administration, [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov) and [www.businesslaw.gov](http://www.businesslaw.gov), provides very useful information on how to start of business, conduct business, manage employees, deal with finance and tax issues, etc.

Haffmans Law is an international business law firm. The firm helps small and medium-sized businesses with legal aspects of doing business in the USA and/or in the Netherlands (EU). Marcia B. Haffmans, Attorney at Law, T: 612 377 0391, [www.haffmanslaw.com](http://www.haffmanslaw.com)

There are a number of commercial companies that can assist Dutch businesses. One such business is the Dutch connection of Brand Central Station, [www.brandcentralstation.com](http://www.brandcentralstation.com). Contact Bex van der Schans, Noud Bex or Monique Hendriks, Piuslaan 74a, 5614 HR Eindhoven, The Netherlands, Tel 31 40 294 5252, Fax. 31 40 294 5299.

## **A. NEW BUSINESS IN US/NL**

### **3. I AM a Dutch business and I am LOOKING FOR A PARTNER/CLIENT in the US. Where do I look?**

**A.** A primary contact for Dutch businesses wanting to learn more about the US is the Netherlands Foreign Trade Agency (Economische Voorlichtingsdienst, EVD) of the Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs in the Hague, go to to [www.evd.nl](http://www.evd.nl) The EVD website has lots of information about the US economy, import/export rules, labor, environment and tax law, etc, in the US. It also provides info on how to locate specific US market sector information.

The US Commercial Service runs a program entitled BuyUSA that can help identify partners/suppliers. Please see the detailed info on its website at: [www.buyusa.gov/netherlands/nl/](http://www.buyusa.gov/netherlands/nl/).

The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Washington, DC and the four Consulates-General can also provide information.

#### **Chicago**

Economic Section, general, 312 856-0110, [chi-ea@minbuza.nl](mailto:chi-ea@minbuza.nl)

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Tineke de Vries (trade, energy and climate questions), [tineke-de.vries@minbuza.nl](mailto:tineke-de.vries@minbuza.nl)

Arjan Braamskamp (trade and life sciences questions), [arjan.braamskamp@minbuza.nl](mailto:arjan.braamskamp@minbuza.nl)

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Suzanne de Groot (all trade questions), 202 274-2614, [suzanne-de.groot@minbuza.nl](mailto:suzanne-de.groot@minbuza.nl)

Agricultural Division, general, [WAS\\_LNV@minbuza.nl](mailto:WAS_LNV@minbuza.nl)

Caroline Feitel, (agricultural products questions), 202 274-2719, [caroline.feitel@minbuza.nl](mailto:caroline.feitel@minbuza.nl)

**A. NEW BUSINESS IN US/NL**

**4. I AM a US company looking to SELL MY PRODUCT IN THE NETHERLANDS. Where should I start?**

**A.** The US Embassy on the Hague <http://thehague.usembassy.gov/> is also a primary contact for US businesses seeking to do business with/in the Netherlands. Contact Mr. Richard Huff, U.S. Commercial Service, US Embassy, Lange Voorhout 102, 2514 EJ The Hague, The Netherlands, Phone. 31 70 310 2209, Fax. 31 70 361-4688

The US Commercial Service runs a program entitled BuyUSA that can help identify potential Dutch clients. Please see the detailed info on its website at <http://www.buyusa.gov/netherlands/en/>.

The websites of the US Embassy in the Hague, <http://thehague.usembassy.gov/>, and the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Washington, DC and the four Consulates-General, [www.netherlands-embassy.org](http://www.netherlands-embassy.org), provide a great deal of information. Links to trade associations in the Netherlands can be found at [www.netherlands-embassy.org](http://www.netherlands-embassy.org) under the **Economy and Trade** area and then in **Business and Economy** section.

Haffmans Law is an international business law firm. The firm helps small and medium-sized businesses with legal aspects of doing business in the USA and/or in the Netherlands (EU). Marcia B. Haffmans, Attorney at Law, T: 612 377 0391, [www.haffmanslaw.com](http://www.haffmanslaw.com)

**A. NEW BUSINESS IN US/NL**

**5. I am a Dutch company seeking out a US SUPPLIER. What should I do?**

**A.** A primary contact for Dutch businesses wanting to learn more about the US is the Netherlands Foreign Trade Agency (Economische Voorlichtingsdienst, EVD) of the Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs in the Hague. Go to [www.evd.nl](http://www.evd.nl) or send an email to [vs@info.evd.nl](mailto:vs@info.evd.nl).

The Netherlands-American Business Information Desk (NABID) can provide some basic assistance, tel 212 370 4004, email: [economic@holland.com](mailto:economic@holland.com).

The websites of the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Washington, DC and the four Consulates-General in the US have lots of general and specific information about doing business in the US. Please look under the **Business and Economics** area in the **Doing Business in the US** section at [www.netherlands-embassy.org](http://www.netherlands-embassy.org). There is a publication *in the Dutch language* entitled *Zakendoen in de VS* that is a useful starting point for gathering data about (doing business in) the US.

The US Commercial Service runs a program entitled BuyUSA that can help identify potential US clients/suppliers. Please see the detailed info on its website at: [www.buyusa.gov/netherlands/en/](http://www.buyusa.gov/netherlands/en/).

**A. NEW BUSINESS IN US/NL**

**6. I am looking for information on a TRANSPORT, LOGISTICS, and/or a DISTRIBUTION company. Where can I find a company to help me?**

A. In the US, all of the following organizations: [www.ncbfaa.org](http://www.ncbfaa.org), [www.forwarders.com](http://www.forwarders.com), [www.freightnet.com](http://www.freightnet.com) provide information on freight forwarders, transportation and logistics companies. You may also wish to contact the port of entry for your goods to determine if it has a list of recommended or approved service providers.

The Manufacturer's National Association, [www.manaonline.org](http://www.manaonline.org), has a searchable database of manufacturer's representatives.

Gale publishes a very useful "American Wholesalers and Distributors Directory," which contains comprehensive and up-to-date information on wholesalers, forwarders, distributors, etc; go to [www.gale.com](http://www.gale.com).

