



# Have you been Scammed by a Port Shark ?

If you have received an invoice or NOA ( Notice Of Arrival ) with any of the following charges you may have been scammed by a Port Shark for hundreds or thousands of pounds ££££.

**Import Service Fee**

**Emergency ROE Surcharge**

**Temp ROE Differential**

**Origin Service Factor**

**DO (Delivery Order) Fee**

**CAF Surcharge**

**BAF Surcharge**

**Pump Truck Fee**

**China Service Fee**

**Currency Adjustment Factor**

**Destination Insurance Cover**

**Pallet Exchange**

**Washing Fee !**

**Because we can charge Fee (BWCCF)**

## What is a Port Shark ?



A “Port Shark” is a freight agent that acts as a deconsolidation agent and arranges the unpacking of a Sea Freight Container on its arrival at a UK Port. He then in turn bills each importer who has cargo in the container, a fee for terminal handling. However, this is a totally unregulated market and many of these agents hold importers hostage until unfair and unreasonable fees are extorted.

It must be noted that some freight agents who perform this service act in an honourable way and only charge reasonable fees. However, if any of the above fee descriptions appear on your invoice / NOA you are probably dealing with a Shark.

## How the Scam Works ( Shipping terms C&F, CFR & CIF )

These shipping terms mean that the UK importer is trusting the overseas supplier of his goods to arrange and to pre-pay all shipping charges to the UK (to a named UK Port) and in addition with CIF it also means that the supplier is also arranging basic insurance.

These terms are the most commonly misunderstood and expensive shipping mistake that a new UK importer makes. Often it is assumed that these terms include the UK Terminals (otherwise known as landed charges) which they do not as the supplier will have only paid up to the arrival UK Port / Airport.

UK Terminal fees are an “unregulated market” where importers are often held to ransom and have no choice but to pay what is demanded by the “Port Sharks” for release of their cargo. New overseas suppliers also try to tempt UK importers with very low shipping rates “included” in their quotations because unknown to the UK importer the supplier is getting a hidden commission paid back to him from his local freight agent as part of the scam.

## What can you do ?

Very little unfortunately. The Port Shark has your goods and unless you pay his demanded charges he is very unlikely to release them and as he holds control of the goods in his warehouse he may think he can charge whatever he likes for his service. This is unfortunately a totally unregulated market. However, we have a number of strategies that have on many occasions saved our clients hundreds and in some cases thousands of pounds.

## Avoiding the Port Shark Scam :

Always appoint a reputable UK based shipping company and agree exactly how much its going to cost "to your door" with shipping terms FOB or ExWorks.

The above is the “personal opinion” of Ian West.  
Senior Customs Broker at Yes 2 Ship Ltd.

If you would like to see if we can be of help or be of service  
simply call Ian on 0208 754 9000 or email directly to [ian@yes2ship.com](mailto:ian@yes2ship.com)

**Email: [ian@yes2ship.com](mailto:ian@yes2ship.com)**  
**Call us today on Tel 0208 754 9000**

Free Advice and a Competitive Quotation  
BIFA latest trading conditions apply.

