



6610 Tributary St, Suite 102  
Baltimore, MD 21224  
Phone: 410-631-1860

### **Things to Know For Customs Clearance for Containerized Vehicles**

If applicable, your Personally Owned Vehicle will be charged Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Duties/Fees, which is around 3% of the value of the vehicle. If the vehicle is deemed by CBP to be for the transport of goods the Customs Duties/Fees will be around 28% of the value of the vehicle.

The vehicle will be exempt from CBP Duties/Fees if the owner has documentation showing the vehicle was bought in the United States by them prior to export, if the vehicle is a product of the United States that was not modified while overseas, or if the owner is returning to the U.S. under Permanent Change of Station Orders.

Containerized Shipments will be charged a shipping lines Terminal Handling Charge/Wharfage charge that will be payable directly to the shipping line. Customs reserves the right to inspect the container upon arrival and will do so with a X-Ray Exam known as a VACIS. If Customs has no need to inspect the container further it will be released, however, Customs does reserve the right to order the container to be opened up and to have the goods be physically inspected. Once this exam is done, Customs may then release the cargo. Unfortunately, the vehicle owner will be billed directly for any Customs exams; the price of which is dependent on the shipping line used and the port. Exam fees can run between \$200 - \$600 per exam plus drayage of the container to the exam site. Also, if the container remains at the port past the terminal/shipping line free storage time the owner of the vehicle will be charged storage charges on the average of \$200 - \$300 a day.

Once the container is cleared by U.S. Customs and all charges have been paid to the shipping line/terminal, the container will need to be picked up from the port or exam site and taken to a warehouse for unloading. The vehicle owner will then be able to pick up the vehicle at the warehouse where the unloading takes place. The vehicle owner will also be responsible for payment to the warehouse for the pickup of the container and the unloading of the vehicle.

The instructions for pick up of the vehicle will be sent to you by our office once the vehicle is available. Customs stamped registration documents will also be mailed or emailed to you. You will need to take these documents with you to the DMV when registering your car.