



Importing Personal Property Into Kenya

HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

Client must be present during Customs clearance, including diplomats. All shipments are subject to full inspection of goods. Used household goods and personal effects are duty free provided goods have been owned and used by the client for a minimum of one year and goods are imported within three months of the Work Permit being issued. Items can not be sold, lent or otherwise disposed of during stay. Goods can be moved into a Customs bonded warehouse pending arrival of the owner; storage should not exceed 12 months. Documents must be expressed mailed to Destination Agent 15 days prior to arrival to arrange for the duty-free certificate.

Returning Citizens: Must have proof of living abroad for two years and have their effects imported within 3 months of arrival. Original Valid passport used for the last 2 years or any previous passport other than the current passport. (The entry and exit stamps are used by customs to check the compliance of the regulation). Returning national must not have visited Kenya for a sum of more than 90 days in the last 2 years prior to last date of arrival into Kenya.

Used personal effects older than 1 year can be imported duty free. It is recommended returning nationals send ocean shipments on a through B/L to Nairobi terminal.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - original, (if issued within last 2 years, the old passport is also required)
- ✓ Residence Visa/Work Permit - original
- ✓ Insurance Certificate
- ✓ PIN Certificate – obtained through the Kenya Revenue Authority
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – 3 copies, detailed per box w/boxes numbered, signed by owner
- ✓ Pack List
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Bank Release
- ✓ Form C-18 Declaration – signed by client

Diplomat Status:

Diplomatic goods are not subject to inspection with the approved Pro1b form. Diplomat must be present in Kenya when shipment arrives.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Passport - Original
- ✓ PRO IB Forms – approved by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, exempts diplomat from inspection
- ✓ PRO IA Form – required if importing alcohol, approved by Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory – all high-tech equipment, computers, electronics, stereos etc must state
- ✓ PIN certificate

Returning Nationals:

- ✓ Passport – Original, used for the past 2 years; Customs will validate entry and exit stamps to verify stay abroad

RESTRICTED/DUTIABLE ITEMS

- ✓ Computers – subject to tax and duties (diplomats are exempt)
- ✓ Tobacco
- ✓ Electronics/appliances – require invoices/receipts and serial numbers
- ✓ New items – subject to tax and duties, may require an Import Permit
- ✓ Fabrics - subject to tax and duties
- ✓ Perfume, cosmetics, lotions, other toiletries subject to Radio Active Analysis *apprx. 3,000 Kshs per sample/per item

PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Alcohol & Spirits - “Fond de Cave” is not allowed
- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Firearms, airsoft guns and plastic toy guns are strictly prohibited – unless a Firearms Certificate issued by Kenya Firearms Bureau is obtained
- ✓ Explosives, ammunitions and weapons of any kind including tear gas and silencers & toy guns
- ✓ Pornography, subversive material and political literature
- ✓ Plants, seeds, bulbs, fresh fruits & vegetables – require a permit from Ministry of Agriculture
- ✓ Gambling machines, games of chance, currency, securities & false currency
- ✓ Live animals, animal traps, birds, & bird eggs animal skins, trophies, tusks, ivory & horns
- ✓ Precious stones and metals

IMPORTATION OF PETS

Dogs & cats are allowed with approved import permit, they are dutiable but exempt from VAT. Pet birds are prohibited.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Import Permit – obtained from Veterinary Department, Kabete, Nairobi prior to departure
- ✓ Pet Owner’s Passport
- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, must be current
- ✓ Health Certificate - by a Veterinarian

IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

First time arrivals with approved Work Permit and returning citizens residing outside of Kenya with original 2 year Work Permit abroad are allowed to import one vehicle duty free. Vehicle must be in the client’s possession for at least 1 year to be duty free. Vehicle must be less than 2,500cc. Vehicle must not be sold for at least 1 year after importation.

Documents should be sent 30 days in advance of vehicles arrival to reduce possible demurrage charges. Vehicle must be imported within 90 days.

Left hand vehicles are prohibited unless authorization is granted from the Ministry of Transport.

Vehicles over 8 years old are prohibited.

The Vehicle cannot be taken from the port before registration. Registration process takes up to 10 days beyond the clearance of HHG’s. If shipped together the vehicle will be separated and kept at port. Storage, delivery and registration will be accrued.

Required Documents:

- ✓ Import Declaration Form (IDF)
 - ✓ Clean Report Finding (CRF) and vehicle log book – in English
 - ✓ C 15 Form and PIN Certificate
 - ✓ OBL – original, must state chassis & engine numbers, weight, make & model
 - ✓ Certificate of Title and Registration -original, must be in importer's name, state chassis & engine serial numbers and engine capacity
 - ✓ Authority to import vehicle
 - ✓ Certificate of Road Worthiness – provided by the owner to the Kenya Bureau of Standards
- *Pre-inspections at origin must be done for cars coming from Dubai, Japan, Singapore & South Africa

NOTES:

Entry & Exit Requirements: Passport should have six months of validity beyond intended stay with enough pages for visas and immigration stamps. Evidence of yellow fever may be requested. U.S. citizens are encouraged to carry a copy of their U.S. passport with them at all times, so that proof of identity and U.S. citizenship is readily available if questioned by local officials.

Safety & Security: There are continuing threats posed by known terrorists groups in East Africa and the capacity of terrorist groups to carry out attacks is on the rise. U.S. citizens should be aware of the risk of indiscriminate attacks on civilian targets in public places, including tourist sites and other sites where Westerners are known to congregate. U.S. visitors to rural areas should be aware that close contact with children, including taking their pictures or giving them candy, can be viewed with deep alarm and may provoke panic and violence. Adoptive parents traveling with their adopted child should exercise particular caution and are urged to carry complete copies of their adoption paperwork with them at all times.

Crime: Crime is high in all regions of Kenya, particularly Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, and at coastal beach resorts. Violent criminal attacks, including armed carjacking, kidnapping and home invasions/burglary, can occur at any time and in any location, and are becoming increasingly frequent, brazen, vicious, and often fatal. Nairobi averages about ten vehicle hijackings per day and Kenyan authorities have limited capacity to deter and investigate such acts. There is also a high incidence of residential break-ins and occupants should take additional security measures to protect their property. Thieves and con artists have been known to impersonate police officers, thus U.S. citizens are strongly encouraged to ask for identification if approached by individuals identifying themselves as police officials, uniformed or not.

Fumigation of Wood Packing Materials: Kenya imposes ISPM15 regulations and requirements for wood packaging material (WPM). All wooden crates must meet ISPM 15 requirements

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

AGS Frasers: Nairobi, Kenya

Kenya Revenue Authority - <http://www.kra.go.ke/portal/faqs.html>

US Department of State: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1151.html

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.