

ISF Filing Guide

Step-by-step instructions for filing your Importer Security Filing on time, every time.

The Importer Security Filing (ISF), also called '10+2', is required for nearly all ocean shipments entering the United States. Missing the deadline carries penalties of up to \$5,000 per violation. This guide walks through exactly what's required and when.

What Is ISF (10+2)?

ISF requires the importer (or their broker) to submit 10 data elements, while the carrier submits 2 additional elements — hence '10+2'. This information allows CBP to assess security risk before the vessel even arrives in US waters.

The 10 Importer Data Elements

- Seller name and address
- Buyer name and address
- Importer of Record number
- Consignee number
- Manufacturer (or supplier) name and address
- Ship-to party name and address
- Country of origin
- HTS number (6-digit minimum)
- Container stuffing location
- Consolidator (stuffer) name and address

Filing Deadline

ISF must be filed no later than 24 hours before cargo is laden aboard the vessel at the foreign port — not 24 hours before arrival in the US. This timing catches many first-time importers off guard, since it requires the import data to be finalized well before the shipment even leaves the origin country.

Penalties for Late or Inaccurate Filing

Violation	Typical Penalty
Late filing	Up to \$5,000 per violation

Inaccurate or incomplete filing	Up to \$5,000 per violation
No filing at all	Up to \$10,000 + possible cargo hold

How Advante Handles This for You

Every ocean shipment Advante manages includes ISF filing as a standard part of our service — there's no separate step or extra fee. We collect the required data during intake and file directly with CBP. We also monitor vessel departure schedules, so if a sailing date changes, we re-confirm your ISF remains accurate and compliant before the cutoff.