**Requirements for Shipping Products to the USA via Trucking**

**1. Introduction**
Shipping goods to the United States by truck—requires compliance with U.S. customs regulations, cross-border documentation, and trucking industry standards. This guide outlines the key requirements to ensure seamless ground transport of products into the U.S.

**2. Customs and Border Crossing Requirements**

**2.1. Customs Declaration & Entry**
When trucking goods across the border, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) requires:

* **Commercial Invoice** – must clearly state product details, value, country of origin, and Incoterms.
* **Bill of Lading (BOL)** – shows the agreement between shipper and carrier.
* **Packing List** – outlines what is included in the shipment.
* **Customs Entry (CBP Form 3461 or 7501)** – typically filed by a **customs broker**.

**2.2. Importer of Record (IOR)**
The **Importer of Record** is responsible for ensuring all entry requirements are met. This can be:

* A U.S. buyer
* A customs broker acting on your behalf
* A Canadian exporter using a non-resident importer setup

**2.3. ACE Manifest Filing (U.S. Side)**
The carrier must file an **ACE (Automated Commercial Environment)** eManifest prior to arriving at the border. It includes:

* Shipment data
* Carrier info
* Driver and truck details
* Broker or importer contact

**2.4. ACI Filing (Canadian Side, if returning)**
If shipping back to Canada, the carrier must also file an **ACI (Advance Commercial Information)** eManifest with CBSA.

**3. Trucking & Transportation Considerations**

**3.1. Licensed Carrier**
Use a carrier that is:

* **Bonded** with CBP
* Holds a valid **SCAC (Standard Carrier Alpha Code)**
* Registered with **FMCSA (Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration)** if operating in the U.S.

**3.2. Driver Requirements**
Drivers must:

* Hold a valid passport or **FAST Card** for expedited processing
* Provide complete documentation upon arrival at the border
* Be prepared for inspection by CBP officers

**3.3. Vehicle Requirements**
Trucks entering the U.S. must meet:

* **DOT safety standards**
* Proper signage and documentation
* Tracking and compliance systems if required by the shipper or receiver

**4. Product-Specific Regulations**

**4.1. FDA/USDA-Regulated Goods**
If transporting:

* Food, beverages, supplements, or pharmaceuticals → **FDA Prior Notice** must be submitted before crossing
* Plants, wood, or animal-based goods → may require **USDA permits or inspections**

**4.2. Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT)**
Ensure:

* Correct classification and placarding
* Compliance with **49 CFR** (U.S. HAZMAT regulations)
* Proper documentation and driver certifications

**5. Documentation Checklist for Cross-Border Trucking**

Prepare and share with your carrier and broker:

* ✅ Commercial Invoice
* ✅ Bill of Lading (BOL)
* ✅ Packing List
* ✅ FDA/USDA notice (if applicable)
* ✅ Certificates of Origin (if claiming preferential tariffs like under USMCA)
* ✅ Import/Export permits (if required)

**6. Labeling and Packaging**

**6.1. Labeling**
Products must be labeled with:

* Country of Origin (e.g., “Made in Canada”)
* Product description
* Safety labels (if applicable)

**6.2. Packaging**
Ensure cargo is:

* Securely palletized and shrink-wrapped
* Compliant with **ISPM 15** if wood packaging is used
* Clearly marked with shipment identifiers

**7. Duties, Taxes & Tariffs**

* Determine the **Harmonized Tariff Code (HTS)** to calculate duty.
* Duties and taxes are paid by the Importer of Record unless shipped **DDP (Delivered Duty Paid)**.
* Utilize **USMCA** to reduce or eliminate tariffs on qualifying goods.

**8. Final Tips for Smooth Cross-Border Trucking**

* Coordinate with a **licensed customs broker** early.
* Ensure driver and carrier communication is consistent.
* Double-check that all documents are accurate and submitted in advance.
* Use **FAST lanes** for expedited crossing, if eligible.

**Conclusion**
Cross-border trucking to the United States requires close coordination between the shipper, carrier, and customs broker. With the right documents, regulatory compliance, and a reliable transportation partner, your shipment can cross the U.S. border efficiently and legally.