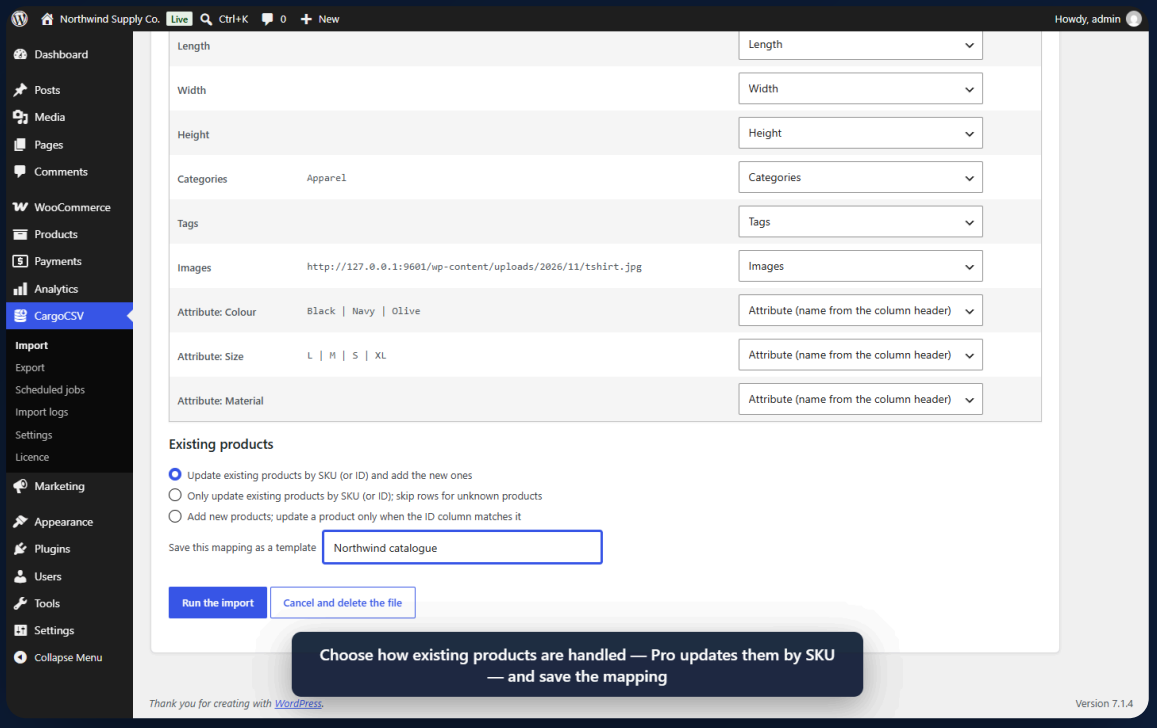
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WOOCOMMERCE PLUGIN · USER GUIDE

CargoCSV — WooCommerce Import Export

Version 1.0.0 · Installation, licence activation, every setting explained, FAQ and troubleshooting.



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CargoCSV — User Guide

CargoCSV imports products into WooCommerce from CSV files and exports products, orders, customers and coupons. This guide covers the Free and Pro versions. Pro features are marked **(Pro)**.

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1. Installation

1. Make sure WooCommerce is installed and active (WooCommerce 8.0 or newer, WordPress 6.4 or newer, PHP 7.4 or newer).
2. Go to **Plugins** → **Add New** → **Upload Plugin**, choose the CargoCSV zip and click **Install Now**, then **Activate**.
3. A **CargoCSV** menu appears in the admin sidebar with five tabs: Import, Export, Scheduled jobs, Import logs and Settings.

Upgrading from Free to Pro: delete the Free plugin and install the Pro zip. Your settings stay (nothing is removed on delete unless you ticked the delete-data box in Settings).

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2. Licence activation (Pro)

