

Before an AI-written quote goes out

For trade businesses and small service firms in the US and Europe. Checked on 15 October 2026. Not legal advice.

Seven checks

1. Quantities and units against your site notes or measurements
2. Line items: nothing missing, nothing twice
3. Every price from your catalogue; anything the AI priced itself gets a second look
4. Subtotals, tax and total calculated by software, not the AI's text
5. Fixed quote or estimate, and the document says which
6. Private customers: full price incl. tax in Europe; cancellation notice if signed at their home
7. Read it as the customer would; send only what you would defend on the phone

The legal points

1. US and UK: a quote binds you once it reads as an offer and the customer accepts it (LII Wex: Offer)
2. US goods between merchants: a signed offer promising to stay open cannot be withdrawn for that time, up to three months (UCC 2-205)
3. Germany: a quote binds you once sent unless excluded (§145 BGB); estimates: tell the customer at once if substantially exceeded (§649 BGB)
4. EU consumers: total price incl. taxes; 14 days to withdraw from contracts made away from your premises, up to 12 more months if not informed (Directive 2011/83/EU); UK the same
5. US consumers: sales of \$25 or more at their home can be cancelled until midnight of the third business day; give notice and two cancellation forms (FTC Cooling-Off Rule)

Why the arithmetic check: AI models' maths performance fell when only the numbers in a task changed (GSM-Symbolic, submitted 7 Oct 2024).