

IMPORT

Mode of payment

What is a Letter of Credit (L/C)?

A Letter of Credit (L/C) is a valid document issued by a bank to an exporter that guarantees payment to the exporter if the terms and conditions specified in the L/C are fulfilled. It usually contains inter-alia a brief description of the goods, the documents required, the shipping date. As an importer, you are assured that the exporter will only be paid when the goods and relevant documents have been delivered and the terms of the sale are fulfilled. The documents that you would need to receive from the exporter include the commercial invoice, bill of lading (or other evidence of shipment by a carrier), packing list, certificate of origin and certificate of compliance.

Clearance of goods

How many days will it take to clear my imports from the port?

This depends on factors such as the port of clearance and the type of goods. It takes an average of one day at the port as well as the airport to clear your goods. Some imports may require further verification by regulatory bodies, such as the National Plant Protection Office (NPPO), Consumer Affairs Unit (CAU), Trade Division and the Port Health Offices.

Other charges at Customs

What extra charges, besides duties and taxes?

Other charges which you should take into consideration include: port charges, such as storage charges, which apply after a given free period; handling charges; shipping line charges e.g. container charges; and the clearing agent's fee (this could be a percentage of the CIF value of the goods or a fixed amount).

Conformity to Standards

How do I ensure that the goods I wish to import meet Mauritian standards?

The Mauritius Standards Bureau is responsible for verification of imports with respect to quality, inspection, testing and issue of certificates. You need to ensure that certain goods you intend to import meet Mauritius standards or approved specifications before they are shipped by getting a Certificate of Conformity from your supplier.