



FOREIGN TRADE ZONE 31

GUIDEBOOK

FOREIGN TRADE ZONE 31

YOUR PARTNER IN GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

IMPORT SMARTER

From small manufacturers to multinational corporations, Foreign Trade Zones (FTZs) give businesses that import products a competitive edge in the global marketplace. Companies in an FTZ can defer, reduce, and/or eliminate Customs duties, improving their cash flow and reducing their production costs to increase their overall profit.

Enacted by Congress in 1934, Foreign Trade Zones are federally designated areas within the United States that are considered “outside the U.S. territory.” Created to encourage foreign commerce, FTZs help the U.S. economy by allowing companies to source components from around the world at competitive prices while keeping important value-added activities, such as manufacturing, within the United States.

According to its 2025 Annual Report to Congress, the FTZ Board notes there were 200 active FTZs across the United States, employing approximately 543,000 people. The value of shipments into zones was nearly \$949 billion.

Although some of the largest users in FTZs are in manufacturing, an increasing number of distribution centers are discovering the benefits of FTZs as well. Manufacturers like BMW and Phillips 66, as well as distribution centers for brands like IKEA and Columbia Sportswear, are all taking advantage of the benefits of operating within an FTZ.

“A company can have the best and most sophisticated product in the world, but if it doesn’t have a smart supply chain, it will likely not be able to compete, especially in terms of cost and speed. Foreign Trade Zone 31 is one of the many tools America’s Central Port promotes to help give businesses a global competitive edge in the Southwestern Illinois region.”

- Dennis Wilmsmeyer
Executive Director, America’s Central Port





ADVANTAGES OF OPERATING IN A FOREIGN TRADE ZONE

Businesses importing products to store, assemble, manufacture, mix, use, test, or display can realize significant savings by taking advantage of any one or more of the benefits of operating within Foreign Trade Zone 31.

Duty Deferral

- When importing a product into the U.S., a duty may be assessed on the product. FTZs allow businesses to defer this import duty until the product is removed from the Zone and enters U.S. commerce.

Operational Flexibility

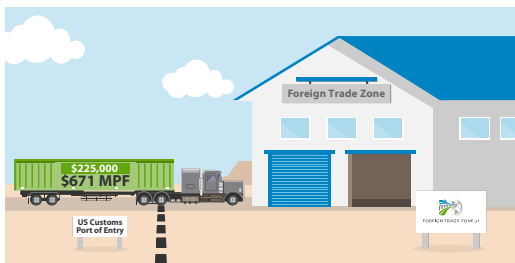
- FTZs give businesses greater flexibility to store, assemble, manufacture, test, or process imported goods before they enter U.S. commerce, helping companies better manage inventory and operations.

Duty Elimination

- When goods are admitted to an FTZ and are exported to another country, the duty on the imported product is eliminated entirely.

WEEKLY ENTRY

Instead of incurring a Merchandise Processing Fee (MPF) for every shipment that enters the U.S., FTZs allow businesses to combine multiple shipments per week into one formal entry, thereby greatly reducing an importer's costs.



MPF rates subject to change.

FOREIGN TRADE ZONE 31

SERVICE AREA

Foreign Trade Zone 31 (FTZ 31) encompasses a 12-county Service Area in Southwest Illinois. This service area includes Bond, Calhoun, Clinton, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Madison, Monroe, Montgomery, Randolph, St. Clair, and Washington Counties.

America's Central Port, Grantee of FTZ 31, facilitates zone administration as a public benefit to manufacturers, distribution centers, and other commercial operators. Companies located within the service area can be designated as an FTZ site within 30 days after filing the application.

The Service Area includes two Magnet Sites that are pre-designated FTZ locations with established infrastructure, buildings, and available land, providing businesses with added operational flexibility.

MAGNET SITES *(Pre-Designated FTZ Sites)*



America's Central Port

The Port is a multimodal transportation hub with access to all six Class I railroads, two harbors on the Mississippi River system, and four major interstate highways. Warehouse, office space, and multiple development-ready sites are available for lease.