All Go USA, Inc. is the US subsidiary of the Dutch parent company, All Go Transport BV, based in The Netherlands. It is a forwarding and logistics company, which specializes in assisting foreign exporters to the United States and US exporters overseas. Contact Arjan Braamskamp, Tel. 1-908-206-1021, Fax 1-908-206-0820, email [allgousa@aol.com](mailto:allgousa@aol.com).

In the Netherlands, a very good initial contact is the Holland International Distribution Council/ Nederland Distributieland, at [www.hidc.nl](http://www.hidc.nl), Tel +31 79 343 8119.

The Economic and Transportation Division staff of the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Washington, DC and the Economic Divisions of the Netherlands Consulates-General in the US can also be of assistance. Go to [www.netherlands-embassy.org](http://www.netherlands-embassy.org) for contact info.

**A. NEW BUSINESS IN US/N**

**7. What LAW firms could help me set up my business in the US?**

A. There are a number of Dutch and US law firms/lawyers that have expertise in US commercial law, including:

**Greenberg Traurig Amsterdam**, Strawinskylaan 3127, The Atrium, 8th Floor, 1077 ZX Amsterdam, tel 020 - 301 73 00, email: **Internet: [www.gtlaw.com/contact/offices/ams.asp](http://www.gtlaw.com/contact/offices/ams.asp)**

Jan J.H. Joosten (Nederlander), **Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP**, One Battery Park Plaza, New York, NY 10004-1482, Tel. 212 837 6802, 212 422 4726, email : [joosten@hugheshubbard.com](mailto:joosten@hugheshubbard.com), Internet: [www.hugheshubbard.com](http://www.hugheshubbard.com)

Frank J. Schuchat, Attorney at Law, **Ostema, Schuchat & Gitlin, LLC**, 1900 Wazee Street, Suite 202, Denver, CO 80202 USA, tel 303 295 9703, email: [fschuchat@osglaw.com](mailto:fschuchat@osglaw.com)

Richard Anderman, **Salans**, 620 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10020, tel 212 6325504, email: [randerman@salans.com](mailto:randerman@salans.com), internet: [www.salans.com](http://www.salans.com).

Thomas W. Soseman, **Thiedmann & Edler**, 222 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 1410, Chicago, Illinois 60606, tel 312 831 4440, email: [soseman@thiedmannedler.com](mailto:soseman@thiedmannedler.com), Internet : <http://www.lawyers.com/Illinois/Chicago/Thiedmann-and-Edler-935503-f.html>

Thomas Thorelli, Thorelli & Associates, 70 West Madison Street, Suite 5750, Chicago, IL 60602, USA, Tel 312 357 0300, email: [thorelli@thorelli.com](mailto:thorelli@thorelli.com), internet: [www.thorelli.com](http://www.thorelli.com).

Hans van Velzen (Nederlander), **Van Velzen C.S. Law Offices**, Postbus 4976, 4803 EZ Breda Vennekes 11, 4854 AR Bavel, tel 0161 – 437288, email: [yvcs.nl@vviworld.net](mailto:yvcs.nl@vviworld.net), Internet: [www.vviworld.net](http://www.vviworld.net).

Michiel Bloemsma, **Menaker & Herrman LLP**, 10 East 40<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10016, tel 212 545-1900, internet: [www.mhjur.com](http://www.mhjur.com).

Marcia B. Haffmans, Attorney at Law, **Haffmans Law**, 2015 Fremont Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55405, tel 612 377 0391, Internet: [www.haffmanslaw.com](http://www.haffmanslaw.com)

Marcel Booiman, **VisaVersa**, Kerksingel 7, 2951 GE Alblasserdam, Netherlands, tel. 078-751 8450, fax 078-751 8459, email: [info@visaversa.com](mailto:info@visaversa.com), Internet: [www.visaversa.com](http://www.visaversa.com)

## **B. FINDING BUSINESS, GOODS AND SERVICES IN THE US/NL**

### **1. What are some BANKS in the US/NL?**

**A.** For a good source of information on banking in the US and the Netherlands, look under the **Business and Economics** link at [www.netherlands-embassy.org](http://www.netherlands-embassy.org) then proceed to **Doing Business in the Netherlands** and scroll down to the **Finance, Commerce and Trade Links** section.

The following websites also provide a good deal of information:

[www.banksite.com](http://www.banksite.com)

US banks by state, with links to bank websites

<http://banken.pagina.nl>

Most of the Dutch banks can be found on this site

#### **Contact info for major Dutch banks:**

##### **ABN AMRO**

Head Office Amsterdam

Phone. +31 20 629 9111

Fax. +31 20 629 3590

[www.abnamro.nl](http://www.abnamro.nl)

##### **ING**

Head Office Amsterdam

Phone. +31 20 563 9111

Fax. +31 20 563 57 00

[www.ing.nl](http://www.ing.nl)

##### **RABOBANK**

Head Office Utrecht

Phone. +31 30 216 0000

Amsterdam. +31 20 460 4747

[www.rabobank.nl](http://www.rabobank.nl)

#### **Dutch Banks in the US:**

##### **ABN AMRO**

[http://www.abnamro.com/com/contact/united\\_states\\_of\\_america.jsp](http://www.abnamro.com/com/contact/united_states_of_america.jsp)

##### **ING**

[www.ing.com](http://www.ing.com) (select US)

##### **RABOBANK**

<http://www.rabobank.com/content/applications/offices/?countryCode=US>

## **B. FINDING BUSINESS, GOODS AND SERVICES IN THE US/NL**

### **2. Where can I find information on TRADE ASSOCIATIONS in the US/NL?**

A non-exhaustive list of trade associations can be found under the **Doing Business in the US** section at [www.netherlands-embassy.org](http://www.netherlands-embassy.org). Follow the link to **Trade Associations in the US**. You can also go to [http://dir.yahoo.com/Business\\_and\\_Economy/Organizations/Trade\\_Associations/](http://dir.yahoo.com/Business_and_Economy/Organizations/Trade_Associations/)

For Dutch trade associations (brancheorganisaties), look under the **Doing Business in the NL** section and follow the link to **Finance, Commerce, and Trade Links**.

