

International Freight Shipping:

DEALING WITH CUSTOMS

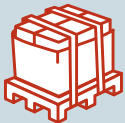


One of the most crucial aspects of dealing with international freight shipments is understanding the ins and outs of the customs process.

Learn how to ship far away — the right way — with our top customs tips.

Cruise through customs with these four international shipping tips:

PACK PROPERLY



It's always a good idea to properly package your freight — especially when shipping beyond the border. Besides making it more likely that shipments arrive intact and undamaged, secure packaging also discourages tampering and theft in transit.

DESCRIBE IN DETAIL



Ensure your paperwork isn't just complete, but accurate, too! An inaccurate description of your freight (such as its weight, dimensions or value) or an incorrect Harmonized System (HS) Code (used to classify your goods and assess appropriate fees) are common triggers for unexpected delays and charges.

You can use online tools like the Census Bureau's free Schedule B search engine to find the correct HS code for your shipment.

What are customs?

Customs are the taxes and fees that must be paid in order to ship freight between countries. Every country has its own set of guidelines and costs, but you'll always deal with customs paperwork (and associated fees) when you ship from one country to another.

BE A PAPERWORK PRO



Providing documentation is essential to keep your international shipments moving through customs and beyond — and also makes things much simpler in the event of a customs dispute.

Paperwork can typically be submitted electronically, but if you must provide physical documentation, be sure to attach the documents to the outside (not the inside!) of your shipment.

Common documentation includes:

- Commercial invoice
- Packing list
- Bill of lading (generated by the carrier handling the cargo)

KNOW YOUR INCOTERMS



Incoterms ("international commercial terms") help establish payment responsibilities between the exporter and importer. When it comes to managing import fees, minimizing your involvement is best — which is why we recommend shipping under Delivered at Place (DAP). This means that you (the exporter) pay for transportation costs, but the importer handles any customs-related charges.

PARTNER WITH THE PROS

With a little preparation — and the right partner to help you along the way — you can avoid common customs headaches and pitfalls. **Contact Unishippers today to start simplifying your international logistics.**