

ePAL - Isn't this what my tax plugin already does?

Short answer: Most plugins calculate tax. ePAL aligns tax, duty and customs so the order actually clears.



TL:DR

Capability

ePAL

Typical Plugin

Tax

✓ Calculates VAT correctly by destination, product type and special treatments; removes origin tax

✓ Calculates VAT or sales tax

Duty

✓ Retrieves and calculates destination customs duty

✗ No duty retrieval / calculation

Customs

✓ HS6 and HS10/11 classification, TARIC descriptions, excise and sanctions checks

✗ No customs logic

Data

alignment

✓ Checkout and data feeds aligned with customs calculation rules including €150 intrinsic value logic, tax-on-duty and shipping VAT allocation

⚠ Checkout-only calculation

Fulfilment

revalidation

✓ Optional re-validation before fulfilment to prevent clearance failures

✗ No re-check at shipment

What this means in practice

With a typical tax plugin:

- VAT may be incorrect & prices artificially increased
- Duty is not calculated
- IOSS edge cases can break
- DDP can still fail
- Customs may apply different logic
- Shipments can be delayed or refused

With ePAL:

- Checkout calculation matches how customs authorities evaluate parcels
- Duty and VAT are aligned
- IOSS eligibility is validated & auditable
- Shipping VAT is applied correctly
- Orders can be re-validated before dispatch
- Fewer surprises at delivery

The simple takeaway

A tax plugin calculates VAT.

ePAL acts as a cross-border concierge & ensures the order clears customs the way it was priced at checkout.