A list of Dutch branch organizations can be found on the EVD web-site <http://www.evd.nl> as well as on the website of the major employers-employee trade association, [www.vno-ncw.nl](http://www.vno-ncw.nl). The trade association for the Dutch metal/electric trade association is [www.fme.nl](http://www.fme.nl), Chamber of Commerce is [www.kvk.nl](http://www.kvk.nl), and Small and Medium Size businesses [www.mkb.nl](http://www.mkb.nl).

**B. FINDING BUSINESS, GOODS AND SERVICES IN THE US/NL**

**3. Where can I find REAL ESTATE BROKERS or rREALTORS in the Netherlands?**

**A.** The following links offer information on brokers and realtors:

The NVM, [www.nvm.nl](http://www.nvm.nl), (Dutch Realtors Association) provides links to individual realtors via its website. Other info at <http://makeelaars-amsterdam.overzicht.nl>, Funda, [www.funda.nl](http://www.funda.nl) (an umbrella organization for realtors) and Remax Netherlands, [www.remax.nl](http://www.remax.nl).

**B. FINDING BUSINESS, GOODS AND SERVICES IN THE US/NL**

**4. Where can I find CONTACT INFORMATION FOR BUSINESSES in the Netherlands.**

A. To find specific businesses and their contact information, the following websites are helpful:

[www.detelefoongids.nl](http://www.detelefoongids.nl) (Dutch White Pages)

[www.goudengids.nl](http://www.goudengids.nl) (Dutch Yellow Pages)

[www.kvk.nl](http://www.kvk.nl) (Netherlands Chamber of Commerce)

[www.graydon.nl](http://www.graydon.nl) (Graydon Netherlands)

To find a specific type of business in/product from the Netherlands: [www.abcdirect.nl](http://www.abcdirect.nl) or [www.europages.com](http://www.europages.com) which This site lists 500,000 companies in 33 countries, including their type of activity, workforce and turnover. [www.fbg.nl](http://www.fbg.nl) provides fast results from a large database of more than 95.000 companies, professionals and organizations in over 2000 categories. The [www.kvk.nl](http://www.kvk.nl) site and the [www.buvoha.com](http://www.buvoha.com) site are likewise useful.

**B. FINDING BUSINESS, GOODS AND SERVICES IN THE US/NL**

**5. Where can I find aLIST of DUTCH COMPANIES in the US?**

**A.** The American Chamber of Commerce in the Netherlands (AMCHAM) publishes biennially a listing of US companies in the Netherlands and Dutch companies in the US. Go to [www.amcham.nl](http://www.amcham.nl), or call 011 31 70 365 9808 or fax 011 31 70 364 6992 or email [office@amcham.nl](mailto:office@amcham.nl) for more info.

**B. FINDING BUSINESS, GOODS AND SERVICES IN THE US/NL**

**6. I am in need of a LAWYER in the US/NL. Where should I start to look?**

A. General information on legal/notary/and other services can be found at [www.netherlands-embassy.org](http://www.netherlands-embassy.org) under the **Dutch Citizens Services** section. Follow the **Legal/Notary Services** link. The following are some other good resources to find a lawyer:

**Dutch lawyers in US**

[www.netherlands-embassy.org](http://www.netherlands-embassy.org)

see relevant parts of: 'zakendoen in de VS'

American lawyer in US: refer to local bar association:

[www.findlaw.com/06associations/state.html](http://www.findlaw.com/06associations/state.html)

<http://attorneypages.com/>

[www.lawyers.com](http://www.lawyers.com)

[www.lawlead.com/index.html](http://www.lawlead.com/index.html)

<http://directory.findlaw.com>

There are also a number of Dutch (speaking) lawyers in the US. Please contact the Netherlands Consulate General nearest to your desired location and ask them for a list of Dutch speaking lawyers in that resort.

If you are an American looking *for an attorney in the Netherlands*, go to [www.advocatenorde.nl](http://www.advocatenorde.nl) or contact the US Embassy in the Hague ([thehague.usembassy.gov/](http://thehague.usembassy.gov/)). Most large legal firms in the Netherlands have staff attorneys that are licensed to practice in the Netherlands and are familiar with American practices/US law. These large firms include:

De Brauw Blackstone Westbroek

Phone: 011 31 20 577 1771

Houthoff Buruma

Phone: 011 31 20 577 2000

Loyens Loeff

Phone: 011 31 20 578 5785

NautaDutilh

Phone: 011 31 20 541 4646

Stibbe

Phone: 011 31 20 546 06 06

**B. FINDING BUSINESS, GOODS AND SERVICES IN THE US/NL**

**7. I am in need of a DUTCH SPEAKING ACCOUNTANT in the US. Where should I start to look?**

There are also a number of Dutch (speaking) accountants in the US. Please contact the Economic Section of the Netherlands Consulate General nearest to your desired location and ask them for a list of Dutch speaking accountants in that resort.

**B. FINDING BUSINESS, GOODS AND SERVICES IN THE US/NL**

**8. I am looking for a SPECIFIC MANUFACTURER of a PRODUCT in the NL. Where can I look?**

A. Information is available at [www.netherlands-embassy.org](http://www.netherlands-embassy.org) under the **Doing Business in the NL** area and by clicking on the **US Business and Companies and the NL** link. You can also find information at the following websites:

[www.goudengids.nl](http://www.goudengids.nl) (yellow pages), [www.fbg.nl](http://www.fbg.nl) (company database), [www.abcdirect.nl](http://www.abcdirect.nl) (database by product), [www.hollandexports.nl](http://www.hollandexports.nl) (database by product), [www.buvoha.com](http://www.buvoha.com) (trade register), [www.vnci.nl](http://www.vnci.nl), [www.laboratorium.nl](http://www.laboratorium.nl) chemical trade association/products, [www.foodfromholland.com](http://www.foodfromholland.com) (dairy/ag products products), [www.produivel.nl](http://www.produivel.nl) (Dutch dairy board), [www.dutchandelicious.com](http://www.dutchandelicious.com) (Dutch food and consumer products), [www.holland.com](http://www.holland.com), <http://www.thehollandring.com/shops.shtml>

