International Documentation Determination

Documentation is determined by the type of shipment:

- Commodity shipment
- Document shipment

Commodity shipments require Customs documentation:

- Commercial Invoice — most commonly used.
- NAFTA Certificate of Origin — for shipments within the NAFTA region.
- High-value shipments valued at more than $2,500 require EEI (Electronic Export Information). (FedEx offers multiple options for EEI filing.)

Document shipments require one of the following:

- FedEx® International Air Waybill or FedEx shipping label for FedEx Express® shipments.
- Commercial Invoice for FedEx International Ground® shipments.

Documentation Format Options

Shippers can use their own or carrier-generated documentation templates and formats.

ETD (FedEx® Electronic Trade Documents) automates the flow of international documentation:

- Flexibility to use shipper or carrier-generated documentation.
- Ability to electronically submit documents, with no manual printing required.

Accurate Documentation Preparation Best Practices

- Use full contact information for shipper and recipient, including phone number.
- Recipient postal code detail is critical for on-time deliveries.
- List detailed and accurate product/commodity information.
- Inaccurate duty and tax calculations could result in additional landed costs — use our duty and tax estimator.
- Harmonized codes determine applicable tariff rates — use our Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System resource.
- Include the country of original manufacture for each item in the shipment.
- Differentiate between the declared value for carriage and customs.
Export/Import Questions to Help FedEx Serve You Better

Do you:
☐ Export shipments from the U.S.?
☐ Pay for 3rd party export shipments?

Do you:
☐ Import shipments to the U.S.?
   (If yes and you don’t ship with FedEx, consider using FedEx for the transportation with our FedEx International Broker Select® option.)
☐ Pay for 3rd party import shipments?

Do you export/import via air, ocean, surface, or all three?
   • Air:
   ☐ Airfreight
   ☐ Parcels
   ☐ Both
   • Ocean:
   ☐ FCL (full-container load) (40’ or 20’)
   ☐ LCL (less-than-container load)
   • Surface
   ☐ LTL (less-than-truckload) freight
   ☐ Parcels

How often do you export/import shipments and what is your shipping volume?

What are the countries you export from/import to?

What commodities do you export/import?

What is your average commodity shipment value? (If the value is more than $2,500, consider the EEI filing options FedEx offers.)

Do you utilize FedEx for your export/import brokerage needs? (Consider FedEx International Broker Select versus brokerage-inclusive options.)
☐ Yes
☐ No

Who typically pays for the duties and taxes of your shipments? (Consider shipper, recipient, and 3rd party options.)

Do you prepare and utilize your own or carrier-generated documentation? (Consider ETD.)

What service provider considerations are most important to you? (e.g., cost, transit time, visibility, local contacts, brokerage selection, etc.)

What carriers/forwarders do you use?

What documents do you currently provide to your freight forwarder?

In what format and by what means does your forwarder provide invoices and rate quotes?