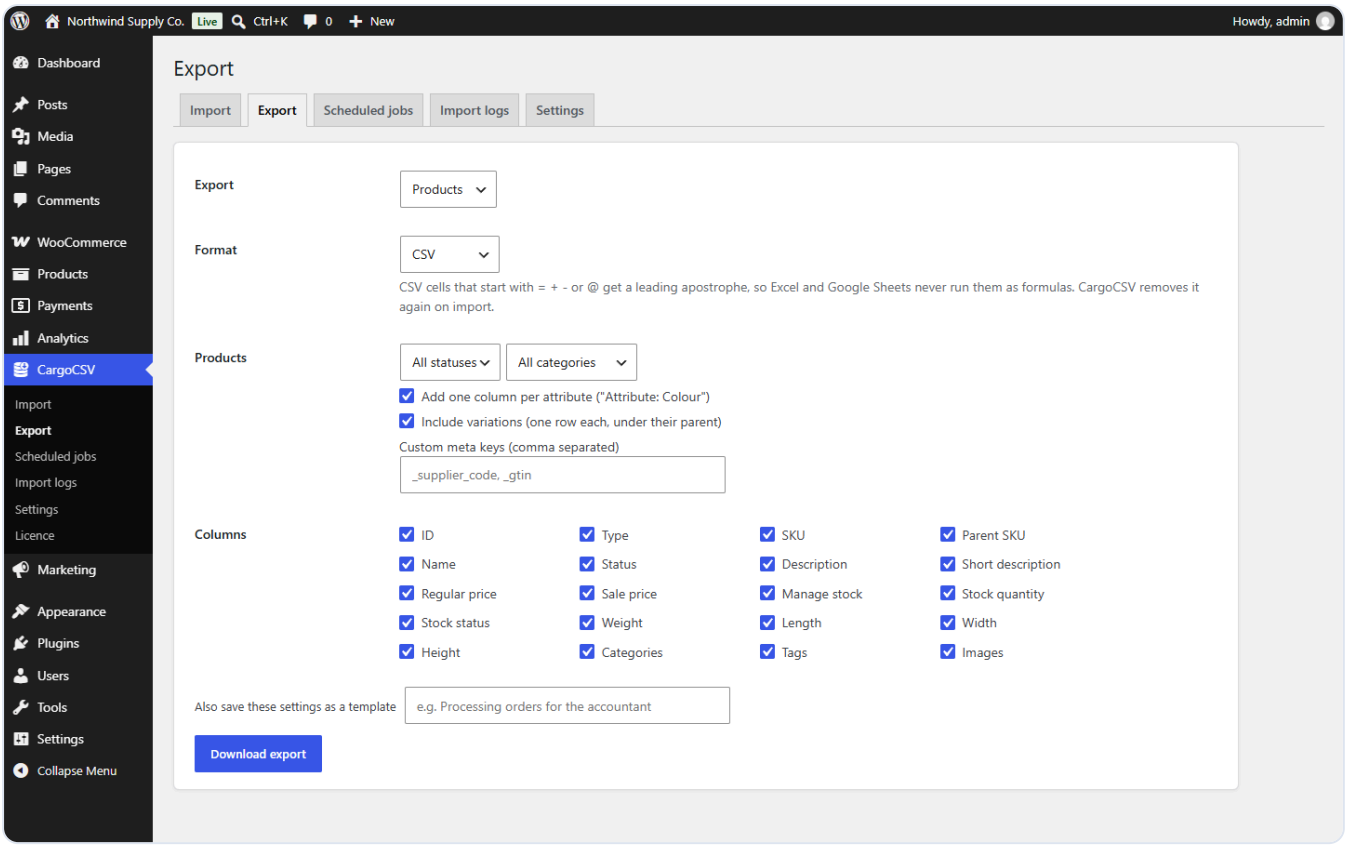
1. Open **CargoCSV** → **Licence**.
2. Paste the licence key from your coodecraft.com purchase email and click **Activate**.
3. The screen shows the plan and, for monthly or yearly keys, the end date.

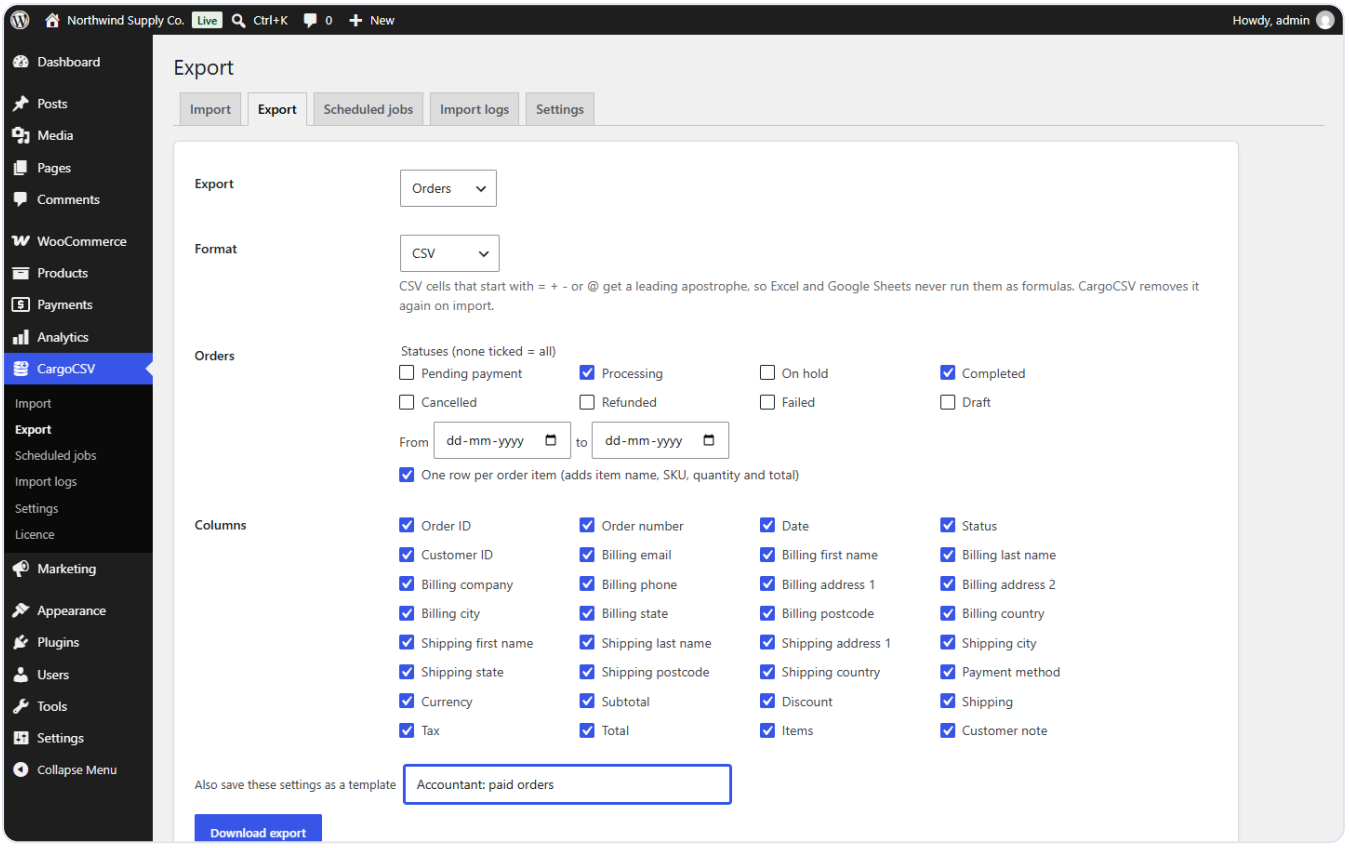
Each key works on one live domain. Monthly and yearly keys switch Pro off when they end; renew and click **I have paid — check again** to switch it back on. While Pro is off, the Free features keep working and your templates, schedules and logs are kept. Schedules do not run while the licence is inactive.

