

TSW FACT SHEET:

IMPORTING GOODS FOR BUSINESS OR COMMERCIAL USE

This fact sheet provides an introduction and general overview for people wanting to bring goods into New Zealand for business or commercial use. It explains commonly used terms, how the import clearance process works and other information to consider.

BRINGING GOODS INTO NEW ZEALAND – WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?

Bringing goods into a country is called importing, and if you are importing goods, you are an importer. All goods imported into New Zealand need to be cleared by the New Zealand Customs Service (Customs) and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). These government agencies check information on all goods imported into New Zealand to make sure the goods don't pose a risk and to collect any charges due. This is called 'clearance'. Clearance is required for everything that comes into New Zealand, from online shopping to commercial shipments. Even if you are flying in for a holiday you'll notice that New Zealand government agencies may check your personal goods.

WHAT ARE BUSINESS OR COMMERCIAL GOODS?

The word 'goods' means any item, including personal effects, animals and commercial products. Business or commercial goods are items that you intend to use in a business application, gift, exchange or sell.

WHAT IS AN IMPORT CLEARANCE?

An import clearance is the procedure where the details of the imported goods are provided to Customs and MPI, the payment of any charges is made, the necessary risk screening and actions are completed, and the goods are authorised to enter New Zealand.

WHAT IS THE CUSTOMS VALUE OF MY GOODS?

The Customs value is applied regardless of how you came to own the goods, and may not be the same as the amount paid for the goods because deductions or additions are sometimes necessary. To find out more, including methods of valuation, the influence of the exchange rate and information required, refer to [*Fact Sheet 15: Customs Value of Imported Goods*](#).

HOW DO I CLEAR GOODS FOR BUSINESS OR COMMERCIAL USE?

There are several options.

- Border clearance is included in the arrangement with the supplier. For example, goods that are bought online and sent to your door through an express courier. Check the terms of sale to see if border clearance is included.
- Using an agent. Check if the agent provides border clearance as part of its service.