



Importing Personal Property Into Burundi

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

Client must be in Burundi at time of Customs clearance. The goods must be imported within six months of arrival. Items can not be sold, lent or otherwise disposed of during stay. A deposit is needed for technical items such as computers, phones, DVD players etc.

Diplomats are only liable for 1% handling fee based on CIF value.

Non-Diplomats are subject to duties and taxes of 7% of CIF value for used household goods. New household goods are subject to 40% duties and taxes of CIF value. Personal effects incur 25% of CIF. Documents must arrive to Destination Agent at least 3 weeks prior to arrival of shipment to apply for duty-free clearance.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - copy
- ✓ Residence Permit or Work Permit
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original, rated, list freight charge or submit a freight invoice, Express Release not allowed
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – original, in English or French, dated & signed by owner
- ✓ Pack list
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Letter from Employer –attesting to client’s employment contract with start date

Diplomat Status:

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted tax and duty free entry of their personal effects and household goods. All documents must arrive to the Destination Agent 15 days prior to arrival to obtain free entry from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Diplomatic Franchise
- ✓ Passport - original
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory –dated & signed by owner
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Appliances/Electronics – must have invoices/receipts
- ✓ Prescription medications – require a health certificate
- ✓ Firearms & ammunition- requires a permit from local police authority
- ✓ New items – (less than 6 months) must have invoices/receipts
- ✓ Alcohol – only those listed as” fond de cave” are accepted; value exceeding \$500USD will require an import permit & pre-shipment inspection
- ✓ 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 unless otherwise approved
- ✓ Alcohol – spirits not fitting into “fond de cave” status must be sent separately

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Dogs and cats are given a veterinarian exam upon arrival. The health certificate must mention: country of origin, names and address of owner, species, sex of animal, that animal is free from ticks and has not been exposed to contagious diseases. The health certificate must also state that they have been vaccinated against rabies over one month but less than 12 months before departure if an activated or Kelev vaccine has been used, or 36 months before departure if an avianized (Flury) vaccine has been used. This certificate must be issued not more than 15 days before departure.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, vaccines must be given 30 days to under year
- ✓ Health Certificate - by a Veterinarian at origin, state type of rabies administered
- ✓ Import Permit

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Diplomats are only liable for 1% handling fee based on CIF value.

Non Diplomats subject to 4% of CIF for handling and transactional tax of 17% (CIF + duties + handling). The OBL must show chassis & engine numbers, cubic capacity, year of manufacture, brand and model.

Required Documents:

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

NOTES:

Entry & Exit Requirements: Evidence of immunization against yellow fever are required for entry into Burundi. Visas must be obtained prior to arrival.

Safety & Security: US citizens are encouraged to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program, to stay current with the latest safety and security announcements dispersed by the Embassy in your area. Your enrollment can also help the Department of State reach your family and friends in case of emergency.

Crime: Crime poses a high risk for foreign visitors to Bujumbura and Burundi in general. U.S. government personnel are prohibited from walking on the streets after dusk or using local public transportation. Foreigners, whether in vehicles or at home, are always potential crime targets. The Department of State advises U.S. citizens to use caution when traveling, paying particular attention when traveling to and from frequent destinations. U.S. citizens living and working in Bujumbura should take this opportunity to ensure their security and emergency action plans are up-to-date. The U.S. embassy strongly cautions against traveling outside of towns after nightfall.

Currency: There are a few international ATMs in Burundi; however, frequent power outages and connectivity issues prevent them from being a reliable source for currency. Additionally, most Burundian businesses do not accept credit cards. Burundian banking practices prohibit acceptance of U.S. currency printed before the year 2003.

Health: Malaria exists year round throughout Burundi. Tuberculosis is an increasingly serious health concern in Burundi. One should bring all required prescriptions needed for length of stay in original containers. Hospital care in Burundi should be considered in only the most serious cases and when no reasonable alternatives are available.

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

AGS Frasers: Bujumbura, Burundi

Embassy of Burundi: <http://www.burundiembassy-usa.org/consularinfo.html>

Department of State: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1078.html

Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>

USDA: www.aphis.usda.gov

IATA Travel Centre

Visa HQ.com

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.