Dutch Tulips:

[www.tulipworld.com](http://www.tulipworld.com), [www.tulipbulbs.com](http://www.tulipbulbs.com), [www.growingtulips.com](http://www.growingtulips.com), [www.colorblends.com](http://www.colorblends.com), [www.dutchbulb.com](http://www.dutchbulb.com)

Specific questions on the export of Dutch agricultural products to the US can be directed to Ms. Caroline Feitel, of the Embassy's agriculture department at (202) 274 2719, or Bob Flagh or Marcel Pinckaers of the US Embassy in the Hague (Foreign Agricultural Service (landbouwbureau) at 31 70 310 9303/05

Finally, there are a number of Dutch consumer and specialty product importers in the US, including:

Kaas & Co, Norwalk CT  
Phone. 1800 KAASNCO  
Fax. 1 203 899 0579  
Web-site: [www.kaasnco.com](http://www.kaasnco.com)

All Things Dutch, Accord MA  
Phone. 1 800 879 3882  
Fax 1 888 883 8824  
Web-site: [www.AllThingsDutch.com](http://www.AllThingsDutch.com)

Dutch Sweets  
Fort Washington PA  
Phone: 215 855 5705  
Fax: 530 323 6439  
[www.dutchsweets.com](http://www.dutchsweets.com)

Hollindo-The Dutch Store  
9820 SW 77th Ave.  
Miami, FL 33156  
Tel: 305 595 8009

## **C. EXPORTS, IMPORTS and TAXES**

### **1. Where can I find INFORMATION on EXPORTING DUTCH PRODUCTS and SERVICES?**

**A.** You can find information on the Royal Netherlands Embassy website at [www.netherlands-embassy.org](http://www.netherlands-embassy.org) under the **Doing Business in the US** section. Follow the links entitled **Doing Business in the US** (in Dutch) or **Export Basics** (in Dutch). More information can be found at the following:

The Export Information Center (EIC) of the Netherlands Economic Information Service (EVD) accepts general inquiries at phone: +31 70 778 8888, e-mail: [aic@info.evd.nl](mailto:aic@info.evd.nl), or view the EVD's website at [www.evd.nl](http://www.evd.nl).

The Holland Exports trade information Directory is also a useful resource: [www.hollandexports.com](http://www.hollandexports.com), as is [www.abcdirect.nl](http://www.abcdirect.nl), [www.foodfromholland.com](http://www.foodfromholland.com), [www.export.nl](http://www.export.nl).

The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Washington, DC and the four Consulates-General can also provide information.

#### **Chicago**

Economic Section, general, 312 856-0110, [chi-ea@minbuza.nl](mailto:chi-ea@minbuza.nl)

Peter Verheyen (all trade questions), 312 856-0110 x512, [peter.verheyen@minbuza.nl](mailto:peter.verheyen@minbuza.nl)

Herbert Wennink (all trade questions) 312 856-0110, x542, [herbert.wennink@minbuza.nl](mailto:herbert.wennink@minbuza.nl)

#### **Los Angeles**

Economic Section, general, 310 268-1598, x1020, [los-ea@minbuza.nl](mailto:los-ea@minbuza.nl)

Jaap Veerman (all trade questions), 310 268-1598, x1022, [los-ea@minbuza.nl](mailto:los-ea@minbuza.nl)

Conny Lederer and Robert Matousek (all trade questions), 310 268-1598, x1022, [los-ea@minbuza.nl](mailto:los-ea@minbuza.nl)

#### **Miami**

Economic Section, general, 786 866-0486, [mia-ea@minbuza.nl](mailto:mia-ea@minbuza.nl)

Arend Gouw (all trade questions), 786 866-0483, [arend.gouw@minbuza.nl](mailto:arend.gouw@minbuza.nl)

Esther van Geloven (all trade questions), 786 866-0486, [esther-van.geloven@minbuza.nl](mailto:esther-van.geloven@minbuza.nl)

#### **New York**

Economic Section, general, 212 246 1429, [nyc-ea@minbuza.nl](mailto:nyc-ea@minbuza.nl)

Marielle van der Linden (trade, investment and distribution questions), [marielle-vander.linden@minbuza.nl](mailto:marielle-vander.linden@minbuza.nl)

Tineke de Vries (trade, energy and climate questions), [tineke-de.vries@minbuza.nl](mailto:tineke-de.vries@minbuza.nl)

Arjan Braamskamp (trade and life sciences questions), [arjan.braamskamp@minbuza.nl](mailto:arjan.braamskamp@minbuza.nl)

#### **San Mateo**

Netherlands Business Support Office (NBSO)

Ella van Gool, 650 356-0017, [ella@nbso-california.com](mailto:ella@nbso-california.com)

#### **Washington, DC**

Economic Division, general, 202 274-2615, [was-ea@minbuza.nl](mailto:was-ea@minbuza.nl)

Dale Morris (all trade questions), 202 274-2618, [dale.morris@minbuza.nl](mailto:dale.morris@minbuza.nl)

Suzanne de Groot (all trade questions), 202 274-2614, [suzanne-de.groot@minbuza.nl](mailto:suzanne-de.groot@minbuza.nl)

Agricultural Division, general, [WAS\\_LNV@minbuza.nl](mailto:WAS_LNV@minbuza.nl)

Caroline Feitel, (agricultural products questions), 202 274-2719, [caroline.feitel@minbuza.nl](mailto:caroline.feitel@minbuza.nl)

## **C. EXPORTS, IMPORTS and TAXES**

### **2. Where can I find information on IMPORTING INTO the NETHERLANDS (exporting from the US)?**

**A.** You can find information of the following websites:

These websites provide solid information:

The US Embassy in the Hague, <http://thehague.usembassy.gov/> (look in Commercial Service Section)

American Embassy The Hague, or refer to CG

The US Department of Commerce Trade Information Center, [www.export.gov/tic](http://www.export.gov/tic)

The US International Trade Agency, <http://www.usitc.gov/>

The Dutch Customs, [www.douane.nl](http://www.douane.nl) (some english language info)

The Netherlands Chamber of Commerce, [www.kvk.nl](http://www.kvk.nl)

For importing logistical information, contact:

Amsterdam Port Authority, [www.amsterdamports.nl](http://www.amsterdamports.nl)

Port of Rotterdam, [www.portofrotterdam.com](http://www.portofrotterdam.com)

Port of Amsterdam, [www.portofamsterdam.com](http://www.portofamsterdam.com)

The Royal Netherlands Embassy in Washington, DC and the four Consulates-General can also provide information.

