

# ENTRY, ENTRY SUMMARY AND LIVE ENTRY

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*The meaning of terms used by United States Customs and Customs Brokers is not always clear to many importers. The following is a clarification of these terms and their applications.*

**ENTRY:** The group of documents, which when presented to Customs, will result in a more or less immediate release of the importer's cargo. The 'Entry Package' would contain documents required by Customs to secure release of the cargo. Generally, these documents are the Commercial invoice, packing list, and Bill of lading. Other specific documents may be required, depending on the nature of the imported goods. Other terms used to describe the Entry package are 3461, ID and 3311. Customs will review the 'Entry Package', and if the Package appears to be in order, Customs will release the imported articles that the 'Entry Package' covers. The Customs release along with the entire 'Entry Package' will be returned to you, or your Broker. That is, Customs will put the release and Entry package in a basket in their lobby for pickup.

**ENTRY SUMMARY:** An Entry Summary must be filed with Customs for all Imported cargo released by an Entry. This document is attached to the Entry package and given to Customs, along with duty and user fees if applicable. For regular commercial shipments the Entry summary is filed, with duty paid, ten working days after Customs has released your cargo\*. This document is also referred to as the Summary or 7501. It is not correct to call this document an entry. If the Entry summary is not filed with Customs within 10 working days of the release date, Customs will charge a penalty of not less than \$100.00

**LIVE ENTRIES:** These are used for certain types of imported cargo. Cargo subject to Quotas, and certain other restricted cargo, requires a live entry to be filed for Customs release. This document is a combination of the Entry and Entry summary. Note that this sort of filing requires that the duty and fees be paid prior to the Customs release of the Cargo. However, Importers who have agreed to the Automated Clearing House (ACH) procedures are exempt from paying the duty and user fees immediately. Generally, under this system, they are allowed to pay duty ten days after Customs release.

\*Professional Brokers arrange to pay duty through electronic means directly to Customs. This is called ACH.