

II. Commissioned Blog Post – Brazil Travel Blog

Imports and Exports in Brazil – A Look Inside the Port

Importing and exporting in Brazil is a complicated process. The Port of Salvador, Bahia, Brazil is a deep seaport located in All Saints Bay. It is the oldest port in South America. We decided to travel to the port to get a glimpse inside and watch the process.

We were most interested in two shipping containers that had just arrived – they were holding our trampoline equipment. We have now opened a trampoline park with many components. There are over thirty trampolines, a ninja course, a climbing wall, a foam pit, a soft park for infants, and a second story slide. It has been a long process, but here are some tips we have learned about importation into Brazil:

- Do your homework! Find out what taxes apply to the type of products you are shipping. Plan on paying around 100% tariffs and fees for your shipment.
- Choose a competent supplier who understands the import/export process. This is crucial. It was more economical for us to import trampolines into Brazil than to buy them in country, even with the high tariffs.
- The most important documents for customs are: Commercial Invoice, Parts List with Material Composition, and Bill of Lading. I cannot stress how important it is to make sure these documents are correct.
- Find a good Freight Forwarder. A freight forwarder takes care of the shipment from the time it arrives to the final destination. Before your containers arrive in the port, make

sure the logistics are all sorted out. We had roughly ten tons of equipment to get from the port to our park in Piata. There are many steps in the process, but a good freight forwarder will help you with every detail. We used HC Logistica and were very happy with their services. You can check them out here: <http://www.hclogistica.com.br>

The largest exports here are petrochemicals and paper. There is a highway dedicated exclusively to the transportation of petrochemicals from the refinery to the port. No cars are allowed on this road. There are about 300-400 containers of paper that are shipped to China out of this port every month.

We were very impressed with how clean, organized, and structured the port was. The employees were kind, skilled, and educated. They all spoke English very well, which made it easier to communicate with them and learn more about the port. There are big plans to double the size of the port in the next three to five years.