

CBP Customs and Trade Automated Interface Requirements

Glossary

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U.S. Customs and
Border Protection



Glossary

The Glossary identifies document-specific and ACS terminology and is provided for reference.

ABI	Automated Broker Interface. An integral part of the Automated Commercial System (ACS), ABI is the means by which brokers or importers transmit entry and release data to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). ABI entries are identified by either an ABI/N (non-statement) or ABI/S (statement) next to the entry type code in block 2 of the CBP Form CBPF-7501, Entry Summary. Through ABI, brokers are permitted to pay entries individually (non-statement) or by batch (statement).
ACH	Automated Clearinghouse. An electronic payment program that allows ABI filers to pay CBP duties, taxes, and fees with one electronic transaction.
ACS	Automated Commercial System. The system used by CBP to track, control, and process all commercial goods imported into the United States.
ADD/CVD	Antidumping/Countervailing Duty
AII	Automated Invoice Interface
Alpha or Alphabetic	All letters, A through Z, and spaces.
Alphanumeric	Having only letter, numbers and spaces.
AMS	Automated Manifest System for air and ocean carriers.
Antidumping Duty	Selling below home market prices or cost of manufacture with material injury to an U.S. manufacturer is called dumping. Antidumping duties are levied upon further importation of the merchandise.
Application Identifier	A 2-position code in a record which identifies the type of application data in the transaction file and the task to be performed; for example, EI = Entry Summary Input.
Automated Invoice Interface (AII)	AII permits invoice data to be transmitted electronically to the CBP Data Center.
Beef and Pork Fee	An assessment collected on importation of cattle, hogs, beef, pork and products. The assessment varies according to tariff number. The class code for beef is 053 and 054 for pork.
Bill of Lading	A negotiable instrument that allows the carrier to transport a merchandise shipment from a shipper to a consignee.
Bill of Lading Number	The alphanumeric code issued by a carrier that references an individual cargo shipment in a manifest.
Block Control Header Record	Often referred to as the B record, this header record identifies the detail data to follow and also allows for separating data into groups by districts/ports of processing or filers.
Block Control Trailer Record	Commonly referred to as the Y record, this trailer record is paired with the block control header record and signals the end of the block of data.
Blueberry Fee	An assessment collected on imported blueberries. The class code is 106.

Cargo Release	Delivery authorized by CBP permitting merchandise to enter the commerce of the United States.
CBI	Caribbean Basin Initiative resulting from the Caribbean Economic Recovery Act.
CBPF-3461	CBP Form (CBPF) 3461, Entry/Immediate Delivery.
CBPF-7501	CBP Form (CBPF) 7501, Entry Summary
Character	Having letters, numbers, or special characters such as @, -, \$ and spaces.
Class Code	Each collection must be properly coded using a classification code to identify the proper CBP account for deposit of monies collected. Multiple class codes may be required to properly distribute a collection.
Communications Interface Program	Programs developed to send and receive data.
Consolidated Entry Summary	On a consolidated entry summary, an entry filer has combined or consolidated several releases into one entry summary package to be submitted for duty payment. It can be either a formal or informal entry. Consolidated entry summaries are identified by an alphabetic code C following the check digit of the entry number; e.g., 888/0967534-8C.
Cotton Fee	An assessment collected on imported upland cotton and products containing upland cotton. The class code is 056.
Countervailing Duty	Countervailing duty is levied when imported merchandise receives a bounty or grant when exported with material injury to an U.S. manufacturer.
CSMS	Cargo Systems Messaging Service
Data Element	User-entered or system generated data that collectively make up a record or report.
District/Port Code	A 4-position numeric identifier referring to each CBP district and port of entry. Valid district/port codes can be queried through the Extract Reference File chapter of this document.
Drawback	Drawback is a refund of duties paid upon certain imported goods that are manufactured and re-exported, never used within the United States and re-exported, or never used within the United States and destroyed under CBP supervision.
Duty	Ad valorem and/or specific rates assessed on the entered value of merchandise entering the United States and other countries.
EI	Common term used for entry summary input application identifier.
Electronic Invoicing	The ability to transmit invoice data electronically through the Automated Invoice Interface (AII).
Entry	Documentation required by and submitted to CBP by an entry filer to secure release of imported merchandise from CBP custody. The entry package usually consists of a CBPF-3461 or CBPF-3461A, the invoice, a packing list and any special release forms including other Government agency forms.
Entry Number	The unique numeric identifier referencing the documentation filed with CBP to secure release and duty payment of imported merchandise.

