Made in China Easy

CHECKLIST · BUSINESS INSIGHTS

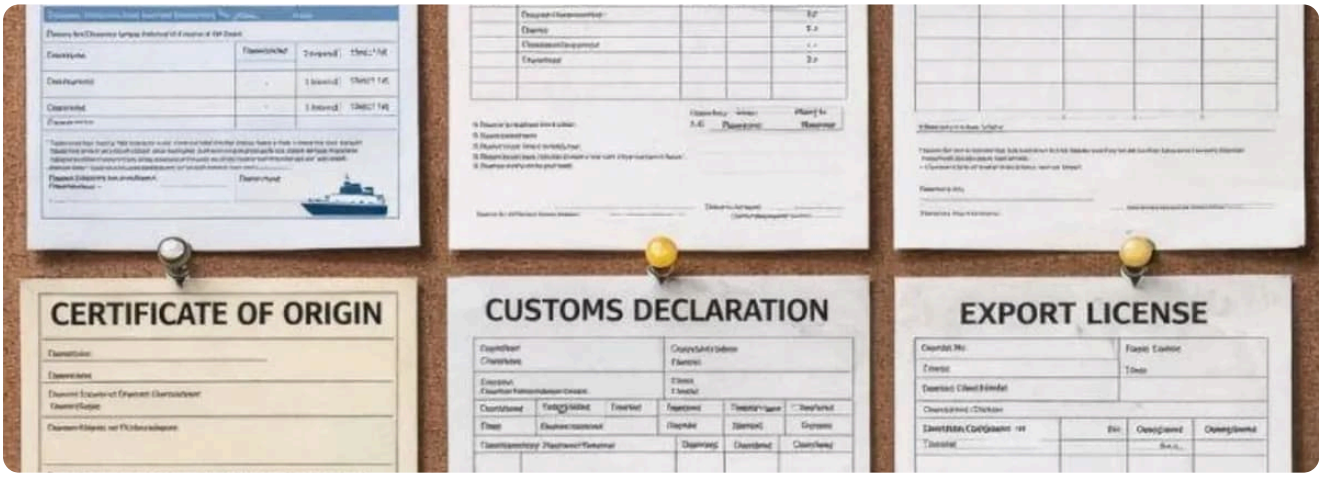


Export Documents from China: What You Need and Why

Commercial invoice, packing list, bill of lading, certificate of origin and more: a checklist of the documents that move your goods through customs.

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

Customs in your country will ask for documents before they release your goods. Most delays come from a missing document or a mismatch between documents. Use this checklist with every shipment.



The core documents

- ☐ **Commercial invoice:** seller, buyer, description, HS code, quantity, unit price, total value, currency and Incoterm. It is the basis for your duty.
- ☐ **Packing list:** cartons, weights, measurements and what is in each carton. It must match the invoice.

- [ ] **Bill of lading (B/L) or air waybill:** the transport contract and, for sea freight, the document of title. Check the consignee name carefully.
- [ ] **Export declaration:** filed in China by the supplier or forwarder. Required for every commercial export.

Often required

- [ ] **Certificate of origin:** proves the goods were made in China. Some trade agreements give lower duty with a specific form (for example Form E for some Asian countries).
- [ ] **Inspection report:** from a pre-shipment inspection, for your own records or when your buyer asks for it.
- [ ] **Product certificates and test reports:** for example CE, FCC, RoHS or food-contact tests, depending on the product and your country.
- [ ] **Fumigation certificate:** for wooden pallets and packaging in many countries (ISPM 15).
- [ ] **Insurance certificate:** when the cargo is insured, as with CIF terms.

Before the ship sails

1. Compare invoice, packing list and B/L line by line: names, quantities, weights.
2. Send copies to your customs broker so they can prepare the import declaration.
3. Decide how the B/L is released: original documents, telex release or sea waybill.



How we help

We check the documents with your supplier before departure and send them to your customs broker. Ask about shipping.

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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