

Export checklist: Saudi Arabia

Seaway Project Cargo · prepared October 18, 2026

510

U.S. machines shipped here in 2025

21–28 days

Fastest published transit

\$20,750

Duty and VAT, \$100,000 excavator

Regular

RoRo from the East and Gulf Coast

SHIPPING METHODS

- Container: Booked on request. Container ports: Jeddah Islamic Port, King Abdulaziz Port (Dammam). 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 Jeddah Islamic Port, King Abdulaziz Port (Dammam), subject to the terminal taking flat racks.
- RoRo: Regular from the East and Gulf Coast, limited from the West Coast. Published services: Grimaldi MED/USA/MEX; Höegh Autoliners North America – Middle East and Asia. RoRo ports: Jeddah Islamic Port, King Abdulaziz Port (Dammam).
- 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: Jeddah Islamic Port, King Abdulaziz Port (Dammam), Jubail Commercial Port.

DUTY AND TAX

- Import duty: 5% of \$100,000 CIF is \$5,000 (HS 8429.52, 2023 tariff).
- VAT: 15% of the duty-inclusive \$105,000 is \$15,750 (Saudi Customs (ZATCA), checked June 2026)
- Total duty and tax: \$20,750, or 21% of CIF.
- Excavators 5% · Wheel loaders 6% · Crawler dozers 5% · Motor graders 5% · Backhoes and other excavating machines 5% · Crawler and rough-terrain cranes 5%

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 · SASO Certificate of Conformity · Equipment Specifications · Import License (if applicable)

USED-MACHINERY RULES

- Age limit: SASO heavy-equipment import requirements, Art. 2: mobile and fixed heavy equipment may be imported only if the model is no more than 15 years from year of manufacture, counted backwards excluding the current year.
- Age limit: ZATCA: heavy transport trucks over 3.5 t, including tractor heads, trailers and semi-trailers, may be imported only if operational age does not exceed 5 years, counted from 1 January of the manufacture year.
- Conformity: SASO Technical Regulation for Machinery Safety Part 2 (Mobile Machinery and Heavy Duty Equipment), Art. 6/3: suppliers of used units must obtain an inspection certificate from a SASO-approved notified body, plus a technical file with Supplier DoC and risk assessment.
- Conformity: SABER platform: a regulated product needs a Certificate of Conformity from a SASO-approved certification body, then a per-consignment Shipment Certificate that must be sent to Saudi customs before the goods can enter.
- Licence or permit: SASO requirements Art. 3: heavy-equipment imports are limited to companies whose commercial registration covers the sector (sales/rental, contracting, mining, agriculture). Saudi individuals may import at most 2 units per year for personal use.
- Inspection: SASO requirements Art. 4 bans equipment that was flooded, crashed, burned, rolled over, or has a damaged chassis. Also banned: right-to-left-hand-drive conversions, stolen units and tampered chassis numbers. Customs checks serial numbers against documents.

Planning guide, not a customs ruling. Confirm rates and rules with your broker before shipping.

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