#### **Chicago**

Economic Section, general, 312 856-0110, [chi-ea@minbuza.nl](mailto:chi-ea@minbuza.nl)

Peter Verheyen (all trade questions), x512, [peter.verheyen@minbuza.nl](mailto:peter.verheyen@minbuza.nl)

Herbert Wennink (all trade questions) 312 856-0110, x542, [herbert.wennink@minbuza.nl](mailto:herbert.wennink@minbuza.nl)

#### **Los Angeles**

Economic Section, general, 310 268-1598, x1020, [los-ea@minbuza.nl](mailto:los-ea@minbuza.nl)

Jaap Veerman (all trade questions), 310 268-1598, x1022, [los-ea@minbuza.nl](mailto:los-ea@minbuza.nl)

Conny Lederer (all trade questions), 310 268-1598, x1022, [los-ea@minbuza.nl](mailto:los-ea@minbuza.nl)

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Arend Gouw (all trade questions), 786 866-0483, [arend.gouw@minbuza.nl](mailto:arend.gouw@minbuza.nl)

Esther van Geloven (all trade questions), 786 866-0486, [esther-van.geloven@minbuza.nl](mailto:esther-van.geloven@minbuza.nl)

#### **New York**

Economic Section, general, 212 246 1429, [nyc-ea@minbuza.nl](mailto:nyc-ea@minbuza.nl)

Marielle van der Linden (trade, investment and distribution questions), 212 246-1429, x238,

[marielle-vander.linden@minbuza.nl](mailto:marielle-vander.linden@minbuza.nl)

#### **San Mateo**

Netherlands Business Support Office (NBSO)

Ella van Gool, 650 356-0017, [ella@nbsso-california.com](mailto:ella@nbsso-california.com)

#### **Washington, DC**

Economic Division, general, 202 274-2615, [was-ea@minbuza.nl](mailto:was-ea@minbuza.nl)

Dale Morris (all trade questions), 202 274-2618, [dale.morris@minbuza.nl](mailto:dale.morris@minbuza.nl)

Suzanne de Groot (all trade questions), 202 274-2614, [suzanne-de.groot@minbuza.nl](mailto:suzanne-de.groot@minbuza.nl)

Agricultural Division, general, [WAS\\_LNV@minbuza.nl](mailto:WAS_LNV@minbuza.nl)

Caroline Feitel, (agricultural products questions), 202 274-2719, [caroline.feitel@minbuza.nl](mailto:caroline.feitel@minbuza.nl)

C. **EXPORTS, IMPORTS and TAXES**

3. **Where can I find out INFORMATION on TAXES (business and otherwise)?**

A. The Royal Netherlands Embassy has an extensive section on taxes relative to business. Look at [www.netherlands-embassy.org](http://www.netherlands-embassy.org) under the heading **Doing Business in the NL**. The **Tax Questions, US-NL Tax Treaty**, and the **Tax in the NL** links should all be helpful.

The Dutch tax system is explained in a publication on the websites of the Dutch Tax Service, [www.belastingdienst.nl](http://www.belastingdienst.nl) and the Ministry of Finance [www.minfin.nl](http://www.minfin.nl). More, the US Embassy in the Hague provides access to a brochure entitled 'Taxation in the Netherlands' at <http://thehague.usembassy.gov/>. An other source of info is [www.taxsites.com](http://www.taxsites.com).

The US tax system is explained at [www.irs.ustreas.gov](http://www.irs.ustreas.gov) and [www.taxsites.com](http://www.taxsites.com). US Customs also maintains a website at [www.customs.gov](http://www.customs.gov).

**D. EXPORTS, IMPORTS and TAXES**

**4. Can I BRING a DAIRY PRODUCT or a MEAT product INTO the NETHERLANDS for NON-COMMERCIAL purposes?**

Under EU rules which went into effect in 2003 it is not allowed to bring any dairy or meat products into the European Union for personal consumption unless accompanied by a health certificate issued by the competent authorities. Travellers will, however be allowed to bring in powdered infant milk, infant food and special foods required for medical reasons provided that (i) the product does not require refrigeration before consumption; (ii) it is a packaged proprietary brand product; and (iii) the packaging of the product is unbroken.

The import of any other personal consignments of meat, meat products, milk or milk products will only be permitted subject to declaration of the goods on arrival together with the necessary official veterinary documentation - i.e. the same conditions as for commercial imports.

**C. EXPORTS, IMPORTS and TAXES**

**5. Can I bring a FOOD PRODUCT other than a DAIRY or meat product INTO the Netherlands?**

Generally pre-packaged food products, (except dairy and meats, see above) in small amounts that do not require refrigeration before consumption and are for personal consumption can be brought in. Examples are breakfast cereals, peanut butter, pasta, cake mixes, confectionary. If you have a question about bringing in a food product into the Netherlands, please contact the Agricultural Office at the Netherlands Embassy by email: [WAS-LNV@minbuza.nl](mailto:WAS-LNV@minbuza.nl)

**C. EXPORTS, IMPORTS and TAXES**

- 6. I represent a Dutch company that is interested in EXPORTING FOODS and AGRICULTURAL products TO the UNITED STATES. What are the US IMPORT REQUIREMENTS for these products?**

