

CUSTOMS HISTORY AT RFD

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is the unified border agency within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). In 2003 CBP combined the inspectional workforces and broad border authorities of U.S. Customs, U.S. Immigration, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the entire U.S. Border Patrol and created the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection. CBP includes more than 41,000 employees to manage, control and protect the Nation's borders, at and between the official ports of entry.

In 1989 RFD was designated a User Fee Airport with a local Customs Inspector on duty. A User Fee Airport is a small airport which has been approved by the Commissioner of Customs and Border protection (United States Customs Service at the time) to receive, for a fee, the services of a CBP Officer for the processing of aircraft entering the United States and their passengers and cargo. The airport paid all costs of customs operations at that time, estimated annually at \$100,000.

During the mid - to - late 1980s increased growth in international passenger and cargo operations at RFD resulted in the combined efforts of the Council of 100 (now the Rockford Area Economic Development Council), the Rockford Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Rockford Airport Authority, and the community to seek Port of Entry status for RFD. Port of Entry status would allow a permanent Customs presence at the airport as well as allow Foreign Trade zone status for RFD. A "Port of Entry" is an officially designated location (seaports, airports, and or land border locations) where Customs and Border protection Officers or employees are assigned to accept entries of merchandise, clear passengers, collect duties, and enforce the various provisions of CBP and related laws. Ports of entry are responsible for daily port specific operations. There are 326 official ports of entry in the United States and 15 Preclearance offices in Canada and the Caribbean. Port personnel are the face at the border for most cargo and visitors entering the United States. Here CBP enforces the import and export laws and regulations of the U.S. federal government and conducts immigration policy and programs. Ports also perform agriculture inspections to protect the USA from potential carriers of animal and plant pests or diseases that could cause serious damage to America's crops, livestock, pets, and the environment.

On September 13, 1995, RFD became the first User Fee Airport to 'upgrade' to full Port of Entry status in the history of The U.S. Customs service. Effective February, 16, 2006, the geographical limits of the Port of Rockford were expanded to reflect the Global III Intermodal Hub located in Rochelle, Illinois.

The new boundaries are:

Bounded to the north by the Illinois/Wisconsin border; bounded to the west by Illinois State Route 26; bounded to the South by Interstate Route 88; bounded to the east by Illinois State Route 23 to the Wisconsin/Illinois border.

CURRENT CUSTOMS CAPACITY

RFD enjoys Customs Port of Entry status with an office and personnel located on airport property, capable of customs clearance within 24 hours for merchandise arriving at RFD. A CES (centralized examination station) is located adjacent to the Airport, accommodating heavy freight arriving by train or truck. Supply chain savings are substantial for end-users: some Midwest users can shave 2 to 3 days off their schedule. A state of the art Federal Inspection Service (FIS) area is located at the RFD International Terminal for the processing and clearance of international travelers by Customs and Border Protection Officers

Currently, CBC Customhouse Brokers maintains a Rockford office with the balance of the activity handled by Chicago-based brokers.

Rockford Port of Entry contact information
Port Director Adam Rottman
50 Airport Dr. Rockford, IL 61109
Office: 815-928-0661
Fax: 815-965-6611