Entry Summary	CBP Form CBPF-7501. The entry summary describes and properly codes the imported merchandise. The entry filer has 10 working days after release of the merchandise to file an entry summary and pay whatever duties, fees, and taxes are due.
Filer or Filer Code	A unique 3-position alphanumeric identifier assigned by Headquarters to ABI participants who file their own entries.
FIRMS Code	Facilities Information and Resources Management System (FIRMS) code identifies the CBP facility where goods are located.
Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ)	Secured areas legally outside of a nation's CBP territory.
FROB	Foreign Remain On Board
GATT	General Agreement on Tariff and Trade
General Order (G.O.)	Premises owned or leased by the U.S. Government and used for the storage of merchandise undergoing CBP examination or under seizure, or pending final release from CBP custody. Unclaimed merchandise stored in such premises is held under "general order".
GI	Common term used for cargo release certification input application identifier.
GSP	Generalized System of Preferences.
Harmonized System (HTS)	The Harmonized Commodity Description and Code System in ACS.
Hass Avocado Fee	An assessment collected on imported Hass avocado. The class code is 107.
HI	Common term used for cargo release input application identifier.
HMF	Harbor Maintenance Fee.
Honey Fee	An assessment collected on imported honey. The class code is 055.
House Bill Number	An alphanumeric identifier that references an individual cargo shipment consolidated under a master bill of lading.
HTS	Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States Annotated published by the U.S. International Trade Commission.
HTS Number or Tariff Number	An 8- or 10-position alphanumeric code assigned to various commodities listed in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States Annotated.
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
Import Specialist	CBP officer responsible for the admissibility, examination and appraisal, classification, liquidation, and statistical reporting of entries.
In-bond	The act of transporting a cargo shipment from a port of unloading to another port for entry or disposition under bond.
Informal Entry	Informal entries are filed for personal shipments of any value, for certain commercial shipments valued at \$1250 or less and for certain textile shipments valued at \$250 or less. Informal entries can be filed on the Entry Summary, CBPF-7501, and are identified by the numeric entry type code 11 in block 2. They can also be filed on an Informal Entry, CBPF-5119A.

Informal Merchandise Fee	An assessment for Informal entry summaries. The class code is 311.
IRS Tax	Internal Revenue Service tax. IRS tax is paid in addition to duty on shipments of alcohol and tobacco.
ISO Code	A 2-position alphabetic International Organization for Standardization (ISO) code for countries. For example, the ISO code for Mexico is MX, while the code for Spain is ES. A complete listing is included in Schedule C of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS).
ISF	Importer Security Filing
IT	Immediate Transportation. In-bond movement transporting a cargo shipment from the port of unloading to the in-land port of destination under bond for entry or disposition.
JCL	Job Control Language
Lime Fee	An assessment collected on imported limes. The class code is 102.
Liquidation Date	The date an entry has been liquidated by CBP.
Mango Fee	An assessment collected on imported mangos. The class code is 108.
Manual Surcharge Fee	A surcharged fee assessed for any formal entry submitted by an ABI filer who is not certified for Cargo Release processing in at least one port location. The class code is 500.
Manufacture ID or MID	Manufacturer identification code constructed using specific segments of the manufacturer's or shipper's, name and address. Refer to CBP Directive 3500-13 dated November 24, 1986, for instructions on determining the manufacturer ID.
Mod Act	A short and informal title used to refer to the CBP modernization provisions contained in Title VI of the North American Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (Public Law 103-182). The primary purpose of Title VI is to streamline and automated the commercial operations of the CBP. The Title is also intended to improve compliance with CBP laws and provide safeguards, uniformity, and due process rights for importers.
MPF	Merchandise Processing Fee.
Mushroom Fee	An assessment collected on imported fresh mushrooms. The class code is 103.
NIL	National Importer Liquidation

NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement. A preferential trade agreement among Canada, Mexico and the United States covering trade in goods, technical barriers to trade, government procurement, investment, services and related matters, intellectual property, administrative, institutional and other provisions. The objectives of NAFTA are to eliminate barriers to trade, facilitate the cross-border movement of goods and services, promote conditions of fair competition, increase investment opportunities, provide adequate and effective protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights, create effective procedures for the implementation and application of this agreement, and to establish a framework for further trilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation to expand and enhance the benefits of this agreement within the territories of the signatory countries.
Numeric	Having only numbers.
Password	A 5- to 8-position character code assigned by the user allowing access to ACS.
Port	A 2-position numeric identifier that identifies each CBP port of entry.
Port of Entry	The port where the entry is filed.
Port of Unlading	The U.S. port of call in which cargo shipments are discharged.
Potato Fee	An assessment collected on imported tablestock potatoes, processed potato products and seed potatoes. The class code is 090.
Quota	Under a quota, only a certain amount of the designated merchandise can be entered into the commerce of the United States during a specific time period. Under an absolute quota, once the specified amount of merchandise has been entered, no more can be entered until the next opening. Under a tariff-rate quota, a certain amount may be entered at a reduced rate of duty. Once that amount has been entered, a higher rate of duty is charged.
Record Identifier	A collection of data elements that make up the full record.
Release Port	Port where the merchandise is released by CBP. The port code shown in block 5 of the CBPF-7501, Entry Summary, indicates the port of release.
RLF	A program for electronic entry filers which allows the transmission of entry/ entry summary data from one location for cargo arriving at a second location in which the filer is not located (if an importer) or is not licensed (if a broker).
SCAC	Standard Carrier Alpha Code. The carrier identifier issued by the National Motor Freight Traffic Association (NMFTA).
Selectivity	Automated method of designating imported merchandise for examination by a CBP inspector or commodity specialist.
Sheep Fee	An assessment collected on imported sheep and sheep products. The class code is 105.
Sorghum Fee	An assessment collected on imported sorghum. The class code is 109.
SPI	Special Program Indicator
Sugar Fee	An assessment collected on imported sugar. The class code is 079.

System Generated	Data elements provided by ACS from other records, files or the actual operating system.
Transaction Control Header Record	Commonly referred to as the A record, this header record identifies the user and signals the beginning of a transaction file.
Transaction Control Trailer Record	Commonly referred to as the Z record, this trailer record is paired with the transaction control header record and signals the end of the transaction file.
Vessel Code	A unique alphanumeric code that positively identifies a specific vessel.
Watermelon Fee	An assessment collected on imported watermelons. The class code is 104.