

# HOW TO AVOID DELAYS AT THE BORDER

How many times have you heard the story about someone's goods being "stuck at the border"? Not only are delays frustrating, but they can be stressful and costly. Here are a few steps to keep your goods on the move and delivered on time.

## 7 TIPS FOR SUCCESS

**1**

### COMPLETE ALL DOCUMENTS

Missing information will always cause delays. If you submit an entry to Customs without all required data elements, it will be rejected - which eats up more of your time and money.

#### Speaking of money...

Incomplete documents can result in a monetary penalty ranging from \$150 to many thousands of dollars.

**2**

### PROVIDE ACCURATE INFORMATION

The two most common errors that occur on documents are:

**A.** Inaccurate / incomplete product descriptions

**B.** Listing the wrong Country of Origin

These two major mistakes can affect duty rates and permits and, as a result, licenses may also be required.

**3**

### PROVIDE LEGIBLE DOCUMENTS


Take a second look at the quality of photocopies and check for handwritten information on the paperwork. If you can't make it out, chances are Customs or your broker won't be able to, either.

**4**

### USE REPUTABLE CARRIERS

Regardless of your chosen mode of transport, you'll want to choose a carrier that has been certified under Canada's or the United States' **security programs**.

: Partners in Protection (PIP)

: Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT)

**5**

### COMMUNICATE PROACTIVELY

It's important to communicate both up front and throughout the import process. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask.

**6**

### DO YOUR RESEARCH UP FRONT

"You can't import these goods" and "You need a permit to import these goods" are the **last** phrases you want to hear at the border.

**7**

### USE A CHECKLIST

Believe us, they work! The human memory is fallible. By using a checklist, you are far less likely to forget anything.

Source: coleintl.com