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3. Exporting

Screenshot: ,





1. Open **CargoCSV → Export**.
2. Choose what to export: **Products**, **Orders**, **Customers** or **Coupons**.
3. Choose the **Format**: CSV (Free); XML or Excel .xlsx **(Pro)**.
4. Set the filters for that type:

- **Products**: status, category, one column per attribute. **(Pro)** include variations (one row each, directly under the parent) and custom meta keys (for example `_gtin, _supplier_code`).
- **Orders**: tick statuses (none = all), a date range, and optionally **One row per order item**, which adds Item name, Item SKU, Item quantity and Item total.
- **Customers**: every user with the Customer role.
- **Coupons**: every coupon.

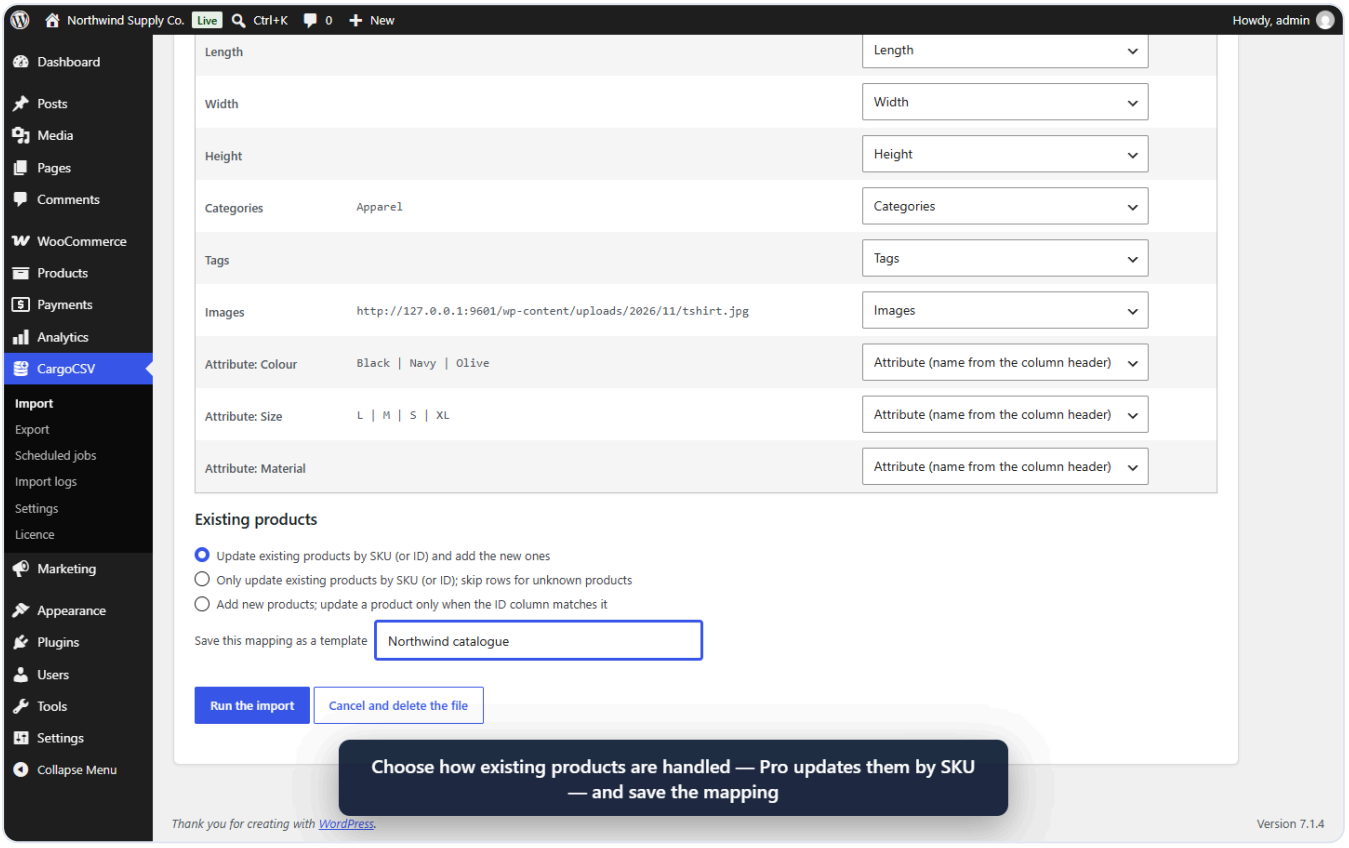
5. Untick any columns you do not need.
6. **(Pro)** Type a name under **Also save these settings as a template** to reuse them later or schedule them.
7. Click **Download export**.

