

HOW TO AVOID BORDER DELAYS

Follow these tips to ensure your shipments clear quickly

When importing and exporting, there are many details that need to be addressed in order to guarantee that a shipment makes it to its destination as quickly as possible. Quick clearances at the border prevent supply chain disruptions and help to avoid unnecessary penalties.

❑ 1. Be certain that your paperwork is complete, accurate and readable

The details matter. Errors, omissions and inconsistencies in documentation are one of the main reasons that shipments are delayed at the border. Pay careful attention to tariff numbers, countries of origin and descriptions when completing documents.

❑ 2. Embrace technology

The use of electronic methods for data transmission ensures speed and reduces the chance of errors. Communicating shipment information via Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) to your broker is a tech-based solution that contributes to efficient quick clearings at the border and provides a method to pre-check the clearance status prior to arrival.

❑ 3. Partner with a Customs Broker

Customs Brokers are licensed professionals who are experts in the complexities of international trade and assist importers and exporters with completing all of the required documentation to clear shipments through the border.

❑ 4. Select a reliable and reputable carrier

A carrier who is certified under customs security programs (C-TPAT in the US or PIP in Canada) and has a solid reputation in the industry can be the difference when it comes to getting your goods to their destination on time.

❑ 5. Research the requirements for your commodity

Knowledge regarding your commodity is essential, including being aware of which government departments (i.e. FDA / CFIA) need to be involved. The end use and composition of the product are examples of data used to determine import requirements.

We hope that this guide has given you some insights into best practices to avoid border delays. Please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions or if you would like more information.