

Incoterms

We have provided an explanation of each term below:

CPT (CARRIAGE PAID TO)

CPT shipping terms indicate that the seller bears all costs of transporting goods to the port of discharge. The seller's responsibility for the goods, however, ends on delivery to the carrier at a named place. CPT can be used for all modes of transports including air and sea.

CIP (CARRIAGE AND INSURANCE PAID)

CIP terms indicate the same seller responsibilities as CPT (cost to the port of discharge, responsibility to delivery to carrier) but with the additional inclusion of maritime insurance.

CFR (COST AND FREIGHT)

With CFR terms the seller's invoice will include the cost of the goods plus the cost of transporting the goods to the port of discharge (not including local charges). Although CFR terms can appear to be a good option, the buyer has little control over the shipping process and the associated costs.

CIF (COST, INSURANCE AND FREIGHT)

The same shipping terms as CFR, plus a marine insurance policy also paid by the seller.

CIF (COST, INSURANCE AND FREIGHT)

CIF terms on the basis of the destination port. As with CFR and CIF, these terms can be less favourable for buyers, meaning less control and unexpected fees.

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DAT (DELIVERED AT TERMINAL)

With DAT terms the seller is responsible for delivery to the named terminal at the destination port, and unloading ready for buyer/carrier collection – after which, the responsibility for the goods passes to the buyer. The seller is responsible for the goods export customs clearance. The buyer is responsible for all costs from the point of delivery, including import customs clearance, duties and taxes. Can be used for all modes of transport.

DAP (DELIVERED AT PLACE)

Very similar terms to DAT, with the difference that the buyer is responsible for unloading the goods at the named place of delivery. Buyer assumes responsibility from the point of unloading the goods, including import customs clearance, duties and taxes. Can be used for all modes of transport.

DDP (DELIVERED DUTY PAID)

DDP terms indicate that the seller is responsible for carriage and delivery to a named place, including clearing for import and all applicable taxes and duties. Can be used for all modes of transport. They maximize cost and risk for a seller and minimize them for the buyer. The buyer's responsibility for the goods begins when they receive them for unloading at destination. Can be used for all modes of transport.

EXW (EX WORKS)

EXW terms indicate that the buyer is responsible for collecting the goods from the seller and accepts all onward arrangements, including associated costs, risks and liabilities.

FAS (FREE ALONGSIDE SHIP)

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FAS terms require the seller to place the goods alongside the carrier vessel at the port of export, with seller responsibility for export customs clearance and risk and cost up to that point. The buyer takes responsibility for the goods from loading onto the vessel onwards.

FCA (FREE CARRIER)

FCA terms indicate that the seller is responsible for the goods, including costs, up to delivery to the buyer's chosen carrier at a named location – often a terminal or transport hub or forwarder's warehouse. The seller is responsible for export clearance, after which the responsibility transfers to the buyer.

If the named location is the seller's place of business, then they are responsible for the loading of the goods. At all other named locations, the buyer is responsible for loading.

FOB (FREE ON BOARD)

FOB terms indicate that the seller and the buyer have relatively equal responsibility for all costs, risks and liabilities associated with transporting the goods. The seller is responsible up to the arrival for boarding the ship, including charges at the loading port. The buyer is responsible from loading onwards until the goods reach their final destination. FOB is usually the recommended option for importers and buyers, as it allows greater control over costs.