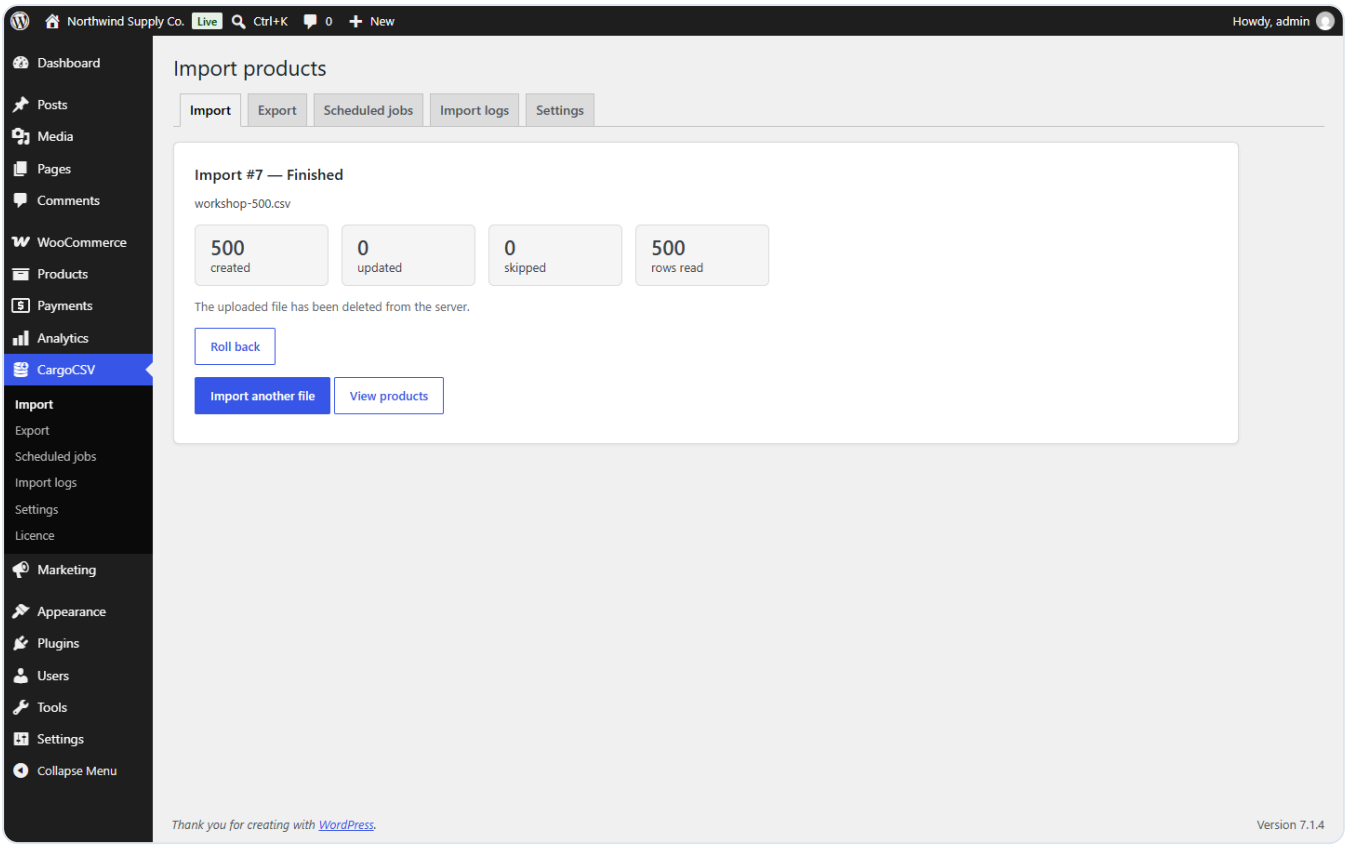
CSV exports start with a UTF-8 marker so Excel shows accents correctly (you can turn this off in Settings). Cells that start with `=`, `+`, `-` or `@` are written with a leading apostrophe (`'=SUM(…)`) so a spreadsheet never runs them as a formula. Plain numbers such as `-5` are not changed. When you import the file again, CargoCSV removes that apostrophe.

