



INTERNATIONAL TRADE & DEVELOPMENT

GENERAL INTERNATIONAL TRADE RESOURCES

ALABAMA INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER (AITC)

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MISSION

AITC, based at The University of Alabama, is a leading center for international trade research, education, and training in the state for existing industries. Its mission is to increase the level of international trade activity throughout Alabama, fostering the development and expansion of the state's economy. The AITC is an original "Forestry TEAM" member.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- Research
- Export Training
- Financing

AITC specializes in serving small and medium size companies and working one-on-one to help firms sell and compete in foreign markets. The center also supports state and local agencies by initiating joint trade projects, researching state industries, and targeting foreign countries. AITC operates as a federal-state partnership program with the U.S. Small Business Administration, and is an institutional member of the Alabama Small Business Development Consortium.

ALABAMA WORLD TRADE ASSOCIATION

Alison Strickler
Executive Director
Post Office Box 6505
Montgomery, AL 36106-0505
Phone: (334) 264-0598

Email: astrickler@mindspring.com
Web: <http://www.alworldtrade.com>

MISSION

The mission of the Alabama World Trade Association is to promote and improve the opportunities for Alabama citizens through the expansion of international trade; and to pursue initiatives on the state and

federal level that support positive trade policies and the creation of new markets for Alabama companies and their employees.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- Actively serves as an advocate of free trade to governmental leaders
- Produces the Alabama International Dateline, a quarterly newsletter
- Plans and organizes:
 - District Congressional Meetings on trade-related topic
 - Annual meetings
- Produces a membership directory
- Provides access to member information on the Web site

FOREIGN-TRADE ZONES

PURPOSE

The purpose of the U.S. Foreign-Trade Zones program is to stimulate economic growth and development in the United States.

OVERVIEW

The U. S. Foreign-Trade Zones program serves as a remedy for U.S.-based manufacturers who find themselves at a disadvantage when they are assessed duties on parts that are imported as part of their manufacturing process that serves the U.S. market.

Foreign-trade zones are designated sites licensed by the U.S. Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZ) Board. Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZ) are specially designated areas, in or adjacent to a U.S. Port of Entry, which are considered to be outside the Customs Territory of the United States. While within Zones, all goods, both foreign and domestic, are treated as if outside U.S. Customs territory. Zones are supervised by U.S. Customs through occasional audits and site visits.

In many instances, the duty on foreign parts incorporated into a product manufactured in a Foreign-Trade Zone and subsequently entered into the U.S. commerce is assessed at the rate that applies to the finished product rather than on its foreign parts or components. No duty is assessed on value of U.S. parts, labor, overhead, or profit.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Foreign-trade zones are sponsored by qualified public or private corporations, which may operate the facilities themselves or contract for the operation with public or private firms. Many zone projects include an industrial park site with lots on which zone users can construct their own facilities. U.S. Foreign-Trade Zones offer a number of benefits to Zone users:

- Deferral of Customs duties on imports not yet shipped into the domestic market
- Availability of leasable storage/distribution space to users in general warehouse-type buildings with access to various modes of transportation
- Operational flexibility, including storage, exhibition, assembly, manufacture and processing of merchandise

- Exemption from state/local inventory taxes on foreign goods and domestic goods held for export
- Elimination of duties on goods re-exported from Zones
- Relief from irrational duty rate relationships (as previously outlined)

CONTACTS

1. Mobile Foreign-Trade Zone Corporation #82

Grantee: City of Mobile Zone Project Administrator:
 Contact: Greg Jones
 2062 Old Shell Road
 Mobile, AL 36607
 Phone: (251) 471-6725
 E-mail: gregjones@ftzcorp.com
 Web: www.ftzcorp.com

2. Huntsville Foreign-Trade Zone Corporation #83

Grantee: Huntsville-Madison County Airport Authority Zone
 Project Administrator: Huntsville Foreign-Trade Zone Corporation
 Contact: Louise Stickley
 P.O. Box 6241
 Huntsville, AL 35813
 Phone: (256) 772-3105
 E-mail: louisestickley@ftzcorp.com
 Web: www.ftz83.com

