

USA IMPORT REQUIREMENTS GUIDE

Country Guide Professional reference for international trade teams

Trade31 | Global Trade Toolkit | v3.0.0 | 2026-07-01

WORKFLOW OVERVIEW

1. Confirm HS code and product-specific import rules with buyer/broker. -->
2. Prepare aligned invoice, packing list, and transport documents. -->
3. Verify Incoterms and who handles import clearance and duties. -->
4. Check licenses, standards, or agency holds (FDA, AQIS, etc.) if applicable. -->
5. Archive full document set before vessel arrival.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Quick reference for ISF, CBP entry, and agency triggers

* Downloadable USA import requirements reference for importers and forwarders.

BUSINESS BACKGROUND

ISF, customs entry, FDA/USDA triggers, and Incoterms tips for shipping to the US. enterprise trade guide with workflow, examples, FAQ, and related tools.

* Importers, compliance officers, forwarders

* Quick reference for ISF, CBP entry, and agency triggers

BUSINESS WORKFLOW

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STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS

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REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Document / Requirement

- Commercial invoice
- Packing list
- B/L
- ISF confirmation
- Entry summary
- B/L or AWB
- * Commercial invoice
- * Packing list
- * B/L
- * ISF confirmation
- * Entry summary
- * B/L or AWB

COUNTRY REGULATIONS

- * ISF 10+2 before arrival (ocean)
- * ACE customs entry via broker
- * CBP prohibited/restricted lists

INDUSTRY NOTES

PRACTICAL EXAMPLES

* Authoritative content for USA Import Requirements Guide following Country Resource Blueprint structure.

CHECKLISTS

- * ISF 10+2 and customs entry timing
- * FDA/USDA/APHIS triggers by product
- * Incoterms and duty payment at import
- * Bond and broker coordination
- * Commercial invoice
- * Packing list
- * B/L
- * ISF confirmation

COMMON MISTAKES

- * Late ISF
- * Undervaluation on entry

FAQ

- * Q: What does the the United States Import Requirements Guide cover? A: Customs, documentation, and compliance for shipping goods to the United States.
- * Q: Is this a commercial invoice template? A: No downloadable country compliance PDF, not a fillable invoice.
- * Q: Who should use this resource? A: Exporters and forwarders planning shipments to this market.
- * Q: How often should rules be verified? A: Before each new product line or contract regulations change.
- * Q: How to use with Trade31? A: Download PDF, use landed-cost tools, and review related knowledge articles.
- * Q: What is ISF? A: Importer Security Filing typically required before US arrival for ocean shipments.

BEST PRACTICES

- * Cross-check with export documentation checklist

OFFICIAL REFERENCES

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RELATED TOOLS

- * calculator::landed-cost-calculator
- * trade-calculator.landed-cost-calculator
- * trade-calculator.cif-calculator

RELATED TEMPLATES

DOWNLOADS

* [country-resources.usa-import-requirements.pdf](#)

* [documents.export-documentation-checklist](#)

Trade31 | Trade Knowledge Product | [country-resources.usa-import-requirements](#)