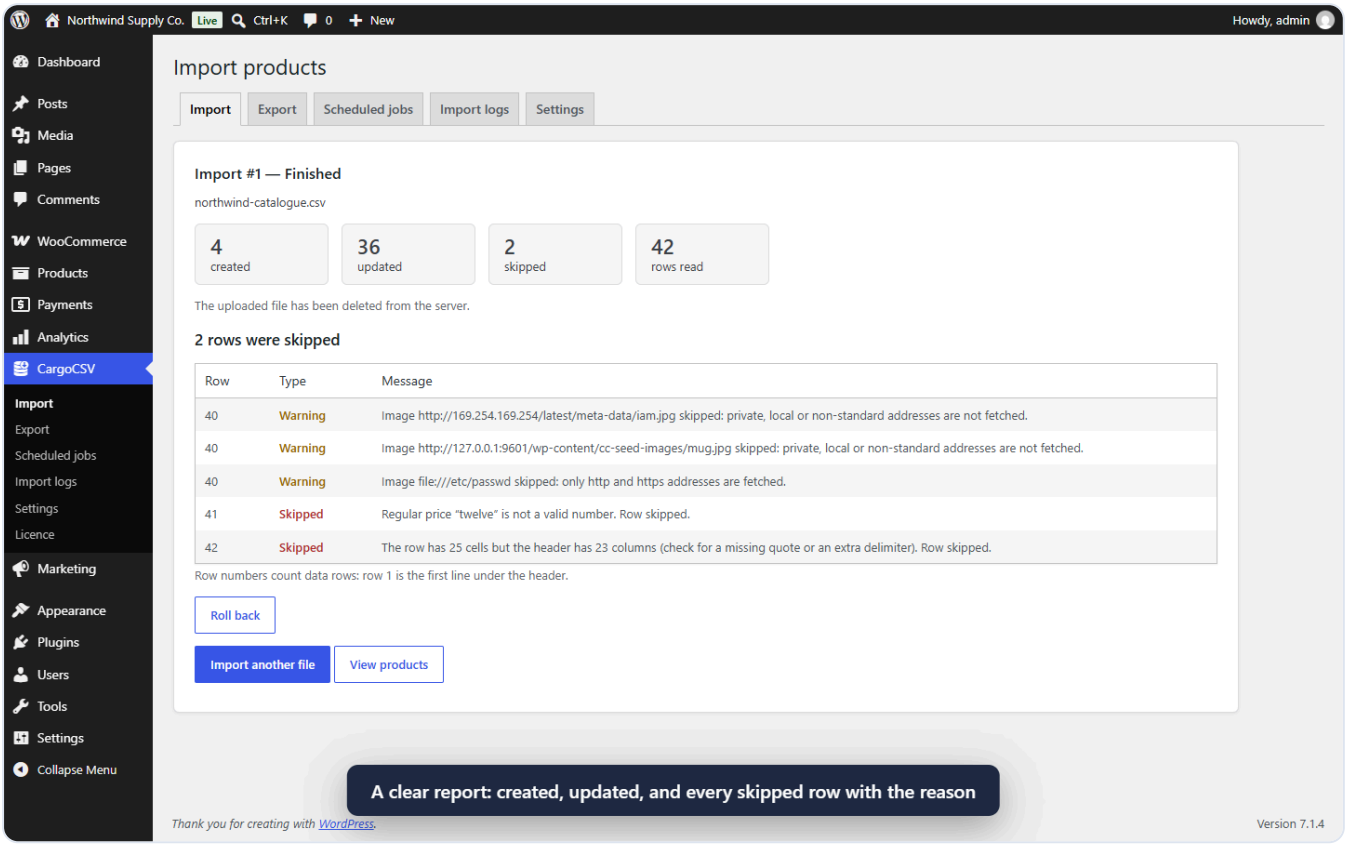
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4. Importing products

Screenshots: , ,







Step 1: upload

1. Open **CargoCSV → Import**.
2. Choose what you are importing: **Products**, or **Coupons (Pro)**.
3. Choose the file: `.csv` (Free) or `.xml` **(Pro)**, up to the size limit in Settings (10 MB by default).

4. Click **Upload and map columns**.

The file is refused if it is another type (for example `.php` or `.txt`), larger than the limit, empty, or contains PHP code or binary data. Accepted files are stored in a private folder under a random name and deleted when the import ends.

Step 2: match columns

Each column of your file is listed with its first value and the field it goes into. CargoCSV matches columns by name automatically (its own export headers, WooCommerce's export headers and common names such as "Price", "Qty", "Title"). Change any match, or choose **Do not import**.

Columns you can map: ID, Type, SKU, Parent SKU, Name, Status, Description, Short description, Regular price, Sale price, Manage stock, Stock quantity, Stock status, Weight, Length, Width, Height, Categories, Tags, Images, **Attribute (name from the column header)** and **(Pro) Custom meta (key from the column header)**.

Value formats:

- **Categories**: `Apparel > T-shirts, Sale` — `>` makes sub-categories, commas separate categories. Missing categories are created.
- **Tags**: comma separated.
- **Attribute columns**: header `Attribute: Colour`, value `Black | Navy` (or comma separated). If a global attribute with that name exists (Products → Attributes) its terms are used; otherwise a custom product attribute is created.
- **Images**: image URLs or media library IDs separated by commas. The first is the product image, the rest the gallery.
- **Type**: `simple`, `variable` or **(Pro)** `variation`.
- **Status**: publish, draft, pending or private. **Stock status**: instock, outofstock or onbackorder.
- **Empty cells** leave the field unchanged — except **Sale price**, where an empty cell ends the sale.

Choose how existing products are handled:

- Free: **Add new products; update a product only when the ID column matches it.** A row whose SKU already belongs to another product is skipped and reported (no duplicate is created).
- **(Pro) Update existing products by SKU (or ID) and add the new ones.**
- **(Pro) Only update existing products by SKU (or ID).**

(Pro) Type a name under **Save this mapping as a template** to reuse the mapping, or pick a saved mapping at the top of the screen and click **Apply**.

Step 3: run

Click **Run the import**. Rows are processed in batches (50 by default; a batch also stops after 20 seconds) with a progress bar. Keep the page open; if the connection drops, reload the page and it continues where it stopped.

Step 4: report

The report shows how many products were created, updated and skipped, and lists every skipped row (row 1 = first line under the header) with the reason, plus warnings such as an image that could not be downloaded. A row with an error never stops the rest of the file.