3. Birmingham Foreign-Trade Zone Corporation #98

Grantee: City of Birmingham Office of Economic Development
 Contact: Andrew J. Mayo
 Third Floor
 710 20th Street North
 Birmingham, AL 35203
 Phone: (205) 254-2774
 E-mail: ajmayo@ci.birmingham.al.us
 Web: www.informationbirmingham.com

4. Montgomery Foreign-Trade Zone Corporation #222

Grantee: Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce Zone
 Project Administrator: Mobile Foreign-Trade Zone Corporation
 Contact: Greg Jones
 2062 Old Shell Road
 Mobile, AL 36607
 Phone: 251.471-6725
 E-mail: gregjones@ftzcorp.com
 Web: www.ftzcorp.com

5. Dothan - Houston County Foreign-Trade Zone Corporation #233

Grantee: Dothan-Houston County Foreign Trade Zone, Inc. Zone
Project Manager: Foreign-Trade Zone Corp.
Contact: Greg Jones
2062 Old Shell Road
Mobile, AL 36607
Phone: 251.471-6725
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U.S. COMMERCIAL SERVICE, U.S. DEPT. OF COMMERCE - B'HAM

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OVERVIEW

For over 20 years the U.S. Commercial Service of the U.S. Department of Commerce has successfully brought together exporters and importers of U.S. goods and services around the world.

The U.S. Commercial Service of the U.S. Department of Commerce is a federal government agency dedicated to helping small-to-medium sized companies with their exporting strategies. The Service maintains a worldwide service directory network with offices in more than 100 U.S. cities and in 80 countries overseas. Council members are appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce with White House approval to foster and stimulate international trade.

The Council's experienced staff of International Trade Specialists located in Alabama assists U.S. firms in exporting their products and services by providing comprehensive counseling and advice, through timely and accurate intelligence regarding foreign markets, by identifying qualified international buyers and representatives, by advocating on their behalf, and by providing comprehensive solutions to whatever challenges they may encounter.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Services that Provide International Contacts

- Exposure to nearly a half million buyers in 140 countries through the *Commercial News USA*, an international magazine and virtual trade show.
- Gold Key Service provides tailor-made business appointments.
- International Company Profiles provide credit checks and detailed background information on prospective partners.
- International Partner Search - identifies the most suitable overseas licensees, distributors, agents, and strategic partners for U.S. exporters

- Int'l Video Conferencing - On a fee for service basis, the Council can arrange for video conferencing at a number of cities worldwide.
- Showtime allows clients to leverage their participation at a major trade event through targeted counseling sessions with Commercial Service Trade Advisor's from various countries.
- The Video Gold Key Service is a custom-tailored “individual partner search” for representatives of U.S. firms using video-conferencing in lieu of a visit to a particular country.

Services that Provide Market Research

- International Company Profiles – [Previously defined]
- Int'l Video Conferencing - [Previously defined]
- Comprehensive and customized market research
- Platinum Key Service offers comprehensive, market-entry procedures with sustained support (typically 6 months to one year) for individual companies.
- Showtime - [Previously defined]

Services that Provide Trade Leads & Trade Events

- Showtime - [Previously defined]
- Trade Missions and Trade Shows - The Council assists small to medium enterprises with participation in officially recognized overseas trade events, ranging from low cost catalog exhibitions to trade missions, and participation in USA pavilions in foreign trade fairs.
 - BuyUSA.com – an online marketing service
 - International catalog exhibitions
 - Exhibit opportunities in attractive, high-traffic U.S. pavilions at major international trade shows worldwide and through virtual trade shows
 - Assistance before, during and following major trade shows

Other Services

- Export Seminars and workshops
- Members serve as counseling service for prospective exporters
- Administers the Gayle C. Shelton Jr. MBA Endowed Scholarship
- Provides position papers to the Alabama Congressional Delegation
- Advocacy through accredited diplomats and other U.S. officials regarding unanticipated problems with foreign clients