

CUSTOMS DUTIES AND TAXES ON INTERNATIONAL SHIPMENTS

Customs duties and taxes can have a significant impact on the total cost of international shipments.

1. What are duties and taxes?

Duties and taxes are customs charges applied to shipments leaving or entering a country.

- Duties: these are tariffs applied to goods that are imported or exported from a country.
- Taxes: These are sales taxes (such as VAT or GST) that are applied on purchased goods, including those acquired abroad.

2. When do duties and taxes apply to a shipment?

The application of duties and taxes depends mainly on four factors:

- The total value of the shipment.
- The type of merchandise.
- The country of origin.
- The import regulations of the destination country.

Not all shipments are subject to duties. Some may be exempt if they are low in value or belong to product categories with exemptions.

3. Shipments exempt from duties and taxes

a) Low value shipments (minimum)

The minimum is the value threshold below which no duties or taxes are applied. This threshold varies by country:

- United States: As of 29 August 2025, the minimum exemption is eliminated and all imports will be subject to tariffs, duties and fees, regardless of value or country of origin.
- Canada: 20 CAD
- Chile: 30 USD
- European Union: as of 1 July 2021 there is no minimum threshold, all imported products are subject to VAT, and those over €150 may also be subject to duties.

More and more countries have eliminated the minimum threshold, such as India, Brazil, and Kenya.

b) Goods with specific exemptions

Some products may benefit from a 0% duty or tax rate, depending on the type of item and its origin.

4. How duties and taxes are calculated

The total amount to be paid depends on:

- The total value of the shipment
- The description and HS code of the goods.
- The country of manufacture.

Usual calculation:

- Duty: the total value of the shipment is multiplied by the tariff rate of the destination country (generally between 0% and 10%).
- Tax: the tax rate (between 0% and 25%) is applied to the sum of the value of the shipment and the duty.

5. Who pays the duties and taxes?

The buyer is responsible for paying any duties and taxes to the customs of their country.

If the customer refuses to pay, the goods may be returned to the sender or, in extreme cases, destroyed by customs.

ELIMINATION OF THE MINIMUM THRESHOLD FOR IMPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES

The United States has eliminated the minimum threshold on imports.

Until now, this regime allowed orders worth up to 800 USD per person per day to be received without applying duties or taxes.

As of 29 August 2025, this exemption is removed and all imports into the United States are subject to tariffs, duties and fees, regardless of their value or country of origin.

Additional charges will be determined by the US customs authorities and must be paid by the customer upon receipt of the order. The amount may vary depending on the type and classification of the product.

Please note that the price paid in our store does not include these possible US duties or taxes.

* This document is for informational purposes only. Customs conditions may vary depending on the country of destination and current regulations.