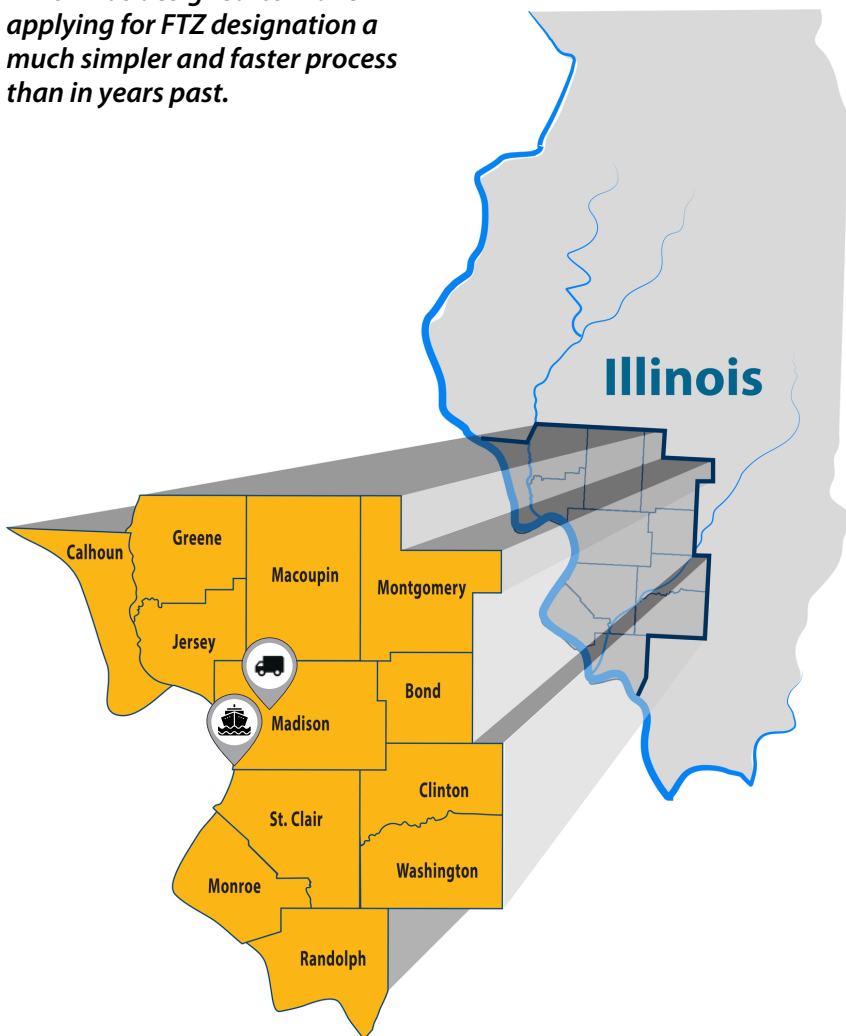


Gateway Commerce Center

This 2,200+ acre warehouse and distribution park offers build-to-suit and land sale options, with immediate access to four major interstate highways. Located on site are third-party logistics and trucking companies providing shipping and supply-chain options.



FTZ 31 operates under the Alternative Site Framework (ASF) which was designed to make applying for FTZ designation a much simpler and faster process than in years past.



*Outside our Service Area?
We may be able to make you a SubZone!
Contact us to find out how.*

Ms. Robbie Williams, AZS, CZS, Grantee
Administrator 618-452-8440 | www.FTZ31.com
rwilliams@americascentralport.com

FOREIGN TRADE ZONE 31

STEPS TO BECOMING AN OPERATOR

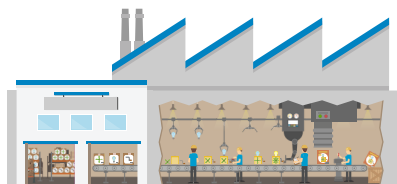
IS FTZ 31 RIGHT FOR YOU?

If you regularly import product, give us a call. A brief conversation with our Grantee Administrator about your operation will help determine whether this is an opportunity worth exploring for your organization.



READY FOR THE NEXT STEP?

The next step in deciding if being an Operator is right for your company is

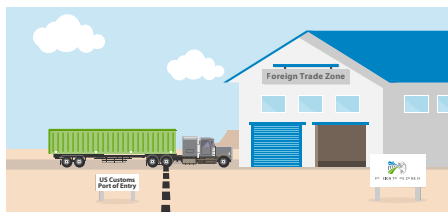


to schedule a meeting so our team can learn more about your operations, imports and exports, distribution, security, building or land requirements, and expansion opportunities. If your company is already established, a tour of your facility during operation is preferred.

Our team can then better assess and discuss how your company could take advantage of any one or more of the benefits of an FTZ.

ENTERING THE HOME STRETCH

Once you've decided to become an operator, FTZ 31 and your organization will enter into an Operator Agreement outlining the basic rules and regulations of FTZ 31. The Grantee Administrator will assist in the completion and filing of any applications required by the FTZ Board for designation. Following designation, the site must be activated by U.S. Customs. To assist the company, the Administrator will submit a "Letter of Concurrence" on the Operator's behalf. The normal timeline for approval is approximately 3 to 7 months. Locating at a Magnet Site still requires applying to U.S. Customs for activation, however it eliminates the need to apply to the FTZ Board for designation and thereby reduces the approval process by about 1 month.



IT'S A GO!

After filing your application for activation and a formal site visit is conducted by U.S. Customs personnel, Customs will issue your Approval of Activation, outlining the procedures for which you have been approved. Your company can then begin operating and taking advantage of the benefits of FTZ 31!



Note: There are costs associated with becoming an operator such as the annual operator fee paid to the Grantee, the potential need to hire an outside foreign trade zone consultant, and/or the purchase or upgrade of inventory management software for your organization.

Helping businesses in the Southwestern Illinois region grow is a key element of the mission of America's Central Port.

As Grantee of Foreign Trade Zone 31 and leaders in transportation and freight logistics, we encourage you to reach out and learn more about how we can be your partner in global competitiveness.

Ms. Robbie Williams, AZS, CZS, Grantee
Administrator 618-452-8440 | www.FTZ31.com
rwilliams@americascentralport.com



AMERICA'S CENTRAL PORT
GRANTEE OF FOREIGN TRADE ZONE 31

Grantee Administrator
(618) 452-8440 | contact@FTZ31.com