

March 12, 2013

Ms. Tracey Denning
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Regulations and Rulings
Office of International Trade
799 9th Street, NW -- 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20229-1177

RE: *Federal Register* notice of January 18, 2013, for CBP Forms 214, 214A, 214B, and 214C
--Application for Foreign Trade Zone Admission and/or Status Designation (OMB
Number: 1651-0029)

Dear Ms. Denning:

The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) strongly supports continued collection of information for the Customs and Border Protection Forms CBP-214, 214A, 214B, and 214C (Application for Foreign Trade Zone Admission and/or Status Designation). Information obtained from these forms is critical to the compilation of the foreign trade statistics of the United States, and failure to collect this information would have an immediate adverse impact on the quality of these statistics. Accurate measurement of activity in foreign trade zones has taken on increased significance in recent years as the zones play a larger role in international trade.

The foreign trade statistics are critical to the quality of the international transactions accounts (ITA) and the input-output (I-O) accounts. Data from Form CBP-214 (items 14-20), movements of merchandise into foreign trade zones (FTZ) in the United States, are used by the Bureau of Census to prepare general imports of merchandise into the United States. These general imports are used in both the ITA and I-O accounts. General imports of merchandise are a direct input into line 20 ([Imports of] Goods, balance of payments basis) in Table 1 of the ITAs.

Please keep BEA informed concerning any modifications to these forms. We are particularly interested in any modifications proposed during the forms' approval process that would substantially affect our use of these data. For additional information, please contact Ruth Bramblett, Source Data Coordinator, on 202-606-9653 or by e-mail at Ruth.Bramblett@bea.gov. Should you need assistance in justifying these forms to the Office of Management and Budget, please do not hesitate to contact BEA.

Sincerely,



Dennis J. Fixler
Chief Statistician
Attachment

Attachment

BEA Use of Customs and Border Protection Forms CBP-214, 214A, 214B, and 214C

Data Item:	Use of the Item:
CBP-214 (214, A, B, C) lines 14-20	ITA Table 1, line 20, General Imports