

CONTAINER CHECKLIST FOR SHIPPING

WHICH DOCUMENTS ARE REQUIRED WHEN EXPORTING OUT OF EUROPE?

Depending on the type of products or freight you wish to ship, and the destination, different forms, documents, and licenses may be required. Here, is a list of shipping documentation required for export customs clearance from Europe:

- **COMMERCIAL / SALES INVOICE:** This document shows the value of goods you are exporting, full details of the seller, etc. For export, the amount is used for statistical purposes only if it's a permanent export.
- **PACKING LIST:** Gives a more detailed breakdown of the items inside your container, including the product, number of items, and the packed dimensions and weights. HS (Harmonised System) codes are very helpful if you know them as they are utilized in the export customs entry. The Harmonized System is a standardized numerical method of classifying traded products. It is used by customs authorities around the world to identify products when assessing duties and taxes and for gathering statistics.
- **BILL OF LADING:** A bill of lading is a legal document that serves as a contract of carriage between a shipper and a carrier. It is a document that details the type, quantity, and destination of goods being transported, as well as the terms and conditions of the shipment.

THE BILL OF LADING SERVES THREE PRIMARY PURPOSES

As a receipt: It is proof of shipment and serves as evidence that the carrier has received the goods from the shipper.

As a contract: It outlines the terms and conditions of the shipment, including the responsibilities of the carrier and the shipper.

As a document of title: It provides the holder of the bill of lading (usually the consignee) with the right to take possession of the goods upon arrival at the destination port.

The bill of lading contains important information such as the names of the shipper, carrier, and consignee, the description of the goods being shipped, the port of loading and destination, the freight charges, and any special instructions or requirements. It is commonly used in international trade to facilitate the movement of goods between countries and to provide legal protection for both the shipper and the carrier.

- **EORI NUMBER:** EORI stands for "Economic Operators Registration and Identification number". Businesses and people wishing to trade must use the EORI number as an identification number in all customs procedures when exchanging information with Customs administrations.

