

What is a Foreign-Trade Zone?

A Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ) is a site within the United States, in or near a U.S. Customs port of entry, where foreign and domestic merchandise is generally considered to be international commerce. The rapidly growing zone program is flexible and offers solutions to business issues not addressed by other custom procedures.

Created by Congress in 1934, Foreign-Trade Zones serve our national interest by creating job opportunities and lowering the cost of production. FTZ users realize cost savings through tariff relief and time savings through reduction of paperwork.

Zones offer a mechanism for deferring or eliminating duties on merchandise brought into the United States. Duties are paid if and when the materials enter the domestic market. No duties are paid if the merchandise is re-exported.

Port of Battle Creek & Foreign-Trade Zone 43

The Port of Battle Creek, Michigan, is an uncongested inland port of entry, where imports clear Customs in a timely manner. Unlike larger coastal ports, goods may arrive in the morning, be cleared by U.S. Customs, then move to the factory floor by afternoon. The Port of Battle Creek is midway between Detroit and Chicago on the I-94 transportation corridor. Sixty-percent of both U.S. and Canadian consumer markets can be reached by overnight shipping from Battle Creek.



The Port of Battle Creek brings nearly forty years of service to the Southwest Michigan region. Two full-time U.S. Customs personnel serve the port and W.K. Kellogg Airport, allowing for convenient clearances of international aircraft arrivals.

With assistance from FTZ 43 at the Port of Battle Creek, a Foreign-Trade Zone designation may be accomplished within 30 days at the existing site. Businesses within the 14-county service area of FTZ 43 have no need to relocate their operations to take advantage of FTZ services. The 14-counties include: Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Clinton, Hillsdale, Ionia, Kalamazoo, Jackson, Ottawa, St. Joseph and Van Buren.



Merchandise entering a Zone may be:

- *Assembled*
- *Cleaned*
- *Destroyed*
- *Displayed*
- *Mixed*
- *Manipulated*
- *Manufactured*
- *Processed*
- *Re-labeled*
- *Repackaged*
- *Repaired*
- *Salvaged*
- *Sampled*
- *Stored*
- *Tested*

Discover the Benefits & Advantages

- Avoid fines for improper labeling.
- Avoid duties on goods to be re-exported.
- Save on the cost of temporary import bonds for goods to be re-exported.
- Pay no duty on waste, scrap, shrinkage or destroyed goods.
- Reduce time delays when processing raw materials through U.S. Customs.
- Hold items that are currently constrained by quota limitations.
- Display and demonstrate products without paying duty.
- Return damaged or defective goods prior to payment of duty.
- Select, in advance, the lowest possible tariff calculation to be used on specific goods.

FTZ's are commonly used for:

- Importing finished goods for domestic markets.
- Importing finished or partly finished goods for processing and domestic sale or re-export.
- Importing raw materials, parts or components for manufacturing and sale in the United States or foreign markets.
- Holding high value merchandise in a secure environment until sold.