



CNC machine buyer's guide for Vietnam 2026

Machine selection · Import · Used machines · Quote preparation

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For general information, current to September 2026. Tax and customs rules may change.

01

Choosing a machine type for your part

Part	Suitable machine
Bar stock, $\varnothing \leq 42$ mm, length $\geq 3 \times$ diameter	Swiss-type lathe
Multiple turning, milling and drilling operations on both ends	Turn-mill center (twin spindle, B-axis head + tool magazine)
Complex multi-face milling, or more than 12 tools	Turn-mill center (B-axis head + tool magazine)
Turning, milling and drilling, 12 tools or fewer, one end	CNC lathe with live-tool turret (C + Y axis)
Turning only	CNC lathe
Disc parts, $\varnothing > 500$ mm, short length	Vertical lathe (VTL)
Prismatic part, 1–2 sides	Vertical machining center (VMC)
Prismatic part, multiple faces	Horizontal or 5-axis machining center

02

How to choose a CNC lathe: 7 specs to check before you buy

A CNC lathe is a large investment that usually stays in your shop for 10 years or more. Too small, and you cannot take on new jobs. Too large, and you waste money and floor space. These are the seven specs to check before asking for quotes.

1. Max. turning diameter vs. swing over bed

These are different numbers. Swing over bed is the largest diameter that can rotate without hitting the bed. Max. turning diameter is what the tools can actually machine, and it is usually smaller. Start from your largest part diameter and add 20–30% headroom for future jobs.

2. Max. turning length

Long shafts need enough turning length and usually a tailstock for support. If the length is more than about four times the diameter, ask the supplier about a programmable tailstock or a steady rest to avoid chatter and taper error.

3. Spindle bore and bar capacity

For bar-fed production, the spindle bore sets the largest bar you can run. A machine with 52 mm bar capacity cannot run 60 mm bar, however large its turning diameter. If you plan to run unattended, include a bar feeder in the plan from the start.

4. Power, spindle speed and chuck size

Hard materials such as alloy steel need high torque at low speed; aluminum needs high speed. Look at the spindle power and torque curves rather than the top speed alone. The chuck size (6, 8, 10, 12 inch and so on) should match the range of stock diameters you usually run.

5. Turret: stations and live tooling

An 8–12 station turret covers most standard turned parts. If your parts need off-center drilling, slotting or flats, choose a turret with live tooling, and consider a Y axis for complex off-center features. Finishing a part in one setup cuts operations, errors and labor.

6. Machine structure and accuracy

In many sizes, a slant bed clears chips better and is more rigid than a flat bed. Box ways handle heavy cutting well; linear guides are faster and suit finishing and softer materials. When comparing positioning accuracy and repeatability, ask which standard was used, such as ISO 230–2 or VDI/DGQ 3441, because the same machine can show different figures under different standards.

7. Control and after-sales support in Vietnam

Common controls such as FANUC, Siemens and Syntec affect how easily you can hire operators and get repairs. Just as important: does the supplier have engineers in Vietnam, how quickly can they reach you when a machine is down, and are spare parts stocked locally or imported on demand? One day of downtime can cost more than the price difference you saved at purchase.

Summary

The fastest way to the right machine is to start from the part: drawing, material and yearly volume. Then compare suitable machines on the same criteria, not on price alone.

03

Importing CNC machines into Vietnam in 2026: duties, procedures and timing

Importing a CNC machine is straightforward if you prepare correctly from the start. A wrong HS code, a missing certificate of origin or a used machine over the age limit can leave your shipment stuck at the port for weeks. This guide covers what a buyer needs to know, updated to September 2026.

1. Confirm the HS code before you sign

CNC lathes fall under heading 8458: numerically controlled horizontal lathes are usually declared under 8458.11 and other NC lathes under 8458.91. Machining centers and CNC milling machines fall under other headings (8457, 8459), so their rates may differ. The HS code decides the duty rate and rules that apply, so send the catalogue and specifications to your customs broker before signing the contract.

2. Import duty

Under the current tariff, numerically controlled (CNC) lathes carry a 0% MFN import duty. Manual lathes may carry higher rates depending on the code. For other machine types, goods originating in a country that has a free trade agreement with Vietnam can get a special preferential rate, often 0%, with a valid certificate of origin (C/O).

- China: Form E under ACFTA
- Japan: C/O under VJEPA or AJCEP
- Korea: C/O under VKFTA or AKFTA
- European Union: proof of origin under EVFTA
- Taiwan: no free trade agreement with Vietnam, so the MFN rate applies; for CNC lathes that rate is already 0%

3. Value added tax (VAT)

From 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2026, most goods normally taxed at 10% VAT are reduced to 8% under Decree 174/2025/NĐ-CP, and lathes are not on the excluded list. Import VAT = (CIF value + import duty) × VAT rate. Companies using the credit method can deduct this VAT. From 2027 the rate may return to 10% if the reduction is not extended.

