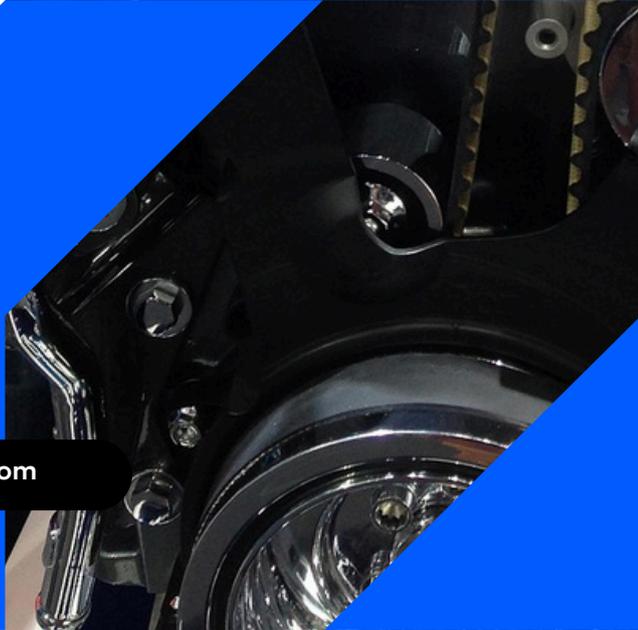
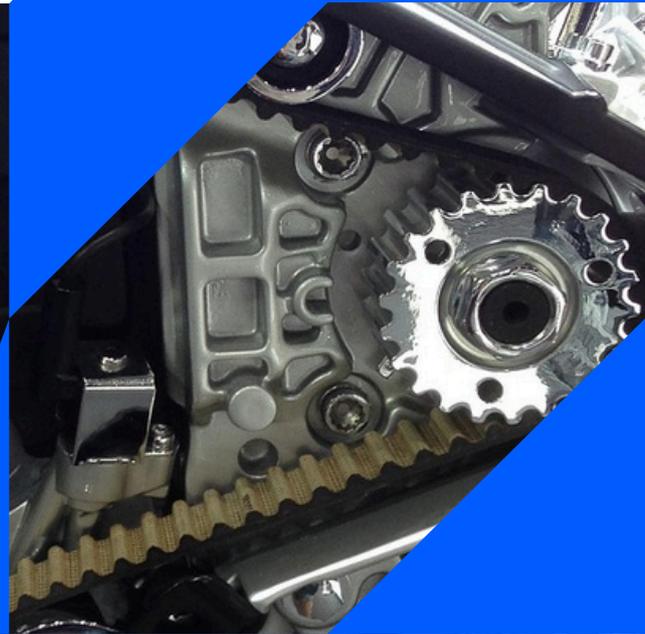
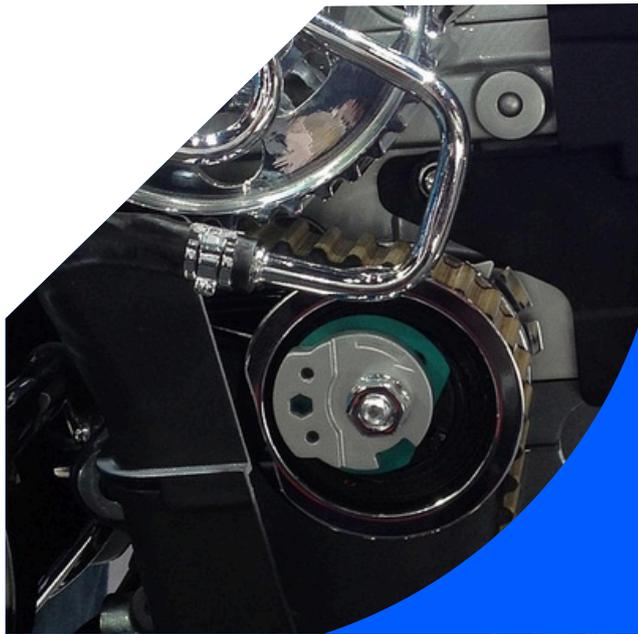


# Customs Clearance For Aftermarket Auto Parts

## The Complete Guide



# Uncovering Hidden Costs and Compliance Risks

For seasoned importers of aftermarket auto parts, customs clearance is part of daily business. You know the basics—HTS codes, required documents, and standard regulations. Yet, even experienced companies unknowingly lose money every year to avoidable duty overpayments, compliance missteps, and inefficient customs practices.

