

# Quota

*This chapter provides record formats to permit users to query the Quota File for a specific country, tariff number, category and/or visa requirements.*

## RECORD DESCRIPTIONS

**Record Identifier U1 (Input)..... .. QTA-4**

A mandatory input record that request quota data on a specific country, tariff number, textile category number or visa requirements, or queries the visa number.

**Record Identifier U2 (Output)..... .. QTA-6**

A conditional output record that provides quota data pertaining to the tariff number, category, country of origin, record number, quota limit, unit of measure, textile conversion factor, effective dates, quota period, threshold, and global indicator.

**Record Identifier U3 (Output)..... .. QTA-10**

A conditional output record that provides quota data pertaining to secondary namesake, period processing indicator, description, quota type, quantity to date, hold indicator, last quota transaction date, date of status, and time of status.

**Record Identifier U4 (Output)..... .. QTA-12**

A conditional quota output record that provides a quota query error message.

**Record Identifier U5 (Output)..... .. QTA-14**

A conditional visa output message that provides visa data pertaining to a country or category.

**Record Identifier U6 (Output)..... .. QTA-16**

A conditional visa output message that provides a narrative message pertaining to the visa requirements.

**Record Identifier U7 (Output)..... .. QTA-17**

A conditional output record that provides visa data pertaining to part categories and exceptions.

**Record Identifier U8 (Output)..... .. QTA-18**

A conditional output record that provides data pertaining to up to six tariff numbers covered by a part category or exception.

**Record Identifier U9 (Output)..... .. QTA-19**

A conditional output record that provides a visa query or visa and quota query error message.

**Record Identifier U0 (Output)..... .. QTA-20**

A conditional output record that provides confirmation that a visa number is or is not on file with the U.S. Customs Service and the status of the visa number with the status date.

# Quota

The quota input records allow the Quota and/or visa files to be queried and the output records provide quota-related data for a specific country, tariff number, category, or visa.

**Input:** Record Identifier U1 is a mandatory input record that requests quota and/or visa data on a specific country, tariff number, textile category number, or visa number query. There is one U1 record for each query request.

The application identifier on Record Identifier B is UI. For additional information on Record Identifier B, refer to the Application Control chapter of this document.

**Output:** Record Identifiers U2 through U9 are conditional output records that provide quota and/or visa data. If the query is only for visa data, at least one U5 record is returned and a U6, U7, and U8 record may be returned for each successful query. If the query is only for quota data, at least one U2 and one U3 record is returned for a successful query. If the query is for visa and quota data, at least one U5, U2, and U3 record is returned and a U6, U7, and U8 record may be returned for each successful query. If an error condition exists, the quota error message is system generated on Record Identifier U4 and the visa error message on Record Identifier U9. Record Identifier U0 is a conditional output record for visa number queries only.

The application identifier on Record Identifier B is UR. For additional information on Record Identifier B, refer to the Application Control chapter of this document.

***User Notes:***

**Record Identifier U1 (Input)**

This is a mandatory input record that requests quota data on a specific country, tariff number, visa requirements, textile category number, or visa number. Each query request requires one U1 record. A visa number query is allowed only for countries participating in the Electronic Visa Verification Program (ELVIS).

<b><i>Record Identifier U1 (Input)</i></b>					
<b>Data Element</b>	<b>Length/ Class</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Note</b>
Control Identifier	1A	1	M	Must always equal U.	
Record Identifier	1N	2	M	Must always equal 1.	
Tariff Number, Textile Category Number, or Visa Number	10AN	3-12	O	An 8- to 10-position code located in the <i>Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States Annotated</i> (HTS) representing the tariff number or a 3-position textile category number, or a 9-position visa number. Numbers are left justified. Only whole categories can be queried. An error message is system generated. Output data for part and merged categories is automatically system generated as a result of querying the whole category. Record Identifiers U2 and U3 return quota data for whole, part, and merged categories. If either number contains less than 10-positions, left justify. Output for visa number query is returned in Record U0 (zero).	1
Second Tariff Number	10AN	13-22	O	An 8- to 10-position code located in the <i>Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States Annotated</i> (HTS) representing the second tariff number. If the query is by single tariff, textile category, or a visa number query, space fill.	1
Country of Origin	2A	23-24	M	A code representing the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) country code. Valid ISO codes are listed in Appendix B. If visa number query, space fill.	

