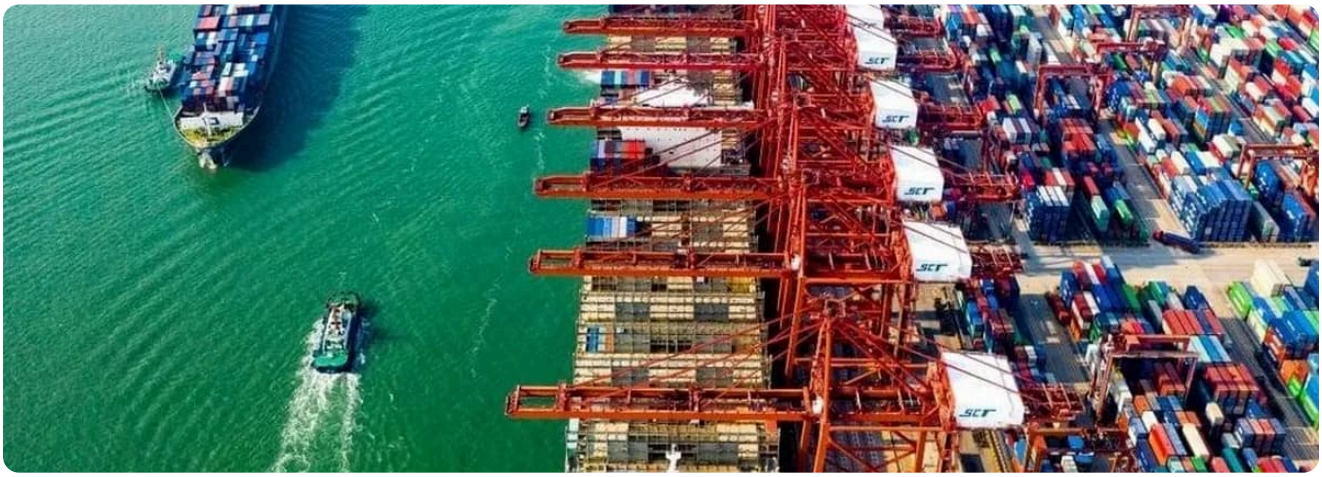


Customs Clearance at Destination: A Plain-Language Guide

What happens when your goods from China arrive: the declaration, duties and taxes, inspections and how to avoid delays.

By the Made in China Easy team, Guangzhou · 1 November 2026

When your shipment arrives, customs must release it before you can collect it. In most countries a licensed customs broker does this for you. Knowing the steps helps you prepare.



The steps

1. **Arrival notice:** the shipping line or forwarder tells you the goods have arrived and lists the charges at destination.
2. **Import declaration:** your broker files it with the HS code, value, origin and documents.
3. **Duties and taxes:** calculated on the declared value (often including freight and insurance) and paid before release.

4. **Inspection, if selected:** customs may check documents or open the container.
5. **Release and delivery:** once released, the goods can be collected or delivered.

How to avoid delays

- Send the documents to your broker **before** the goods arrive.
- Make sure the invoice value and description are **accurate**. Under-declaring is illegal and risky.
- Check whether your product needs **permits, labels or certificates** before you order.
- Collect quickly: ports charge storage after the free days.

Who pays what

Under FOB or CIF, you pay the destination charges, duties and taxes. Under DDP, the seller pays them. Always confirm in writing.



How we help

We prepare complete, matching documents in China and work with customs brokers at destination. We cannot promise any customs decision, but good paperwork prevents most problems. Talk to our team.

Talk to our team in Guangzhou.
Get a quote: www.madeinchinaeasy.com/get-started · Ask a question: www.madeinchinaeasy.com/contact · Free consultation: www.madeinchinaeasy.com/insights/connect · WhatsApp: message us from our website

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