



MEXICO 24-HOUR RULE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)



1. What is the Mexico 24-hour Rule?

The Mexico 24-hour Rule is similar to 24-hour cargo security filing already required by Canadian and United States Customs. It requires all transporters of maritime cargoes to Mexico to electronically file cargo manifests into Mexican Customs 24 hours prior to loading Mexico-bound shipments at foreign ports of loading.

2. Who must file into Mexican Customs?

Ocean carriers, freight forwarders and NVOCCs who issue bills of lading to transport cargo to Mexico must file into Mexico Customs for their shipments but ocean carriers, unlike U.S. AMS and Canada ACI, cannot file on behalf of their freight forwarder/NVOCC customers.

3. When do I have to begin to file into Mexico Customs?

Mexican Customs requires that all import shipments must be electronically filed effective Thursday, 1 November 2007.¹

4. How do I electronically file into Mexico Customs?

There are two alternatives: through the website of AMANAC (Asociación Mexicana de Agentes Navieros, A.C.), which is an association of Mexican maritime agents, or through the website of AMACARGA (Asociación Mexicana de Agentes de Carga, A.C), which is an association Mexican freight forwarders. Either association's website can be utilized but TTI will file via the AMANAC website and where it will transmit electronic copies of House Bills of Lading to Mexico Customs via the Internet.

5. What do I need in order to file into Mexico Customs?

In order to file into Mexico Customs, via AMANAC, a carrier or freight forwarder must have a Harmonized Alphanumeric Carrier Code (CAAT) issued by Mexico Customs' General Customs Administration (AGA). This code is only issued to Mexican companies so any carrier or freight forwarder who is not a Mexican corporation must request its Mexican agent to allow the use of its CAAT, on a shipment-by-shipment basis, because the filer's CAAT is required for every shipment like a SCAC code is required for US AMS.

6. What House Bill of Lading information is required by Mexico Customs?

The information is similar to, but not exactly the same as, the information that is required by Canada ACI and US CPB AMS. It is also less information than is required of the ocean carriers when they file the Master Bill of Lading.

- o Name and complete address of shipper, consignee and notify party as stated on the house bill of lading (HBL).

¹ Please be advised that both imports and exports are included in the 24-hour rule. Import and Export information will be required to be filed beginning 1 November 2007.

- o Amount/number of packages and measurement unit. For merchandise transported in shipping containers, the amount and measurement unit for each container.
- o Gross weight or volume of the merchandise. For merchandise transported in shipping containers, the gross weight or volume must be specified for each container.
- o Merchandise description, avoiding general descriptions that do not allow for proper identification of the nature of the merchandise such as “dry cargo,” “general cargo,” “chemicals,” “perishable items,” “bulk minerals,” or “bulk merchandise.”
- o Number, quantity and dimensions containers.
- o Type of service contracted (CY or CFS).
- o For dangerous merchandise, state class division (IMO class) and United Nations number (UN Nbr) and contact information in case of emergency.
- o Vessel’s estimated date of arrival or departure.
- o Vessel’s name and voyage number.
- o CAAT Codes of Ocean Carrier and Mexican Freight Forwarder.

7. Will AMANAC and AMACARGA charge for the use of its website?

Yes. AMANAC will charge the Mexican entity, the holder of the CAAT, a fee of \$6.00 per house bill of lading (HBL) for each filing. AMACARGA’s fee has not been announced at the time of this FAQ publication.

8. I am a freight forwarder. Can I give my house bills of lading to the shipping lines to file into AMANAC or AMACARGA on my behalf?

As of November 1, 2007, Mexican authorities will not allow the lines to file into Mexican Customs on behalf of freight forwarders. Trade Tech, via AMANAC, offers Mexico 24-hour filing alternative to customers who have obtained the usage of the their Mexican agents’ CAAT.

9. What do I have to do to contract with Trade Tech to do my Mexico cargo security filing?

If you are an existing Trade Tech ACI or AMS filer, and you have shipments to Mexico, all you need to do is meet with your Trade Tech sales representative to amend your existing contract to add the Mexico 24-hour rule.

If you are not currently a Trade Tech ACI or AMS filer, we have an easy-to-use application form that one of our sales representatives will be pleased to present to you.