



## *Importing Personal Property Into Guinea-Bissau*

### **HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS**

#### **CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

##### **Customs Regulations:**

Used household goods, personal effects and office equipment incur duty and tax at 41% of declared value. Goods must be imported within six months of arrival. Items can not be sold, lent or otherwise disposed of during stay.

Documents must be received by the Destination Agent at least 8 days prior to arrival of the shipment. Customs clearance takes 10 – 30 days.

**Returning nationals** are subject to duty and tax based on length of time abroad.

##### **Required Documents:**

- ✓ Passport - original
- ✓ Residence Permit or Work Permit
- ✓ Certificate of Change of Residence
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original, Express Release not allowed
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – in Euros, dated & signed by owner, (suggest to undervalue goods for Customs purpose)
- ✓ Pack list – value in Euros
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Letter from Employer –attesting to client’s employment contract
- ✓ Declaration of Customer – attesting to length of stay
- ✓ No Sale Attestation – client agreement to not sell any belongings during stay

##### **Diplomat Status:**

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted duty free entry of their personal effects and household goods. Diplomatic shipments are subject to tax of 1.5 % of declared value on the Pack List. 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 Card – obtained from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs prior to arrival of shipment. Process takes up to 30 days
- ✓ Passport – original
- ✓ Pack List – values in Euros (suggest to undervalue goods for Customs purpose)
- ✓ Comprehensive Inventory – dated & signed by owner
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance

#### **RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS**

- ✓ Appliances/Electronics/Office Equipment – must have invoices/receipts; incur duty at 41%
- ✓ Prescription medications – require a health certificate
- ✓ New items – (less than 6 months) must have invoices/receipts, incur duty at 41%
- ✓ Tobacco – 200 cigarettes or 250 grams of loose tobacco, in excess of these amounts incurs duty

- ✓ Alcohol – only 2.5L allowed
- ✓ Perfume – must be previously opened, reasonable quantity for personal use

## PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material
- ✓ Firearms, explosives, ammunitions and other deadly weapons
- ✓ Plants and pant products

## IMPORTATION OF PETS

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, less than 6 months prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - by a Veterinarian at origin

## IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Vehicles are subject to import taxes and duties based on CIF, year of manufacture and engine cubic centimeters.

The OBL must show chassis & engine numbers, cubic capacity, year of manufacture, brand and model.

### Required Documents:

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

## NOTES:

**Entry & Exit Requirements:** Guinea-Bissau currently falls under the consular jurisdiction of the U.S. Embassy in Dakar, Senegal. This embassy is accredited for all diplomatic and security concerns to the Government of Guinea-Bissau. There is a U.S. Liaison Office in Bissau (BLO), staffed by locally employed personnel who provided limited services to U.S. citizens in the event of an emergency. There is not a Guinean-Bissau embassy in Washington DC. Due to lack of representation getting the required visa for entry can be done in Lisbon, Portugal or Dakar Senegal as most flights transit through those cities. All official U.S. government travelers (including personnel assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Dakar), must have Regional Security Office (RSO) approval and are required to receive an RSO country-specific security briefing prior to travel. Carry copies of passports and other identification instead of originals.

**Safety & Security:** The State Department rates Guinea-Bissau as a high threat country for political violence and crime. US citizens are encouraged to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program, to stay current with the latest safety and security announcements dispersed by the Embassy in your area. Your enrollment can also help the Department of State reach your family and friends in case of emergency. US citizens and organizations should exercise security awareness at all times. Avoid political gatherings and street demonstrations. The capital city of Bissau was declared “mine-free” but a few have been found since and other unexploded military ordnance and land mines remain throughout the country. The U.S. Embassy recommends that any travel be completed during daylight hours only and, if possible, in convoy. Banditry occurs regularly on the main highways

**Crime:** Criminals, corrupt officials, and drug cartels continue to undermine the rule of law and utilize the country for criminal activity, including using Guinea-Bissau as a major transit-point for cocaine and light-arms trafficking, and for illegal immigration. Foreigners are primary targets for petty crime particularly in

crowded markets. Do not wear jewelry or flashy clothes or carry large amounts of cash. Violent crime towards foreigners is not common but is on the rise due to drug trafficking.

**Currency:** Guinea-Bissau is a cash economy. Some large hotels may accept credit cards. ATM's are nonexistent. Purchases of goods and services are done in the local currency, the Franc of the West African Economic and Monetary Zone (CFA). It is recommended to secure more than adequate sums of CFA before arriving. Wire transfers are possible but limited.

**Health:** Malaria is a risk and precautions are strongly advised. Guinea-Bissau has a high HIV/AIDS infection rate. Modern medical facilities are nonexistent. Dakar, Senegal offers more acceptable levels of medical care.

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

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

Embassy of Senegal: <http://www.ambasenegal-us.org/>

Visa Purchasing Site: <http://www.snedai.sn/en/>

Department of State: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country/guinea-bissau.html>

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

USDA: [www.aphis.usda.gov](http://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 publishing 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.