<b>Record Identifier U1 (Input)</b>					
<b>Data Element</b>	<b>Length/ Class</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Note</b>
Visa Query Indicator	1AN	25	O	A code indicating if quota and/or visa or visa number information records is returned. Valid Visa Query Indicator codes are:  B = Quota and visa records C = All visa records for the country. Do not submit tariff or category number. D = Visa Number on file request. V = All visa records for the country and category or country and tariff number. Space fill = Only quota records.	
Filler	55AN	26-80	M	Space fill.	

### **Note 1**

Most quotas can be queried with one tariff number; however, some quotas require two tariff numbers. They are:

- Quota levels established in HTS Chapter 99 require the Chapter 99 tariff number in the first position and the specific HTS schedule 1-97 tariff number in the second position.

### **Note 1 - Continued**

- Special Regime or Special Access Programs require the 9802008015 tariff number in the first position and the specific HTS schedule 1-94 tariff number in the second position.

Quota data on cheese and other dairy products requiring an Agriculture license are not available through this query. When a query is on a tariff number for cheese requiring an Agriculture license, a message stating an Agriculture license is required is system generated.

**Record Identifier U2 (Output)**

This is a conditional output record that provides quota data pertaining to the tariff number, textile category number, namesake, country of origin, record number, quota limit, unit of measure, textile conversion factor, effective dates, quota period, threshold quantity, and global indicator.

<b><i>Record Identifier U2 (Output)</i></b>					
<b>Data Element</b>	<b>Length/ Class</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Note</b>
Control Identifier	1A	1	M	Must always equal U.	
Record Identifier	1N	2	M	Must always equal 2.	
Tariff Number or Textile Category Number	10AN	3-12	M	The tariff number or textile category number contained in Record Identifier U1. The category number occupies the first three positions and any part category occupies the next two positions. If there is no part category, positions 4 and 5 contain ## (# = blank). The part category may also be assigned as A# or AA (A = alpha).	
Namesake	9X	13-21	M	Reporting of textiles and wearing apparel is done by category. As several tariff schedule numbers are assigned the same category, a namesake has been constructed to identify the category.	1
Country of Origin	2A	22-23	M	The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) country code representing the country of origin. Valid ISO country codes are listed in Appendix B. A code of 99 is also valid and indicates all countries or an aggregate record for a number of countries.	
Record Number	2N	24-25	M	The number that provides linkage within the U.S. Customs Service quota master record.	
Quota Limit	11N	26-36	C	A number representing the quota limit as it exists on the record being queried. Not all records have a quota limit. For those that do not have a quota limit, no record is returned.	
Unit of Measure	3AN	37-39	M	The unit of measure that must be reported. This unit is located in the <i>Harmonized Tariff Schedules of the United States Annotated</i> (HTS). Valid unit of measure codes are listed in Appendix C.	

<b>Record Identifier U2 (Output)</b>					
<b>Data Element</b>	<b>Length/ Class</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Note</b>
Textile Conversion Factor	6N	40-45	C	A number listed in the Textile and Apparel Correlation that converts all units of measure. The Office of Textiles, Department of Commerce publishes this document. The format is <i>NNN.NNN</i> (N = numeric). Three decimal places are implied.	
Beginning Period Date	6N	46-51	M	A numeric date in MMDDYY (month, day, year) format representing the beginning period date for the quota.	
Ending Period Date	6N	52-57	M	A numeric date in MMDDYY (month, day, year) format representing the ending period date for the quota.	
Quota Period	4N	58-61	M	A code representing the quota period in a particular calendar year. The first two positions are the last two digits of the calendar year in which the quota ends. The last two positions are the quota period within the year beginning with <i>01</i> .	
Threshold Quantity	11N	62-72	M	The quota level that ceases automated release of the merchandise. Once this level is reached, transactions are processed manually. The quantity is established by a country usage profile and is triggered when a presentation of merchandise plus what has already entered, equals or exceeds the threshold. This “triggering” is called “going on hold”.	
Global Indicator	2X	73-74	C	A code of 99 if the queried tariff number is reported by more than one country; otherwise, space fill.	
Filler	6AN	75-80	M	Space fill.	

## **Note 1**

The Namesake consists of a 9-position character code where:

<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
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<b>XX</b>	22 for cotton and/or man-made fiber, 33 for cotton, 44 for wool, 66 for manmade fiber, and 88 for silk blend or non-cotton vegetable fibers.
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<b>XXX</b>	Category number.
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<b>XX</b>	The part category. If there is no part category, the positions will be ## (blank). The part category may also be assigned as A# or AA (A = alpha).
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<b>XX</b>	Reserved for Customs use.
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For quota items that are not assigned a category number, the Namesake will be the tariff number minus the first digit or some other Customs-assigned number.



