



Hidden Costs

There are some obvious costs involved with Importing and Exporting, such as Freight and Transport Charges. However there are many other hidden fees that you may not be aware of, or that are more costly if they are not handled correctly.

Most of these costs can be avoided or reduced dramatically if you are using a pro-active experienced freight forwarder to handle your shipments.

There are also the type of costs that can not be avoided, for example:

NZ has two governmental organisations that enforce NZ Legislation for Importing and Exporting.

1) New Zealand Customs

The New Zealand Customs Service is the government agency with the job of ensuring the security of our borders here in NZ.

With the participation of almost 20 other associated agencies, they work to prevent the traffic of prohibited goods and materials in and out of the country.

Collect revenues, uphold international laws and agreements, investigate illegal activity and prosecute where necessary.

2) Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI)

MPI staff inspect close to 50,000 import consignments a year and about 20% of them fail their biosecurity requirements. Their systems and procedures are vital to protecting New Zealand's environment and primary industries from unwanted pests and diseases.

It is mandatory for all Import and Export shipments to be processed through these governmental bodies. If they deem it necessary to investigate your shipment further then you have no choice but to complete their instructions.

As you can imagine the costs of adhering to their requirements can quickly add up especially when an inspection on the cargo results in further action to be taken.

The short answer to most people's question is "No we can not estimate the costs". The variances of these costs are just too substantial to be able to provide an indication.

There are however some steps you can take to ensure you meet their criteria.

Take a look at the restricted items that require permits.

To take a look at the prohibited or restricted list click here.

Click here to read the restrictions on the importation of food, animal products, plants and other similar items of this nature.

Please note that any wood items/packageing needs to have a treatment certificate or stamped ISPM 15.