



Foreign Trade Zone

Eight sites in Alexander, Burke, Caldwell and Catawba Counties have been granted foreign-trade zone (FTZ) status by the US Foreign Trade Zones Board. The eight sites located in the Hickory Metropolitan Foreign Trade Zone have been established as an expansion of Charlotte FTZ 57 as a “general purpose foreign trade zone” intended for business development and marketing purposes. The Foreign Trade Zone program provides many economic benefits for businesses involved in international trade.

The original FTZ Act, passed by Congress in 1934, was intended to stimulate international trade and create or retain jobs in the US that might otherwise go abroad. When activated by an operator under US Customs and Border Protection rules “general purposes FTZ sites” afford the users certain tax and tariff relief. One example is that no Customs duties are levied on an entire shipment stored (indefinitely) in the FTZ; duties are paid only on the portion of the product sold into the US market, and not until the time it is put into US Commerce. Meanwhile, any product stored in the Zone that is sold abroad is not dutiable.

Of the eight sites in the Greater Hickory Metro FTZ, the six shown below in bold are located in Catawba County.

- Alexander County, a 160-acre site owned by the Alexander Railroad Company on NC Highway 90 east of the Taylorsville Town limits.
- Lenoir Business Park and the adjacent J & M Business Park on NC Highway 18 in Lenoir.
- In Burke County, a 542-acre location north of Interstate 40 and west of Dysartville Road.
- **At the Hickory Regional Airport, located in Burke and in Catawba County. Included in this site are about 400 acres in the Lakepark Development.**
- *** Consolidation Services located off US Hwy 321 in Northwest Hickory.**
- **Conwareco Logistics, Inc., a warehouse site in downtown Hickory.**
- **Diamante Group, a yarn production and distribution facility off Tate Boulevard in Hickory.**
- **Conover West, 300-acre industrial park fronting I-40 in Conover.**
- **Danner Industrial Park, 150 acres in Newton.**

* - indicates activated site