

ePAL vs Tax Calculation providers for cross-border eCommerce

What's the difference between a tax tool and a true cross-border compliance engine?



TL:DR

Most WooCommerce tax plugins calculate VAT.

ePAL aligns checkout, customs, duty, VAT and fulfilment so that what the customer sees is what clears at the border.

Capability	ePAL	Typical Tax Plugin
Remove home-country VAT	✓	✓
Apply destination VAT	✓	✓
	Destination-specific VAT logic aligned with customs	Basic VAT logic
VAT on Shipping	✓	⚠
	Country-specific reduced rate rules	Often flat rate
Apportion Shipping VAT to each Product	✓	⚠
	Country-specific proportional allocation rules	Often simplified
Customs Duty rate retrieval per Product	✓	✗
Customs Duty calculation	✓	✗
Tax on Duty calculation	✓	✗
IOSS eligibility validation	✓	⚠
	Auditable validation record	Manual / partial
€150 intrinsic value alignment	✓	⚠
	Customs-aligned logic	Manual / partial
HS6 product classification	✓	⚠
	Automatic, AI-assisted and auditable	Manual / partial
Destination HS10 classification	✓	✗
	Automatic and auditable	
TARIC customs descriptions	✓	✗
Excise checks	✓	✗
Sanctions & restrictions screening	✓	✗
Non-blocking compliance-aware checkout	✓	⚠
	Allows for checkout to complete & alerts Merchant silently for later decision-making	Limited
Re-validation at fulfilment	✓	✗
ERP order validation	✓	✗
Customs documentation generation	✓	✗
Shipping documentation generation	✓	✗
B2B VAT ID validation	✓	⚠
	Automated real time VAT ID validation and Company name check	Often requires separate plugin
B2B VAT recharge pricing	✓	✗

Capability	ePAL	Typical Tax Plugin
VAT invoice generation	 Advanced level of VAT detail	 Basic
EU tax representation support	 Via integrated partnership	
Duty collection & escrow (roadmap)	 Via integrated PSP partnership	
Designed specifically for cross-border based on Regulator demands		