§ 142.29 Other procedures applicable.

Merchandise released under a special permit for immediate delivery shall be subject to the same procedures applicable to all other imported merchandise, unless specific procedures are set forth in this subpart.

Subpart D—Line Release

§ 142.41 Line Release.

Line Release is an automated system designed to release and track repetitive shipments. It is a method of entry or immediate delivery extended to importers of merchandise which Customs deems to be repetitive and high volume. Line Release may be used only at locations approved by Customs for handling Line Release. At certain high-risk locations along the land borders of the United States (the locations to be published in the Federal Register), which are approved by Customs for handling Line Release, the use of Line Release for particular shipments may be denied by Customs unless the imported merchandise is transported by carriers that participate in the Land Border Carrier Initiative Program (see, subpart H of part 123 of this chapter).


§ 142.42 Application for Line Release processing.

In order to obtain approval for processing import transactions through Line Release, a broker or importer filing its own entries (entry filer) must submit an application to the port director, signed by the entry filer, in a format described as a Line Release Data Loading Sheet. The application must be accompanied by a representative sample of an actual commercial invoice for the products sought to be processed under Line Release. The Line Release Data Loading Sheet must contain the following information with each information element appearing on a separate line:

(a) Port where application is being made.

(b) Initiating Company Information: name, address, city, state, contact person, phone number of contact person, and signature.

(c) Listing of all ports in which the initiating company has filed a similar application for Line Release.

(d) Country of origin codes (ISO codes from Annex B of HTSUS) for the merchandise.

(e) Shipper or manufacturer information: Name, address, city, province/state, country, postal code, indication by noting “M” or “S” whether this information relates to a manufacturer (M) or a shipper (S), and manufacturer identification number of the shipper or manufacturer.

(f) Importer information (if importer is different than filer): Name, address, city, state and country, zip code, importer number, bond number, and surety code.

(g) Entry filer information: Name, importer number, filer code, bond number, and surety code.

(h) Product information: Product description, manifest unit of measure, HTSUS number described to sub-heading level for particular product or range of HTSUS numbers at sub-heading levels for multiple products for which Line Release is sought.
§ 142.43 Line Release application approval process.

(a) Port review. The port director shall review each Line Release application to determine whether the shipments qualify for Line Release processing. The port director may contact the applicant for further information, if necessary. An application that fails to elect whether the Line Release transaction is to be considered an entry or an immediate delivery will be returned to the applicant. If all required information is submitted, the application will be forwarded to Headquarters for final processing.

(b) Assignment of C-4 Codes. A C-4 Code (Common Commodity Classification Code), which is a unique code identifying the shipper or manufacturer, importer, entry filer, and the product for each Line Release shipment, shall be assigned by Headquarters to each application approved for Line Release. Headquarters shall annotate each approved application with a C-4 Code and return the application to the port director who shall return the approved application to the entry filer.

(c) Denial of Line Release application. If the port director is considering the denial of a Line Release application, consideration shall be given to whether an application by the same filer for the same transaction has been approved at another port. If there is not an approved application at another port and the port director determines that the application shall be denied, the application shall be noted denied and returned to the entry filer without a C-4 Code annotation by the port director. If an application has been approved at another port, but the port director still questions whether the application should be approved at his port, the port director shall forward the application to the Assistant Commissioner, Office of Information Management. The Office of Information and Technology will review the application and will notify the port director of the final determination.

§ 142.44 Entry number range.

After an application for Line Release has received final approval, filers must provide the port director, in writing, with a range of entry numbers for use in the system so that an entry number can be assigned automatically to each Line Release transaction. For the purposes of this subpart, “entry number”, when the release is an immediate delivery, merely refers to the Line Release transaction number; this number does not become the actual entry number until an entry for the merchandise released under the immediate delivery procedure is filed. A separate range must be provided for each Line Release site at the port. These entry numbers shall be used for assignment within the Line Release system. Entry filers shall not assign these numbers to other entry transactions.

§ 142.45 Use of bar code by entry filer.

(a) Printing of C-4 Code. Upon receipt of an approved Line Release application, the entry filer, in accordance with instructions from the port director, shall preprint invoices with the C-4 Code and return the application to the port director who shall return the approved application to the entry filer.

(b) Multiple commodity processing. Multiple commodity processing allows more than one product to be released under one entry number. The shipper/manufacturer, importer of record and the entry filer must be the same. The product description is the only variable allowed. The commodities should be listed on one invoice with C-4 Code labels for each commodity attached to the invoice.

(c) Distribution of labels. If labels are used, the labels shall be affixed to the invoices in accordance with instructions from the port director.