



Importers' Checklist





1

Review your Incoterms

The [Incoterms](#) are the clauses that govern cost and risk between buyer and overseas supplier. Be aware of the cost and risks that these terms place on you.

Ensure the agreement with your supplier uses a term that is in your favour – so that your company isn't paying too many costs and bearing too much risk.

2

Check if any Free Trade Agreements apply

[Free Trade Agreements \(FTAs\)](#) with other countries remove barriers to trade such as tariffs, quotas and subsidies. If an FTA applies to your shipment, you may be able to take advantage of tax deductions.

Australia has FTAs with China, Japan, United States, South Korea, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Chile, Peru and other countries in the Pacific.



3

Prepare for Stink Bug measures

Australia has strict requirements in place to prevent the introduction of the [Brown Marmorated Stink Bug \(BMSB\)](#), a well-known pest in the shipping industry. These measures usually apply from September to April every year, requiring controls such as offshore fumigation treatment and verification inspections. Strict penalties apply if you don't comply, such as cargo destruction or re-export at the shipper's expense.

Note: You will usually be exempt from BMSB measures if you pack and seal your goods before a certain date, or if you're shipping New, Unused and Not Field Tested equipment. Speak to a Customs Broker to understand what applies to your shipment.



4

Ensure all documentation is in order

The most important thing is ensuring all your [shipping documentation](#) is correct to the smallest detail. Any discrepancy may lead your shipment to experience delays and further costs when it is processed through customs. These documents include your:

- Commercial Invoice
- Packing List
- Packing Declaration
- House bill of lading / Airway bill of lading
- Certificate of Origin (if applicable)
- Other declarations as necessary (e.g. fumigation certificate, dangerous goods declaration or import permit)

Know your duties and taxation requirements

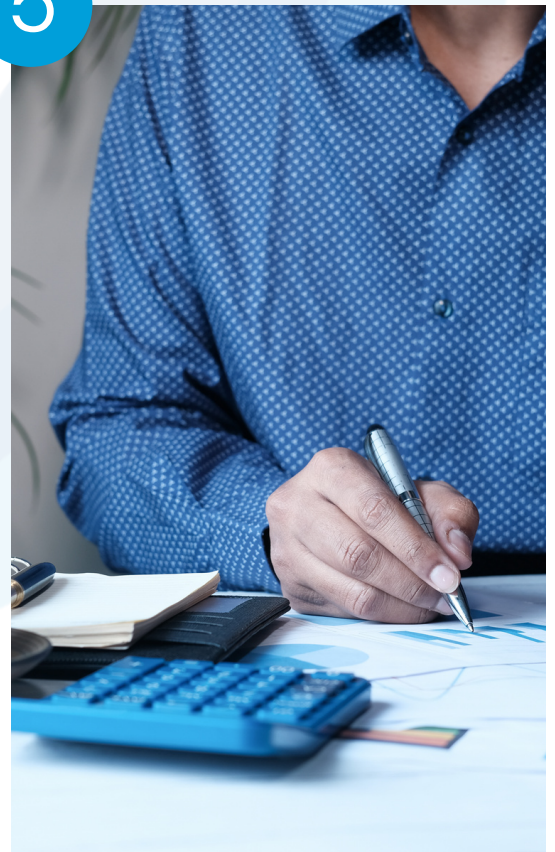
Many imported goods into Australia will attract a duty of 5% on the goods' Free on Board (FOB) value, but they may also be duty free. It all depends on the goods in the shipment or product [HS codes](#).

It is worth checking with your licenced customs broker if an anti-dumping duty applies to your import.

You'll also have to pay Goods and Services Tax (GST) when bringing goods into the country.

Eligible importers may also be able to defer paying GST until a later date under the Australian government's scheme.

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Present the correct permits and licences

Always check whether you need a permit prior to importing your goods [here](#). Failure to have the correct permit or licence may lead to delays at the border or even have your goods turned back.

If shipping equipment – Consider whether you require an equipment licence (EQPL) if you're importing goods containing synthetic greenhouse gases or other chemicals. Machinery imports must be free from biosecurity risk material. Used equipment requires an import permit, and needs to be decontaminated or cleaned before shipping.

If shipping Dangerous Goods – When shipping hazardous cargo via sea, your shipment must be accompanied with a declaration known as [MO41](#). For air freight, an Airfreight Dangerous Goods Declaration ([DGD](#)) is required. The goods must also be accompanied by Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) provided by your manufacturer or supplier.

If shipping plants or organic materials – Plants or plant-based materials (including furniture made of plant products) need to be accompanied by a [Phytosanitary Certificate](#).

If shipping food – An import permit is required for some foods (particularly perishables), plant or animal-based products, organic or biological materials. Importers must check the [BICON database](#) to verify if an import permit is required for their specific goods or even if they are allowed to enter Australia.



Take out a marine insurance policy

Vessels may collide, weather may be choppy or your goods may be mishandled at some stage damaging your cargo. A robust [marine insurance](#) policy in place will cover you in case of such loss and damage, while giving you the peace of mind knowing your cargo is protected.

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About Us

International Cargo Express is an Australian-Owned International Freight Forwarder with a strength in premium customer service. With exceptional communication, and a strong worldwide network, we carefully tailor our freight solutions to your specific requirements.

WHY ICE



Flexibility

As an independent company, we source the best shipping solution available within our vetted partner network. We are not tied to only one service option or provider.



Customer Service

Exceptional customer service is what set us apart. You can expect second-to-none communication and a personable experience when working with ICE.



Contactability

ICE offer direct and fast access to our senior management. Easily get hold of who is looking after your shipment without being placed in a customer service queue.

Schedule a shipping consultation with our experienced team on 1300 227 461.





We consult. We plan. We deliver.

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