Check your supplier before you pay

Go through this list before every first order. If you cannot tick a box, pause. A real supplier will still be there tomorrow.

1. Before you contact them

- [ ] The price is close to what other suppliers charge for the same product. A price far below the rest is a warning.
- [ ] The business name and the product match what is shown on the platform or website.
- [ ] The supplier has a history on the platform, not just a new account with perfect reviews.

2. Before you order

- [ ] You asked for the business registration and the company name matches the payment account.
- [ ] You had a live video call and saw the product and the place where it is made.
- [ ] You ordered a sample first and checked it yourself.
- [ ] The supplier answered your questions clearly and did not rush you.

3. Before you pay

- [ ] You are paying through the platform's payment protection, or to an account in the company's own name.
- [ ] The first order is small. You will grow it after the supplier delivers well.
- [ ] You are not paying the full amount upfront on a large first order.
- [ ] The invoice states the price, the currency, the goods and the delivery terms.

4. Keep your records

- [ ] You saved every message, invoice, receipt and photo in one folder.
- [ ] You told your clearing agent what is coming, and which documents to expect.