Variations (Pro)

Put the parent row (Type `variable`, with its attribute columns listing all values) above its variation rows. Each variation row has Type `variation`, **Parent SKU** (the parent's SKU, or `id:123`) and one value per attribute column (`Black`, `S`). An existing variation is found by ID, then SKU, then by the same attribute values; otherwise it is created, and missing attribute values are added to the parent. The easiest way is to export products with **Include variations**, edit and import.

Custom meta (Pro)

Add columns named `Meta: _your_key`. WooCommerce's own keys (`_price`, `_stock`, `_sku`, `_product_attributes` and so on) are refused — use the normal columns for those.

Image URLs and safety

Image URLs are downloaded through WordPress's own `download_url()` and added to the media library. Only `http` / `https` addresses ending in .jpg, .jpeg, .png, .gif or .webp are fetched. Addresses on private networks, the server itself (127.0.0.1, localhost), link-local/cloud-metadata (169.254.x.x), reserved ranges and non-standard ports are refused, and redirects are not followed. The same URL is downloaded only once and reused afterwards. Size limit and timeout are in Settings.

A developer can allow an internal image host with the `ccie_allowed_hosts` filter, for example `add_filter( 'ccie_allowed_hosts', fn( $h ) => array_merge( $h, array( 'images.intranet.local' ) ) );`.

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5. Importing coupons (Pro)

Choose **Coupons** on the upload screen. Columns: Code, Discount type (`percent`, `fixed_cart`, `fixed_product`), Amount, Description, Expiry date (YYYY-MM-DD), Usage limit, Usage limit per user, Individual use, Free shipping, Minimum spend, Maximum spend, Allowed emails, Product SKUs. Modes: update by code and add new, update only, or add new only.

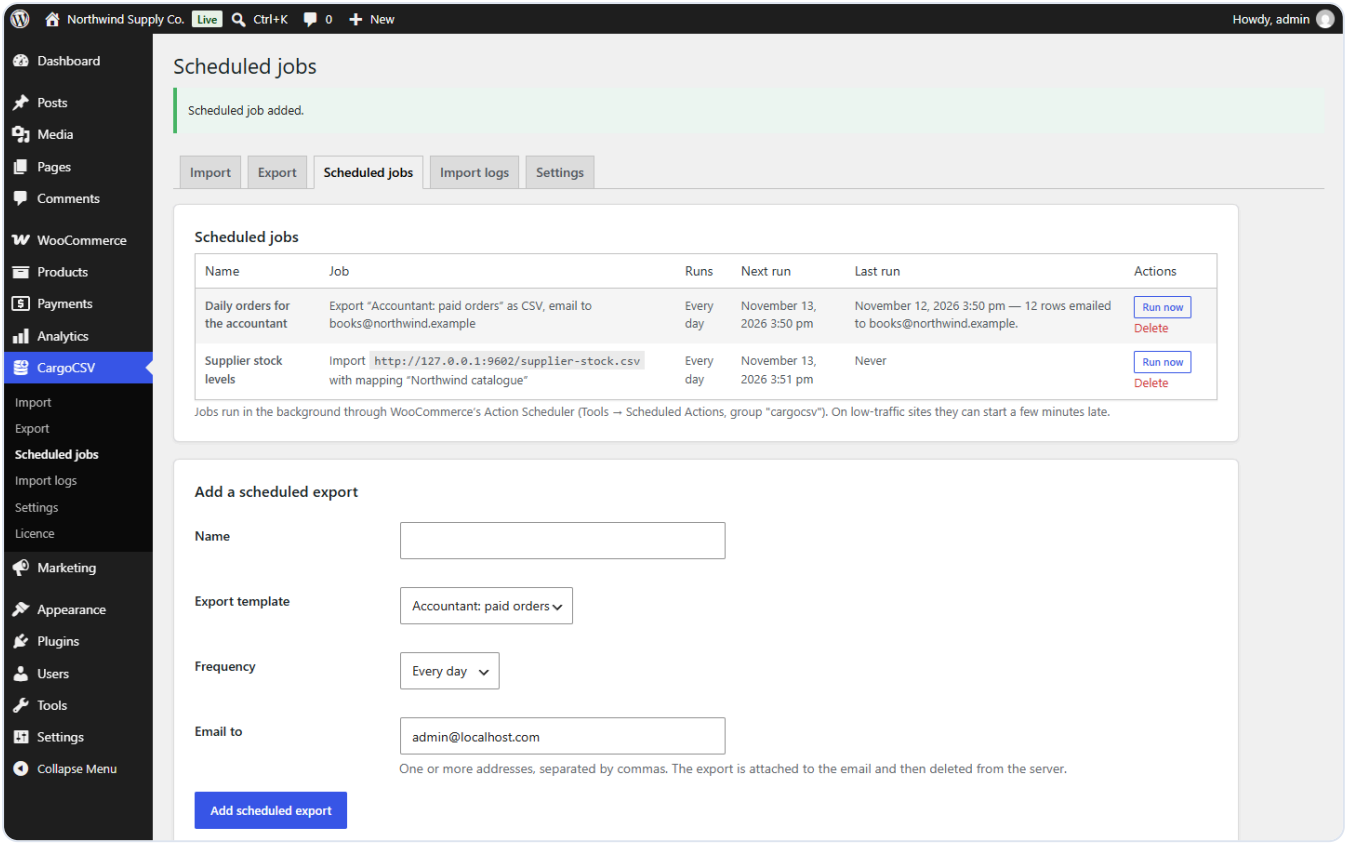
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6. XML (Pro)

- Export: choose **XML**. Each record is `<row>` with `<col name="Header">value</col>` cells.
- Import: upload an `.xml` file in that format, or a simple record list such as `<products><product><sku>A-1</sku><name>…</name></product></products>` (element names become column names). Files with a DOCTYPE or entity declarations are refused.

