

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOUR NEXT CROSS-BORDER MOVE

Navigating the U.S.-Mexico border for freight movement has become increasingly complex due to fluctuating tariff policies, evolving compliance requirements, and unpredictable delays.

To succeed, enterprise supply chain leaders need more than capacity. They need clarity, speed, visibility, and a plan built for disruption.

This guide outlines the five most critical things to get right and how Redwood helps companies operationalize them with confidence.

1

KNOW THE COMPLIANCE LANDSCAPE AND HOW ITS CHANGES

Whether it's Mexico's Carta Porte or shifting U.S. tariff policy, cross-border compliance is a moving target. Staying current is essential to avoiding costly delays, denied entry, or regulatory exposure.

What to do: Build an internal compliance review process or work with a partner who monitors regulatory changes in real time and updates documentation workflows proactively.

2

BUILD FOR VISIBILITY, NOT JUST VELOCITY

It's not enough to get freight moving. You need to know where it is, who's handling it, and what could delay it. Especially with rising cargo theft and congestion, real-time tracking is now an operational standard.

What to do: Invest in systems that provide full shipment visibility or partner with a provider offering real-time traceability and proactive exception alerts.

3

TREAT THE BORDER LIKE A LAYER, NOT A LINE

Many companies approach the border as a simple transfer point. In reality, it's a high-friction zone requiring detailed planning, skilled coordination, and careful partner selection.

What to do: Ensure your teams or providers have deep experience managing customs, transloading, cross-dock handoffs, and bi-national communication. Your teams and providers should have people on the ground that understand the ever-changing landscape.

4

PREPARE FOR NEARSHORING AT SCALE

With more companies shifting manufacturing to Mexico, logistics operations are under pressure to keep up. But expanding into Mexico requires more than finding a new carrier. To be successful, it's about building infrastructure.

What to do: Plan for warehousing, WMS/TMS deployment, workforce needs, and systems integration from the beginning. Look for partners who can help you operationalize quickly.

5

DESIGN FOR PREDICTABILITY, NOT JUST FLEXIBILITY

Contingency plans matter. But your best defense against chaos is predictability. Knowing what's coming, having the right infrastructure in place, and working with partners who keep things running when the unexpected hits is critical.

What to do: Benchmark service providers not just on price, but on uptime, communication, compliance accuracy, and contingency planning.

HOW REDWOOD HELPS:

Redwood enables enterprise supply chains to navigate all five dimensions with confidence:



Deep cross-border compliance expertise



Real-time visibility tools and 24/7 monitoring



Proven customs clearance playbooks and in-region teams



Certified WMS, TMS, and GTM implementation and optimization



Embedded, proactive support that prevents disruption before it starts

We're not just a freight partner — we're your partner in making your cross-border logistics work better, faster, and smarter.

Equip your team with the knowledge to navigate cross-border logistics confidently.

Talk to Redwood about your cross-border strategy.

