



Motorbike Shipping Services

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What makes us unique

At Taurus Logistics we're really proud of the fact we're not another vanilla flavoured, soul-less, corporate freight forwarder. We have a real passion for what we do and a drive to solve any problem you might have, we go the distance to get the job done.

1. Response within 24 hours

We understand time's important to you so we guarantee to personally respond to all enquiries within 24hours, Monday to Friday New Zealand time. In some cases we may not be able to respond with a full quote, but we'll always acknowledge your request.

If you are unsure of exactly what you need or you've never shipped before then we're happy to answer all questions about any aspect you may be uncertain about.

2. No hidden costs

There's nothing worse than getting a price and doing your budget only to find out what you were quoted didn't include a raft of other fees and charges. Not only does it bring our industry into disrepute, it has almost become standard practise for many freight forwarders, making it extremely difficult to compare quotes between companies.

When you ask Taurus Logistics for a quote including all charges that's exactly what you get, we'll include all charges to get the job done for you including quarantine, customs clearance, port charges, inland transportation, whatever is needed.

When something is excluded like government taxes or duties we clearly state this on our cover page, no smoke and mirrors or small print.

3. We take care of everything

Once you're booked with Taurus Logistics we'll take care of all the details for you, if a problem crops up (for example you purchase a dump truck at auction and because of a bad oil leak it can't be shipped) then we'll solve the problem (getting the truck fixed).

We don't shy away from problems or push responsibility back, if we can take care of the problem then we'll offer a solution.

4. Experienced Professionals

Because of a tight market with the slimmest of margins, many freight forwarders only employ juniors. At Taurus Logistics we don't believe in that, our team is made up of professionals with years of experience in the shipping industry with many shipments under their belt.

Being privately owned means the agents we work with throughout the world are just like us, we chose each other because we share the same skills and ethos and we actually like them! They're our close friends and colleagues, only a phone call away.

Give us a call and let us help your business succeed!

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Shipping a motorbike

If you dream of owning a motorbike, but it just seems too hard to arrange all the international shipping and customs formalities then we can help you.

When planning a trip talk to Taurus Logistics first, we can advise you on how to correctly minimise costs, avoid paying taxes and lower duties.

What's Involved in Motorbike Shipping?

This depends upon where you want to ship your motorbike because regulations on importing and exporting motorbikes are different for each country.

However there are certainly some common procedures in motorbike shipping.

- Your motorcycle needs to be spotless and clean to avoid any issues with quarantine on arrival.
- All motorcycles need to be crated unless shipping as a group in a container. In most locations we offer crating, battery disconnection, fuel draining and petrol draining in line with shipping requirements.
- There are special requirements on the type of wood that can be used for building crates, so if you intend to crate your own motorcycle either use a steel crate or build it from what is known as ISPM15 timber. If in doubt leave it to us, non-compliant timber can't be shipped.
- If you're going on a tour and then returning back to your country of origin then we would advise using an "ATA Carnet". This is a customs document that allows you to enter your goods into a country on a temporary basis without having to pay taxes and duties (normally for a period of up to one year)
- In some countries (like New Zealand) we can apply for GST exemption. There are some criteria, but as a rule of thumb if you are immigrating to the country and already own the bike then we can apply for an exemption for you.

Group Motorbike Tours

We offer advice on group motorcycle tours: we often work with groups that are planning a trip in the next year or two. Get in touch with us, we'd love to hear from you!

What If I Haven't Bought The Motorbike Yet?

If you're trying to budget for motorcycle shipping costs but haven't found the bike you love yet then we can give you some good ballpark figures. Once you've decided on a motorbike then let us know the make, model, year and its location and we can firm up a shipping price for you.

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Comparing international shipping quotes

Comparing quotes for shipping is a bit like trying to compare quotes to build a house, is one house brick and the other straw, are you comparing apples to apples, does each quote contain all the services you require?

The shipping and freight forwarding industry don't make it easy for newcomers, many people fall into the trap of accepting the lower price only to find it was half a quote, so when their goods arrive they're hit with a massive invoice for all sorts of charges no-one told them about.

Some quotes will be port to port, some will be door to port, others will try to confuse you with terms like FOB,C&F, CIF or FAS, which is normally a smoke screen to confuse non-industry people and avoid liability foray additional charges.

We find the practice outrageous and underhand, which is why at Taurus Logistics we clearly state what's included with no hidden costs or surprises, just clear concise no-nonsense quotations.

