

What is the Basic Entry Process for US FTZ?

For goods or merchandise arriving in the Customs territory of the US from a Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ), the zone operator must clear goods with Customs prior to the goods leaving the zone. The merchandise will not be considered legally entered until Customs authorizes the release of the merchandise.

ENTRY OF GOODS FROM A ZONE TYPICALLY IS A TWO-STEP PROCESS

The collage features several key elements: a gold padlock and keys on the left; a photograph of a customs officer in a yellow vest with 'CUSTOMS AND PROTECTION' on the back, looking at a computer monitor; a photograph of a large cargo ship; a photograph of US dollar bills; and two forms from the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The forms are 'ENTRY/IMMEDIATE DELIVERY' (Form 3461) and 'ENTRY SUMMARY' (Form 7501). A yellow sticky note with the word 'Duty' is placed over the dollar bills.

1 Operator or Customs Broker files basic documentation (or data) to secure the release of the goods or merchandise. This is called the "Entry" or Customs Form (CF) 3461. The 3461 is an estimate to cover all goods anticipated to be shipped into the US Commerce over a 7-day period of time.

2 Operator or Customs Broker files an "Entry Summary" or CF 7501, which is filed to provide any additional paperwork or data required by Customs and to pay duty. The 7501 is done after the goods ship from the zone into the US Commerce, and is an accurate report of all the actual activity for the week.

DON'T FORGET →

After the zone week is completed, the entry summary documentation (which includes the CF 7501 and all documentation or data from the initial entry) must be filed within ten working days from the date of entry which is the start date of zone week.

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