



Importing Personal Property Into Madagascar

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

Client must be present during Custom's clearance process. All shipments are physically inspected. Used household goods and personal effects over six months old are duty free to clients with a long term permanent visa (foreigners). Those without the visa in place will be subject to tax and duties. Client must be a resident of the country of departure for more than one year. All shipments must arrive within four (4) months of client's arrival into Madagascar. All import shipments incur a GASYNET tax of 0.3% of CIF plus 20% VAT of 0.3%. HHG and vehicles must originate from the same country. Customs exemption on importation of personal effects is only permitted once per person. An exemption is possible if particular criteria are met. Decision is granted by a Customs official.

All required documents must be sent to the Destination Agent 15 days prior to arrival of the shipment. Customs are only open during weekdays. Shipments arriving Thursday or Friday will not be cleared over the weekend, incurring a 2 day delay. Clearance takes 5 days for ocean shipments and 2-3 days for air shipments. Storage is only free for 3 days. Consult the Destination Agent for the latest requirements.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - original, showing the Entry Permit
- ✓ Visa – obtained from Ministry of the Interior, Madagascar (2-3 month process)
- ✓ AEFÉ contract– copy, for teachers or business volunteers & certificate confirming status
- ✓ Certificate of Free Entry – obtained from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ✓ Bordereau de suivi de cargaison (BSC)
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original, Express Release not allowed
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – original, in French, signed & dated by client at origin: electronics must state make, model & serial numbers
- ✓ Pack List - original, issued at origin the day items are picked up
- ✓ Residence Permit – origin, issued by the Fokontany in Madagascar
- ✓ JIRMA invoice – obtained from water supplier, must state same address residence
- ✓ Change of Residence – issued at origin
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Work Permit – original, on employer letterhead attesting to client's transfer
- ✓ Work Authorization - issued by the Ministry of Labor in Madagascar

Diplomat Status:

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations and French state workers under the authority of an Embassy are granted tax and duty free entry of their personal effects and household items either new or used. The below documents must be sent to the Destination Agent 30 days prior to arrival of the shipment to obtain the Certificate of Destination prepared by the Embassy.

BL or LTA must state "Diplomatic Shipment".

Required Documents:

- ✓ Diplomatic Passport - 2 certified copies, by the embassy or organization; in lieu of a Diplomatic Passport the client can obtain the below:
 - Certificate of Residence – obtained from local town hall in Madagascar
 - Change of Residence or Relocation Certificate issued by Malagasy Embassy at origin
- ✓ Attestation Reservation de cale”
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – original, in French, signed & dated by Malagasy Embassy or Consulate in country of departure; all high-tech equipment, computers, electronics, stereos etc must state make model & serial number
- ✓ Pack List –original, issued at origin the day items are picked up
- ✓ Certificate of Relocation – on letterhead; attesting to client’s transfer
- ✓ Certificate of Destination – issued by Embassy or NGO in Madagascar
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

Exemption is limited to 2 units of the following items. In excess of the incurs tax & duty: bicycles, TV’s desktop and laptop computers, fridges, freezers and appliances to cook in i.e. ovens, crock pots etc. 1 each allowed of scanners, printer, copier or video projector.

- ✓ Works of Art, Paintings & Antiques –
- ✓ Firearms/sport rifles - require an agreement with the Defense Ministry
- ✓ Telephones & fax machines require an agreement with Telcoms and Post
- ✓ Electrical items, appliances less than 6 months old require receipts, incur tax & duty
- ✓ Home computers incur tax & duty if importing more than 2
- ✓ Books & Tapes/Discs (audio & video) – require an agreement from the Interior Ministry, detailed inventory list is required, will be censored and held over for delivery to the house by a Customs agent or an inspector
- ✓ Food and consumable items – require a Certificate of Health
- ✓ Tobacco – 500 cigarettes or 500 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, weapons, military equipment & CB’s, walkie-talkies (including toy versions) GPS and other such telecommunication devices
- ✓ Alcohol is prohibited and must be sent separately; Fond de Cave is acceptable (under 30 bottles)
- ✓ Perfume
- ✓ Stuffed (taxidermy) animals, birds or fish
- ✓ Animal skins, furs, tusks, horn in accordance to CITES & Endangered Species Act

IMPORTATION OF PETS

All pets are subject to inspection upon arrival. Quarantine may be imposed. Veterinary Certificate must state information on the owner and complete description of the animal; it must specify the animal is in good health and that the establishment and the province of origin have been free from any infectious disease for a time specified in the authorization.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Health Certificate (Certificat Sanitaire et d'origine") dated less than 15 before departure by the regional Director of the Veterinary Services.
- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, dated within 30 -180 days of arrival
- ✓ Import Authorization – obtained prior to departure from Directeur du Service de l'Elevage et de la Peche Maritime

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Vehicles and motorbikes are subject to SGS inspection upon arrival. If included in household goods shipment process could take up to 10 days, incurring storage and demurrage fees.

