



## *Importing Personal Property Into Mali*

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

#### **Customs Regulations:**

Once the Free Entry Certificate is obtained from the Customs Head Office in Mali used household goods and personal effects are duty free. The goods must be owned and used by the client for a minimum of six months and client has lived abroad for at least one year. A “Redevance Statistique” tax of 2.5 % of the valued inventory is incurred for non Malian citizens and 3.5% for returning citizens. Diplomatic shipments are not subject to this tax.

A “Fonds de garantie routier” tax of 1% of the valued inventory for all shipments including those with diplomat status transported by road from Abidjan, Ivory Coast to Bamako, Mali.

The goods must be imported within six months of arrival. Items can not be sold, lent or otherwise disposed of during stay. The client must provide the local address and contact information of their employer/organization in Mali. The client will need between 20 – 40 days to obtain the free entry certificate. With this in mind, please fax all relevant documents to the Destination Agent at least 15 days before the arrival of the shipment in order to minimize any port charges.

Note that all containers arriving at TOE Bamako are scanned.

#### **Required Documents:**

- ✓Passport - copy, showing valid entry permit
- ✓Residence Permit or Work Permit
- ✓Certificate of Change of Residence – obtained from city hall or police station at origin
- ✓“Attestation Reservation de cale”
- ✓“Bordereau de Verification” – copy, needed to prepare the Transit Declaration; obtained from Malian Shippers Council
- ✓Electronic Cargo Tracking Note (ECTN) – approved by the Malian Shippers Council
- ✓Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – rated original, Express Release allowed incurring 100.00 EUR fee
- ✓Comprehensive Valued Inventory – in French or English only, dated & signed by owner ✓Pack list – in French or English only
- ✓Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓Letter from Employer –attesting to client's employment contract
- ✓International Vaccination Certificate – proof of yellow fever inoculation

### **Diplomat Status:**

Foreign diplomats, members of government or international organizations are granted tax and 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 status from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### **Required Documents:**

- ✓Diplomatic Franchise
- ✓Passport - copy, showing valid entry permit
- ✓Comprehensive inventory –dated & signed by owner
- ✓Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance

- ✓Books, films, videos, photographs and other media are subject to censorship and will be confiscated if found to be contrary to local customs
- ✓Appliances/Electronics/Furniture – must be over 6 months old and have invoices/receipts
- ✓Prescription medications – require a health certificate
- ✓Firearms & ammunition - requires an import permit from the Services Economiques and gun license issued by the “Commandant de Cercle” in Bamako
- ✓New items – (less than 6 months) subject to duties, tax of 45% of value
- ✓New computers – (less than 6 months) subject to duties, tax of 65% of value
- ✓Tobacco – 1000 cigarettes or 250 kgs of loose tobacco, in excess of these amounts incurs duty

- ✓Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind
- ✓Pharmaceuticals & medication
- ✓Pornography and subversive material
- ✓Explosives, ammunitions and weapons unless otherwise approved
- ✓Alcohol – must be sent separately, only “fond de cave” is allowed (30 bottles max)

### **Required Documents:**

- ✓Certificate of Vaccination – including rabies, less than 6 months prior to arrival
- ✓Health Certificate - issued no more than 3 days prior to arrival by a veterinarian at origin

Vehicles are subject to high import taxes. Amount to be paid depends on value, model, year, cubic centimeters and accessories. Duty rates on vehicles are as follows:

If the motor vehicle is new, tax is 44% of the value of the vehicle (Argus value) + EUR 40.00 / year. If the car is 10 years old, taxes will be 44% of the Argus value + 10 x 40 = EUR 400.00.

There is no tax if the client is a diplomat

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 – stating value ✓Non Sale Certificate
- ✓Drivers License & International Insurance Policy (green card)
- ✓OBL

#### **NOTES:**

**Entry & Exit Requirements:** Proof of yellow fever vaccination is a requirement of entry. Those entering without proof will be re-immunized on the spot as a condition of entry into the country. U.S. citizens are encouraged to carry a copy of their passport with them at all times, so that proof of identity and citizenship

are readily available in the event of questioning by local authorities. If arrested, U.S. citizens should always politely insist that they be allowed to contact the U.S. Embassy.

**Safety & Security:** The terrorist group Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) continues to use northern Mali as an active area of operations as well as a safe haven, notably for detaining hostages. The U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Embassy in Bamako strongly caution U.S. citizens against traveling to northern regions of Mali. AQIM has declared its intention to attack Western targets throughout the Sahel (including Mali, Mauritania, and Niger), and has claimed responsibility for many kidnappings and other violent events. The Department of State further notes that the U.S. Embassy in Bamako has designated the three northern regions of Mali as "restricted without prior authorization" for purposes of travel by U.S. government employees, contractors, grantees, and their dependents. Prior to traveling to these areas, U.S. government employees are required to have the written approval of the U.S. Ambassador to Mali. Though this restriction does not apply to private U.S. citizens, it should be taken into account by all U.S. citizens contemplating travel to Mali.

**Crime:** Petty crimes, such as pick pocketing and simple theft, are common in urban areas. There has been a recent increase in violent criminal activity in Bamako. Sporadic banditry and random carjacking have historically plagued Mali's vast northern desert region and its borders with Mauritania and Niger. While banditry does not target U.S. citizens specifically, such acts of violence cannot be predicted.

U.S. citizens traveling or living in Mali are strongly encouraged to enroll in the Smart Traveler program to allow e-mail notification and/or text message updates should further attacks occur.

US citizens are encouraged to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program, to be able to keep you up to date with the latest safety and security announcements dispersed by the Embassy in your area. Your enrollment can also



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help the Department of State reach your family and friends in case of emergency.

**Special Circumstances:** Mali is a signatory to the Treaty on Cultural Property, which restricts exportation of Malian archeological objects, in particular those from the Niger River Valley. It is advisable to contact the Embassy of Mali in Washington or the nearest Malian consulate for specific information regarding customs requirements prior to exporting any native items. U.S. Customs and Border Protection may impose corresponding import restrictions in accordance with the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act. Taking a photograph without permission in any public area, around any government listed facilities or of individuals often provokes a prompt response from security personnel or may offend the people being photographed. Taking photos of the U.S. Embassy in Bamako is prohibited

**Health:** Yellow fever vaccination is required. Cholera is a serious risk and pre-cautions are essentials. Immunization against polio and typhoid is often recommended. Malaria exists year round throughout the country. Hepatitis A, B and E are all widespread. Meningococcal meningitis occurs in the savannah areas particularly during the dry season.

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

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:**

AGS Frasers: Bamako, Mali

Embassy of Mali: <http://www.maliembassy.us/>

Department of State: [http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_962.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_962.html)

STEP: [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#).

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