

OUTSOURCING YOUR CUSTOMS PROCESS

FIVE REASONS **TO OUTSOURCE** **YOUR FREE** **TRADE** **PROGRAM** **WORKLOAD**

Outsourcing your Customs Process

Five reasons to outsource your free trade program workload

Even with a dedicated team in place to manage your free trade program, the number of moving parts involved can put a strain on both your staff and your operational costs. Not only are there multiple vendors to deal with, there are also endless requests from customers for certificates of origin and affidavits. Then there are the increasing and ever-changing filing and documentation requirements.

And if there's even the smallest error or oversight in the process, it could result in costly penalties and/or increased duties.

Here are five reasons why you should consider getting some outside help with your free trade program:

1 Global access

When you partner with an international company, you're also connected to all of their contacts – who in turn, can manage all the different global free trade processes/requirements for their respective countries. You only have to deal with a single contact, which can go a long way in reducing your costs and risk factor.

2 Specialized knowledge and free trade expertise

Your in-house team may not have the expertise to navigate complex international trade agreements or assign the right value to your goods. Look for providers who have a high ratio of licensed or certified customs professionals in compliance, trade operations, customs brokerage, logistics engineering and inspection.

Take advantage of expert, professional duty management services.



3 The latest tools and technologies

Getting additional IT hours to implement or upgrade technology is a challenge for most large businesses – it can also be expensive. Your best bet is to take advantage of the tools and processes of an expert service provider. Ideally, you'll want to partner with a firm that can offer the latest technology, workflow tools and process control metrics to better assist your business.

4 Best-in-class compliance

As customs regulations become more stringent and security is increasing, it's more critical than ever to ensure complete customs compliance, especially if you want to reduce risk, as well as avoid delays and costly penalties. Getting outside compliance expertise will help you maintain accurate and reliable records. They'll make sure you're properly prepared to use free trade programs, obtaining all the correct paperwork from the correct parties. They'll ensure that your certificates of origin and affidavits used to claim preferential duty rates are error-free.



5

It can save you money

Having a dedicated team of professionals to oversee your duty management programs can help you control costs, reduce risks and improve efficiencies – in other words, they can save you a lot of money! A duty management expert knows the best free trade programs to apply to your products before you ever ship, helping you to maximize duty savings and improve cash flow. This also allows you to cap or reduce your overall trade operations spend and resource allocation internally.

Importers have a lot of information and processes to deal with when it comes to free trade/NAFTA programs. With all that's involved with duty management (and the risks that could potentially impact your business), partnering with a qualified provider just makes sense, both strategically and financially.

Find out how Livingston can work with you as a trusted partner and help identify the best opportunities, reduce risk and increase savings.

Contact Livingston

Have questions or need help with your shipments? Contact your account executive, write to us at: simplify@livingstonintl.com or give us a call at **1-800-837-1063**