Private citizens/companies: for registration papers over 1 year duties will not be incurred.

French cooperants:

Right hand drive vehicles are prohibited.

Consult with your Destination Agent for current regulations, requirements and fees.

Diplomats: exempt from Customs and SGS inspections and taxes.

**Subject to a 50% surcharge at the destination port if the BL notes a presence of flammable or dangerous liquids due to fuel remaining in the vehicle.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice/Declaration of Value – must be original
- ✓ Certificate of non-lien (NB: valid for one month)
- ✓ Employment Certificate issued by the French Embassy for French cooperants

NOTES:

Entry & Exit Requirements: All U.S. citizens should always ensure that passports and important personal papers are in order in the event it becomes necessary to leave the country quickly for any reason. Yellow Fever vaccine within ten years is required only for those coming from a Yellow Fever endemic country.

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. U.S. citizens should also be aware of the potential for mob violence and ‘popular justice’ that is sometimes directed towards foreign nationals. U.S. citizens who feel threatened by large crowds should seek the direct intervention of local law enforcement and contact the U.S. Embassy immediately. There are random police vehicle checkpoints throughout Madagascar, so all visitors should carry photo identification (residency card, U.S. passport) in the event of police questioning. These checkpoints are routine in nature, and should not result in vehicle and/or person searches as long as valid identification is shown.

Crime: U.S. citizen visitors should remain vigilant, particularly in large urban centers and coastal cities frequented by tourists. Keeping windows rolled up and doors locked at all times. In addition, armed bandit attacks on vehicles carrying goods and people—specifically taxi-bes (which operate within urban centers) and taxi-brousses (which travel to outlying regions)—have increased. To reduce the risk of being victimized, travel in groups and avoid wearing expensive jewelry or carrying costly electronic items (iPods, digital cameras, or high-end cell phones) with you in public. One is strongly discouraged from traveling outside of cities after dark, due to banditry, lack of lighting, poor road conditions, and lack of security assets.

Currency: U.S. Dollars, Euros, or Malagasy Ariary. Credit cards are usually not accepted. Madagascar is primarily a cash-driven economy. Some high-end establishments catering to tourists accept only Visa-Logo cards. The government changed the local currency from the Malagasy Franc (FMG) to the Ariary several years ago, many Malagasy still think in terms of FMG. When talking about prices, it is important to quantify whether the price is in Ariary or FMG (1 Ariary = 5 FMG). ATMs that accept Visa (generally not MasterCard) are available in large cities. Dollars are not widely accepted, and US \$100 bills are frequently refused at banks and local businesses.

Health: While in Madagascar, individuals with disabilities may find accessibility and accommodation very different from that which is commonly provided in the United States. Public transportation vehicles are not equipped to accommodate passengers with disabilities. Outside of Antananarivo, the quality of care is very questionable. Most medications, generally of French or South African origin, are available in Antananarivo. If you need to refill a prescription from outside of Madagascar, it is important to carry a prescription from your health care provider listing the medicine's generic name, but it is best not to rely on re-filling medications in Madagascar as the availability varies. Travelers are advised to carry a supply of anti-malarial medication if traveling outside Antananarivo. U.S. citizens who will be carrying medications with them to Madagascar may wish to contact the Embassy of Madagascar in Washington, D.C., regarding any restrictions on imports.

Mosquito and other insects can carry malaria, dengue, chikungunya and other illnesses. Travelers should carry and use insect repellents containing either 20% DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR3535. Treating clothing and tents with permethrin and sleeping in screened or air conditioned rooms under insecticide-impregnated mosquito netting. Malaria is prevalent year round. Using preventive measures and malaria prophylaxis is strongly recommended. Tuberculosis is more than 20 times more common in Madagascar than in the United States. Those planning on living in Madagascar should consider tuberculin skin testing before travel and then again 6-12 weeks after returning from Madagascar. Madagascar has recently instituted universal screening measures at international ports of entry and airports to help guard against the spread of Ebola, but no Ebola cases have yet been reported in the country.

Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: Madagascar does not impose ISPM15 for wood packaging material (WPM).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Embassy of Madagascar: <http://www.madagascar-embassy.org/en/>

Department of State <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country/madagascar.html>

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

FIDI Global Alliance

IATA Travel Centre

AGS Frasers Madagascar

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.