Information on US import requirements for food and agricultural products is available at [www.netherlands-embassy.org](http://www.netherlands-embassy.org) under the **Agricultural & Food** section, followed by the **Trade & Industry** link and by clicking on the **US Import Requirements for Food and Agricultural Products** document. This guidance is in Dutch. If you have a question about exporting foods and agricultural products to the United States, please contact the Agricultural Office at the Netherlands Embassy by email: [WAS-LNV@minbuza.nl](mailto:WAS-LNV@minbuza.nl)

**C. EXPORTS, IMPORTS and TAXES**

**7. I am looking for INFORMATION on the AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN the UNITED STATES. Where can I find information?**

- A. The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides extensive information on the US agriculture sector through their website. In particular the Economic Research Service (ERS), the economic service of the USDA provides detailed reports on many ag related issues and topics. The website of the ERS is: <http://www.ers.usda.gov>  
For statistical information on the US agricultural sector, please visit the website of the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) of the USDA: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>

**D. ECONOMY, WAGES and GENERAL INFO for the US/NL**

**1. Where can I find information on the EUROPEAN UNION and the EURO?**

**A.** General information on the Dutch relationship with the EU can be found at the website of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs [www.minbuza.nl](http://www.minbuza.nl) in the “European Cooperation” section.

Information on the EU can be found at <http://europa.eu.int>. The European Commission maintains an office in Washington, DC and its website is [www.eurunion.org](http://www.eurunion.org).

For information on the Euro (the European Union’s common currency) go to: [www.euro.ecb.int](http://www.euro.ecb.int) or to [www.minfin.nl](http://www.minfin.nl) (info in English via ‘Europa’ to ‘Emu en Euro’), or to [www.euro.nl](http://www.euro.nl) (Dutch language only).

For information current exchange rates, see your local newspaper or go to [www.xe.com/ucc/](http://www.xe.com/ucc/).

## **D. ECONOMY, WAGES and GENERAL INFO for the US/NL**

### **2. Where can I receive GENERAL INFORMATION on the AMERICAN ECONOMY?**

If you are a Dutch businessman/woman looking for info on the US economy, you can use any of the websites below. You may also contact the EVD in the Netherlands ([www.evd.nl](http://www.evd.nl)) or the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Washington or the Netherlands Consulates-General in New York, Miami, Chicago and Los Angeles ([www.netherlands-embassy.org](http://www.netherlands-embassy.org)) or the Netherlands Business Support Office ([www.nbso-california.com](http://www.nbso-california.com)).

[www.commerce.gov](http://www.commerce.gov)

US Department of Commerce

[www.bls.gov/eag](http://www.bls.gov/eag)

BLS-US economy at a glance

[www.fedstats.gov/imf](http://www.fedstats.gov/imf)

FedStats: economic and financial data US

[www.bea.gov](http://www.bea.gov)

US Bureau of Economic Analysis

<http://www.bea.gov/newsreleases/glance.htm>

US BEA-Overview of the economy

[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

U.S. Census Bureau

## **D. ECONOMY, WAGES and GENERAL INFO for the US/NL**

### **3. Where can I receive GENERAL INFORMATION on the NL ECONOMY?**

**A.** If you are a US businessman/woman looking for information on the Dutch economy, you can use any of the websites below. You may also wish to contact the US Embassy in the Hague (Commercial Services Division) or the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Washington or the Netherlands Consulates-General in New York, Miami, Chicago and Los Angeles ([www.netherlands-embassy.org](http://www.netherlands-embassy.org))

[www.hollandtrade.com](http://www.hollandtrade.com), Netherlands Foreign Trade Agency, official information on Dutch economy and business opportunities in the Netherlands

[www.minbuza.nl](http://www.minbuza.nl), Ministry of Foreign Affairs

[www.tradeport.org](http://www.tradeport.org), An American web-site with general and branch info and investment info world-wide  
Go to: 'market research', 'country library'

[www.cbs.nl](http://www.cbs.nl), 'Centraal Bureau voor de Statistiek', also in English

[www.ez.nl](http://www.ez.nl), Ministry of Economic Affairs (Ministerie van Economische Zaken) gives info in English on trade and Industry in the Netherlands

[www.nfia.com](http://www.nfia.com), the Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency

[www.dnb.nl](http://www.dnb.nl), the Netherlands Central Bank

[www.buyusa.gov/netherlands/en/](http://www.buyusa.gov/netherlands/en/), the US Commercial Service

**D. ECONOMY, WAGES and GENERAL INFO for the US/NL**

**4. I am interested in learning more about WAGES in the US/NL. Where can I find information?**

A. The following are very good resources:

**Minimum wages in the US:**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics, [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov), is the principal fact-finding agency for the Federal Government in the broad field of labor economics and statistics. BLS provides information on wage trends and wage laws, and it publishes detailed wage and benefit information through the National Compensation Survey (searchable database, available online).

The Department of Labor, [www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov), enforces the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), which sets basic minimum wage and overtime pay standards. These standards are enforced by the Department's Wage and Hour Division, a program of the Employment Standards Administration.

The Small Business Administration, [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov) and [www.businesslaw.gov](http://www.businesslaw.gov), provides useful information.

**Minimum wages in the NL:**

There is very little up-to-date information *in english* about the minimum wage in the Netherlands. According to the website of the Netherlands Ministry of Social Affairs, the current minimum wage is 58.74 euros per day, 293.70 euros per week, and 1272.60 euros per month. Workers under the age of 23 can be paid a specified percentage of the minimum wage (like a training wage). Given that a number of other conditions apply to the minimum wage, and given that the “net” minimum wage can vary per sector, the above amounts are only a global indication. You are advised to contact a Dutch trade association for further details.

Information on the minimum wage in the Netherlands *in the Dutch language* can be found at [www.szw.nl](http://www.szw.nl).

**E. QUESTIONABLE BUSINESS/FRAUD**

**1. I have been approached by a lottery/bank/trust fund through e-mail CLAIMING that I won a big prize/LARGE AMOUNT of MONEY**

**A.** You are right to be concerned about the company you mention and the winning of the lottery/a large amount of money: this concerns a scam. First, the lottery company may not be registered at the Chamber of Commerce in the Netherlands, which is mandatory in the Netherlands for a company to exist. The address and phone number if mentioned may be non-existing or a cell phone number. Cell phone numbers in the Netherlands begin with 60, 61, 62 etc up to 69, which would follow the 31 country code for the Netherlands.

