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Fatal Error Focus

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Tips on How to Resolve AES Fatal Errors

When a shipment is filed to the AES, a system response message is generated and indicates whether the shipment has been accepted or rejected. If the shipment is accepted, the AES filer receives an Internal Transaction Number (ITN) as confirmation. However, if the shipment is rejected, a Fatal Error notification is received.

To help you resolve AES Fatal Errors, here are some tips on how to correct the most frequent errors that were generated in AES for the month of May.

Fatal Error Response Code: 138

Narrative: Port of Unlading Missing
Reason: The Port of Unlading is missing. All vessel shipments, and any air shipments between the United States and Puerto Rico must provide a Port of Unlading.
Resolution: The Port of Unlading is the foreign port where the exported merchandise is unloaded from the exporting carrier. You must report a valid Port of Unlading for all vessel shipments, and any air shipments between the United States and Puerto Rico.

Correct the Port of Unlading and resubmit.

Fatal Error Response Code: 649

Narrative: QUANTITY 1 CANNOT EXCEED SHIPPING WEIGHT
Reason: Shipping weight is reported in kilograms. When the Unit of Measure 1 required is kilograms, the first net quantity (Quantity 1) cannot exceed the shipping weight. Ensure the shipping weight includes the weight of the packaging materials.
Resolution: The first net quantity (Quantity 1) in kilograms cannot exceed the shipping weight in kilograms.

Verify the Quantity 1 and Shipping Weight, correct the shipment and resubmit.

For a complete list of Fatal Error Response Codes, their reasons, and resolutions, see Appendix A - Comodity Filing Response Messages.

It is important that AES filers correct Fatal Errors as soon as they are received in order to comply with the Foreign Trade Regulations. These errors must be corrected prior to export for shipments filed predeparture and as soon as possible for shipments filed postdeparture, but not later than ten calendar days after departure.

For further information or questions, contact the U.S. Census Bureau's AES Branch.
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