GLOSSARY

Korean import terms, in plain English

These words come up in the first email and rarely get explained. Knowing what they mean makes it much easier to tell whether a Korean partner is describing real work or repeating a phrase.

Regulatory

Feed Control Act 사료관리법	The law cat food and treats fall under in Korea. It is why pet food is not handled like groceries and why registration comes before any shipment.
Feed importer registration 사료 수입업 등록	Held by the importer, once, not per brand. A partner who cannot say whether they hold it has not imported feed.
Ingredient registration 성분등록	A per-product step that some feed items require and others do not. Whether it applies is checked against the recipe, not assumed from the category.
Quarantine 검역	Applies where a recipe contains animal-derived material. Origin country matters as much as the ingredient — the same recipe can be routine from one country and blocked from another.
Import declaration 수입신고	Filed per shipment, not once per product. The declaration number is kept on file and can be asked for later by a channel or an authority.
Consumer Products Safety Act 전기용품 및 생활용품 안전관리법	The law scratchers, towers, houses and toys are checked against. Scope depends on the item and its materials, not the category name.
Korean labelling 한글 표시사항	The Korean-language label applied before goods go out to any channel. Written by the importer, who is named on it.
Importer of record 수입자	The party legally responsible for the goods entering Korea. Registrations and declarations sit with this party, which is why a brand cannot hold them from abroad.

Shipping and cost

Volumetric weight 부피중량	Freight is charged on whichever is greater, actual weight or volume converted to a weight. Light bulky goods — cat towers above all — are billed on volume, and it can decide whether a product works here at all.
Ex-works price 공장인도가격	Your price at the factory door, before freight, duty and channel fees. A Korean shelf price is a long way from it, which is why we model the shelf price early.
Carton dimensions 박스 규격	Outer carton size and units per carton. We ask for this at the same time as the price, because for furniture the two together decide the answer.
Lot number 로트번호	Identifies a production batch. Kept alongside the declaration so a specific batch can be traced if a question comes up later.

Channels

Open marketplace 오픈마켓	Large platforms where many sellers list the same kind of product. Widest reach, hardest price competition.
Pet specialty mall 펫 전문몰	Sells pet products only. Smaller audience, much higher purchase intent, and brand story gets read.
Curated commerce 편집몰	Design-led platforms that select what they carry. Supports higher price points that would not survive on an open marketplace.
Listing review 입점 심사	Each platform checks documents and page copy before a product goes live. This is where wording problems surface, not at customs.
Detail page 상세페이지	The long scrolling product page Korean shoppers expect. It carries far more of the sale here than a short listing does elsewhere.
Consignment 위탁판매	Selling stock the seller does not own. Worth asking about — a partner describing consignment experience as import experience is describing different work.

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