CHECKLIST FOR INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTION AGREEMENT

Legal identity of the parties (due diligence)
Appointment of distributor: exclusive or non-exclusive
Territory: define geographical area precisely
Products or services: identify specifically
Improvements/additions to products or services
Term of agreement (renewal option)
Confidentiality
Non-compete (during/after – limited time period)
Relationship between parties: independent contractor
Distributor's obligations: advertising, minimum purchases, sales increases, orders, service to customers, inventory, office maintenance, attend product training, permits and licenses, compliance with local laws and regulations, insurance, access to premises, accounting and reports, other
Supplier's obligations: product literature, advertising, free training seminars, sample products, sales leads in territory, sales support, quality controls, returned defective products, visits to distributor's offices, other
Purchase price (discounts)
Method of payment and currency
Shipping and delivery: Incoterms® 2010 (inspection, title, risk of loss, insurance, variants)
Product warranty (full/limited) and disclaimers
Other terms and conditions of sale
Competing products: permitted or prohibited
Limited license: trademarks and copyrights (other intellectual property)

Force majeure (allocate risk for an extraordinary circumstance beyond the control of the parties, such as a war, strike, riot, crime, or "act of God")
Compliance: export controls, import regulations, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), other
Limitation of liability: what to include, be specific
Indemnification: be clear as to intent and scope
Early termination: for cause/with notice
Effect of termination
Choice of law: select the law that will govern disputes
Dispute resolution: mediation, arbitration, court
General provisions: severability, entire agreement, modification and waivers, non-assignment, other

Each agreement must be custom tailored – no one-size-fits-all

Watch out for mandatory laws of foreign country

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<u>Disclaimer</u>: For the drafting of international distribution agreements you should seek competent advice from a licensed attorney who has experience in such matters. This Checklist does not constitute legal advice and it does not take into account the specific circumstances of your situation.

About the Export Legal Assistance Network (ELAN): With a presence in 70 U.S. cities and with the participation of more than 250 attorneys, the Export Legal Assistance Network (ELAN) program is a nationwide group of attorneys in private law firms that volunteer to provide an initial legal consultation free of charge to companies just beginning to export. Under ELAN, knowledgeable lawyers help new export companies learn the legal aspects of international trade, issues relating to export licensing, tariffs, protection of intellectual property rights and much more. For additional information, visit www.exportlegal.org.