

Importer Security Filing: 10 required data elements

U.S.-bound ocean cargo (including goods entering into a foreign trade zone and in-transit bond shipments) requires the electronic submission of an Importer Security Filing (ISF). Below are the 10 data elements required for filing with Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in order to receive shipment approval.

- 1. Manufacturer (or supplier) name and address** – The name and address of the entity that last manufactured, assembled, produced, or grew the commodity, or, the name and address of the supplier of the finished goods in the country from which the goods are leaving.
- 2. Seller name and address** – The name and address of the last known entity that sold the goods or that agreed to sell the goods.
- 3. Buyer name and address** – The name and address of the last known entity to buy the goods or who agreed to buy the goods.
- 4. "Ship to" name and address** – The name and address of the first 'deliver-to' party scheduled to physically receive the goods after they have been released from Customs custody. The party physically receiving the goods must be provided and not an entity that merely owns the facility.
- 5. Scheduled container stuffing location** – The name and address(es) of the physical location(s) where the goods were stuffed into the container. For breakbulk shipments, the name and address(es) of the physical location(s) where the goods were made "ship ready" must be provided. When a container is stuffed at more than one location, all of the stuffing locations listed on the bill of lading must be provided.
- 6. Consolidator (stuffer) name and address** – The name and address of the party who stuffed the container or arranged for the stuffing of the container. If the manufacturer is the party that stuffed the container or arranged for stuffing, then the manufacturer is considered to be the consolidator (stuffer).
- 7. ISF importer number** – The Internal Revenue Service number, Employer Identification number, Social Security number or CBP-assigned number for the entity is responsible for the goods entering the limits of a U.S. port. The ISF importer may or may not be the importer of record for the Customs entry. The ISF importer may also be the owner, purchaser, consignee or agent.
- 8. Consignee identification number** – The Internal Revenue Service number, Employer Identification number, Social Security number or CBP-assigned number of the individual(s) or firm(s) in the United States on whose account the merchandise is being shipped. This element is the same as the "consignee number" element on the CBP form 3461.
- 9. Country of origin** – The country where the goods were manufactured, produced or grown. This element is the same as the "country of origin" element on the CBP form 3461.
- 10. Harmonized tariff schedule at minimum 6-digit level** – The duty/statistical reporting number under which the article is classified in the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS). The HTSUS number is required to be provided to the 6 digit level, however, it may be provided up to the 10 digit level.

Additionally, the bill of lading number, sometimes referred to as the 11th data element, is necessary to properly link the ISF to the Customs manifest data.

Bill of lading (BOL) number - You must use the lowest BOL level on your ISF. CBP will accept either the house BOL level or regular (simple, straight) BOL level.