



Importing Personal Property Into Benin

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

All shipments are subject to inspection. Used household goods and personal effects are duty free provided goods have been owned and used by the client for at least six months and client can prove ownership of the goods. All shipments (diplomat or non-diplomat) are subject to a 3.65% import tax based on declared value. All documents must arrive to the Destination Agent 3 weeks prior to arrival of shipment to allow for application to grant duty-free clearance.

NOTE: Terminal Handling Charges (THC) will be implemented beginning 15 Aug 2016.

90.00EUR for 20ft container / 140.00EUR for 40ft container

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - copy, must have 6 months validity past one's time in Benin
- ✓ Residence Visa – valid for 36 months for single or multiple entries
- ✓ Work Permit or Letter from Employer - attesting to start date and length of work contract
- ✓ “Attestation Reservation de Cale”
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – 2 originals, express release not accepted; weights must be in kg
- ✓ BCS (Bordereau de sulvi de cargaison) - a shipment tracking note which must be attached to the OBL: 150.00Euro penalty will be incurred if absent
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – in French dated & signed by owner
- ✓ Packing List – contents of each carton should state amounts of each item
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Non Sale Certificate – client declaration to not sell personal effects in Benin

Diplomat Status:

Required Documents:

- ✓ Diplomatic Exemption – must be obtained prior to arrival of shipment to avoid storage charges
- ✓ Passport copy
- ✓ Comprehensive Inventory – in French dated & signed by owner Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Home computers – not accepted as household goods; incur duties & taxes
- ✓ Appliances, electronics & furniture – require invoices, must be older than six months otherwise subject to duties & taxes
- ✓ Tobacco – 200 cigarettes or 250 grams of loose tobacco, in excess of these amounts incurs duty
- ✓ Alcohol – Allowed if stated as “fond de cave” (max 12 bottles) to be duty-free

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind

- ✓ Pornography and subversive material
- ✓ Explosives, ammunitions and weapons of any kind

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, dated less than 90 days prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - endorsed by a licensed veterinarian

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Only one vehicle is allowed. New vehicles are subject to import taxes and duties. Amount to be paid depends on value, model, year, cubic centimeters and accessories. Vehicles must have its own OBL w separate from that of household goods OBL The OBL must state weight of the vehicle must be in kg engine & chassis serial numbers, engine CC, make, model and year of manufacture.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original
- ✓ Freight Invoice or rated OBL – must state
- ✓ Non Sale Certificate – client declaration to not sell vehicle

NOTES:

Safety: US citizens should carry a notarized copy of their passport with them at all times. US citizens are advised to not walk along the beach alone anytime of day and to not walk around the cities alone after dark. U.S. diplomatic personnel are prohibited from visiting the Dantokpa market between the hours of dusk and dawn. Even during daylight hours, foreigners on the beach near Cotonou are frequently victims of robberies and should not carry valuables. Carjackings are on the rise. Keep the windows of your vehicle rolled up and the doors locked, and stay alert for signs of suspicious behavior by other motorists or pedestrians that may lead to carjacking, such as attempts to stop a moving vehicle for no obvious reason. Overland travel to Nigeria is dangerous near the Benin/Nigeria border due to unofficial checkpoints and highway banditry.

Fraudulent business schemes associated with Nigeria has spread throughout West Africa including Benin. Exercise extreme caution when using credit cards and ATM's. A list of possible fraud schemes is on the Department of States website in the Country Profile for Benin.

Health: A Yellow Card (Carte Jaune) proving vaccination for yellow fever required. Cholera is a serious risk precautions are essential. Vaccination against typhoid is advised. Malaria is a risk all year throughout the country. Hepatitis A, C and E are widespread. Hepatitis B is hyper-endemic with immunizations recommended. HIV/AIDS is also prevalent.

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Department of State: Benin http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1066.html

Embassy Of Benin: <http://www.beninembassy.us/>

US Embassy in Cotonou, Benin: <http://cotonou.usembassy.gov/>

AGS Frasers, Cotonou, Benin

USDA: www.aphis.usda.gov

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.