

Export checklist: Panama

Seaway Project Cargo · prepared October 18, 2026

298

U.S. machines shipped here in 2025

5–12 days

Fastest published transit

\$7,000

Duty and VAT, \$100,000 excavator

Regular

RoRo from the East and Gulf Coast

SHIPPING METHODS

- Container: Booked on request. Container ports: Port of Balboa, Port of Colón, Manzanillo International Terminal. 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 Port of Balboa, Port of Colón, Manzanillo International Terminal, subject to the terminal taking flat racks.
- RoRo: Regular from the East and Gulf Coast, limited from the West Coast. Published services: NYK RORO USGX; NYK RORO North–South; Höegh Autoliners Jacksonville – Colombia – Panama. RoRo ports: Port of Balboa, Port of Colón.
- 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: Port of Balboa, Port of Colón.

DUTY AND TAX

- Import duty: 0% of \$100,000 CIF is \$0 (HS 8429.52, 2023 tariff).
- ITBMS: 7% of the duty-inclusive \$100,000 is \$7,000 (Autoridad Nacional de Aduanas (Panama), checked June 2026)
- Total duty and tax: \$7,000, or 7% 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 · Import Declaration · Equipment Specifications

USED-MACHINERY RULES

- Licence or permit: No import licences are required in Panama; any company holding a commercial or industrial licence can import freely. Special permits apply only to firearms, ammunition and fertilizers.
- Inspection: Ley 47 de 1996, Art. 18, bars soil from entering Panama, explicitly including soil adhering to machinery. Inspectors may order treatment, rejection, re-export or destruction at the importer's cost (Art. 21).
- Documents: Essential documents: the original commercial invoice and the bill of lading (or air waybill). Add a certificate of origin to access U.S.-Panama TPA preferential duties.
- Trade agreement: The U.S.-Panama TPA (in force 31 Oct 2012) eliminated tariffs on nearly all U.S. industrial goods; the remaining non-agricultural tariffs were phased out over ten years.

SOURCES

Sources: World Bank WITS; NYK RORO; UNCTAD TRAINS via World Bank WITS; Höegh Autoliners; ITA; MIDA - Ley N° 47 de 9 de julio de 1996. Full citations and dates on the web page.