



Importing Personal Property Into Central African Republic

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

Customs Authority reserves the right to inspect the shipment prior to delivery including those with “Diplomat Status”. The client is not required to be present during the clearance process. 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 during stay. 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. A certificate of free entry must be obtained from the customs head office in Central African Republic.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - copy
- ✓ Residence/Work Visa
- ✓ Certificate of Change of Residence
- ✓ “Attestation Reservation de cale”
- ✓ Bordereau de suivi de cargaison (BSC) – cargo tracking note for all sea shipments
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original, express release not allowed
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – in French, all electronics, computers etc must state make, model & serial numbers on the inventory, signed by owner
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Mission Order of Employer – on company letterhead; attesting to customer’s length of stay, position in the company
- ✓ Client Declaration – attesting that goods are for personal use, dated and signed by client

Diplomat Status:

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted duty free entry of their personal effects and household items either. Diplomatic shipments are subject to inspection. Diplomats incur the same tax and duty rates as non-diplomats for personal computers only.

Returning National Diplomats are not granted “Diplomat Status” and are treated the same as other returning nationals.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Mission Order from Embassy or Consulate – approved by local authorities
- ✓ Passport (Diplomatic) - copy
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory – all high-tech equipment, computers, electronics, stereos etc must state make model & serial number
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Home computers – subject to import taxes and duties of 80% CIF + VAT 18%
- ✓ Firearms – duty free with the following documents; F4 Form (obtained upon arrival through Customs Authority), Certificate of Registration, Certificate of Temporary Admission, proof of ownership & passport; Must be loaded near the door for easy inspection
- ✓ New furniture & electronics – subject to taxes and duties of % CIF + VAT 18%; must have all receipts with prices for each of these items
- ✓ Tobacco products – subject to import taxes and duties of 77.5% CIF + VAT 18%

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Alcohol – must be sent separately; must be labeled as “fond de cave”, 20 bottles max
- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material
- ✓ Explosives

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Quarantine is not required as of this posting. Health Certificate must state no case of rabies has occurred in area of origin at least 60 days prior to departure.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, vaccinations dating not less than 2 weeks and no more than 6 months prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - dated no more than 5 days prior to arrival, endorsed by a Veterinarian

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Used vehicles are duty free on a temporary importation basis only. Luxury vehicles are subject to duty of 77.5% of CIF value. If car is new an Export Declaration is required. The OBL must show Chassis Number, Engine number, Cubic Capacity, year of manufacture, brand and model.

Diplomat Vehicle: subject to tax of 0.5 % of CIF.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original
- ✓ All paperwork associated w/the vehicle, including repair invoices and owners manual
- ✓ F4 Form – provided by Customs Authority upon arrival
- ✓ Driver License

NOTES:

Travel Warning: Please see the Department of State’s Travel Warning for the CAR at: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_940.html

Entry & Exit Requirements: Evidence of yellow fever vaccination is required for entry.

Safety & Security: Northwestern and northeastern CAR, especially the areas bordering Chad and Sudan, are particularly dangerous due to clashes between government and rebel forces. The continued presence of the Lord’s Resistance Army in eastern CAR poses a particular safety and security threat. Limited infrastructure and the great distance from the capital Bangui mean that the U.S. Embassy can provide few

services to U.S. citizens in these areas. Travel to these regions is therefore strongly discouraged. Throughout Bangui CAR military and civilian security forces (and people posing as such) staff checkpoints throughout the city, frequently harassing local and expatriate travelers for bribes. Due to the risk of armed attacks on motorists in the northern and western regions of the country, overland travel in these areas should be avoided. Any driving outside the capital should be only during daylight hours. Most remote areas in the CAR that are frequented by tourists are accessible only by four-wheel drive vehicles.

Crime: Crime remains a significant problem. U.S. citizens should exercise caution while traveling around the city and immediate environs. Petty theft remains a problem in large market areas, particularly in the crowded markets near KM 5 on the outskirts of the city. Armed gangs may operate in outlying residential areas. During previous periods of civil unrest and civil conflict, including most recently in 2002 and 2003, foreign mercenaries and citizens engaged in widespread looting and damaged much of the city's infrastructure. In the northern and western parts of the country, there are consistent reports of armed robbery and kidnapping by highway bandits (called "coupeurs de routes" or "zaraguinas"), especially during the December to May dry season. When a crime does occur in Bangui, the victim may have to pay to send a vehicle to pick up police officers due to the shortage of police vehicles and fuel.

Health: Vaccination is required for yellow fever. Vaccination against polio, meningitis, typhoid, hepatitis A and B are recommended. Tuberculosis is an increasingly serious health concern. Insect precautions and avoiding freshwater are recommended.

Banking: Banking infrastructure remains limited in the CAR, and facilities for monetary exchange exist only in the capital. There is limited ATM service in Bangui and virtually no ATM service in the rest of the CAR. ATMs require a European style chip-banking card. Exchange bureaus and banks normally accept dollars and euros but not West African Francs (CFA).

Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: As of this posting Central African Republic does not impose ISPM15 requirements and regulations for wood packaging material (WPM).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

AGS Frasers: Bangui, Central African Republic

International Association of Movers

Department of State: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1085.html

USDA: www.aphis.usda.gov

IATA Travel Centre

Embassy of the Central African Republic: 1618 22nd Street NW, Washington, DC 20008

Phone: (202) 483-7800 / 7801 Fax: (202) 332-9893.

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.