



Importing Personal Property Into Gabon

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

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. All new items less than 6 months are subject to taxes. All shippers including diplomats are levied a RUSID tax of 2-4% of CIF value. The goods must be imported within six months of arrival. Items can not be sold, lent or otherwise disposed of during stay.

All documents must be provided to the Destination Agent at least 15 days prior to arrival of shipment to arrange duty free clearance. As of this posting all documents must be in French. Confer with your Destination Agent regarding document requirements.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - copy
- ✓ Residence Visa/ Work Permit or Letter from Employer attesting to employee contract
- ✓ Certificate of Change of Residence – obtained from city hall at origin
- ✓ International Vaccination Certificate – showing evidence of yellow fever vaccination
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original, Express Release not allowed
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – 3 copies, in French, dated & signed by owner
- ✓ Pack list
- ✓ “Attestation Reservation de cale”
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Non-Sale Certificate – declaring client will not sell effects while in Gabon
- ✓ Bordereau d’identification de cargaison (BIC) – cargo tracking note for all sea shipments

Diplomat Status:

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted 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.

Exception to RUSID Tax for: French Embassy, French Military & Chief of French Military Mission.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport – original
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original, Express Release not allowed
- ✓ Tax Exemption Certificates – obtained from Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Customs General
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – 3 copies, in French, dated & signed by diplomat
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Appliances/Electronics – must be more than 6 months old
- ✓ Personal computers – should be sent separately, are subject to tax & duties

- ✓ Firearms & ammunition- requires a permit from Ministry of Home Affairs, Libreville Gabon prior to importation (application should be submitted 3 months prior to arrival)
- ✓ All new items – (less than 6 months) are subject to tax & duties
- ✓ Tobacco – 200 cigarettes or 250 grams of loose tobacco, in excess of these amounts incurs duty
Note: Women can only import cigarettes, not other tobacco items
- ✓ Alcohol – must be sent separately, only alcohol categorized as “fond de cave” (less than 30 bottles) is permitted, otherwise strictly prohibited

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material
- ✓ Poisonous substances
- ✓ Edible oils & sugar
- ✓ Explosives, ammunitions and weapons unless otherwise approved

IMPORTATION OF PETS

As of this posting, quarantine is not required for dogs or cats. Consult with the Destination Agent for the latest information regarding importation of pets particularly if the pet is other than a cat or dog.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies
- ✓ Health Certificate - issued less than 3 days prior to departure by a veterinarian

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Vehicles over 3 years of age are prohibited. All vehicles are subject to tax of 53.4% of CIF value. Customs in Gabon assesses the value of the vehicle. Additional taxes may also apply. Consult your Destination Agent for the latest information. The OBL must show Chassis Number, Engine number, Cubic Capacity, year of manufacture, brand and model.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓ Commercial/Purchase Invoice – must be original
- ✓ Drivers License & International Insurance Policy (green card)
- ✓ OBL

NOTES:

Entry & Exit Requirements: Business visas to Gabon are issued at the Embassy of Gabon, 2034 20th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009 and the Gabonese Consulate at 18 East 41st St., Ninth Floor, New York, NY 10017.

To avoid being turned around upon arrival having the appropriate visa, invitation letter and supporting documents readily available is essential.

One should carry photocopies of your U.S. passport biographic information page and your Gabonese visa at all times during your stay in Gabon in the event you are stopped at police check points.

All non-Gabonese citizens, with the exception of those bearing diplomatic or official passports, are required to obtain exit visas from the Direction Générale à la Documentation et l’Immigration (DGDI, formerly known as CEDOC) before departing Gabon.

Safety & Security: Since 2009 civil unrest has increased and turned violent. US citizens should avoid large gatherings, protest and any event where crowds congregate. The US Embassy of Gabon informs the registered resident American community of security matters through a warden system called "STEP" or Smart Traveler Enrollment Program. U.S. citizens living in Gabon are encouraged to sign up

Crime: Petty thievery is common and US citizens should be vigilant of their surroundings at all times. The U.S. Embassy encourages you to take extra precautions when traveling in Libreville. To prevent carjacking and petty theft, you should travel with your car windows up, doors locked, and items of value hidden from view. You should avoid marginal neighborhoods, poorly lit streets, and unfamiliar areas of the city, especially at night. One should not be on the beach alone any time of day or even in groups after dusk. When dining in restaurants or visiting markets, one should carry only minimal amounts of cash and avoid wearing excessive amounts of jewelry.

Currency: Gabon is largely a cash economy. Credit cards are accepted at only a few major hotels. Travelers' checks can be cashed or dollars exchanged for Central African Francs (CFA) at hotels and banks. ATMs are available in major urban centers, and dispense CFA. You should exercise the same safety precautions as in the U.S. while withdrawing funds from ATMs as they are commonly targeted by thieves.

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 particularly in the Northern region. Hepatitis A, B and E are wide spread. Meningococcal meningitis may occur. Human trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness) has been reported. There is a high level of HIV/AIDS; thus one should take all necessary precautions. Rabies is present and vaccination should be considered.

Special Circumstances: Gabon is a francophone country; if you do not speak French, you will face difficulties in communication associated with the language barrier. English is not spoken in most establishments. Corruption of officials is common, but paying bribes is not recommended.

Taking photographs of the Presidential Palace, airport, military or other government buildings is strictly forbidden.

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

AGS Frasers: Libreville, Gabon

Embassy of Gabon: See address above; they do not have a website as of this posting

Department of State: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1120.html

STEP: <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>

USDA: www.aphis.usda.gov

IATA Travel Centre

International Association of Movers

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.