



Importing Personal Property Into Democratic Republic of Congo (Kinshasa)

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

All shipments are physically inspected. Client is not required to be present during the clearance process. Used household goods and personal effects are usually duty free provided goods have been owned and used by the customer for over six months and customer has lived abroad for at least one year. All new items will be levied a tax. Items can not be sold, lent or otherwise disposed of during stay.

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

Import Clearance Processing tax at 1% of CIF value non diplomats / .01% for diplomats

La redevance informatique (Computer tax) at 2% of CIF value

La taxe ARC (assurance) at 0.8% C&F value

All documents should arrive to the Destination Agent 15 days prior to arrival to arrange for duty free clearance and minimize port charges.

Sea shipments can take up to 4 weeks to clear. Air shipments can take up to 1 week to clear.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - copy, showing entry visa
- ✓ Certificate of First Settlement – obtained from the Department of Immigration
- ✓ Work Permit – obtained from Ministry of Labor
- ✓ Change of Residence Certificate – issued at city hall at origin
- ✓ Letter of Transfer - from Employer attesting to employment contract
- ✓ International Vaccination Certificate – showing evidence of yellow fever vaccination
- ✓ Bill of Lading (Rated) /Air Waybill – original, Express Release not allowed
- ✓ “Attestation Reservation de cale”
- ✓ Bordereau Electronique de Suivi de cargaison (BESC) – cargo tracking note for all sea shipments
- ✓ Fiche Electronique des Renseignements al 'Importation (FERI)
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – in French, dated & signed by owner
- ✓ Valued Inventory of NEW items– in French, dated & signed by owner w/receipts attached
- ✓ Pack list
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance

Returning Citizens: additional documents

- ✓ Certificate of Resettlement – obtained from DRC Embassy

Diplomat Status:

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted duty free entry of their personal effects and household goods once the diplomatic mission receives the exemption certificate from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Exemption Certificate – issued by Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ✓ 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

- ✓ Appliances/Electronics & Furniture – must be over 6 months old or subject to taxes & duties requires invoices/receipts
- ✓ Personal computers - subject to taxes & duties
- ✓ New items – (less than 6 months) must have invoices/receipts
- ✓ Wine – must be boxed & labeled “fond de cave” less than 30 bottles to be admissible
- ✓ Tobacco – 200 cigarettes or 250 grams of loose tobacco, in excess of these amounts incurs duty

PROHIBITED ITEMS

Non-compliance results in heavy penalties and possible confiscation of entire shipment.

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material
- ✓ Firearms, explosives, ammunitions and weapons of any kind are strictly prohibited.
- ✓ Alcohol – must be sent separately, only “fond de cave” is allowed, less than 30 bottles
- ✓ Foodstuffs - canned food is allowed, all other food products are prohibited
- ✓ Radio communication devises & satellites

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Veterinarian health certificate stating that the animals are free from ticks and have not been exposed to contagious diseases. This last certificate must be issued not more than 15 days before departure. Quarantine is not required at this time; however pets are examined by a veterinarian upon arrival. Expect to pay nominal fee for the exam.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies certificate, over 30 days but less than 12 months prior to arrival for inactivated version or under 36 months for avianized (Flury) version
- ✓ Health Certificate - by a Veterinarian at origin

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Vehicles are subject to high import taxes and duties. Tax varies between 8%- 46.1 % of CIF value estimated by Customs Authority. Vehicles must be under 10 years of age. Buses and vans must be less than 7 years. The OBL must show chassis number, engine number, cubic capacity, year of manufacture, brand and model. Vehicles not in compliance will be destroyed or returned at the owner’s expense.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original
- ✓ Inspection Certificate at origin – original or notarized copy
- ✓ Conveyance Certificate -
- ✓ Non Sale Certificate
- ✓ OBL (rated)

NOTES:

Entry & Exit Requirements: A passport, visa, and evidence of yellow fever vaccination are required for entry. Travelers to the DRC frequently experience difficulties at the airport and other ports of entry, such as temporary detention, passport confiscation, and demands by immigration and security personnel for unofficial “fees.” All resident foreigners, including U.S. citizens, are required to register at the office of the Direction General of Migration (DGM) in the commune of their place of residence. For departure from the DRC, airlines will require a valid visa for all destination countries before they will issue a ticket or allow a passenger to board. All departing travelers, including U.S. officials, must pay a \$50 airport fee, in cash.

Travel to and from Congo-Brazzaville (Republic of Congo): Ferry service to and from Kinshasa and Brazzaville stops in the late afternoon and Sundays, and may close completely with minimal notice. If ferry service is functioning, a special exit permit from the DRC's Immigration Service and a visa from the Republic of the Congo (Congo-Brazzaville) are required for U.S. citizens to cross the Congo River from Kinshasa to Brazzaville.

Safety & Security: Both inside and outside Kinshasa, security forces set up roadblocks, especially after dark. Vehicles are often searched for weapons and valuables, and travelers are checked for identity papers. Security forces regularly seek bribes. Violence persists in the eastern DRC due to the presence of several militias and armed groups, with sporadic outbreaks occurring in North Kivu, South Kivu, and northern Katanga provinces, the Ituri District of Orientale province, Bas-Congo and Equateur provinces.

Crime: Deteriorating economic conditions continue to foster crime, especially in urban areas. Security officials and individuals purporting to be security officials have detained and robbed U.S. citizens and other foreigners in Kinshasa. Vehicle thefts, burglaries, and armed robberies occur throughout the country. The Embassy recommends that motorists drive with doors locked and windows closed at all times. If confronted by members of the military or security forces, visitors should not permit soldiers or police officers to enter their vehicles nor get into the vehicle of anyone purporting to be a security official.

Currency: U.S. currency is widely accepted in urban areas, but most vendors and banking institutions will accept only Series 1996 bills or newer, with the large, off-center portraits that provide stronger protection against counterfeiting. In addition, bills must be in near perfect condition; even those with minor stains or small tears will be rejected. One-dollar bills are rarely accepted.

Health: Yellow fever vaccination is required. Cholera is a serious risk and pre-cautions are essentials. Immunization against polio and typhoid is recommended. Malaria exists year round and proper vaccination is essential. Tuberculosis is a serious threat, Meningococcal meningitis may occur. The Ebola virus and hemorrhagic fever also occur. US citizens should take appropriate precautions to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

AGS Frasers: Kinshasa – Ngaliema, Congo

Embassy of Democratic Republic of Congo <http://www.ambardcusa.org/index.html>

Department of State: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1104.html

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.