

exportation, warehousing, cartage or lighterage, vessel supplies and equipment, admission to another zone, and like purposes.

Unique identifier. “Unique identifier” means the numbers, letters, or combination of numbers and letters that identify merchandise admitted to a zone with zone status.

User. “User” means a person or firm using a zone or subzone for storage, handling, or processing of merchandise.

Zone lot. “Zone lot” means a collection of merchandise maintained under an inventory control method based on specific identification of merchandise admitted to a zone by lot.

Zone site. “Zone site” means the physical location of a zone or subzone.

Zone status. “Zone status” means the status of merchandise admitted to a zone, i.e., nonprivileged foreign, privileged foreign, zone restricted, or domestic.

[T.D. 86-16, 51 FR 5049, Feb. 11, 1986, as amended by T.D. 89-1, 53 FR 51263, Dec. 21, 1988; T.D. 99-27, 64 FR 13674, Mar. 22, 1999]

§ 146.2 Port director as Board representative.

The appropriate port director shall be in charge of the zone as the representative of the Board.

[T.D. 86-16, 51 FR 5049, Feb. 11, 1986, as amended by T.D. 99-27, 64 FR 13676, Mar. 22, 1999]

§ 146.3 Customs supervision.

(a) *Assignment of Customs officers.* Customs officers will be assigned or detailed to a zone as necessary to maintain appropriate Customs supervision of merchandise and records pertaining thereto in the zone, and to protect the revenue.

(b) *Supervision.* Customs supervision over any zone or transaction provided for in this part will be in accordance with § 101.2(c) of this chapter. The port director may direct a Customs officer to supervise any transaction or procedure at a zone. Supervision may be performed through a periodic audit of the operator’s records, quantity count of goods in a zone inventory, spot check of selected transactions or procedures,

or review of recordkeeping, security, or conditions of storage in a zone.

[T.D. 86-16, 51 FR 5049, Feb. 11, 1986, as amended by T.D. 98-22, 63 FR 11826, Mar. 11, 1998]

§ 146.4 Operator responsibility and supervision.

(a) *Supervision.* The operator shall supervise all admissions, transfers, removals, recordkeeping, manipulations, manufacturing, destruction, exhibition, physical and procedural security, and conditions of storage in the zone as required by law and regulations. Supervision by the operator shall be that which a prudent manager of a storage, manipulation, or manufacturing facility would be expected to exercise, and may take into account the degree of supervision exercised by the zone user having physical possession of zone merchandise.

(b) *Customs access.* The operator shall permit any Customs officer access to a zone.

(c) *Safekeeping of merchandise and records.* The operator is responsible for safekeeping of merchandise and records concerning merchandise admitted to a zone. The operator, at its liability, may allow the zone importer or owner of the goods to store, safeguard, and otherwise maintain or handle the goods and the inventory records pertaining to them.

(d) *Records maintenance.* The operator shall (1) maintain the inventory control and recordkeeping system in accordance with the provisions of subpart B, (2) retain all records required in this part and defined in § 162.1(a) of this chapter, pertaining to zone merchandise for 5 years after the merchandise is removed from the zone, and (3) protect proprietary information in its custody from unauthorized disclosure. Records shall be readily available for Customs review at the zone.

(e) *Merchandise security.* The operator shall maintain the zone and establish procedures adequate to ensure the security of merchandise located in the zone in accordance with applicable Customs security standards and specifications.

(f) *Storage and handling.* The operator shall store and handle merchandise in a zone in a safe and sanitary manner to