***User Notes:***

## **Record Identifier U3 (Output)**

This is a conditional output record that provides quota data pertaining to secondary namesake, period processing indicator, description, quota type, quantity to date, hold indicator, last quota transaction date, date of status, and time of status.

<b><i>Record Identifier U3 (Output)</i></b>					
<b>Data Element</b>	<b>Length/ Class</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Note</b>
Control Identifier	1A	1	M	Must always equal U.	
Record Identifier	1N	2	M	Must always equal 3.	
Secondary Namesake	9X	3-11	C	Secondary namesakes are considered “pointers” meaning that in the primary record, the secondary namesake points to the next record where the quantity entered will be placed. Those records having a factor of 01.000 are used to transfer the total quantity of one record to another record sometimes to accumulate two or more parts of a category or a whole category. The chain of records must be followed to understand what parts are being accumulated and/or converted.	
Period Processing Indicator	2N	12-13	C	<p>A code representing the period processing indicator. The first position of the code is:</p> <p>0 = Date of presentation 1 = Date of export</p> <p>The second position of the code is:</p> <p>1 = Quota open 2 = Quota potentially filled 5 = Opening merchandise only 7 = Quota filled or expired 8 = Banned (merchandise cannot be imported from the country)</p>	
Description	20AN	14-33	C	A narrative description of the quota item.	
Quota Type	1A	34	M	<p>A code indicating the quota type. Valid Quota Type Codes are:</p> <p>A = Absolute L = Low Rate H = High Rate C = Combined Total</p>	
Quantity to Date	11N	35-45	M	The total amount to date charged against the quota.	

<b>Record Identifier U3 (Output)</b>					
<b>Data Element</b>	<b>Length/ Class</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Note</b>
Hold Indicator	1X	46	C	A code of * (asterisk) indicates all incoming transactions go in a hold file; otherwise, it is space filled.	
Last Quota Transaction Date	6AN	47-52	M	The numeric date in MMDDYY (month, day, year) format representing the last quota transaction date. If there have been no transactions, spaces are returned.	
Date of Status	6N	53-58	M	A numeric date in MMDDYY (month, day, year) format representing the date the query was processed.	
Time of Status	4N	59-62	M	The time the query was processed in HHMM (hour and minute) military time format.	
Second Tariff Number	10AN	63-72	C	An 8- to 10-position code located in the <i>Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States Annotated</i> (HTS) representing the second tariff number. This code is the same as that contained in Record Identifier U1.	
Filler	8AN	73-80	M	Space fill.	

**Record Identifier U4 (Output)**

This is a conditional quota output record that provides an error message if the query is only for quota. If the query is for visa or visa and quota, the error message is returned on Record Identifier U9.

<b><i>Record Identifier U4 (Output)</i></b>					
<b>Data Element</b>	<b>Length/ Class</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Note</b>
Control Identifier	1A	1	M	Must always equal U.	
Record Identifier	1N	2	M	Must always equal 4.	
Tariff Number or Textile Category Number	10AN	3-12	M	The tariff number or category number contained in Record Identifier U1.	
Country of Origin	2A	13-14	M	The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) country code representing the country of origin. Valid ISO codes are listed in Appendix B.	
Error Message	40X	15-54	M	A narrative message identifying the possible error condition.	
Date of Status	6N	55-60	M	A numeric date in MMDDYY (month, day, year) format representing the date the query was processed.	
Time of Status	4N	61-64	M	The time the query was processed in HHMM (hour and minute) military time format.	
Second Tariff Number	10AN	65-74	C	An 8- to 10-position code located in the <i>Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States Annotated</i> (HTS) representing the second tariff number. This code is the same as that contained in Record Identifier U1.	
Filler	6AN	75-80	M	Space fill.	

***User Notes:***

**Record Identifier U5 (Output)**

This is a conditional visa output message that provides data pertaining to the country, category, effective date, expiration date, and remarks. It also provides indicator codes for the visa format, Electronic Visa Verification System, marked commercial samples, folklore exemption, visa quantity in whole number, exceptions, part category, and special access or special regime program.

