

Quota Free Trade Agreements and Preferential Trade Legislation Requirements

The United States negotiates and implements free trade agreements (FTAs) and preferential trade legislation (PTLs) to promote prosperity for the U.S. economy. FTAs and PTLs open markets for U.S. exports, protect American industry and national security, and encourage free and equitable trade among our trading partners. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Office of Trade oversees the implementation of these international agreements that are negotiated by the U.S. Trade Representative and approved by Congress. Each trade preference program has specific requirements and provisions. This fact sheet provides quota filing guidance for those trade programs.

Government Regulations and Documentation related to FTA and PTL Quota Entries

Import quotas control the volume of various commodities imported into the United States during a specified period of time. Quotas are established by legislation, Presidential Proclamations, or Executive Orders. Once established, quotas are provided for in the [Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States \(HTSUS\)](#).

Not all Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTSUS) numbers covered by FTA's or PTL's are subject to quota restraints. See CBP's [Free Trade Agreements](#) webpage for further information about which commodities have quantitative limits.

Quota Regulations

- [19 CFR 132](#)

Visa Requirements

- African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Trade Benefits, [79 FR 30355](#)
- Haitian Hemispheric Opportunity Through Partnership Encouragement Acts (HOPE) of 2006, and 2008, and Haiti Economic Lift Program (HELP) 2010 [73 FR 56715](#)

License/Certificate Regulations

- Export certificate for beef subject to tariff-rate quota, [19 CFR 132.15\(a-c\)](#)
- Export certificate for sugar-containing products subject to tariff-rate quota, [19 CFR 132.17\(a-c\)](#)
- [Export certificate for textile/apparel tariff preference levels for USMCA](#)

Other Special Filings

- Section 232, [19 USC 1862](#), Absolute Steel and Aluminum [86 FR 234](#), European Union Steel [87 FR 11](#) and European Union Aluminum [87 FR 1](#), and Japan Steel [87 FR 19351](#)
- Section 201/203, [19 USC 2253](#), Solar [87 FR 7357](#), and Washers/Washer Parts [86 FR 6541](#)

Quota Reporting

First Come First Served (FCFS)

Quota processing occurs during quota hours between 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time and 4:30 p.m. Local Port Time until the limit is filled. Claims on goods for which there is a quantitative limit should be filed as a quota-type entry, e.g., 02, 06, 07, 23, 32, 38 or 52. Once the quota limit is reached, the quota is closed and additional entries may be processed at the applicable over-quota tariff rate, except for absolute quotas where once filled, the quota is closed. To track a quota's allocation status, see the weekly Commodity Status Reports.

Quota FTAs Filing Requirements

Step 1: Entry Type - Entry type code must be 02, 06, 07, 23, 32, 38, or 52.

Step 2: HTSUS numbers - FTA commodities are entered utilizing two HTSUS numbers. The first HTSUS number is the chapter 98 or 99 number corresponding to the applicable agreement and the second is the appropriate chapter 1-97 HTSUS number for the good being imported.

For specific HTSUS numbers and combinations, please refer to the agreement-specific Quota Bulletins published at www.cbp.gov/trade/quota/bulletins.

Step 3: Special Program Indicator (SPI) (If applicable) - The SPI is required for certain agreements (see the table below), or duty will be charged.

Step 4: License / Certificate (If applicable) - A valid export certificate is required to claim the in-quota tariff rate for beef, cheese, and dairy products. Sugar imported from countries with an active FTA that are part of the World Trade Organization (WTO) can use either FTA Sugar Quota or WTO Sugar Quota allocation.

A visa is required for textiles imported under AGOA and HAITI HOPE/HELP Programs. The importer must submit a statement at the time of entry certifying that the goods are eligible for the FTA. The importer is responsible for retaining and submitting, upon request by CBP, a certification of origin or supporting documentation indicating eligibility for preferential treatment at the time the claim is made.

A tariff preference certificate is required for textile imports from Canada and Mexico under USMCA.

Please note: Products exported from FTA or PTL partner countries, but for which preferential tariff treatment is NOT claimed, are subject to the general column one duty rate.

Free Trade Agreements Checklist When Filing

SPECIAL PROGRAM	QUOTA PERIOD	ENTRY TYPE: 02, 06, 07, 12, 23, 32, 38, or 52	TWO HTS CODES REQUIRED	SPI	QUOTA LICENSE / VISA / CERTIFICATE
AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (AGOA)	10/01 - 09/30	✓	✓	-	✓ VISA FOR TEXTILE AND APPAREL ARTICLES
U.S. - AUSTRALIA FTA	01/01 - 12/31	✓	✓	AU	✓ CERTIFICATE FOR BEEF, CHEESE, AND DAIRY
U.S. - CARIBBEAN BASIN (CBTPA)	10/01 - 09/30	✓	✓	-	-
U.S. - CENTRAL AMERICA FTA (CAFTA-DR)	01/01 - 12/31	✓	✓	P / P+	- P for Textile quota entries P+ for non-dairy AG quota entries
U.S. - CHILE FTA (CLFTA)	01/01 - 12/31	✓	✓	CL	-
U.S. - COLOMBIA (COTPA)	01/01 - 12/31	✓	✓	CO	✓ SUGAR CERTIFICATE
HAITI HOPE	12/20 - 12/19 10/01 - 09/30	✓	✓	-	✓ VISA
U.S. - ISRAEL AGREEMENT ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS	01/01 - 12/31	✓	✓	IL	-
U.S., MEXICO, CANADA (USMCA)	01/01 - 12/31	✓	✓	S / S+	- S+ for all quota entries S for non-quota entries
U.S. - PANAMA (PATPA)	01/01 - 12/31	✓	✓	PA	✓ SUGAR CERTIFICATE
U.S. - PERU (PETPA)	01/01 - 12/31	✓	✓	PE	✓ SUGAR CERTIFICATE
SECTION 232 ABSOLUTE STEEL/ALUMINUM	01/01 - 12/31	✓	✓	-	✓ STEEL / ALUMINUM LICENSE
SECTION 232 EU STEEL / EU ALUMINUM	01/01 - 12/31	✓	✓	-	✓ STEEL / ALUMINUM LICENSE
SECTION 232 JAPAN/UK STEEL	01/01 - 12/31	✓	✓	-	✓ STEEL / ALUMINUM LICENSE
SECTION 201 SOLAR	02/07 - 02/06	✓	✓	-	-
SECTION 201 WASHERS/WASHER PARTS	02/07 - 02/06	✓	✓	-	-

For inquiries, please contact hqquota@cbp.dhs.gov.

