

Easy3PL FTZ Broker Handoff Guide

How a WMS should prepare FTZ/e214 data for brokers without becoming the official ACE/ABI filer.

The product position

Easy3PL prepares clean, validated, audit-ready FTZ data and hands it off to the broker or trade-compliance system. Easy3PL records broker responses and references, but it is not the official ACE/ABI filer.

THE COMMON MODEL

What most WMS products do

Most WMS products do not directly file to ACE/ABI. The safer and more typical warehouse-side model is to capture, validate, package, and hand off customs-relevant data to the party responsible for filing.

1. Capture

The WMS captures SKU, HTSUS, country of origin, quantities, lots, values, weights, BOL/AWB/In-Bond, FTZ admission lines, and receipt context.

2. Package

The WMS validates the data and packages it as CSV, JSON, XML, EDI, PDF, API payload, SFTP file, or another broker-agreed format.

3. File

The broker or trade-compliance system performs the official filing through ABI/ACE or its brokerage platform.

4. Record

The broker returns status, rejection/acceptance, authorization/release, ACE submission ID, broker reference, messages, holds, or related details.

EASY3PL SCOPE

What Easy3PL does and does not do

Easy3PL does

- Captures FTZ site, client importer, broker, receipt, admission, and line-level customs data.
- Validates required FTZ/e214 fields before handoff.
- Exports broker-ready PDF, CSV, and JSON packets.
- Sends the e214 JSON packet to a configured broker endpoint.
- Logs request/response activity in filing events and audit history.

Easy3PL does not

- File directly to CBP, ACE, or ABI.
- Replace the customs broker or importer of record.
- Certify legal correctness of HTSUS, valuation, admissibility, or regulatory treatment.
- Automatically mark the admission Filed just because a packet was exported or sent.
- Remove the need for broker or FTZ operator compliance procedures.

Why Mark Filed stays separate

Sending a packet is a system action. Mark Filed is an operational sign-off that the filing was actually submitted outside Easy3PL by the broker, FTZ operator, or filing party.

DISCREPANCIES

Receiving discrepancies and filing readiness

A broker packet is only as clean as the receiving record behind it. Easy3PL separates blocking problems from review items, so a handoff is never sent over a real discrepancy and never silently carries one either.

Blocking errors - the handoff is refused until they are fixed:

- Required FTZ header or line fields missing (site, importer, HTSUS, COO, zone status, quantity, UOM, customs value).
- Received inventory that is neither linked to an admission line nor held in FTZ suspense.
- An admission line that is over-admitted by linked inventory.

Review items - the handoff is allowed, but they must be reviewed and disclosed:

- Inventory held in FTZ suspense because it exceeds the authorized admission quantity or has no matching admission line.
- Open receiving discrepancies (shortage or overage) that have not been acknowledged or resolved.

How to describe it to the broker: the quantities in the packet are the authorized admission quantities. Any physical goods outside those quantities are held in FTZ suspense rather than admitted, so they are deliberately excluded from declared admitted stock until the discrepancy is resolved.

Correction discipline

Once an admission line has linked inventory, saving a change to its quantity or customs values prompts for a correction reason and will not save without it. The before/after values plus the reason are recorded in the FTZ audit trail, so a broker or CBP can reconstruct what changed, when, and by whom.

DIRECT FILING

When ACE/ABI filing belongs in the software

Direct ACE/ABI filing is real, but it usually belongs in software that is part of the customs filing chain, not in a normal warehouse execution system.

- Licensed customs broker platforms
- Trade-compliance systems
- Broker-owned logistics platforms
- FTZ-specialized compliance products
- Companies with in-house brokerage or filer operations

Plain-English distinction

Broker handoff improves the quality, speed, and traceability of the data the broker receives. Direct ACE/ABI filing changes Easy3PL into a customs filing platform, with a different operational and compliance burden.

EASY3PL WORKFLOW

How the handoff should be used

Prepare receipt

Create the FTZ-controlled receipt and complete FTZ/e214 header and admission lines.

Validate

Run Easy3PL validation and resolve blocking errors before sending anything to the broker.

Send packet

Use Export PDF/CSV/JSON or Send Broker Packet to transmit the prepared handoff data.

Broker files

The broker files through ACE/ABI or their brokerage platform and returns references or status messages.

Record response

Easy3PL stores broker/ACE references and logs the request/response for traceability.

Operational sign-off

Click Mark Filed only after confirming the broker submission happened. Click Mark Authorized after approval/release is received.

CLIENT EXPLANATION

How to describe this posture

Talk track

Easy3PL is the warehouse-side control system. It prepares and protects the FTZ data attached to inventory. The broker or filing party remains responsible for the official ACE/ABI filing. This is not a limitation of Easy3PL; it is a clean separation of warehouse execution, customs data preparation, and legal filing responsibility.

SOURCES**Reference links****CBP ACE access methods and E214 via EDI**

<https://www.cbp.gov/trade/automated/how-to-use-ace>

CBP ABI overview

<https://www.help.cbp.gov/s/article/Article1844>

SAP broker integration model

https://help.sap.com/docs/SAP_GLOBAL_TRADE_SERVICES/bdb1d2fb216941a69f6300006343e977/4c3fd77ea1b4440b978ad421ced58846.html