<b><i>Record Identifier U5 (Output)</i></b>					
<b>Data Element</b>	<b>Length/ Class</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Note</b>
Control Identifier	1A	1	M	Must always equal U.	
Record Identifier	1N	2	M	Must always equal 5.	
Textile Category	5AN	3-7	M	The three-digit textile category number followed by two pound signs (##).	
Country of Origin	2A	8-9	M	The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Country code representing the country of origin. Valid ISO country codes are listed in Appendix B.	
Effective Date	6N	10-15	M	A numeric date in MMDDYY (month, day, year) format representing the effective date for the visa requirement.	
Expiration Date	6N	16-21	M	A numeric date in MMDDYY (month, day, year) format representing the expiration date for the visa requirement. If there is no known expiration date, this date is 123199.	
Standard Format Visa	1A	22	M	A code of <i>Y</i> (yes) indicates a country requires a standardized visa format; otherwise, the code is <i>N</i> (no).	1
Electronic Visa Verification System	1A	23	M	A code of <i>Y</i> (yes) indicates the country uses the Electronic Visa Verification System (ELVIS); otherwise, the code is <i>N</i> (no).	
Visa Exemption for Marked Commercial Sample Shipments	1A	24	M	A code of <i>Y</i> (yes) indicates there is a visa exemption for marked commercial sample shipments valued \$250 or less; otherwise, the code is <i>N</i> (no).	
Visa Exemption for Folklore	1A	25	M	A code of <i>Y</i> (yes) indicates there is a visa exemption for folklore products accompanied by proper certification; otherwise, the code is <i>N</i> (no).	
Visa Quantity Indicator	1A	26	M	A code of <i>Y</i> (yes) indicates the quantity on the visa must be a whole number; otherwise, the code is <i>N</i> (no). This requirement does not relate to how the quantity is reported on the Customs Form 7501 (Entry Summary).	

<b>Record Identifier U5 (Output)</b>					
<b>Data Element</b>	<b>Length/ Class</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Note</b>
Exceptions to Visa Requirements	1A	27	M	A code of <i>Y</i> (yes) indicates certain tariff numbers are excluded from the visa requirement for the country and category; otherwise, the code is <i>N</i> (no).	
Part Categories	1A	28	M	A code of <i>Y</i> (yes) indicates there are part categories for the category; otherwise, the code is <i>N</i> (no).	
Special Regime or Special Access Program	1A	29	M	A code of <i>Y</i> (Yes) indicates the country and category are eligible for a Special Regime or Special Access program; otherwise, the code is <i>N</i> (no).	
Filler	51AN	30-80	M	Space fill.	

### **Note 1**

A visa number is standardized for countries that issue visas and is a 9-position code. The first position of a valid standardized visa number is the last number of the year the country of origin exported the goods (i.e., goods exported in 1990 but imported in 1991 require *0* in the first position of the visa number). The second and third positions of the visa number are the ISO country code representing the country of origin. The last six positions are the serial number assigned to the visa by the issuing country.

## **Record Identifier U6 (Output)**

This is a conditional visa output message that provides any remarks for the visa record. If there are no remarks, this record is not returned. Remarks are any text information that elaborates on the visa requirement.

<b><i>Record Identifier U6 (Output)</i></b>					
<b>Data Element</b>	<b>Length/ Class</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Note</b>
Control Identifier	1A	1	M	Must always equal U.	
Record Identifier	1N	2	M	Must always equal 6.	
Remarks	70AN	3-72	M	Any additional information pertaining to the visa requirements.	
Filler	8AN	73-80	M	Space fill.	



## **Record Identifier U7 (Output)**

This is a conditional output record that provides data pertaining to the country of origin, part categories, effective and expiration dates, and remarks for part categories or exceptions to the visa requirements. This record is only returned if the Part Categories or Exceptions to Visa Requirements code on Record Identifier U5 is *Y* (yes).

<b><i>Record Identifier U7 (Output)</i></b>					
<b>Data Element</b>	<b>Length/ Class</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Note</b>
Control Identifier	1A	1	M	Must always equal U.	
Record Identifier	1N	2	M	Must always equal 7.	
Country of Origin	2A	3-4	M	The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) country code representing the country of origin. Valid ISO codes are listed in Appendix B.	
Textile Category with Suffix	5AN	5-9	M	The three-position textile category number followed by the two-position suffix. If there is no part category, positions four and five contain two-pound signs (##). If there is a part category, positions four and five are either an alphabetic character followed by a pound sign (A#), two alphabetic characters (AA), a number followed by a pound sign (1#), or two numbers. <b>Note:</b> If positions four and five contain 99, the record concerns an exception to the visa requirement, not a part category.	
Effective Date	6N	10-15	M	A numeric date in MMDDYY (month, day, year) format representing the effective date for the visa requirement.	
Expiration Date	6N	16-21	M	A numeric date in MMDDYY (month, day, year) format representing the expiration date for the visa requirement. If there is no known expiration date, the date is 123199.	
Remarks	45AN	22-66	M	Any additional data pertaining to the part category or exception.	
Filler	14AN	67-80	M	Space fill.	

