

## Overview

Most goods imported into the United States are entered for consumption upon arrival at a United States port of entry. Typically, the importer will work with its licensed customs broker to 'clear' the shipment with U.S. Customs and Border Protection ("CBP") at the port of entry, making a declaration as to what is being imported, and paying any applicable import duties, taxes, fees, and other charges, as applicable. When this consumption entry process is complete, the importer is free to move the merchandise in the United States for distribution, sale, etc.

When the shipment is not going to remain in or become part of the commerce of the U.S., for example only transiting the U.S. enroute from Mexico to Canada/Canada to Mexico, then it is possible to use an in-bond process rather than filing a consumption entry.

BNSF Railway has a carrier bond that can be used by our customers only after certain requirements are met and approval is received from BNSF Marketing and Border Support. BNSF is not required to automatically allow its bond to be utilized. The use of BNSF's carrier bond is at BNSF's discretion and can be requested if the traffic arriving in the United States at a BNSF automated gateway and also will be exported from the United States through a BNSF automated gateway.

## Bond Process

The use of BNSF's carrier bond may be requested by the customer. Only after the request is evaluated to have met the requirements listed below and approval is provided by BNSF Marketing and Border Support, the customer may utilize BNSF's carrier bond. BNSF is not obligated to authorize the use of the bond to the customer. BNSF does not grant a power of attorney or allow its bond to be used if the shipment does not originate and terminate at a BNSF gateway. BNSF reserves the right to cancel the customer's ability to use BNSF's carrier bond at any time at the company's sole discretion.

In order to use BNSF's carrier bond, the customer must meet the following requirements:

- Customer must request use of BNSF's carrier bond
- BNSF Marketing and Border Support team should provide written approval for customer to use BNSF's carrier bond before customer submits any shipping instructions
- The shipment must originate and terminate at a BNSF gateway on the Mexico or Canada border
- The shipment must not interchange with any other carrier within the United States
- The BNSF carrier bond must be closed within a standard 30-day maximum transit time to transport in-bond merchandise between gateways
- BNSF Intermodal shipments are not permitted to move under the BNSF carrier bond, per BNSF Intermodal Rules & Policies Guide Item 7: Shipping Instructions
- The shipment must not contain explosives or prohibited cargo

## Additional Items that apply when using the BNSF carrier bond

- Customer is responsible for notifying BNSF Border Support in the event that lading is transloaded from the railcar that is moving in-bond on the BNSF carrier bond for any reason. Lading is required to be transloaded under the supervision of CBP and within an approved bonded warehouse.
  - A bonded warehouse is a warehouse owned by persons approved by CBP, and under bond or guarantee for the strict observance of the revenue laws; utilized for storing goods until duties are paid or goods are otherwise properly released.
- In the event that the customer needs to divert the goods from the original destination gateway, customer is required to immediately notify BNSF Border Support of the intent to divert and to electronically request & receive permission from CBP before diverting in-bond merchandise from the original intended destination gateway to another gateway.

- BNSF is responsible for reporting the arrival and location of the in-bond merchandise at the destination gateway or exportation gateway
- In-Bond movements of merchandise are guaranteed by the BNSF carrier bond filed with CBP, which obligates BNSF to pay a penalty or liquidated damage assessment for noncompliance with the regulations governing the movement of in-bond merchandise. Any penalties and liquidated damages assessed by CBP and related to the use of BNSF's carrier bond will be the responsibility of the customer to pay in full.

For questions regarding the BNSF Bond Policy, please use this [Message Us form](#) and select Reason of **CS Border Support Canada** or **CS Border Support Mexico**.

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