



## *Importing Personal Property Into The Gambia*

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

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

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

Used household goods and personal effects are tax 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 will be levied a tax. Shipment is subject to a 1.5% duty of CIF value as a processing fee plus 0.55% Ecowas tax. The goods must be imported within six months of arrival. Items can not be sold, lent or otherwise disposed of during stay.

**Shipments are physically inspected – expect all boxes to be opened. There are heavy penalties for making false declarations including possible forfeitures of goods.**

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

- ✓ Passport - copy
- ✓ Residence Permit or Work Permit
- ✓ Lease/rental contract –
- ✓ Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – rated, original, Express Release not allowed
- ✓ Comprehensive Valued Inventory – original, in English dated & signed by owner
- ✓ Pack list
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓ Letter from Employer –attesting to client’s employment contract
- ✓ Declaration of Freight Charges
- ✓ Non-Sale Certificate – attesting client will not sell his/her household belongings

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

Foreign diplomats, members of government are granted tax and duty free entry of their personal effects and household goods including vehicles except for the Ecowas tax and processing fee are incurred. Non government organizations must apply to the Ministry of Finance for a Duty Waiver. All documents must arrive to the Destination Agent 7 days prior to arrival to obtain free entry from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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

- ✓ Diplomatic Franchise
- ✓ Passport - original
- ✓ Comprehensive inventory –dated & signed by owner
- ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance

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

- ✓ Appliances/Electronics – must have invoices/receipts if new; incur duty
- ✓ Prescription medications – require prescriptions, must always be kept in original containers
- ✓ Firearms & ammunition- requires a permit from Inspector General of Police in The Gambia
- ✓ New items – (less than 6 months) must have invoices/receipts & separate inventory

- ✓ Tobacco – inquire with Destination Agent for latest requirements
- ✓ Alcohol – inquire with Destination Agent for latest requirements

## PROHIBITED ITEMS

- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓ Skin Bleaching creams
- ✓ Pornography and subversive material
- ✓ Explosives (including fireworks), ammunitions, knives and any other weapons unless approved
- ✓ Alcohol – must be sent separately
- ✓ Radio communication equipment not approved for use at destination
- ✓ Plants, plant products, bulbs, seeds, etc
- ✓ Articles derived from protected species – furs, skins, ivory, reptile leather

## IMPORTATION OF PETS

Full history of vaccinations is required. Owner must present list of all required vaccinations for each type of pet. A licensed veterinarian should be able to supply this list.

### Required Documents:

- ✓ Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, less than 6 months prior to arrival
- ✓ Health Certificate - by a Veterinarian at origin
- ✓ Import Permit – obtained day after arrival at the Gambian Veterinary Department

## IMPORTATION OF VEHICLES

Duty amount to be paid depends on value, model, year, cubic centimeters and accessories.

Subject to a 10% government sales tax, .05% ECOWAS tax + 0.1% processing fee.

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

Right hand vehicles are prohibited.

### Required Documents:

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

## NOTES:

**Entry & Exit Requirements:** A passport, visa, and evidence of yellow fever vaccination are required.

**Safety & Security:** 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.

**Crime:** Resident U.S. citizens should leave their windows up and doors locked while driving due to several reported automobile burglaries, including theft from occupied cars stopped in traffic with the windows open or doors unlocked. Long-term residents should consider hiring a security guard for their home to prevent burglary and theft. Business fraud endemic throughout Western Africa does occur in the Gambia.

**Currency:** The Gambia is largely a cash economy. Credit cards are accepted only at major hotels, some grocery stores, and a few restaurants. Local personal checks from U.S. citizens are accepted only at exchange bureaus and only from U.S. citizens who are resident in The Gambia. There are a few ATMs in the Banjul area, but they often malfunction or fail to issue receipts. ATMs only accept VISA cards for international transactions. The Gambia has many last-minute holidays requiring banks and other businesses to close. Residents should always have enough cash to carry them through unexpected bank closures.

**Health:** Malaria is a serious health concern and anti-malarial medication is strongly advised.

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

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

AGS Frasers – Gambia, West Africa

Embassy of Gambia: <http://www.gambiaembassy.us/>

Department of State: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1121.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1121.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

Visa HQ.com

**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.**