

eFiling Guidance for Foreign Trade Zones

July 2025

On January 8, 2025, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) published a final rule to revise requirements for Certificates of Compliance (Certificates) in 16 CFR part 1110. This rule mandates the electronic filing (eFiling) of Certificates with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) at the time of filing entry for regulated, imported consumer products (90 Fed. Reg. 1800). The effective date for most imports is 18 months after publication of the Final Rule, or July 8, 2026. However, Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) operators and users have until January 8, 2027 to comply with the revised part 1110, providing an additional 6 months beyond the initial effective date. This extended deadline allows the trade ample time to comply with CPSC's new requirements.

The final rule stipulates that each finished product certificate must describe only one product (16 CFR § 1110.13(a), 90 Fed. Reg. 1845). Using CPSC's partner government agency message set, the importer is required to submit certificate data upon filing entry into CBP's Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) for all CPSC-regulated merchandise withdrawn from an FTZ for consumption, warehousing, or distribution in U.S. commerce. ACE already has the functionality to accept the requisite certificate data via the CPSC message set on a type 06 consumption entry for merchandise withdrawn from an FTZ. The CPSC message set can also be transmitted as part of a weekly entry submission. Due to file size limitations for transaction submissions to CBP, multiple weekly entries may be necessary to ensure that CPSC and CBP receive all requisite certificate data.

An importer who makes entry for merchandise withdrawn from an FTZ must provide CBP with all requisite admissibility data at entry, including CPSC certificate data, as of January 8, 2027. Accordingly, CPSC's eFiling requirement will apply at entry and the importer must take appropriate steps to provide the requisite certificate data by the compliance date. To ensure full compliance, FTZ operators may wish to consider the following options:

- Developing the technical requirements necessary to continue using the First-In, First-Out (FIFO) inventory method to comply with the eFiling requirement.
- If the FIFO inventory accounting method is not suitable for providing the requisite data for CPSC's eFiling requirement, FTZ users may need to adopt an alternative inventory accounting method.
- Utilizing a bonded warehouse to enter merchandise via a type 21 entry.