



Avoiding Common Pitfalls in Cross-Border Shipments

One frequent error in cross-border shipping involves inadequate paperwork. Shippers heading south to Mexico must ensure their carriers receive essential documents—commercial invoice, certificate of origin, and a bill of lading. Customs may detain shipments lacking any of these, causing delays and potential detention charges, which can accumulate to around \$300 per day after three days.

Selecting the Right Customs Broker

Choosing the wrong customs broker can lead to significant challenges and delays. Research is key; inquire about references, work history, and reputation before making a decision. Industry associations, such as the [National Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association of America](#) (NCBFAA) or local organizations like the [Laredo Licensed U.S. Customs Brokers Association](#), Inc. (LLUSCBA), can provide valuable assistance in finding reputable customs brokers.

Insufficient Funds for Duties

Having inadequate funds for duties upon arrival is a common mistake. Ensure immediate availability for wire transfers to avoid delays and additional detention charges. While customs brokers can estimate duties, the final cost is determined after verifying details like the country of origin, especially if it's outside USMCA borders, resulting in higher duties.

Multiple Parties Handling Shipments

Dealing with multiple parties during a shipment's journey across the border can lead to visibility issues. Opt for transportation providers offering [door-to-door](#) service, ensuring

a single point of contact for the shipper. This comprehensive approach provides peace of mind and complete visibility throughout the process.

Failure to Notify Customs Broker in Advance

Notifying the customs broker in advance is crucial to prevent delays and additional charges. A proactive approach allows the customs broker to prepare paperwork in advance, fitting the shipment into their schedule seamlessly. Failure to provide advance notice may result in the shipment being placed at the end of the queue.

Prioritize Research and Partner with Experienced Companies

Partner with experienced companies to guide you through the process, ensuring a smoother and more efficient cross-border shipping experience. Feel free to reach out for a consultation. [CargoQuotes](#)