

# Glossary

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

<b>ABI</b>	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 Service. 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 Customs Form 7501, Entry Summary. Through ABI, brokers are permitted to pay entries individually (non-statement) or by batch (statement).
<b>ACH</b>	Automated Clearinghouse. An electronic payment program that allows ABI filers to pay Customs duties, taxes, and fees with one electronic transaction.
<b>ACS</b>	Automated Commercial System. The system used by the U.S. Customs Service to track, control, and process all commercial goods imported into the United States.
<b>ADD/CVD</b>	Antidumping/Countervailing Duty
<b>AII</b>	Automated Invoice Interface
<b>Alpha or Alphabetic</b>	All letters, A through Z, and spaces.
<b>Alphanumeric</b>	Having only letter, numbers and spaces.
<b>AMS</b>	Automated Manifest System for air and ocean carriers.
<b>Antidumping Duty</b>	Selling below home market prices or cost of manufacture with material injury to a U.S. manufacturer is called dumping. Antidumping duties are levied upon further importation of the merchandise.
<b>Application Identifier</b>	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.
<b>Automated Invoice Interface (AII)</b>	AII permits invoice data to be transmitted electronically to the U.S. Customs Service Data Center.
<b>Beef and Pork Fee</b>	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.

<b>Bill of Lading</b>	A negotiable instrument that allows the carrier to transport a merchandise shipment from a shipper to a consignee.
<b>Bill of Lading Number</b>	The alphanumeric code issued by a carrier that references an individual cargo shipment in a manifest.
<b>Block Control Header Record</b>	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.
<b>Block Control Trailer Record</b>	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.
<b>Cargo Release</b>	Delivery authorized by U.S. Customs permitting merchandise to enter the commerce of the United States.
<b>CBI</b>	Caribbean Basin Initiative resulting from the Caribbean Economic Recovery Act.
<b>CF-3461</b>	Customs Form (CF) 3461, Entry/Immediate Delivery.
<b>CF-7501</b>	Customs Form 7501, Entry Summary
<b>Character</b>	Having letters, numbers, or special characters such as @, -, \$ and spaces.
<b>Class Code</b>	Each collection must be properly coded using a classification code to identify the proper U.S. Customs account for deposit of monies collected. Multiple class codes may be required to properly distribute a collection.
<b>Communications Interface Program</b>	Programs developed to send and receive data.
<b>Consolidated Entry Summary</b>	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.
<b>Cotton Fee</b>	As assessment collected on imported upland cotton and products containing upland cotton. The class code is 056.
<b>Countervailing Duty</b>	Countervailing duty is levied when imported merchandise receives a bounty or grant when exported with material injury to a U.S. manufacturer.
<b>Data Element</b>	User-entered or system generated data that collectively make up a record or report.

<b>District/Port Code</b>	A 4-position numeric identifier referring to each U.S. Customs Service district and port of entry. Valid district/port codes can be queried through the Extract Reference File chapter of this document.
<b>Drawback</b>	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 Customs supervision.
<b>Duty</b>	Ad valorem and/or specific rates assessed on the entered value of merchandise entering the United States and other countries.
<b>EI</b>	Common term used for entry summary input application identifier.
<b>Electronic Invoicing</b>	The ability to transmit invoice data electronically through the Automated Invoice Interface (AII).
<b>Entry</b>	Documentation required by and submitted to U.S. Customs by an entry filer to secure release of imported merchandise from Customs custody. The entry package usually consists of a CF-3461 or CF-3461A, the invoice, a packing list and any special release forms including other Government agency forms.
<b>Entry Number</b>	The unique numeric identifier referencing the documentation filed with U.S. Customs to secure release and duty payment of imported merchandise.
<b>Entry Summary</b>	Customs Form 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.
<b>Filer or Filer Code</b>	A unique 3-position alphanumeric identifier assigned by Headquarters to brokers or large importers who file their own entries. The identifier can take the form of three numbers, such as 286, or one alpha and two numbers, such as P48. Can a FC be only alpha characters?
<b>FIRMS Code</b>	Facilities Information and Resources Management System (FIRMS) code identifies the U.S. Customs Service facility where goods are located.
<b>Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ)</b>	Secured areas legally outside of a nation's customs territory.
<b>GATT</b>	General Agreement on Tariff and Trade
<b>General Order (G.O.)</b>	Premises owned or leased by the U.S. Government and used for the storage of merchandise undergoing Customs examination or under seizure, or pending final release from Customs custody. Unclaimed merchandise stored in such premises is held under "general order".
<b>GI</b>	Common term used for cargo release certification input application identifier.

