UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-0001

FTSR Letter No. 169

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To: U.S. Customs Service Headquarters, Customs Management Centers, Port Directors, Foreign Trade Zone Operators, Department of Commerce District Offices, Freight Forwarders, Exporters, Exporting Carriers, Consolidators, and All Others Concerned

From: U.S. Census Bureau (Census Bureau) and
U.S. Customs Service (Customs)

Subject: Reporting Requirements for Exports from Foreign Trade Zones (FTZ)

This is to emphasize the reporting requirements contained in the Customs Regulations, Title 19 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 146, "Foreign Trade Zones," and in the Customs Foreign Trade Zone Manual, Chapter 9, regarding the exportation of merchandise from a FTZ. There is concern among Census Bureau and Customs officials that merchandise is being exported from FTZs without the proper export documents being filed with Customs at the port of export. Zone exporters (sellers), forwarding agents, and carriers are reminded that, in addition to adhering to the Customs regulations and FTZ operating procedures, they must also adhere to all Federal government export laws and regulations that apply to the exportation of merchandise from the United States.

For Census Bureau statistical reporting purposes, all merchandise removed from FTZs for export out of the United States must be reported in the same manner as for all other exportations at the Customs port of export on the paper Shipper's Export Declaration (SED) via the carrier, or electronically using the Automated Export System (AES). For exports out of the United States, zone exporters must follow the instructions in the FTZ Manual, Chapter 9, § 9.12(h), and the Census Bureau's Foreign Trade Statistics Regulations (FTSR) in Title 15 CFR, Part 30. Sections 30.4 and 30.7, of the FTSR, contain provisions for preparing and filing the paper SED, and Section 30.63 contains provisions for filing the export data electronically using the AES.

For Customs purposes, zone operators are also required to follow appropriate Customs Regulations in Title 19 CFR, Part 146, and the FTZ Manual regarding admission of merchandise into the FTZ and the transfer of merchandise out of the FTZ, either for consumption within the United States or for export out of the United States. In general, FTZ operators must ensure that merchandise is admitted to the FTZ on a Customs Form (CF)-214, "Application for Foreign Trade Zone Admission And/Or Status Designation." Per § 146.32(a), the applicant for admission must present the CF-214 to the Port Director and must also include a statistical (pink) copy on CF 214-A for transmittal to the Census Bureau, unless the applicant has made arrangements for the electronic transmission of statistical information to the Census Bureau through the automated FTZ reporting program. Merchandise must be transferred out of the FTZ on a CF-7512, "Transportation Entry and Manifest of Goods Subject to Customs Inspection and Permit." If the merchandise is being exported out of the United States, the paper SED must be filed with Customs as specified above, or filed electronically using the AES.

Every effort must be made by zone exporters, forwarding agents, carriers, and zone operators to comply with these requirements. If you have any questions concerning these requirements, please contact the Regulations, Outreach, and Education Branch, Foreign Trade Division, Census Bureau, on 301-457-2238, or the Director, Outbound Programs, Customs, on 202-927-6060.

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