Example: a CNC lathe from Taiwan with a CIF value of USD 100,000. Import duty is 0% and 8% VAT is USD 8,000. On top of taxes, budget for port handling, customs broker fees, inland trucking, rigging and installation.

4. Customs documents

- Sales contract
- Commercial invoice
- Packing list
- Bill of lading
- Certificate of origin (C/O), to claim a preferential rate
- Machine catalogue and technical documents
- For used machines: an inspection certificate for machine age and condition

Imported machines must carry a label showing the machine name, origin and manufacturer details. Ask the supplier to fit a complete nameplate before shipment.

5. Clearance process

You or your customs broker file an electronic declaration on the VNACCS system, which then assigns a channel. Green is cleared almost immediately; yellow requires a document check; red requires a physical inspection. Once duties are paid and the goods are released, the machine goes to your plant for installation.

6. Used machines: extra conditions

Used CNC machines are governed by Decision 18/2019/QĐ-TTg, with some procedures amended by Decision 02/2026/QĐ-TTg. The main points:

- Machine age is generally limited to 10 years, counted by year of manufacture
- Used machines may only be imported for the importer's own production, not for resale
- An inspection certificate for age and condition is required
- Refurbished machines are still treated as used

A machine over the age limit may be ordered to be re-exported. Check the year of manufacture on the nameplate and in the documents before you pay.

7. How much time to allow

Total lead time has three parts: the supplier's build or delivery time, shipping and customs clearance. For a new machine made to order, build time is usually the longest part, about 2 to 3 months depending on the model. Sea freight is quick: Taichung port to Ho Chi Minh City takes about 5 to 7 days, and Shanghai to Hai Phong also about 5 to 7 days. Clearance usually takes one to a few working days with complete documents, and longer for red-channel inspections or used machines that need an inspection certificate. Ask the supplier for a firm delivery date and add a buffer.

8. Import yourself or buy through a dealer in Vietnam?

Importing directly can be cheaper, but you handle the HS code, customs, freight, installation and warranty yourself. Buying through a dealer in Vietnam usually includes all of this in the price: you get a local VAT invoice, pay in VND, and have one party responsible for installation, training and warranty. For a shop buying its first CNC machine, a dealer is usually the safer route.

This article is current to September 2026 and is for general information only. Tax and customs rules can change; confirm the exact HS code and rates with a customs broker before importing.

04

Buying a used CNC machine: 10 checks before you pay

A used CNC machine can save a shop a lot of capital, but a badly worn machine or a failing spindle can cost more to fix than you saved. These are the ten things to check in person before you put down a deposit.

1. Year of manufacture and import rules

Check the year on the nameplate against the documents. Used machines imported into Vietnam are generally limited to 10 years of age and need an inspection certificate. See [Importing CNC machines into Vietnam](#) for details.

2. Run hours

Most controls record power-on time and cutting time. High cutting hours mean heavy use, but how well the machine was maintained matters more. Take photos of these screens.

3. Accuracy and backlash

Bring a dial indicator. Check spindle runout, then move the X and Z axes forward and back a small amount to measure backlash. Large backlash usually means worn ball screws or bearings.

4. Spindle

Run the spindle from low to high speed for a few minutes. Listen for unusual noise, feel the housing temperature and watch for vibration. Spindle repair or replacement is one of the most expensive fixes.

5. Bed and ways

Wipe the ways clean and look for deep scoring, dents or signs of a heavy crash. Pay attention to the zones used most often, because they wear first.

6. Turret

Index the turret through every station in both directions. Check indexing speed and repeatability, and run the live-tool motor if there is one.

7. Electrical cabinet and control

Open the cabinet: heavy oil mist, burnt wiring or patched repairs are bad signs. Review the alarm history on the control and check the parameter backup battery.

8. Hydraulics, lubrication and coolant

Look for oil leaks under the machine and around the chuck, and confirm hydraulic pressure, the auto-lube pump and the coolant pump all work normally.

9. A real test cut

This is the most important step. Bring your own stock and drawing, ask for a test cut, then measure size, surface finish and roundness. A machine that runs smoothly with no load does not always cut well.

10. Documents and spare parts

Ask for manuals, electrical drawings, a parameter backup and the maintenance history. Without a parameter backup, future repairs can be very hard. Also check whether spare parts for the model are still available in Vietnam.

Summary

If you cannot inspect the machine yourself, bring an experienced technician; the cost is small next to the risk of buying a bad machine. And compare the total cost of the used machine, including repairs and downtime, with a new machine that comes with a warranty.

05

Preparing a quote request

☐ Part drawing (PDF, DWG or STEP) and critical tolerances

☐ Material and stock type (bar, forging, casting)

☐ Yearly volume and batch size

☐ Target cycle time

☐ Current machines and problems you face

☐ Automation needs (bar feeder, robot)

☐ Budget and when you need the machine

☐ Factory location and available power supply

Contact CNCVIA

Send your drawing, material and volume for free machine recommendations and quotes.

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