



**Fortessa**

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## News Release

### **Fortessa Activates Foreign Trade Zone in Northern Virginia – An Opportunity for New Local Jobs, Expanded International Commerce**

**Winchester, VA** – Fortessa, the designer, developer and marketer of trendsetting high-quality tableware products and accessories for commercial food service and consumer markets, will officially open the only activated Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) in Northern Virginia and the first in Winchester on January 12, 2007. The development will help boost Virginia's initiatives to make the state a major hub for international commerce.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place at its state-of-the-art warehouse located at 402 McGhee Road in Winchester, VA. Christopher Hess, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Port Director of Dulles whose territory includes the northern Virginia counties, and the Board of Directors of Fortessa, will conduct the ceremony.

The activation of Fortessa's FTZ supports the goal to make Virginia a major hub for international commerce. It will generate increased utilization of Virginia's sea port at Norfolk and the inland port at Front Royal, which will result in greater revenue for Northern Virginia from the global marketplace.

The newly designated facility will warehouse the Fortessa lines of fine china, flatware accessories, specialty glassware and the collections of Schott Zwiesel crystal glassware. "The FTZ designation not only offers opportunities to grow our company's export business, but it will also result in new job creation locally. It will allow us to provide faster and more efficient service to our foreign partners and customers while also benefiting our local community." Mr. Scott Hamberger, Managing Director of Fortessa, explained.

FTZs are the United States version of what are known internationally as free-trade zones. They are secure areas under U.S. Customs supervision that are generally considered outside the Customs territory upon activation but remain subject to the laws and regulations of the United States as well as those of the states and communities in which they are located. The U.S. Customs Service must approve activation of the zone before any merchandise is admitted under the Foreign-Trade Zones Act.

Based in Sterling, VA, Fortessa expanded its warehouse operations in 2006 with the addition of a 90,000 square foot facility in Winchester that will have the distinction of being the only activated FTZ in Northern Virginia. Plans for growth include introducing more of the innovative products for which Fortessa is known in the U.S. and internationally. The activated FTZ at the new facility also provides the advantage of having ready access to the right goods at the right time, resulting in faster and more efficient order fulfillment for the company's customers.

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