

What is a Free Zone?

Part of a State's territory in which goods are considered to be introduced as if they were outside the customs area, as far as import rights and the implementation of trade policies are concerned. The single aim of Free Zones is to boost international trade.

Who can operate within a Free Zone?

Any enterprises that need to export or import part of their goods or that are directly devoted to international trade. The benefits of these exempt areas are for operations made within the European Union and third party countries, or for trade between two or more non-Community places. Community goods can also be stored in a Free Zone.

What operations can be carried out?

Stored goods can be subject to usual handling for their conservation, enhancement of their presentation or trading quality, or for preparation for distribution or re-sale.

How long and under what conditions can goods be stored?

The storing time in a Free Zone is limited for all classes of goods. Conditions are agreed by fixing a fee for weight, surface area or volume.

What are the advantages of a Free Zone?

For the exporter: Community goods, including national ones, introduced into a Free Zone can benefit from measures aimed at exporting such as payment of reimbursements and VAT exemption. Receipt of these amounts is made from the very moment the goods enter the Free Zone.

For the importer: When goods enter or stay in a Free Zone there is no application of customs duties; agricultural regulatory charges; special duties on alcoholic beverages, hydrocarbons and tobacco, or value added tax (VAT). A delay in the payment of these taxes constitutes a major financial advantage.

What does the Vigo Free Zone offer?

A privileged location in the NW of the Iberian Peninsula. The city is on the same parallel as New York, in the middle of trans-oceanic routes, and its port is an enclave in one of the greatest natural bays in the world.

- Vigo has one of the largest fishing ports in the world, and its storage capacity for granite and industrial cold warehousing is among Europe's biggest.
- The city is only 30 Km. from Portugal, has an international airport, and enjoys motorway and rail connections with the main cities in Spain and Portugal.
- The Free Zone in Vigo is currently increasing its capacity for vehicle and component transport; there are two storage areas, one at Balaídos with 37,633 m² of covered area within one million metres of industrial estate, and another area of 200,000 m² in the port itself, with warehouses and open air storage areas, from which it is possible to load and unload goods transported by sea.
- The Free Zone in Vigo is run by a public consortium that has set up fast and simple control systems to facilitate international trade.
- Security is guaranteed as all the Free Zone facilities are fenced off and equipped with 24-hour alarm and surveillance systems.
- The Free Zone also acts as a local development agency and can provide entrepreneurs with any contacts they need in the Administration or potential partners or customers.