



## *Importing Personal Property Into Burkina Faso*

### **HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS**

#### **CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

##### **Customs Regulations:**

Used household goods and personal effects are duty free provided goods have been owned and used by the customer for a minimum of six months and customer has lived abroad for at least one year. Items can not be sold, lent or otherwise disposed of while in Burkina Faso. An import tax of 1.5% will be levied on all non-diplomatic shipments.

All documents must arrive to your Destination Agent at least 2 weeks prior to arrival of the shipment to apply and be granted duty-free status issued by the head Customs Office.

##### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Passport - copy
- ✓ Residence Visa/Work Permit or Letter from Employer attesting to client's employment contract
- ✓ Certificate of Change of Residence – obtained from city hall/police dept at origin
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill –original, express release not allowed
- ✓ Pack list
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – in French, all electronics, computers etc must state make, model & serial numbers on the inventory, dated & signed by client
- ✓ “Attestation Reservation de cale”
- ✓ Bordereau Electronique de Suivi de Cargaison (BESC) - cargo tracking note for all sea shipments
- ✓ Non sale certificate – declaration on the honor that client will not sale his personal effects
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance

##### **Diplomat Status:**

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted tax and duty free entry of their personal effects and household items either new or used. The diplomatic mission will need to apply for diplomatic exemption, which will be submitted to the Destination Agent to process import clearance. The diplomatic mission will need copies of packing list, valued inventory and OBL / AWB to apply. The diplomatic exemption can take 1 to 4 weeks to obtain.

##### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Diplomatic Exemption – the diplomatic mission must apply for the exemption
- ✓ Passport copy
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – in French, all electronics, computers etc must state make, model & serial numbers on the inventory, dated & signed by client

#### **RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS**

- ✓ Cameras, film/video cameras – require permission from Ministry of Administration
- ✓ Electronics/Appliances – require invoices/receipts and are subject to duty and taxes
- ✓ Computers – are subject to duty and taxes

- ✓ Furniture – subject to duty and taxes
- ✓ Firearms - require a prior permission from the territorial administration
- ✓ New items – (less than six months old) require invoices/receipts
- ✓ Alcohol – recommended to be sent separately; must be stated as “fond de cave” 30 bottles max
- ✓ Tobacco – 200 cigarettes or 250 grams of loose tobacco, in excess of these amounts incurs duty

## PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material
- ✓ Explosives, ammunitions and weapons

## IMPORTATION OF PETS

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, dated less 6 months prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - by a Veterinarian at origin

## IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Vehicles new and used are subject to import taxes and duties. Amount to be paid depends on value, model, year, cubic centimeters and accessories. If the vehicle is imported on a temporary basis the tax is approximately 6% of CIF value. For all other vehicles the tax is about 53.22%.

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original
- ✓ Vehicle condition report
- ✓ OBL – must be rated
- ✓ Drivers License & International Insurance Policy (green card)
- ✓ Non sale Certificate

## NOTES:

**Entry & Exit Requirements** – Proof of yellow fever is required for entry. New visa policies went into effect July 1, 2010. Consult with your nearest embassy or consulate to be sure you secure the proper visa for your stay. Longer validity visas are recommended; this being the 5 year multi-entry visa approved at the Direction du Controle des Migrations, a government office in central Ouagadougou, Bukina Faso. One should carry copies of their passport and visa with them at all times.

**Safety & Security:** U.S. citizens traveling to, and residing in, Burkina Faso are urged to exercise caution and maintain a high level of security awareness at all times. Kidnapping remains a threat in the northern border areas of the country. the U.S. Embassy has declared the area north from Djibo to Dori off-limits to official government travelers unless prior authorization for such travel is expressly given.

**Crime:** Street crime is prevalent particularly in the capital of Ouagadougou. Armed robberies occur on intercity roads. Though the attacks usually occur at night, day time attacks are on the rise even in public places such as buses. these armed individuals and groups have injured or killed individuals who refused their demands or attempted to drive through their roadblocks.

**There is no local equivalent to the all-purpose “911” emergency line in Burkina Faso;**

there are separate numbers for different types of services and also for different cities. You can also dial 10-10 which will connect to the Ministry of Security who will then dispatch the appropriate law enforcement entity.

**Health:** Vaccination for yellow fever is required. Prevalent strains are A, C and W135. Malaria risk exists year round. A weekly dose of 250mg of mefloquine is the recommended prophylaxis. Vaccination against polio and typhoid are strongly recommended. Cholera is a serious risk throughout the country and precautions should be taken though vaccination is no longer a condition of entry. Vaccination against meningococcal meningitis, tetanus and hepatitis A is recommended. Hepatitis B is hyper-endemic. Hepatitis E, TB and dengue fever occur.

Special Circumstances:

**Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials:** As of this posting Burkina Faso does not impose ISPM15 regulations for wood packaging material (WPM).

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

AGS Frasers: Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Department of State: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1075.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1075.html)

Embassy of Burkina Faso: <http://www.burkina-usa.org/>

USDA: [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://www.aphis.usda.gov)

IATA Travel Centre

Visa HQ

The information presented herein is based on customs data available at the time of printing and is frequently subject to change without notice. It is the responsibility of the owner or importer of the household goods to comply with the current customs restrictions, regulations, and duties of the country to which the goods are imported. We strongly advise customers to contact the consulate or embassy of the destination country for the most current information on customs regulations, restrictions and duties for importing household goods, personal effects and vehicles.