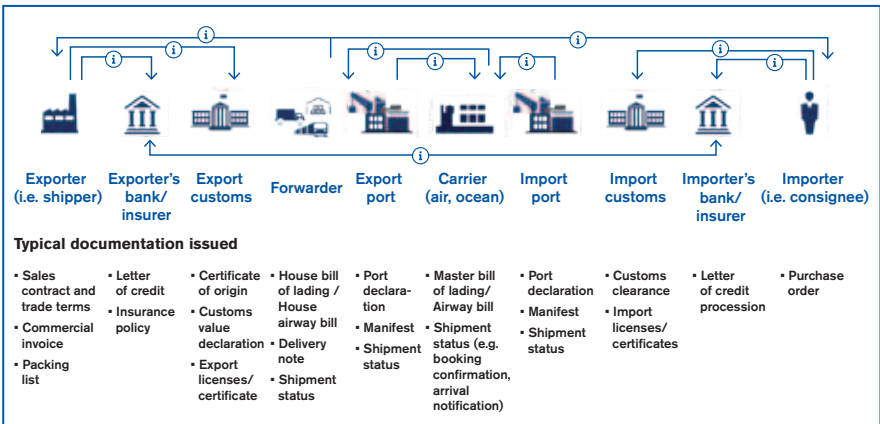


A multitude of documents have to be submitted in the context of international trade transactions (see Figure 3), which fall into four main categories (see Figure 4):

- documents related to the commercial transaction itself, including the sales contract, commercial invoices and if needed, a packing list submitted by the exporter prior to exportation;
- documents related to trade financing, such as letters of credit;
- transport documents, including bills of lading, etc.; and
- documents for border procedures, including:
 - certificates of origin – delivered by chambers of commerce, but other bodies such as ministries or customs authorities may also have this privilege in certain countries;
 - sanitary and phytosanitary certificates, in the case of food, plant and agricultural products – which are usually delivered by the ministries of health and agriculture;
 - certificates of conformity that certify that a product or service meets the requirements of a particular standard in the country of importation;
 - export or import licenses, if required by the authorities of the exporter's or importer's country;
 - customs declarations;
 - customs inspection documents.

Figure 3 Typical international trade documentation issued



Source: Accenture.