7. Scheduled jobs (Pro)

Screenshot:



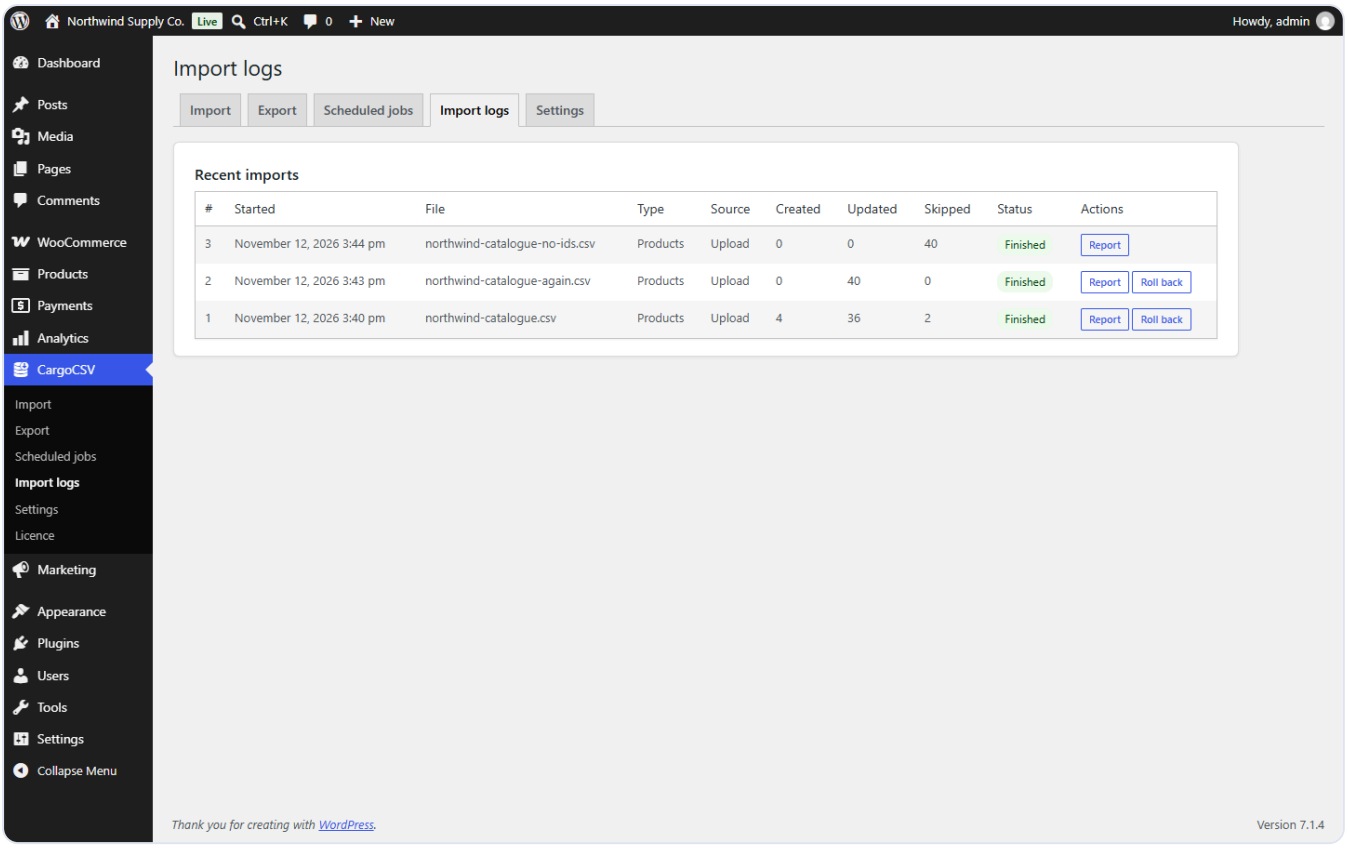
Scheduled export: first save an export template on the Export tab. Then under **CargoCSV → Scheduled jobs → Add a scheduled export** enter a name, choose the template, the frequency (every hour, day or week) and one or more email addresses. The export is attached to an email and then deleted from the server.

Scheduled import from a URL: first import the supplier file once by hand and save its mapping as a template. Then under **Add a scheduled import from a URL** enter the file URL (public http/https, .csv or .xml), choose the mapping and the frequency. The import mode saved with the mapping is used (for example update by SKU).

Jobs run through WooCommerce's Action Scheduler (Tools → Scheduled Actions, group `cargocsv`). Use **Run now** to run a job immediately. The table shows the next and last run and the last result. FTP/SFTP is not supported.