Please note that lotteries in the Netherlands are always ruled and controlled by the government, just like in the US. Winners will never be notified by email, neither are there any winners who did not personally purchase a lottery ticket. There are also no known versions of “international lotteries.” All of these schemes are most likely fraudulent and connected to a well-known financial crime from West Africa in the 1980s. These schemes have become known as “Nigerian Bank Fraud,” “Advance Fee Fraud,” and “Section 4-1-9 Fraud.”

For more details see the Press Release “**Advance Fee Fraud**” under our **Business in the Netherlands** section on [www.netherlands-embassy.org](http://www.netherlands-embassy.org) or the following websites:

<http://home.rica.net/alphae/419coal/>

Nigeria – The 419 Coalition Website

[www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis\\_987.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis_987.html)

Tips for Business travelers to Nigeria

[www.nigerianscams.com](http://www.nigerianscams.com)

[www.fraud.org](http://www.fraud.org)

The U.S. Secret Service has instructed anyone in the US who has lost funds because of this scam to forward appropriate written documentation to: U.S. Secret Service, Financial Crimes Division, 950 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20001, (202) 406-5850, or send email using the Secret Service form found on the website [www.secretservice.gov/financial\\_crimes.shtml](http://www.secretservice.gov/financial_crimes.shtml).

Finally, we strongly advise you do not try to get in touch with them anymore. Hang up the phone when they call you, do not respond to their emails and do not call or email them yourself.

**E. QUESTIONABLE BUSINESS/FRAUD**

**2. How can I determine if a business is a LEGITIMATE business in the Netherlands/US. How can I perform a BACKGROUND check on the business?**

For companies in the Netherlands the Royal Netherlands Embassy and the Netherlands Consulates-General in the US may have knowledge of Dutch businesses and their legitimacy. You can find contact information for NABID, the Embassy and the Consulates-General at [www.netherlands-embassy.org](http://www.netherlands-embassy.org).

You can also search for information at the following websites

**For companies in the US:**

There is no required national registration of businesses in the US, but each business must, in one way or another, have approval to operate in one of the 50 US states. Most State Governments require businesses to register with the Secretary of State in that state. The following website will link you to each State's registrar of business, through which you can search that State's database of businesses registered to operate in that State, [www.statelocalgov.net/50states-secretary-state.cfm](http://www.statelocalgov.net/50states-secretary-state.cfm).

You can also search the database of the US Better Business Bureau to determine if a company has had a claim filed against it, [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org). Skyminder, [www.skyminder.com](http://www.skyminder.com), Graydon USA, [www.graydoninternational.com](http://www.graydoninternational.com), Dun and Bradstreet, [www.dnb.com](http://www.dnb.com), and Smith Brandon International, [www.smithbrandon.com](http://www.smithbrandon.com), are all useful sites, some of which require a subscription/fee.

**For companies in the Netherlands:**

All Companies operating in the Netherlands must register with their local Chamber of Commerce. To see if a business is legitimate, you can contact the Netherlands Chamber at [www.kvk.nl](http://www.kvk.nl). Experian, [www.experian.nl](http://www.experian.nl), Graydon, [www.graydon.nl](http://www.graydon.nl) and Dun and Bradstreet, [www.dnb.com](http://www.dnb.com) maintain useful sites. Via the US Embassy in the Hague, Commercial Services Division, you can order (for a fee) an International Company Profile (ICP) report. The report includes the Commercial Specialist's opinion of the reputation and reliability of the Dutch company and the relative strength of the Dutch company in its industry; names, addresses and contact information of senior level management; and a company profile including information such as size of the company, number of years in business, product/service lines.

Go to: [www.buyusa.gov/netherlands/en](http://www.buyusa.gov/netherlands/en)

## **F. TRAVEL & MOVING**

### **1. What are the VISA/ENTRY REQUIREMENTS for Dutch travelers to the US? For US travelers to the Netherlands?**

#### **For Dutch Travelers/Businessmen to the US.**

The Netherlands is included in the US Visa Waiver Program (VWP). In order to enter the US under the VWP and the Netherlands, the traveler must meet all of the below requirements:

Be a citizen of the Netherlands

Have a valid passport issued by the Netherlands that is valid for sixth months beyond the intended visit

Have a machine-readable passport

Be seeking entry into the US for 90 days or less as a temporary visitor for business or pleasure. You will not be allowed to change your status or length of stay under the VWP.

If entering by air or sea, have a round-trip transportation ticket issued on a carrier that has signed an agreement with the U.S. government to participate in the VWP, and arrive in the United States aboard such a carrier.

Hold a completed and signed Nonimmigrant Visa Waiver Arrival-Departure Record, Form I-94W, on which you have waived the right of review or appeal of an immigration officer's determination about admissibility, or deportation. These forms are available from participating carriers, travel agents, and at land-border ports-of-entry

Have no visa ineligibilities. This means if you have been refused a visa before, have a criminal record or are ineligible for a visa you cannot travel on the Visa Waiver Program. You must apply for a visa to the U.S.

NOTE: A citizen of a VWP country must apply for a visa when they:

Want to work or study in the US

Have been refused a visa or admission to the US before

Have a criminal record

OR are ineligible for a visa

If you do not meet all of the requirements of the VWP, a non-immigrant visa allows you to travel to a U.S. port-of-entry (airport, for example) and request permission of the Department of Homeland Security immigration inspector to enter the U.S.

For more information on the Visa Waiver Program, go to:

[http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without\\_1990.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without_1990.html)

#### **Business and Other Temporary Visas**

If you do not meet VWP requirements, you will have to apply for a visitor visa at the US Consulate General in Amsterdam ([thehague.usembassy.gov](http://thehague.usembassy.gov)). Note further that the requisite appointments and visa document processing time can be considerable, so plan accordingly.

