

Southwest Missouri Foreign-Trade Zone A Catalyst for Economic Growth

What is a Foreign-Trade Zone?

Foreign-Trade Zones are a federal economic incentive program to enhance the capability of local companies to compete successfully in international trade. Businesses located in the FTZ service area receive customs-related benefits allowing them to compete on a more level playing field with offshore companies. The Southwest Missouri Foreign-Trade Zone – a 23 county service area in Southwest Missouri – is rather unique because the FTZ benefits are available to businesses located at the Springfield-Branson National Airport or can be extended to a business' fixed site anywhere in the service area.



Business Benefits of the Southwest Missouri Foreign-Trade Zone

- Businesses located at any fixed site in the 23 counties can become part of the FTZ program
- Businesses can be approved by U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Department of Commerce in 30-45 days
- Your organization can benefit from increased cash flow and inventory control
- Many of the top names in fashion and household goods operate warehouses within FTZs as a means to reduce operating costs, improve supply chain velocity and manage security at distribution facilities
- Defer, delay or eliminate payment of some duties and taxes on goods manufactured or processed within a FTZ.

Is the Southwest Missouri Foreign-Trade Zone Right for Your Business?

Contact the Southwest Missouri Foreign-Trade Zone to help you determine the return on investment you can achieve through this program if any of the following apply to you:

- You need to store imported goods, or show them to prospective buyers
- Your merchandise may be processed, cleaned, tested, re-labeled, re-packaged, scrapped or otherwise manipulated before it is released into the U.S. or exported
- Your domestic goods will be sold abroad and carry a high excise tax burden (such as beer, wine or spirits)

- Some of your imported goods are damaged or destroyed, or some of the raw material you import is destroyed in the finishing process. Only pay fees on product that enters U.S. commerce
- Your final product is taxed at a lower rate than the imported materials used in production.
- Your finished product is subject to U.S. quota restrictions
- You have a fixed site within the 23 county service area

Growing Business and Bringing Jobs to the Region

The Southwest FTZ strengthens the region's ability to create jobs and grow businesses. Include the FTZ in your economic development toolbox in order to:

- Attract and expand businesses to your community
- Encourage local companies to grow and participate in international trade
- Attract secondary and associated business to locate in the region
- Increase local employment opportunities
- Increase the local tax base
- Increase the effectiveness of state and local economic development efforts
- Encourage the retention of local jobs while attracting offshore companies and international businesses to the region
- Help save U.S. manufacturing companies by "leveling the playing field" with foreign competitors

Contact information

The Southwest Missouri FTZ is sponsored by the Springfield-Branson National Airport. Contact your local economic development organization or the Southwest FTZ to help you determine the return on investment you can achieve through this program.

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