International shipping quotes should have three parts

Origin charges (charges in the country it's currently located in):

- Export documentation
- Inland transport
- Pack charges
- Port charges
- Ocean Freight Charges

Actual ocean freight

- BAF
- CAF

Destination Charges:

- Port charges
- Customs clearances
- Quarantine fees
- Unloading/unpacking

If you have all three then you have a comprehensive quote, if you're unsure then feel free to call us, we won't be offended if you want to talk about a competitor's quote to make sure it's the real deal.

We're happy to explain the quote in plain English letting you know what the terms mean and whether you're getting a good deal on total cost.

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Frequently-asked questions: shipping a motorbike

Found a bike online but don't know how to ship her home? We can help. Below are some common questions, but as always if you need any help just drop us an email.

How do you calculate the shipping costs?

We calculate the freight on the volume of the motorcycle, how much space it takes up inside the container, but there is a minimum charge for motorcycles.

What does the motorcycle quotation include?

Receipt at origin depot through to you collecting from our depot at destination. We can also assist with pick up and delivery if required.

How much notice do you need before the ship sails?

Ideally 7 days prior to the sailing date to ensure we can complete all the necessary Customs formalities. The motorcycle needs to be at our depot 4-5 days prior to the sailing date.

Does it matter if my motorcycle is dirty?

Your motorcycle must be thoroughly steam cleaned prior to shipment.

How much would it cost to insure my motorcycle?

The insurance is calculated on the value of the motorcycle plus the freight. Please request a quotation.

Can I ship personal effects with my motorcycle?

Yes you most certainly can if it is a closed crate. Most common items to send with your motorcycle are additional parts or helmets, etc. We must have an itemised list of what you want to ship with your motorcycle in advance though.

Does this include GST/VAT/Duties or Taxes?

All of our quotations exclude GST, duties and taxes.

What do I need to do to prepare the motorcycle for shipping?

The fuel needs to be drained down to reserve, or as low as possible. The battery must be disconnected and you must source a motorcycle crate for shipping. We can provide a crate in many locations.

Does my motorcycle need to be in a crate?

Yes it does. Your motorcycle will be shipped in a shared container so it is important that it is packed in a secure crate as other items will be packed around it. We can crate for you, but if building your own crate it needs to be constructed from ISPM15 timber.

Shipping a motorbike to Australia

Do I have to have owned my motorcycle for 12 months before importing into Australia?

Yes, you must have owned and used the motorcycle for 12 months, and not have been out of that country for more than 42 days in the year that you have owned it. Anyone can import a motorcycle built before 1989.

Will I have to pay an import tax and or GST on the value of my motorcycle for importing to Australia?

The rates, payable to the Australian Customs Service, at the Australian entry port, are:

- Vehicles up to 30 years old including forward control vehicles: 5% Duty + 10% GST
- 4wd 'Off Road' vehicles and Commercial vehicles: 5% Duty + 10% GST
- Vehicles over 30 years old and vehicles: 0% Duty + 10% GST

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- The duty is levied on the 'customs value' only. The GST is levied on the 'customs value' + the duty + the total 'cost of shipment' to Australia figure.

What is the first thing I need to do before considering importing motorcycles to Australia?

You will need to obtain a Vehicle Import Approval (VIA) from the Vehicle Safety Standards Branch of the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (Infrastructure). See [Application for Approval to Import a Vehicle](#).

Shipping a motorbike to New Zealand

Where can I find out information on New Zealand road compliance?

Visit the [Land Transport website factsheets](#).

How can I find out info on what the Duty/GST costs will be for importing into New Zealand?

GST is payable at 15% on the landed value, which is the value of the motorcycle, plus freight, plus insurance. Otherwise known as the CIF (Cost + Insurance + Freight) price.

If you are to be exempt from paying GST you need to meet the following conditions:

- Be a first time immigrant or a returning New Zealand citizen.
- If a returning citizen, you must have been out of New Zealand for over 21 months.
- Be prepared to sign a deed where you agree not to sell the motorcycle for at least 2 years.
- The motorcycle must have been owned and used for the last 12 months.

Are there any restrictions on the import of this particular motorcycle?

Check to see if your motorcycle meets New Zealand's emissions requirements. See [Infosheet 2.08](#).

What information do you need to give me a quote?

The most important details we need are the dimensions, weight, and also its location. If you can also give us the make/model also, this helps us determine if we can save you money by dis-assembly.

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Preparing your motorbike for Transport

Clean your motorcycle

Your motorbike must be thoroughly steam cleaned and vacuumed prior to shipment, though this is an additional service we can provide in some locations.

Motorcycle Crating

All motorbikes need to be crated with the battery disconnected and the fuel drained. If your crate is made of wood it must be made from ISPM15 timber or additional fumigation fees will apply.

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