Billions are paid in tariffs annually, and many importers overpay due to misclassification, missed refunds, or overlooked cost-saving strategies. The key isn't just following customs rules—it's optimizing your strategy to avoid unnecessary expenses and disruptions.

Whether you're an industry veteran or just getting started, this guide reveals the hidden risks and opportunities in customs clearance—helping you import smarter, faster, and more cost-effectively.

# Mastering Regulations: Beyond the Basics

## What Experienced Importers Already Know

- **HTS Codes** determine duty rates and compliance requirements.
- **Standard documentation** (Commercial Invoices, Bills of Lading, Packing Lists) is required for every shipment.
- **Certain auto parts** (brake pads, airbags, emissions-related components) require additional compliance certifications.

## What Even Pros May Overlook

- **Misclassified HTS Codes** can trigger costly audits or lead to thousands in unnecessary duty payments.
- **Regulatory Changes** are constant—what passed last year may need extra permits today.
- **Country of Origin Risks** fluctuate with free trade agreements and tariff exclusions, impacting the best sourcing strategies.



### DGL TIP

Conduct annual classification audits to ensure every part is using the most accurate, up-to-date HTS code. Importers who proactively review and adjust classifications avoid costly missteps and often reduce duty expenses by up to 20%.



# The Documentation Mistakes Costing You Time and Money

## What Experienced Importers Already Know

- **Incomplete or inaccurate paperwork** can cause costly delays.
- **Consistency** is critical—Invoices, Packing Lists, and HTS codes must align.
- **Customs Bonds** are mandatory for shipments over \$2,500.

## What Even Pros May Overlook

- **Minor discrepancies** between documents can trigger extra screening.
- **Undervaluing shipments**—even accidentally—may lead to audits or penalties.
- **Missing compliance paperwork** (EPA, NHTSA, DOT certifications) on regulated parts can cause shipment holds.



### DGL TIP

Before any shipment leaves its origin, cross-check all invoices, packing lists, and compliance documents for consistency. A thorough preclearance review reduces the risk of customs holds and avoids surprise fines.

# Avoiding Compliance Pitfalls That Derail Supply Chains

## What Experienced Importers Already Know

- **Compliance missteps** mean shipment delays, extra costs, and possible penalties.
- **Customs audits** and inspections are inevitable.
- **Customs brokers** help but aren't always proactive.

## What Even Pros May Overlook

- **Sudden Tariff Hikes:** Global policy shifts can disrupt even the best-laid supply chain plans.
- **Product Misclassification Audits:** Honest mistakes in HTS codes can result in retroactive duty bills or audits.
- **Lack of Real-Time Visibility:** Without active tracking, delays or regulatory changes can occur.



### DGL TIP

Set up real-time alerts for regulatory and tariff changes and track every shipment proactively. Staying ahead of policy shifts helps you avoid last-minute disruptions and keeps your supply chain resilient.

# Lower Costs and Less Risk

A compliance audit with DGL can lower your duties and ensure properly classified goods. We work with you to optimize your customs strategy—saving you money and preventing costly delays.



## DGL TIP

Review your customs clearance processes annually to identify hidden cost-saving opportunities and compliance risks. The best time to optimize is before an issue impacts your bottom line.

## Why Choose Dedola?

At Dedola Global Logistics we do more than move your freight. We offer end-to-end supply chain services –transparent pricing, freight visibility, customs compliance consultation, and proven cost-reduction strategies—backed by 50 years of experience and expertise, specific to the needs of Auto-Parts importers.

## So...

**When was your last customs strategy review?** If you don't recall, then it's been too long. Peace of mind and a better bottom line? Why wait?

**Schedule a consultation with Dedola Global Logistics today.**

[dedola.com](https://dedola.com)



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