

General Information on IMPORTING

Is there any specific legislation I should know about before importing my product?

Possibly. It's best to check all Government resources before you do anything. Do it online from our Resource Centre at www.beaconglobal.co.nz. Select Links from the sub-menu.

How do I get my imports shipped in from overseas?

Tell your supplier you'll do the freighting then complete our simple "Import Freight Instructions to Beacon" form. We'll do the rest. Forms are online in the Resource Centre at www.beaconglobal.co.nz. Select Blank Forms from the sub-menu.

Will there be anything to pay when my freight arrives in New Zealand?

Yes. There'll be customs duty and/or GST, port charges, customs clearance, delivery and admin fees. Depending on your product or freight arrangements, there'll also be shipping, MAF Quarantine and/or other border authority fees. While some costs may be paid overseas, there'll always be something to pay in NZ.

Will I need my freight cleared through NZ Customs on arrival?

Yes. Just like people, freight moving across the NZ border requires formal customs clearance, there are very few exceptions (such as low value postal items).

When do I pay you?

Once we've cleared your freight through NZ Customs we'll provide you with an invoice that you'll need to pay before your freight can be delivered to you.

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.

What shipping documents are needed for customs clearance?

- Suppliers invoice listing all products & their individual values (including gifts & their values)
- Bill of Lading or Waybill
- Treatment, Hazardous Certificates etc (if applicable)
- Quarantine Declaration that's been correctly completed, signed & dated by your Supplier (full shipping containers only)
- Cover note from you with delivery instructions

Nothing can be done without these documents. It's best to get these to us before your freight arrives to avoid delay and extra costs.

Where can my Supplier get the 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.

Who can help me with Unpack, Storage and/or Distribution?

We can. We operate both a warehouse and a self-storage facility. Our warehouse is both a Customs Bond and a MAF Transitional Facility.

What's a MAF Transitional Facility?

It's the registration required by MAF Quarantine to accept full containers from the wharf for unpack under the supervision of a MAF Accredited Person. Full containers can only go to a MAF Transitional Facility.

Should I insure my goods while they're in transit?

Yes. Even though it's an extra cost, it's often not as expensive as losing your freight to damage or theft.

General Information on Importing continued...

How do I arrange insurance?

You can tell us to arrange cover simply by ticking a box on our "Freight Instructions to Beacon" form. You'll find this form online at www.beaconglobal.co.nz in the Resource Centre. Select Blank Forms from the sub-menu.

What if I've never imported before?

No problem. Just tell us and we'll set you up with a NZ Customs importer code. This code must be obtained before a customs clearance can be done so the earlier you get in touch with us the better.

What's an importer code and why do I need one?

An importer code is a unique identifying number with NZ Customs, much like a GST number is with Inland Revenue. This code can be issued to individuals or companies. It can also have a deferred payment account loaded against it if this option is specifically applied for. A customs clearance cannot be done without an importer code.

Should I set up a company or import in my own name?

This is a question for your accountant but you should know that if you set up a company that's registered for GST, you may be able to claim back GST paid on your imported goods from Inland Revenue.

Are there any MAF Quarantine issues with goods packed using wood?

Yes. All wood used for packaging of any kind must be ISPM15 treated and visibly stamped as such. MAF Quarantine will require treatment of anything that doesn't comply.

Where can I find easy to read information on how to import?

A great resource is our "Importers Survival Guide" booklet. Written especially for those who want basic information fast. Order your FREE copy from 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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