

# Buying products from abroad?

You could be asked to pay UK import taxes if your seller hasn't added them at the point of sale. Don't get caught out by additional charges.

## Shakti from Cardiff

1

I ordered a mobile phone cover online for £20 (excluding VAT)



The online seller was based in Germany.



2

delivery  
= £5

The seller arranged delivery for £5 and sent me the phone cover as the only item in a parcel.

3

20% UK VAT  
= £5

But as the parcel was valued at £135 or less, the seller in Germany also had to charge UK VAT at 20% at the point of sale.

+UK VAT

4

So, the total cost was £30 charged by the seller at checkout.


 + 
 
 + 
 UK VAT = £30  
 £20    £5    £5

5

As I have paid the VAT and delivery upfront and the phone cover was valued under £135, I didn't have to pay any additional UK import taxes when it arrived in the UK.



Additional import charges don't apply as the phone case is under £135 and VAT plus delivery was charged at point of sale.

To avoid getting caught out in future, I now always check [www.gov.uk/goods-sent-from-abroad](http://www.gov.uk/goods-sent-from-abroad).



HM Revenue  
& Customs