



### CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND INFORMATION FOR IMPORTS

#### HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

##### Documents Required

- Customs Form DA 302 and P.1.160
- Original Passport (including page with date of entry in South Africa)
- Detailed inventory for attestation
- Permanent residence documents or Temporary Residence Permit and Work Permit
- Affidavit (stating reason for arrival in to South Africa)
- Original Bill of Lading (OBL) / Airway Bill (AWB)
- Diplomatic Clearance (Diplomats)
- Certificate from Embassy, signed by South African Department of Foreign Affairs (Diplomats)

##### Specific Information

- The shipper must be present for Customs clearance.
- The shipment of household items, new furniture, and precious metal objects are treated as commercial import and subject to the payment of full duties; client must possess required documents prior to shipment.
- The following household goods may be imported duty free if meeting the following requirements::
  - Works of art forming a part of a bona fide household shipment or are over 100 years old.
  - The articles have been in the use and possession for more than 12 months and are not for sale or other disposal.
- Returning residents must have been abroad for a period of at least 6 consecutive months.
- Diplomats may import items duty free.

#### MOTOR VEHICLES

##### Documents Required

###### Motor Cars / Motorcycles

- Customs Form DA 304/A
- Current registration papers
- Document showing that vehicle has been in the owner's use and possessions abroad for more than 1 year before the importation of the vehicle (e.g., original Purchase Invoice, Insurance Certificate, etc.).
- Import Permit
- Letter of Authority (LOA) issued by the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) in Pretoria

###### Mopeds / Power-Driven Boats with Inboard Engines

- Document showing that vehicle has been in owner's use and possession abroad for more than 1 year prior to importation of the vehicle (original Purchase Invoice, Insurance Certificate, etc.)
- Import Permit
- LOA / SABS in Pretoria

# SOUTH AFRICA – CAPE TOWN

## Caravans / Trailers

- Import Permit
- LOA / SABS in Pretoria

## **B. Specific Information**

- The transferee must be in possession of the Import Permit and LOA prior to the arrival of any motor vehicles, motorbikes, motor scooters, or motorcycles (anything motorized); delays related to the permit may result in demurrage charges.
- Transferees must be in the country at least 10 working days prior to arrival of an ocean vessel.
- A faxed copy of the LOA and the Import Permit must be received prior to agent to avoid a delay of Customs clearance.
- Motorized vehicles should not be shipped until transferee has proven possession of all required documents to Customs and has received written permission for import.
- Temporary residents must pay in cash.
- Vehicles cannot be sold for at least 2 years after the date of importation.
- The rate of value added tax (VAT) is assessed on the import value of the vehicle.
- A fee of R1800.00 per vehicle, payable to the SABS is required.
- Incomplete or missing documents may result in the detainment or destruction of the shipment.
- Returning residents must pay full duties and taxes.
- Temporary residents must provide a Customs bond to cover full duties and taxes and do not need an Import Permit.
- Foreign Diplomats pay no duties or taxes, subject to provisions of the Diplomatic Clearance Certificate, and proof of value.
- Only left-hand drive motor vehicles purchased after January 1, 2000, can be imported.

## **PETS (DOGS / CATS / BIRDS)**

### **Documents Required**

- Rabies Vaccination Certificate
- Health Certificate
- Import Permit

### **Specific Information**

- Import Permit may be granted after the owner has made arrangements for the period of quarantine required for pets travelling from most, but not all countries; check with agent.

## **INHERITANCES**

### **Documents Required**

- Copy of Death Certificate
- Copy of Will of deceased or certified relevant extract therefrom, or copy of Probate from the court if the deceased died intestate; English translation required.
- Inventory with lawyer's declaration that the imported goods are the legatee's rightful share of the estate
- SABS LOA in Pretoria
- Import Permit
- Declaration from the Legatee confirming permanent residency in South Africa and the right to share of the estate.

# SOUTH AFRICA – CAPE TOWN

## Specific Information

- An inventory is required only if the copy of the deceased's Will or other document does not specifically detail the goods to be imported.
- Items of inheritance may be imported duty free if the legatee is permanently residing in South Africa.
- Duty is payable on inherited motor cars, motorcycles, and mopeds.
- Goods should not be shipped until Customs has authorized duty-free entry.

**Note:** Failure to comply with requirements may result in the destruction of goods by Customs or return of the entire consignment to the port of origin at shipper's expense.

## WEDDING TROUSSEAUX

### Documents Required

- Invoice
- Import Permit (if requested by Customs – applies to second-hand goods)

### Specific Information

- Items are subject to the payment of duties.

## RESTRICTED / DUTIABLE ITEMS

- Local currency of over \$10,000; gold coins, coin and stamp collections and unprocessed gold must be declared.
- Endangered species of plants or wildlife, alive or dead, including parts and articles made from them (require CITES Permit)
- Animal and animal byproducts
- Medicines for personal use (note from physician and prescription required)
- Cigarettes (200), cigars (20), tobacco (250 g)
- Perfume (50 ml)
- Eau de toilette (250 ml)
- Wine (2 L)
- Spirits (1 L)
- Goods for personal use.

**Note:** Travelers may be asked to pay deposit on expensive items like laptops, which is refunded at re-exported. Returning residents are advised to register personal items (jewelry, watches, cameras, laptops, etc.) before leaving the country to avoid paying duty on these items upon re-importation.

### Alcohol / Wine / Liquor

- Import Permit and Liquor Removal Certificate required.
- Items subject to payment of duties.
- Documentation requirements must be met prior to the arrival of the shipment.

### Dangerous Goods / Firearms

- Import Permit and South African Police Firearm Registrar Certificate SAP 312 are required.
- Items are subject to the payment of duties.

## PROHIBITED ITEMS

- Narcotics
- Illegal drugs

# SOUTH AFRICA – CAPE TOWN

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- Plants and vegetable products
- Pornographic books and magazines
- Walkie-Talkies and radios (may include other prohibited communication devices)
- Animal products (certain feathers, furs, skins, tusks, or animals identified under protected species regulations)

## CONSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS

**Recommended:** Contact the destination agent to ensure all requirements have been met prior to import, especially for differences regarding air / sea shipments.

***IAM Note:*** Customs regulations can change at any time with or without notice. This document is provided as a guide and for information only. While IAM has exercised reasonable care in publishing this document, IAM makes no representation, either expressed or implied, as to its accuracy or applicability.

### Helpful Website(s):

<http://www.southafrica-newyork.net/consulate>

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1008.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1008.html)