

Details & Specifics on IMPORTING

Why are there multiple lines on my Customs entry, can't it be done in just one?

No, not always. Before your goods are declared to NZ Customs on an import entry, they must be classified in the NZ Customs Tariff and allocated a "tariff code" according to complicated legislation. The last 3 characters of a tariff code are for the benefit of Statistics NZ who collect statistical data from customs entries.

Each "line" on a customs entry represents a different tariff code. Even similar products may have a different 3 character statistical code and therefore require a separate line on the customs entry. The use of a "concession code" will also affect entry lines.

What's a concession code?

A supplement publication to the NZ Customs Tariff, concessions act like a discount coupon on customs duty. Where a tariff code may be general in its description of goods, a concession is more specific.

How is Customs duty calculated?

Duty is calculated at the applicable rate on the FOB value of the goods. The FOB value is first converted to NZ dollars. You should contact us well in advance to find out if duty will apply to your product/s and what the current applicable rate is.

How is Customs GST calculated?

The rate of GST is applied against the Duty payable + the CIF value of the goods. The CIF value is first converted to NZ dollars. This formula was written into legislation by the NZ Government.

What's FOB and CIF?

Read all about international terms like this from our online Resource Centre at www.beaconglobal.co.nz. Select Industry Incoterms from the sub-menu.

What exchange rate is used to convert to NZ dollars for the Customs calculations?

NZ Customs set their own exchange rates every 2 weeks. The rate at the time of clearance will apply.

Why can't I get my LCL freight the same day the container arrives at port?

LCL means Less than a Container Load. If you can't

fill a container, the space has to be shared with others. Ships only carry FCLs (full container loads) so one party will be responsible for the entire FCL from consolidating the freight from the individual shippers to preparing the shipping documents.

Once a ship arrives at port, it can take time for the Forwarder to physically collect the FCL, unpack it in accordance with border regulations and divide up the contents according to the individual shipping documents. If someone's freight in the container causes a MAF problem, it'll hold up everyone else's too.

Then there's the time it takes to onforward freight that arrived in an FCL in Auckland but belongs in another city.

Can I avoid Auckland if I want my freight in the South Island?

Yes. We operate a sea freight service called "Easy-Freight Direct" that strives to avoid Auckland wherever possible. There are exceptions but mostly your southern imports will first arrive into Christchurch rather than Auckland unless you instruct us otherwise.

What's a Port Security fee?

This is a question for a shipping company however, it's understood to be a fee to recoup the costs covering vessel security risk assessment and certification so they can comply with International Ship & Port Security (ISPS) regulations.

Why are FCLs only allowed to go to a MAF Transitional Facility for unpack?

It's the law. It was put in place to protect NZ's border from flora and fauna that doesn't belong here. Only facilities that have been approved are allowed to receive FCLs in order to minimise risk.

Why does each Transitional Facility have to have an Accredited Person supervising the unpack?

It's the law. Having the right facility also requires having a trained person who knows what to look for and what to do if something is found.

What can I do if my place isn't a Transitional Facility?

Either apply if the costs justify it or get your FCL

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delivered to a place like ours that is. If your freight requires specialised handling that only you can provide, you have little choice but to go through the approvals process.

What if my place is a Transitional Facility but I don't have any Accredited Persons?

Call us and make a time for one of our Accredited Persons to supervise your unpack. Our fee is reasonable and it may be more practical for you to operate this way.

Why is the Quarantine Declaration such a big issue and why is MAF so strict on it?

This is a question for MAF however, it's understood that such a lawful declaration as this must comply exactly with MAF's requirements. The declaration must show a date earlier than when the FCL was shipped, it must be completed in full and be signed by the party who loaded the container overseas. The correct version of the form must also be used. Non-compliance results in an audit of the next 5 FCLs or for a period of 12 months, whichever comes first.

Where can my Supplier get the correct Quarantine Declaration form from?

You'll find a blank form in our online Resource Centre at www.beaconglobal.co.nz. Select Blank Forms from the sub-menu. Tell them they must copy this form onto their letterhead, complete it in full, sign it and date it prior to the actual date of shipping.

What's dumping and countervailing duty?

Dumping duty is an additional duty imposed on goods sold in NZ at a price lower than the price in the overseas market or at prices lower than cost.

Countervailing duty is an additional duty imposed on goods that have benefited from some kind of subsidy, a practice that effectively lowers the price of the goods for sale in NZ by an overseas supplier.

While both these duties are restricted to a case-by-case basis, both are charged on top of standard customs duty and/or GST.

How does Customs know when to impose dumping or countervailing duty?

The simple answer is complaints. If a NZ business feels disadvantaged by a competing imported product and can prove it's being supplied at a very low cost or is gaining price advantage through government

subsidy, they can lodge an industry complaint. The complaint is then investigated and if upheld, dumping or countervailing duty may result.

Do you have any more detailed information on how to import?

Yes. Consider purchasing our publication "The Real Stuff on Importing & Exporting" or ordering our FREE "Survival Guide" booklets. Visit our online Bookshop at www.beaconglobal.co.nz.

List any further questions you have for us and feel free to get in touch...

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