

NSL GUIDE

Pakistan Customs Clearance Guide

Customs clearance in Pakistan is handled electronically through Pakistan Customs' WeBOC system and the Pakistan Single Window (PSW). A licensed customs agent such as NSL files the Goods Declaration (GD) on your behalf.

Step-by-step import clearance

1. **Documents received** — invoice, packing list, B/L or AWB, certificate of origin and any permits.
2. **IGM filed** — the shipping line or airline files the Import General Manifest.
3. **Goods Declaration** — your customs agent files the GD with HS codes and values.
4. **Risk channel** — the system routes the GD to green (release), yellow (document check) or red (physical examination).
5. **Assessment & payment** — duties and taxes are assessed and paid online.
6. **Release & delivery** — terminal charges paid, delivery order collected, cargo gated out.

Duties and taxes on imports

Depending on the HS code, imports into Pakistan can attract **customs duty**, **additional customs duty**, **regulatory duty**, **sales tax**, **additional sales tax** and **withholding income tax**. Rates change with each federal budget and SROs, so always check the current tariff before you buy. Free trade agreements (for example with China) can reduce duties with the right certificate of origin.

Export clearance

For exports, the GD is filed against your financial instrument registered with your bank. After examination (if selected) and port gate-in, customs allows loading and the export is completed once the vessel sails.

Tips to clear cargo faster

- Send documents to your agent **before the vessel arrives**.
- Make sure the **HS code**, **description** and **value** match on every document.
- Apply for **permits and NOCs** in advance for regulated goods.
- Clear within free time to avoid **demurrage and detention**.

This guide is general information, not legal advice. Duty rates and procedures change — contact NSL for current requirements for your goods.

Frequently asked questions

What is WeBOC?

WeBOC (Web Based One Customs) is Pakistan Customs' online system for filing and processing Goods Declarations.

What is the red channel?

Shipments routed to the red channel are physically examined by customs before release, which can add a few days to clearance.

Need help with a shipment?

Get a free quote at <https://www.nslship.com/get-a-quote/> or call +92-21-3247-2290-93.