

Essential Guide to International Shipping Documentation with Southern Star Navigation



At Southern Star Navigation, your Independent Landstar agent, we know navigating international shipping paperwork can feel like braving stormy seas. But don't worry, captain! This checklist is your reliable compass, ensuring you have all the essential documents for a smooth and compliant journey.

Important Note: Every shipment may require different documents based on the destination country and goods. However, this checklist covers the most common requirements. We're here to help you at every step, so don't hesitate to reach out to our friendly experts at Southern Star Navigation if you have any questions!

Part 1: Essential Documents for Every Shipment

1. Commercial Invoice

The commercial invoice acts as a detailed receipt for your shipment, listing the items, their value, and HS code (a product classification code). Ensure it's accurate and includes:

- Seller and buyer information (names & addresses)
- Invoice number and date
- Description of each item (including quantity, weight, and value)
- Incoterms (the international commercial terms that outline buyer and seller responsibilities)
- Payment terms (e.g., cash on delivery, credit)
- Signature

2. Packing List

The packing list serves as a detailed map of your shipment, outlining the contents of each box or package. Include:

- Number of packages
- Description of contents in each package (including quantity and weight)
- Package weight and dimensions

3. Bill of Lading (Ocean Freight) or Air Waybill (Air Freight)

The bill of lading (BOL) or air waybill (AWB) is your official contract with the carrier, detailing the shipment details and responsibilities. The carrier will provide this document, and it's crucial for tracking and ensuring the safe delivery of your goods.



Part 2: Additional Documents You Might Need

4. Certificate of Origin

This document verifies where your goods were made. It's often required by the destination country for tariff purposes or trade agreements. Check with your buyer or our team for details.

5. Export License

For certain controlled goods, like some technology items, you might need a special export license from your government. We can help you determine if this applies to your shipment.

6. Other Possible Documents

Depending on the specific goods or destination country, additional documents like health certificates, safety data sheets, or inspections might be required. Southern Star Navigation will guide you through this process if needed, leveraging Landstar's certifications and compliance expertise.

Pro Tip: Make Copies!

Always keep copies of all your shipping documents for your records. Proper documentation helps prevent delays and ensures compliance with regulations.

Certifications and Operating Information

ISO 9001

Southern Star Navigation, through Landstar, holds ISO 9001 certification, which demonstrates a commitment to quality management systems. This ensures consistent performance and a focus on customer satisfaction.

RC14001:2015 Certificate

Landstar is certified with RC14001:2015, indicating a dedication to health, safety, and environmental management in the logistics industry.

SmartWay Transport Partnership

Landstar's participation in the SmartWay Transport Partnership highlights a focus on sustainable transport solutions, making Southern Star Navigation a responsible choice for eco-conscious shipping.

CTPAT, FAST, and PIP

Southern Star Navigation aligns with Landstar's certifications in Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (CTPAT), Free And Secure Trade (FAST), and Partners in Protection (PIP). These certifications emphasize a commitment to secure and safe trade practices.

FMC – Ocean Transportation License (NVOCC)

As a non-vessel operating common carrier (NVOCC), Landstar Global Logistics holds an FMC Ocean Transportation License, ensuring professional and regulated ocean freight services.

IATA Certificate of Endorsement

Landstar Express America holds an IATA Certificate of Endorsement, confirming compliance with air freight regulations and standards.

Indirect Air Carrier Approval

Landstar Express America and Landstar Global Logistics are approved indirect air carriers, enabling reliable air freight services through Southern Star Navigation.

Operating Company Authority

Southern Star Navigation operates under Landstar's various operating company authorities, including DOT and MC numbers for brokerage, common, and contract carrier services.

UFSTP Certifications

Landstar Express America, Landstar Inway, and Landstar Ranger are certified by the Uniform Freight Shipment Transportation Partnership (UFSTP), ensuring secure and compliant shipping operations.



Shipping Procedures: The Southern Star Navigation Way

To ensure your international shipping journey goes smoothly, Southern Star Navigation, in partnership with Landstar, follows these key procedures:

1. **Document Preparation:** We prepare and review all necessary documents, ensuring accuracy and compliance with current regulations.
2. **Carrier Coordination:** We coordinate with reputable carriers, ensuring secure and timely transportation of your goods.
3. **Customs Compliance:** We navigate customs regulations, ensuring all duties and tariffs are handled correctly.
4. **Tracking and Monitoring:** We track your shipment in real-time, providing updates and resolving issues proactively.
5. **Problem Resolution:** We handle any unexpected issues or delays, leveraging our expertise and Landstar's resources.

Why Expert Customs Brokerage Matters: Southern Star Navigation – Independent Landstar Agent

In the complex world of international trade, navigating customs and compliance is crucial for avoiding costly errors, delays, and regulatory issues. That's why having an experienced and expert partner handle your customs brokerage is essential. Southern Star Navigation – Independent Landstar Agent provides a comprehensive range of services, including customs clearance, import/export documentation, tariff classification, and compliance consulting. Our team of experts ensures that your goods move smoothly across borders while staying compliant with all applicable regulations. We understand the intricacies of international trade and are dedicated to protecting your business from potential risks and inefficiencies. To ensure your customs compliance is robust and efficient, we offer a complimentary expert opinion with our "Southern Star Consult" review. Our team will evaluate your current customs practices, identify areas for improvement, and provide tailored solutions to enhance your trade compliance program.

Don't leave your customs and compliance to chance. Contact Southern Star Navigation today and let us handle your customs brokerage with the expertise and care your business deserves.

