

ENTRY OF GOODS

2. ENTRY PROCESS

When a shipment reaches the United States, the importer of record (i.e., the owner, purchaser, or licensed customs broker designated by the owner, purchaser, or consignee) will file entry documents for the goods with the port director at the goods' port of entry. Imported goods are not legally entered until after the shipment has arrived within the port of entry, delivery of the merchandise has been authorized by Customs, and estimated duties have been paid. It is the importer of record's responsibility to arrange for examination and release of the goods.

Pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 1484, the importer of record must use reasonable care in making entry.

NOTE: In addition to contacting the U.S. Customs Service, importers should contact other agencies when questions arise about particular commodities. For example, questions about products regulated by the Food and Drug Administration should be forwarded to the nearest FDA district office (check local phone book under U.S. government listings) or to the Import Division, FDA Headquarters, 301.443.6553. The same is true for alcohol, tobacco, firearms, wildlife products (furs, skins, shells), motor vehicles, and other products and merchandise regulated by the other federal agencies for which Customs enforces entry laws. Appropriate agencies are identified in Chapter 360.

Addresses and phone numbers for these agencies are listed in the appendix.

Goods may be entered for consumption, entered for warehouse at the port of arrival, or they may be transported in-bond to another port of entry and entered there under the same conditions as at the port of arrival. Arrangements for transporting the merchandise in-bond to an in-land port may be made by the consignee or by a customs broker or by any other person with an interest in the goods for that purpose. Unless your merchandise arrives directly at the port where you wish to enter it, you may be charged additional fees by the carrier for transportation to that port unless other arrangements have been made. Under some circumstances, your goods may be released through your local Customs port even though they arrive at another port from a foreign country. Prior to the goods' arrival, arrangements for entry must be made at the Customs port where you intend to file your duties and documentation.

Goods to be placed in a foreign trade zone are not entered at the customhouse. See Chapter 41 for more information on foreign trade zones.