



Foreign-Trade Zones

Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZs) across the country have historically served to level the playing field and improve the competitiveness of U.S. companies by reducing operational costs. North Carolina alone is home to four FTZs spread across the state.

Simply put, Foreign-Trade Zones are geographically designated areas that are considered outside of U.S. Customs territory. Because of this designation, Foreign-Trade Zones enjoy certain economic benefits that are passed on to companies engaged in international trade. By reducing tariffs on importing foreign goods and exporting finished products, FTZs help American businesses remain competitive in our global economy.

FOREIGN-TRADE ZONE BENEFITS

- ▶ Either foreign or domestic goods can enter an FTZ without a formal customs entry document or payment of customs duties or government excise taxes.
- ▶ No customs duty is collected if the final product is exported from the U.S. For final products imported into the U.S., duty and excise taxes are due at the time of transfer from the FTZ when formal entry is made to the U.S.
- ▶ Duty is paid on the product itself or the product's imported parts, whichever is lower.

There are four FTZs in North Carolina and 18 subzone areas designated for use by a specific company. Each of these zones helps encourage new capital investment to be made by companies here in North Carolina, rather than those companies looking to do business in foreign countries.



- 57** The Greater Charlotte Zone is based in Charlotte and is administered by the Charlotte Regional Partnership.
- 93** The Greater Research Triangle Zone is based in Durham and is administered by the Triangle J Council of Governments.

- 230** The Piedmont Triad Zone is based in Greensboro and is administered by the Piedmont Triad Partnership.
- 214** This zone includes the Port of Wilmington, Port of Morehead City, and the NC Global TransPark and is administered by the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

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