

When importing from overseas, there are logistics to getting your order delivered from your supplier's factory ultimately to the Amazon warehouse. There are steps in between that you'll need to have covered to ensure your product is shipped, fees are paid, and your shipment is able to clear customs and avoid any unnecessary fines and headaches that may come about from poor planning.

In order to get your shipment to the U.S., you'll need to hire a Freight Forwarder - this is a fancy name for "shipper" when dealing with international shipments. The freight forwarder will work with you on getting your product from the manufacturer or supplier to the boat or plane your products are being shipped in. Your supplier may have their own freight forwarder and they'll pass on the cost to you.

(However, one available option a supplier may choose to go with is having your product shipped via a courier service, such as UPS/DHL/FedEx. This type of service can sometimes be cheaper and therefore more attractive. However, there are potential red flags you'll need to be aware of to make sure your shipment isn't detained by customs, and actually enters the U.S.)

For example, when using an express courier, you're shipping with other goods, and the courier is using their own bonds to get the product to the U.S. While goods do go under the radar with express couriers, if you're unlucky and have your shipment stopped by customs, you could end up paying a hefty fine if the goods you're shipping with are in fact high risk. You also run the risk of having customs reject your good, or destroying your goods - at your loss.)

Stick with traditional air or sea freight to be safe.

On top of working with a Freight Forwarder, you'll also need to work with a Customs Broker, who will ensure duties, tariffs, and taxes are paid on your product shipment when entering the U.S. They'll also make sure all necessary paperwork is filed so you avoid some very costly fines if the paperwork is not filed, filed late, or filed improperly.

Some types of fees that are a part of getting your goods from overseas include (but are not limited to):

- Importer Security Filing (ISF) bond and filing fee - ~\$95
 - All ISF paperwork is best handled by the Customs Broker
 - ISF paperwork includes important details about your import
 - If filed late, misfiled, or not filed at all, you face \$5,000 fine (\$10,000 max)
 - Discount for air shipment (air ship might not require ISF fees - check with Broker)
- Customs Bond - single - \$X.XX fee per \$1,000 value of products
- Customs Bond - annual - \$400-600
- Courier (non-express) Bond - courier-specific
- Freight Forwarder entry fee
- Terminal handling fee (if air ship)
- Duties - Harmonized Tariff Schedule number

- Different per country
- Reclassification fee if different between countries

Other Notes

Take care of as much of the prep in China as possible - Amazon SKU stickers and inspection. It's more expensive to take care of those in the country you're shipping from than here in the U.S. Also, if the inspection is taken care of in the U.S. and it's found there is something wrong with the product, you'll need to fix that in the U.S., which is also more expensive.

Also, it's important that you do your homework and file any necessary paperwork - such as certifications and other regulations set by the FDA, USDA, DOT, and EPA. Otherwise, you could face fines or your shipment would be rejected by customs.