

UNCLASSIFIED (PUBLIC)

GOODS DESCRIPTIONS

GENERAL GUIDELINES

v0.4

January 2023

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DHL Express Customs Goods Descriptions | GUIDELINES



About Acceptable Goods Descriptions

- ✓ Acceptable Goods Descriptions include **complete information**, providing **sufficient detail** about the precise nature of goods in plain language.
- ✓ It should indicate **what** the goods are, for **which purpose the goods are used** and **what is made of**.
- ✓ Goods descriptions must be accurate to enable Customs Authorities to identify prohibited/restricted goods as well as perform adequate **risk profiling for safety and security reasons**.

Why is this important?

Customs Authorities are increasingly requesting **complete and accurate goods descriptions** in order to perform **security/safety screening** even before shipments leave the origin country. Without accurate information, there's a risk that we will not be able to uplift your shipment.

In the following slide, you will find a series of Unacceptable and Acceptable Goods Description examples, which will help to illustrate the expectations from Customs Authorities.

DHL Express Customs Goods Descriptions | GUIDELINES



WAYBILL Goods Descriptions Examples

Unacceptable ✘	Acceptable ✔
Aid consignments	Blankets, medications
Apparel	Men's shirts, lingerie, girls' vests, boys' jackets
Appliances	Refrigerators, stoves, microwave ovens, coffee machines
Auto parts	Automobile brakes, windshield glass for automobiles
Machine parts	Pumps, seals, engines
Machinery	Metalworking machinery, sewing machines
Machines	(See examples for "Machinery")
Oil	Mineral oil, plant oil
Plastic goods	Plastic kitchenware, plastic houseware
Electronics	Computers, televisions, CD players, tape recorders, phones
Equipment	Oil well equipment, poultry equipment
Wires	Iron and steel wire, copper wires
Foodstuffs	Fish, Beverages, Milk Powder
Gifts	Dolls, remote-control cars
Household goods	Plates, dishes, tableware (See also examples for "appliances")

The European Commission has published a document with a comprehensive list of unacceptable/ acceptable waybill goods descriptions, please see link below:

https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/system/files/2021-03/guidance_acceptable_goods_description_en.pdf

COMMERCIAL INVOICE Goods Descriptions Examples

Unacceptable ✘	Acceptable ✔
Samples	Samples of curtains and interior blinds; curtain or bed valances of cotton
Parts	Parts of pumps for liquids, whether or not fitted with a measuring device; liquid elevators
Gifts	Sunglasses with lenses optically worked
Textiles	Women's T-shirts made of cotton, knitted or crocheted

Note: in addition to goods descriptions, ideally customers should also provide the corresponding HS Code (full digits), ideally for both Export & Import Countries, on the Commercial Invoice/data.

THANK YOU

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