

WHAT TO LOOK FOR WHEN SELECTING AN FTZ

Doral, FL - January 22, 2017 - FTZs are federally designated areas considered to be *outside* of the U.S. Customs territory, allowing companies to operate under ultimate flexibility when handling bonded or in-transit merchandise, all while experiencing significant savings. But remember, not all FTZs are the same! Consider the following key recommendations when choosing an FTZ or an FTZ Operator:

1. Experience: Whether you have a small business seeking to operate at an FTZ or a long-established trade operation in need of FTZ benefits, support and experience is KEY. Always look for a highly experienced FTZ site or FTZ operator with the necessary background to help you fully maximize your savings and make your company's' FTZ transition is seamless, simple, and cost effective.

2. Operations Support: Overseeing a high-compliance trade operation requires extensive experience and knowledge, without these managing an FTZ operation can become overwhelming. Choose joining an established FTZ facility that provides operations and systems support. Otherwise, if your business is considering managing its own FTZ operation, remember that you are fully accountable to US Customs for your practices. Additional responsibilities and expenses include: application costs, investment in software systems, security, and more. The investment and responsibilities are extensive, so make sure you find an experienced and trustworthy operator or consultant.

3. Security: Always choose an FTZ where security is a high priority. All FTZs are federally designated areas, but only some offer quality security measures. Look for things like: control and monitoring of shipments and visitors, 24-hour patrol and supervision, and experienced on-site security staff.

4. Location & Accessibility: A great location should be both accessible and attractive. Clients, business partners, and visitors (local and foreign,) appreciate ample and business friendly spaces and close proximity to ports, highways, and cargo hubs.

5. Resources for International Trade: More and more businesses are looking for one-stop locations for international trade with resources ranging from consultants to logistics providers. In contrast to most FTZs which consist only of warehousing, specialized locations like Miami Free Zone offer a resource integrated concept by incorporating an international business center where visitors have access to customs brokers, freight forwarders, chambers of commerce, trade promotion agencies, business consultants, networking events, and even wholesale products.

Making sure you find the above qualities on your future FTZ will save you time and money. But if your priority is reliability, support, and resources to run your business, we recommend you join a well-rounded FTZ facility ideally providing cost-effective showroom, office, and warehouse space, and featuring a U.S. Customs office, access to meeting and conference rooms, free and ample parking, and on-site property management. Some facilities may even coordinate regular business networking events, attracting local and international business interest and fostering a sense of community and a professional environment for international trade.

MIAMI FREE ZONE

Regardless of what your specific business needs may be, make sure you do your research to make the most out of your time and valued investment! For more information on FTZs, their benefits, and well-rounded site examples please visit www.naftz.org, www.trade.gov/ftz, or www.miamifreezone.com.

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