



EXPEDITED SHIPMENT FACILITATION

Logistics operations supporting international trade vary considerably depending on the trader's needs.

Express delivery carriers specialize in the rapid and secure transport of small parcels worldwide. They range from low value e-commerce shipments to high value industrial and healthcare shipments.

Border authorities have set high information, safety and security standards for those who want to expedite shipments across borders. They are laid down in international treaties. Anyone who meets those standards should benefit from expedited clearance.

To qualify for expedited clearance, the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement requires that carriers must, among other things:

- Send detailed advance electronic information before the goods arrive at the destination country. This allows border authorities to assess whether the shipment is compliant and can be cleared or must be inspected upon arrival.
- Facilitate the collection of customs duties, charges and fees.
- Maintain a good record of compliance with government regulations.
- Provide adequate infrastructure at dedicated facilities for customs, and defray government expenses to screen and process such shipments.
- Maintain a high degree of control over the shipment from pick-up to delivery by means of track and trace technology and security programs.

Express carriers not only meet these standards but also adhere to more stringent ones. They:

- Work in close partnership with border authorities so that the goods they carry can cross international borders securely and efficiently.
- Invest heavily and continuously in IT, internal procedures and staff training.
- Provide advance electronic information on all shipments, regardless of their value, even if they qualify for tax and duty exemptions under a '*de minimis*' threshold.
 - In some countries, however, this may also depend on the authorities' ability to receive and process advance electronic information. An ambitious implementation of the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement will ensure that all countries can eventually do that.
- Utilize best-in-class track-and-trace technology.
- Enroll in government compliance and security programs, where available, and renew their certification periodically.

We urge governments to:

- Ensure that applicants for expedited clearance strictly meet the standards set forth in the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).
- Prioritize the enforcement of existing laws rather than imposing restrictions on trade facilitation measures, especially for those who consistently meet or exceed the required standards.
- Invest in upgrading their technological infrastructure to fully implement the TFA's requirements, allowing for the seamless processing of advance electronic information.
- Encourage continuous collaboration between public and private sectors to enhance security and compliance measures without hindering the flow of trade.

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