**Record Identifier U8 (Output)**

This is a conditional visa output message that provides tariff numbers covered by a part category or exception. This record contains one to six tariff numbers and can be returned up to 11 times. If there are no tariff numbers relating to the part category or exception data, this record is not returned.

<b><i>Record Identifier U8 (Output)</i></b>					
<b>Data Element</b>	<b>Length/ Class</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Note</b>
Control Identifier	1A	1	M	Must always equal U.	
Record Identifier	1N	2	M	Must always equal 8.	
First Tariff	10AN	3-12	M	A code located in the <i>Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States Annotated</i> (HTS) representing the tariff number. If the number is less than 10 positions, it is left justified.	
Second Tariff	10AN	13-22	C	A code located in the <i>Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States Annotated</i> (HTS) representing the tariff number. If the number is less than 10 positions, it is left justified. If there is no tariff number, space fill.	
Third Tariff	10AN	23-32	C	A code located in the <i>Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States Annotated</i> (HTS) representing the tariff number. If the number is less than 10 positions, it is left justified. If there is no tariff number, space fill.	
Fourth Tariff	10AN	33-42	C	A code located in the <i>Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States Annotated</i> (HTS) representing the tariff number. If the number is less than 10 positions, it is left justified. If there is no tariff number, space fill.	
Fifth Tariff	10AN	43-52	C	A code located in the <i>Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States Annotated</i> (HTS) representing the tariff number. If the number is less than 10 positions, it is left justified. If there is no tariff number, space fill.	
Sixth Tariff	10AN	53-62	C	A code located in the <i>Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States Annotated</i> (HTS) representing the tariff number. If the number is less than 10 positions, it is left justified. If there is no tariff number, space	

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				fill.	
Filler	18AN	63-80	M	Space fill.	

**Record Identifier U9 (Output)**

This is a conditional output record that provides an error message pertaining to a visa query or visa and quota query. If the query is only for quota, the error message is returned on Record Identifier U4.

<b><i>Record Identifier U9 (Output)</i></b>					
<b>Data Element</b>	<b>Length/ Class</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Note</b>
Control Identifier	1A	1	M	Must always equal U.	
Record Identifier	1N	2	M	Must always equal 9.	
Tariff Number or Textile Category Number	10AN	3-12	M	The tariff number or category number contained in Record Identifier U1. If Record Identifier U1 contained no tariff number or category number, this data element is space filled.	
Second Tariff Number	10AN	13-22	C	An 8- to 10-position code located in the <i>Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States Annotated</i> (HTS) representing the second tariff number. This code is the same as that contained in Record Identifier U1.	
Country of Origin	2A	23-24	M	The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) country code representing the country of origin reported on Record Identifier U1.	
Visa Query Indicator	1A	25	M	The Visa Query Indicator code reported on Record Identifier U1.	
Error Message	40X	26-65	M	A narrative message identifying the possible error condition.	
Filler	15AN	66-80	M	Space fill.	

**Record Identifier U0 (Output)**

This is a conditional output record that provides confirmation that a visa number is or is not on file with the U.S. Customs Service and the status of the visa number with the status date.

<b><i>Record Identifier U0 (Output)</i></b>					
<b>Data Element</b>	<b>Length/ Class</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Note</b>
Control Identifier	1A	1	M	Must always equal U.	
Record Identifier	1N	2	M	Must always equal 0 (zero).	
Visa Document Number	9AN	3-11	M	The visa document number in standard visa number format YCCNNNNNN:  Y = Year CC = ISO Country Code NNNNNN = Visa Number	
Filler	10AN	12-21	M	Space fill.	
Visa Number Status Indicator	1AN	22	M	Code indicating if the visa number is on file and the status. Valid codes are:  C = On file and in canceled status M = On file and used N = Not on file O = On file and not used X = Country not in ELVIS.	
Visa Document Status Date	8N	23-30	M	The date the visa status changed to its current status of C or M. If N, O, or X, then the status date equals the system date of the response. The format is CCYYMMDD (century, year, month, day).	
Filler	50AN	31-80	M	Space fill.	