

TOP 10 CUSTOMS BOND REVIEW TRIGGERS

Managing your customs bond amount under rising tariff pressure



1 Import volume and duty trend

Monitor your 12-month rolling total of duties and taxes. Reassess your bond when utilization exceeds 80%. Factor in promotions, product launches, and sourcing changes.

2 Business seasonality

Identify seasonal peaks (e.g., holidays, new product releases). Adjust bond levels before these surges, and align renewal cycles with fiscal or sales seasons.

3 Sudden large orders or new programs

Track major purchase orders or project imports that may quickly saturate bond capacity. Review bond exposure when import values rise 10–15% above normal levels.

4 High-tariff or high-risk commodities

Pay attention to goods under Section 301, AD/CVD, or IEEPA tariffs. Rising duty rates can inflate liability even without increased volume.

5 Bond saturation reporting

Use CBP's ACE Portal to monitor duty exposure and open entries. Generate monthly Bond Sufficiency Reports; if usage exceeds 80%, consider increasing the bond.

6 Bond ladder awareness

Understand your surety's bond tiers. Slight increases in duty spend (e.g., USD 90k > 100k) can trigger jumps (USD 100k > 200k). Maintain buffer room.

7 Operational delays and open entries

Unliquidated entries, protests, and PSCs stack on the bond. Work with brokers to close out older entries and free up capacity.

8 Forward planning and contingency margin

Include bond reviews in annual compliance planning. Build 10–20% margin for tariff or policy changes, and conduct a mid-year review if business expands.

9 Financial and risk management integration

Treat the customs bond as a financial credit instrument. Coordinate with finance to manage liquidity, credit lines, and surety exposure.

10 Leverage expert support

Partner with a logistics or compliance specialist (e.g., Dimerco) for real-time bond monitoring, duty forecasting, and regulatory alerts to prevent surprises.

KEY TAKEAWAY:

Proactive monitoring of customs bond sufficiency helps importers stay ahead of CBP demands, avoid disruptions, and manage tariff-related financial risk effectively.