

# U.S. Customs Audit Preparation:

## Is Your Company Ready for an Audit — Today and Tomorrow?

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is intensifying audits across all industries, with particular scrutiny on valuation accuracy, country-of-origin claims, and eligibility for special tariffs. These audits can hit with little notice, extend for months or even years, and carry penalties potentially reaching millions of dollars, making proactive compliance essential.

The smartest way to protect your business? Build a robust compliance framework now — before CBP calls.

### Why Customs Audits Matter

- **Disruptive:** Diverts critical resources from your daily operations.
- **Thorough:** CBP scrutinizes valuation methods, origin claims, supplier documentation, and recordkeeping.
- **Costly:** Penalties can exceed duties owed, with severe cases triggering criminal investigations.



### What to Expect from a CBP Audit

**CBP audits vary widely — from quick questionnaires to deep-dive investigations lasting years:**

- **Focused Assessments:** Comprehensive audits that can span years.
- **Referral Audits:** Triggered by perceived risks or third-party tips.
- **Risk Assessments & RASAs:** Shorter, detailed examinations.
- **Broker Audits & Import Specialist Inquiries:** Targeted reviews that may expand if problems arise.

**Regardless of type, you'll be expected to produce critical documentation such as:**

- Entry summaries (CBP Form 7501)
- Bills of lading or airway bills
- Commercial invoices & packing lists
- Bond information
- Detailed proof of valuation calculations (including assists, royalties, transfer pricing adjustments)



## Are You at Risk?

**If you agree with any of the following statements, CBP may find vulnerabilities:**

- Have never conducted a self-audit of import valuations and classifications.
- Struggle to quickly locate supporting documents for country-of-origin and tariff claims.
- Are unsure how to respond to a CBP Form 28 or 29.

**The reality: Audits are unpredictable, comprehensive, and high-stakes. Without preparation, even minor errors can lead to costly penalties.**

## How We Help You Stay Audit-Ready

**We partner with you to develop a tailored compliance framework that keeps your business audit-ready year-round:**

- Custom valuation procedures designed to withstand CBP scrutiny.
- Document retention systems ensuring records are available on demand.
- Internal controls that identify and fix issues before violations occur.
- Training programs that empower your team on compliance responsibilities.
- Regular compliance evaluations to adapt to evolving regulations.

## Our Two-Part Approach

### 1. Audit Readiness

Prepare your company to respond confidently and efficiently:

- Review valuation methods, classifications, and records for accuracy.
- Organize and centralize import documentation for quick access.
- Conduct transaction testing to uncover and correct errors early.
- Coach your team on handling CBP requests and site visits.

### 2. Ongoing Compliance Management

Compliance is an ongoing commitment:

- Embed policies and procedures into daily operations.
- Conduct regular self-audits and monitoring.
- Stay informed on CBP regulatory updates.
- Continuously refine your framework to minimize risk and improve efficiency.



### Why This Matters

CBP can revisit companies multiple times, and trade rules change frequently. A strong, evolving compliance framework means fewer surprises, faster responses, and lower risk of costly penalties.

### The Bottom Line

With the right framework in place, a Customs audit becomes a manageable review — not a business crisis.

**We help you get there, and we stay with you to ensure you stay there.**

**Get your Customs Audit Compliance Framework started today.**

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