Incoterms® 2020 rules

Commercial terms form an integral part of contracts of sale. In international trade, commercial terms specify the responsibilities of the parties to a contract of sale related to the delivery of goods, the distribution of costs and the transfer of risk from the seller to the buyer. Only by referring clearly to an appropriate term can the parties ensure that the term is part of the contract of sale and binding on both parties. For example, CIP (street address and town/city) Incoterms® 2020.

Incoterms is the most widely used collection of commercial terms known all over the world. Incoterms were first published in 1936. Since then, the terms have been regularly revised to comply with the prevailing practices and requirements of goods transportation.

This brochure aims to explain the most important differences between the various terms and the critical points used in international trade. A critical point is that point where the seller's responsibility

ends and the buyer's responsibility begins. Since some of the terms leave the question of critical point open, it must be explicitly specified in the contract of sale. The terms are divided into two categories, depending on whether they can be applied to all transport or only sea and inland waterway transport.

If you have any questions about payment methods, commercial terms and cargo insurance, OP Corporate Bank and Pohjola Insurance experts will be happy to help:

tradefinance@op.fi and marine.cargoinsurance@pohjola.fi

The Incoterms® 2020 publication of the International Chamber of Commerce is the only official account of the contents of the commercial terms. In order to avoid misinterpretations, this brochure should be used together with the Incoterms® 2020 publication, and the text in the English-language publication will prevail.

Markings used in the brochure

RISKS

The seller bears the risk of loss of or damage to goods

The buyer bears the risk of loss of or damage to goods

Risk is the possibility of an incident resulting in the loss of or damage to the goods during transport. In this brochure, Risk describes the transfer of risk from the seller to the buyer and the critical point for the transfer of risk. The seller or buyer can protect against transport risks by taking out cargo insurance. Insurance is taken out by the party that bears the risk or has the obligation to insure the goods according to the commercial terms used.

COSTS

The seller's responsibility

nsibility The buyer's responsibility for costs

Costs describes the division of responsibility between the parties regarding costs related to the delivery of the goods, such as freight, loading and unloading costs, customs duties, taxes and other similar charges.

DOCUMENTS

The seller's responsibility to obtain documents at its own cost

The buyer's responsibility to obtain documents at its own cost

Documents describe which party to the transaction is responsible for obtaining, at its risk and cost, documents related to the delivery of the goods, including export licences, certificates of origin, insurance policies, shipping documents and delivery documents.

CARGO INSURANCE

The seller's responsibility to take out cargo insurance

Under the CIP terms the seller must take out cargo insurance for the benefit of the buyer as per International Cargo Clauses A (ICC-A) or similar cover. Under the CIF terms the seller must take out cargo insurance for the benefit of the buyer as per International Cargo Clauses C (ICC-C) or similar minimum cover. If the buyer so requires, the seller must obtain, at the buyer's cost, more comprehensive cover, provided by, for example, Clauses A and B of the Institute Cargo Clauses (CIF) and the Institute War and Strikes Clauses (CIF or CIP). The insurable value must exceed the price stated in the contract of sale by at least 10%, and the currency must be the currency of the contract. The insurance must be valid up to the named port of destination (CIF) or place of destination (CIP).

CRITICAL POINT SPECIFIED IN THE CONTRACT

A critical point is that point where, in accordance with the commercial terms used, the seller's responsibility ends and the buyer's responsibility begins. Since some of the terms leave the question of critical point open, it must be explicitly specified in the contract of sale. In this brochure, this critical point is described as follows:



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INCOTERMS® 2020

Critical points in domestic and international trade