For more information on Visitors Visas for Business and Pleasure, go to:

[http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types\\_1262.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1262.html)

For more information on Temporary Visa Types, go to:

[http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types\\_1286.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1286.html)

For information on Visa Wait Times, go to:

[http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/wait/tempvisitors\\_wait.php](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/wait/tempvisitors_wait.php)

#### **Working in US**

If you want to temporarily work in the US, you will need a specific type of visa, depending on the work to be done. Most temporary worker categories require the approval of a petition by the US Department of Homeland Security (US Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (USBCIS)) before you can apply for your visa. In order to be considered as a nonimmigrant under any classifications, the applicant's prospective employer or agent must file Form I-129, Petition for Nonimmigrant Worker, with the USBCIS. Once approved, the employer or agent is sent a notice of approval, Form I-797.

Two of the more common visa classifications are as follows:

**H-1B:**

This classification applies to persons in a specialty occupation, which requires the theoretical and practical application of a body of highly specialized knowledge requiring completion of a specific course of higher education.

**L:**

This classification applies to intra-company transferees who, within the three preceding years, have been employed abroad continuously for one year, and who will be employed by a branch, parent, affiliate, or subsidiary of that same employer in the U.S. in a managerial, executive, or specialized knowledge capacity. There are no annual numerical limits on this classification.

For more information on visa classifications for Temporary Workers or to see more information on required documentation, please visit: [http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types\\_1271.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1271.html)

**For US Travelers/Businessmen to the Netherlands.**

Detailed information can be found at [www.netherlands-embassy.org](http://www.netherlands-embassy.org). Under the **Other Citizens Services** area, follow to the **Visa for US Citizens** section, and click on the **Tourist & Business Visa - US Citizens - Netherlands** link.

Visits of 90 days or less do not require a visa. Visits of 90 days or more will require a Temporary Residence Permit as well as a visa. Only in exceptional cases, the Embassy and Consulates-General of the Netherlands process applications for a stay beyond the three-months' period. If you intend to work in the Netherlands, apart from the Temporary Residence Permit, a work permit will also be required.

For more information on work permits, please visit the Netherlands Board of Work and Income at:

[www.werk.nl](http://www.werk.nl)

More information can also be received from the Dutch Immigration and Naturalization Service website at:

[www.ind.nl](http://www.ind.nl)

All Visa Waiver Program travelers are now required to obtain a travel authorization via the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) prior to traveling to the US under the Visa Waiver Program. ESTA is accessible online at: <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/> The information required to fill out the ESTA application is similar to the information currently requested on the paper I-94W form. Travel authorization via ESTA is valid for multiple entries into the US (generally for up to two years or until the traveler's passport expires, whichever comes first).

## **F. TRAVEL & MOVING**

### **2. Can I bring MONEY/VALUABLES to NL. How much can I bring into the Netherlands? What about the Value-Added Tax?**

**A.** Contact Dutch Customs for specific information at [www.douane.nl](http://www.douane.nl), tel + 31 45 574 3031 (8.00 – 20.00 Netherlands time Mon-Thurs and 0800-1700 Fridays).  
Schiphol Airport, [www.schiphol.com](http://www.schiphol.com), also has a customs office, which you can use if you have questions regarding arrival at the airport. Phone. +31 20 316 4710 (or 4711, 4712, 4735)

For information regarding refunds of Value-Added Tax levied on purchases made in the Netherlands, go to [www.holland.com](http://www.holland.com) general information, the FAQ and search for VAT refund. Information is also available at **Global Refund Holland BV**, [www.globalrefund.com](http://www.globalrefund.com).

**F. TRAVEL & MOVING**

**3. Can I bring... How much can I bring into the US?**

**A.** Contact US Customs, [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov), for specific information. Generally, all wildlife (including parts and products) must be imported or exported through designated ports. The CPB website has information on import procedures and specifics on each designated port.

## **F. TRAVEL & MOVING**

### **4. Can I bring my WEAPON into the Netherlands?**

**A.** All persons who transit through or visit the Netherlands and carry a firearm in their luggage are required to obtain permission from the Customs (CDIU) in the Netherlands before traveling to the Netherlands. If the permission is granted the CDIU will inform the Royal Police (who perform immigration and customs checks) at Schiphol Airport. The applicant will receive a copy of the permission by fax or mail. Please note the traveler is required to obtain a permit for every transit or visit.

Note, as the traveler is not authorized to carry a firearm under Dutch law, the weapon in transit must be stored in a secure area during the transit or visit in the Netherlands. The Royal Police or Customs at Schiphol do not provide storage space. Travelers can bring their weapon to Westpoint Shooting Club, Amstelveenseweg 1, 1054 MB Amsterdam (take the train to Lelylaan, the tram to beginning of "Overtoom").

## **F. TRAVEL & MOVING**

### **5. I am MOVING to the Netherlands. Where can I find some information to ease this transition?**

Under the **Dutch/Other Citizens Services** section at [www.netherlands-embassy.org](http://www.netherlands-embassy.org), information is provided by following the **Moving** link. You can also find information from Dutch Customs, [www.douane.nl](http://www.douane.nl), the US Embassy in the Hague, [thehague.usembassy.gov](http://thehague.usembassy.gov), US Customs [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov), Epat Netherlands, [www.xpat.nl](http://www.xpat.nl), and Expatica, [www.expatica.com](http://www.expatica.com), the American Women's Club of Amsterdam, [www.awca.nl](http://www.awca.nl) and the The Newcomer's Club Directory, [www.newcomersclub.com](http://www.newcomersclub.com).

Information on visas, passports, residency permits, etc can also be found on the Royal Netherlands Embassy website at [www.netherlands-embassy.org](http://www.netherlands-embassy.org).

**G. DIRECTORIES**

- 1. I need a phone number of a Dutch/U.S. company or a private person in the NL/US. Where do I look?**

**A.** For Dutch businesses go to Gouden Gids in the Netherlands at <http://www.goudengids.nl/>

For US businesses go to the Yellow Pages in the USA at <http://www.yellowpages.com/Index.aspx>

For private individuals check the Dutch White Pages at <http://www.nationalelefoongids.nl/>  
or the US White Pages at <http://www.whitepages.com/>