8. Import logs and rollback (Pro)

Screenshot:

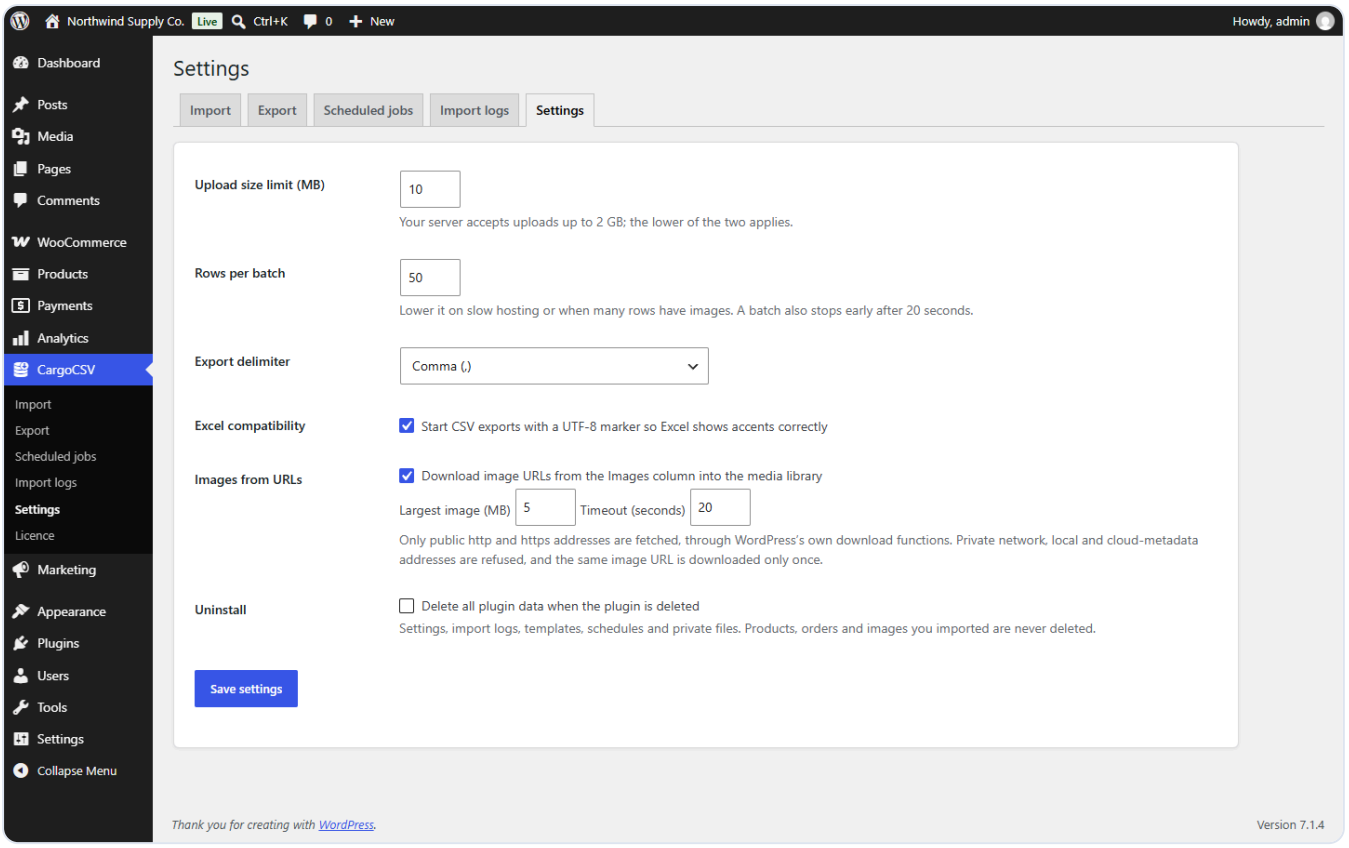


CargoCSV → Import logs lists every import with its file, numbers and status. **Report** opens the full report. **Roll back** undoes an import: products and coupons it created go to the bin (variations are deleted), and products it updated get back their previous name, status, texts, SKU, prices, stock, weight and dimensions, categories, tags, images, attributes and custom meta values.

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9. Settings

Screenshot:



- **Upload size limit (MB)** — default 10; the server's own limit also applies.
- **Rows per batch** — default 50 (5–200).
- **Export delimiter** — comma, semicolon, pipe or tab.
- **Excel compatibility** — UTF-8 marker at the start of CSV exports.
- **Images from URLs** — on/off, largest image and timeout.
- **Delete all plugin data when the plugin is deleted** — off by default.

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10. FAQ

Will the same file imported twice create duplicates? No. Free skips rows whose SKU already exists (add an ID column to update). Pro's update-by-SKU mode updates them.

Can I import orders or customers? Not yet; they can be exported.

Where are uploaded files kept? `wp-content/uploads/ccie-private/`, random names, deny-all rules for Apache/IIS, deleted after the import (leftovers after a day). On Nginx add a deny rule for that folder.

What is deleted when I delete the plugin? Nothing unless the delete-data box is ticked. Then settings, logs, templates, schedules and private files are removed. Imported products, orders and images are never deleted.

11. Troubleshooting

- **"This file type is not allowed"** — save the spreadsheet as CSV (UTF-8) with a `.csv` extension.
- **"The row has N cells but the header has M columns"** — a quote is missing or a delimiter is inside an unquoted cell. Save the file again from your spreadsheet app.
- **Accents look wrong** — save as "CSV UTF-8"; CargoCSV also converts Windows-1252 files.
- **Image skipped: private, local or non-standard addresses are not fetched** — the image is on a private network address or a non-standard port; host it on a public address.
- **The import stopped** — reload the import page; it continues from the last finished batch.
- **A scheduled job did not run** — check Tools → Scheduled Actions (group cargocsv) and that the licence is active.