



Importing Personal Property Into Republic of Congo (Brazzaville)

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

All shipments are physically inspected. 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. The goods must be imported within six months of arrival.

All personal effects shipments, including diplomatic shipments are liable to payment of two taxes:

- 1) La redevance informatique (Computer tax) at 2% of CIF value
- 2) La taxe ARC (assurance) at 0.8% C&F value

It takes between 20 – 40 days to obtain the free entry certificate. All original documents should reach the Destination Agent a minimum of 15 days before the shipment's arrival to allow the client's employer to obtain the certificate of free entry from the Customs Head Office and minimize the port charges.

Average clearance time for ocean shipments is 4 weeks and 1 week for air shipments.

Items can not be sold, lent or otherwise disposed of during stay.

NOTE: Pre shipment inspection is not required for personal effects shipments or second hand cars, but is required for shipments of new cars (even for those with diplomatic status)

COTECNA is the designated accredited inspection company. Please contact their representative in Origin country to set up the inspection.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - copy, showing entry permit
- ✓ Residence Permit or Work Permit
- ✓ Certificate of Change of Residence – obtained from city hall or police station at origin
NOTE: 750.00EUR penalty is incurred without this document, payable to Customs
- ✓ “Attestation Reservation de cale”
- ✓ Bordereau Electronique de Suivi de Cargaison (BESC) - cargo tracking note for all sea shipments
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – (rated) original, Express Release not allowed
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – in French, dated & signed by owner
- ✓ Inventory of “New Items”- (less than 6 months old) in French, dated/signed by owner w/ receipts
- ✓ Pack list
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Letter from Employer –attesting to client's employment contract

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 - copy, showing entry permit
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory – in French, dated & signed by owner
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

Non-compliance regarding restricted and prohibited items results in heavy penalties and possible confiscation of the shipment.

- ✓ Appliances/Electronics & Furniture – require invoices, must be older than 6 months or subject to duties and taxes
- ✓ Computers – subject to duties and taxes
- ✓ Prescription medications – require a health certificate
- ✓ New items – (less than 6 months) must have invoices/receipts
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Firearms, explosives, ammunitions and all other weapons
- ✓ Satellite and radio telecommunications equipment without prior authorization
- ✓ Alcohol – must be sent separately, only “fond de cave” is allowed (30 bottles max)
- ✓ All food products unless they are canned

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, less than 6 months prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate issued no more than 5 days prior to departure by a Veterinarian at origin

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Vehicles are subject to high import taxes and duties. Those cleared without an exemption are subject to 54.1% of value estimated by Customs Authority. The OBL must show Chassis Number, Engine number, Cubic Capacity, year of manufacture, brand and model.

Vehicles 7 years and older are prohibited.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original
- ✓ OBL - (rated) or invoice for freight paid

NOTES:

Entry & Exit Requirements: Proof of Yellow fever vaccination is a requirement for entry. Keep a copy of your Passport and valid visa with you at all times in the event of questioning.

Visas: In the past every Congolese Embassy/Consulate issued its own unique visas for entry to the Republic of Congo. Now, the visas are supposed to be identical regardless of where they are issued. However, some Embassies and Consulates, including the Congolese Consulate in New York, have not started issuing the new universal visas. The new Congolese visas are a passport-page-size sticker with the outline of the Republic of the Congo map in the background. If you attempt to enter Congo with one of the old visas, you may be denied entry.

Customs: Those who seek to export arts and crafts at the airports are frequently subject to an export tax/solicitations for bribes from customs agents.

Safety & Security: The US Embassy advises against travel by road or rail between Brazzaville and Pointe Noire due to banditry. Be advised of events in the Democratic Republic of Congo as unrest in Kinshasa can also affect Brazzaville.

Crime: Criminal elements are known to target middle-class and affluent residences without 24-hour guards for burglary. Incidents of armed robberies, vehicle break-ins, mugging, and pick-pocketing have been reported near the ports, outside popular restaurants, as well as in the Congolese neighborhoods surrounding the city center in both Pointe Noire and Brazzaville.

Criminal Penalties: In the Republic of the Congo you may be taken in for questioning if you are stopped by the police and are unable to produce an acceptable form of identification. The police, however, routinely confiscate IDs in an effort to gain bribes from foreigners. For this reason, it is best to keep a copy of your passport on you at all times and keep your passport in a safe place where you can access it quickly if needed. If you travel within the Republic of the Congo, you should travel with your passport with you as you may be asked to register with immigration upon arrival in a new location.

Local security forces, especially traffic police, routinely detain foreigners to solicit bribes. Detention of U.S. citizens, particularly in remote areas, may not always be promptly reported to the U.S. embassy by Congolese authorities.

Currency: The Republic of the Congo is primarily a cash economy and uses the Central African Franc (CFA), a common currency with Gabon, Chad, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, and Equatorial Guinea. U.S. dollars may be exchanged for local currency. CFA are not available outside the CFA zone and there are tight restrictions on traveling with currency. If you are caught attempting to leave the country in possession of CFA, airport authorities may confiscate all of your local currency. There is one ATM in Brazzaville that accepts foreign debit cards at the Credit du Congo Bank. ATMs at several of Credit du Congo's branches in Pointe Noire also accept foreign debit cards.

Health: An outbreak of acute poliomyelitis (polio) virus began in October 2010, with cases in Pointe Noire, Brazzaville, and most other parts of the Republic of the Congo. In response to the outbreak, the Government of Congo in cooperation with the World Health Organization has launched a nationwide emergency vaccination program. As of January 2011, the vaccination campaign appears to have halted the spread of the virus. Yellow fever vaccination is required. Cholera is a serious risk and pre-cautions are essentials. Immunization against polio and typhoid is strongly advised. Malaria exists year round throughout the country. Hepatitis A and B are present. Meningococcal meningitis A and C have been reported and immunization is advised.

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

AGS Frasers: Pointe Noire, Congo

Department of State: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1092.html

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

US Embassy – Brazzaville: <http://brazzaville.usembassy.gov/>

USDA: www.aphis.usda.gov

IATA Travel Centre

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.