*Customs and Trade Automated Interface Requirements*

<b>GSP</b>	Generalized System of Preferences.
<b>Harmonized System (HTS)</b>	The Harmonized Commodity Description and Code System in ACS.
<b>HI</b>	Common term used for cargo release input application identifier.
<b>HMF</b>	Harbor Maintenance Fee.
<b>House Bill Number</b>	An alphanumeric identifier that references an individual cargo shipment consolidated under a master bill of lading.
<b>HTS</b>	Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States Annotated published by the U.S. International Trade Commission.
<b>HTS Number or Tariff Number</b>	An 8- or 10-position alphanumeric code assigned to various commodities listed in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States Annotated.
<b>Import Specialist</b>	Customs officer responsible for the admissibility, examination and appraisal, classification, liquidation, and statistical reporting of entries.
<b>In-bond</b>	The act of transporting a cargo shipment from a port of unlading to another port for entry or disposition under bond.
<b>Informal Entry</b>	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, CF 7501, and are identified by the numeric entry type code 11 in block 2. They can also be filed on an Informal Entry, CF 5119A.
<b>Informal Merchandise Fee</b>	An assessment for Informal entry summaries. The class code is 311.
<b>IRS Tax</b>	Internal Revenue Service tax. IRS tax is paid in addition to duty on shipments of alcohol and tobacco.
<b>ISO Code</b>	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).
<b>IT</b>	Immediate Transportation. In-bond movement transporting a cargo shipment from the port of unlading to the in-land port of destination under bond for entry or disposition.
<b>JCL</b>	Job Control Language
<b>Lime Fee</b>	An assessment collected on imported limes. The class code is 102.
<b>Liquidation Date</b>	The date an entry has been liquidated by U.S. Customs
<b>Manual Surcharge Fee</b>	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.

<b>Manufacture ID or MID</b>	Manufacturer identification code constructed using specific segments of the manufacturer's or shipper's, name and address. Refer to Customs Directive 3500-13 dated November 24, 1986, for instructions on determining the manufacturer ID.
<b>Mod Act</b>	A short and informal title used to refer to the Customs 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 U.S. Customs Service. The Title is also intended to improve compliance with Customs laws and provide safeguards, uniformity, and due process rights for importers.
<b>MPF</b>	Merchandise Processing Fee.
<b>Mushroom Fee</b>	An assessment collected on imported fresh mushrooms. The class code is 103.
<b>NIL</b>	National Importer Liquidation
<b>NAFTA</b>	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.
<b>Numeric</b>	Having only numbers.
<b>Password</b>	A 5- to 8-position character code assigned by the user allowing access to ACS.
<b>Pecan Fee</b>	An assessment collected on imported shelled and in-shell pecans. The class code is 057.
<b>Port</b>	A 2-position numeric identifier that identifies each U.S. Customs port of entry.
<b>Port of Entry</b>	The port where the entry is filed.
<b>Port of Unlading</b>	The U.S. port of call in which cargo shipments are discharged.
<b>Potato Fee</b>	An assessment collected on imported tablestock potatoes, processed potato products and seed potatoes. The class code is 090.

<b>Quota</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Record Identifier</b>	<p>A collection of data elements that make up the full record.</p>
<b>Release Port</b>	<p>Port where the merchandise is released by Customs. The port code shown in block 5 of the CF-7501, Entry Summary, indicates the port of release.</p>
<b>RLF</b>	<p>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).</p>
<b>SCAC</b>	<p>Standard Carrier Alpha Code. The carrier identifier issued by the National Motor Freight Traffic Association (NMFTA).</p>
<b>Selectivity</b>	<p>Automated method of designating imported merchandise for examination by a Customs inspector or commodity specialist.</p>
<b>Sheep Fee</b>	<p>An assessment collected on imported sheep and sheep products. The class code is 105.</p>
<b>SPI</b>	<p>Special Program Indicator</p>
<b>System Generated</b>	<p>Data elements provided by ACS from other records, files or the actual operating system.</p>
<b>Transaction Control Header Record</b>	<p>Commonly referred to as the A record, this header record identifies the user and signals the beginning of a transaction file.</p>
<b>Transaction Control Trailer Record</b>	<p>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.</p>
<b>Vessel Code</b>	<p>A unique alphanumeric code that positively identifies a specific vessel.</p>
<b>Watermelon Fee</b>	<p>An assessment collected on imported watermelons. The class code is 104.</p>