

MANAGING YOUR CUSTOMS PROCESS

FIVE WAYS **TO MAKE** **YOUR MEXICO** **SHIPMENTS** **MORE** **EFFICIENT**

Managing your Customs Process

Five ways to make your Mexico shipments more efficient

Northbound and southbound shipments across the Mexican border have posed a challenge for businesses in both U.S. and Canada. Rather than chalking it up to being the cost of doing business with Mexico, there are a few ways you can address these challenges and ensure a smoother, more efficient and predictable flow of goods.

1 **Have a bilingual customs team dedicated to understanding the complexities of the Mexico border**

If you do a significant volume of business across the Mexican border, it makes sense to have a dedicated, bilingual team who can handle the complexities and compliance of Mexican trade regulations, oversee shipment coordination and troubleshoot issues. It's especially beneficial if you happen to have a location that's close to the border. If adding a satellite location or more headcount isn't an option, the alternative is to bring in an outside specialist who can provide the valuable insight, cross-Mexico border expertise and customs services you need.

2 **Maintain a single point of contact**

The easiest way to achieve this is to partner with a provider who has expertise in cross-Mexico border shipments. They can act as a single point of contact along the border – not just for your customs team, but also for your suppliers and anyone else across your supply chain. Having a single point of contact saves you time and helps ensure nothing is overlooked by taking a holistic approach to your Mexico border clearance.

How to ensure an efficient and predictable flow of goods over the Mexican border.



3 **Get a consistent process in place**

It's important that your customs teams implement a standardized flow of data and information to ensure an efficient and predictable flow of goods over the border. That means implementing workflow tools and systems that enable you to ship, store and clear your goods into and out of Mexico without adding days to your supply chain or adding inventory carrying costs. And of course, ensuring all documentation is accurate, complete and compliant. Again, you may want to consider enlisting the help of a trade expert who can either train your team and get a fluid process up and running, or who can actually manage the process for you.

4 **Make sure your customs team is up to speed on compliance requirements**

Delayed shipments and penalties for non-compliance can be avoided if your team is fully current on Mexican customs regulations. Alternatively, there are cross-Mexico border compliance specialists who can manage the complexities and varying regulations at the border to ensure that you are benefitting from trade allowances and all of your third party suppliers are following the correct procedures.



5

Partner with an expert

Sometimes, the most efficient and cost-effective way to handle your cross-Mexico border shipments is to partner with an expert. Seek out specialists who offer a team of bilingual professionals with extensive trade expertise in Canadian, U.S. and Mexican customs and who can create a customized solution that's scalable to your needs. They should be experienced in trade operations with leading global multinational corporations, and have licensed customs brokers, certified logistics engineers, certified inspection brokers and supply chain security program certified experts on staff.

Shipping across the Mexican border doesn't have to be a pain point. If you have an effective and efficient process in place (or a partner who can manage the process for you), it can be an essential asset that helps your business grow beyond borders.

Find out how **Livingston International** can work with you as a trusted partner on the Mexican border to help you improve efficiency, reduce risk and cut costs.

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**