

Export checklist: El Salvador

Seaway Project Cargo · prepared October 18, 2026

829

U.S. machines shipped here in 2025

\$13,000

Duty and VAT, \$100,000 excavator

Regular

RoRo from the East and Gulf Coast

SHIPPING METHODS

- Container: Booked on request. Container ports: Puerto de Acajutla, Via Puerto Cortés (Honduras). No schedule we track lists a direct call, so the carrier and any transshipment are confirmed at booking.
- Flat rack: Booked on request. For machines too wide or tall for a closed box, on container lines that accept out-of-gauge cargo. Discharge at Puerto de Acajutla, Via Puerto Cortés (Honduras), subject to the terminal taking flat racks.
- RoRo: Regular from the East and Gulf Coast, limited from the West Coast. RoRo ports: Via Puerto Cortés (Honduras). Carriers call these routes on their schedules; we confirm the next sailing at booking.
- Breakbulk: Liner breakbulk or charter. For cargo too large or heavy for a flat rack, loaded by ship or shore crane. Breakbulk and heavy-lift ports: Puerto de Acajutla, Via Puerto Cortés (Honduras).

DUTY AND TAX

- Import duty: 0% of \$100,000 CIF is \$0 (HS 8429.52, 2022 tariff).
- IVA: 13% of the duty-inclusive \$100,000 is \$13,000 (Aduanas El Salvador, checked June 2026)
- Total duty and tax: \$13,000, or 13% of CIF.
- Excavators 0% · Wheel loaders 0% · Crawler dozers 0% · Motor graders 0% · Backhoes and other excavating machines 0% · Crawler and rough-terrain cranes 0%

U.S. EXPORT STEPS

- File the EEI in AES before loading (every vehicle, and any Schedule B line over \$2,500) and pass the ITN to the carrier.
- Titled machines: original title and EEI to U.S. Customs at the port at least 72 hours before export.
- Wood packaging and dunnage must be ISPM 15 heat-treated and stamped.
- Check the export classification (EAR99 or an ECCN) before booking.

DOCUMENTS AT DESTINATION

Commercial Invoice · Packing List · Bill of Lading · Certificate of Origin (CAFTA) · Import Declaration · Equipment Specifications

USED-MACHINERY RULES

- Age limit: Art. 34 bans imports of light passenger/cargo vehicles over 8 years, heavy passenger over 10, heavy cargo over 15. Exempt: agricultural and 'terracería industrial' vehicles, trailers. Exempt used vehicles need a technical-mechanical inspection to register.
- Documents: Customs (DGA) requires a commercial invoice, bill of lading and, when applicable, an import licence. DGA's online Tariff Query shows the duty, any required permit, and which agency issues it.
- Trade agreement: Under CAFTA-DR all U.S. industrial goods enter duty-free; the importer claims the preference on a written origin certification. It needs the certifier, HS code and description, origin basis and date; blanket certificates cover up to 365 days.

SOURCES

Sources: World Bank WITS; UNCTAD TRAINS via World Bank WITS; Höegh Autoliners; DGA El Salvador - Ley de Transporte Terrestre; ITA. Full citations and dates on the web page.