

§ 132.12

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§ 132.12 Procedure on opening of potentially filled quotas.

(a) *Preliminary review before opening.* When it is anticipated that a quota will be filled at the opening of the quota period, entry summaries for consumption, or withdrawals for consumption, with estimated duties attached, shall not be presented before 12 noon Eastern Standard Time in all time zones. However, an entry summary for consumption, or withdrawal for consumption, for merchandise which has arrived within the Customs territory of the United States may be submitted for preliminary review without deposit of estimated duties within a time period before the opening approved by the port director. Submission of these documents before opening will not accord the merchandise quota priority or status.

(b) *Simultaneous presentation.* Special arrangements shall be made so that all entry summaries for consumption, or withdrawals for consumption, for quota merchandise may be presented at the exact moment of the opening of the quota in all time zones. All importers prepared to present entry summaries for consumption, or withdrawals for consumption, when the quota opens shall be given equal opportunity to do so. All entry summaries for consumption, or withdrawals for consumption, presented in proper form (including those submitted for review before opening of the quota period if accompanied by the deposit of estimated duties) shall be considered to have been presented simultaneously.

(c) *Proration of quantities.* (1) The quantities on all entry summaries for consumption, or withdrawals for consumption, submitted simultaneously shall be prorated by Headquarters against the quota quantity admissible to determine the percentage to be allocated to each importer under the quota. Merchandise in excess of the quota shall be disposed of in accordance with § 132.5.

(2) In the event a quota is prorated, entry summaries for consumption, or withdrawals for consumption, with estimated duties attached, shall be returned to the importer for adjustment. The time of presentation for quota purposes, in that event, shall be the exact

moment of the opening of the quota provided:

(i) An adjusted entry summary for consumption, or withdrawal for consumption, with estimated duties attached, is deposited within 5 working days after Headquarters authorizes release of the merchandise, and

(ii) The importer takes delivery of the merchandise within 15 working days after release is authorized.

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§ 132.13 Quotas after opening.

(a) *Procedure when nearing fulfillment.* To secure for each importer the rightful quota priority and status for his quota-class merchandise, and to close the quota simultaneously at all ports of entry:

(1) *For release of merchandise—(i) Tariff-rate.* When instructed by Headquarters, the port director shall require an importer to present an entry summary for consumption, with estimated duties attached, at the over-quota rate of duty until Headquarters has determined the quantity, if any of the merchandise entitled to the quota rate. If any of the merchandise entered at the over-quota rate is entitled to the quota rate, Customs shall amend the entry summary and refund to the importer any excess duties paid. This section does not prohibit an importer from obtaining release of the merchandise under the immediate delivery procedure. If an importer desires to enter only that quantity entitled to the quota rate, he may request that the merchandise not be released from Customs custody until Headquarters has determined the quantity entitled to the quota rate.

(ii) *Absolute.* Except as provided for in § 142.21 (e)(2) and (g) of this chapter, absolute quota merchandise shall not be released under the immediate delivery procedure. An entry summary for consumption, with estimated duties attached, setting forth the quantity desired to be entered, shall be presented. However, the merchandise shall not be released until Customs has determined the quantity entitled to absolute quota status and priority.