



Importing Personal Property Into Tanzania

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Customs Regulations:

Client must be in Tanzania at the time of Customs clearance, but not required to be present. All shipments are at least partially inspected. 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. The goods must be imported within six months of arrival.

Taxes/duties for new personal effects is 20 -25% +VAT of the value assessed by Customs. Food, alcohol, medicines and vitamins are not considered as personal effects and are will be taxed heavily. A special import permit may be required for some of the items. Any dutiable or taxable items will hinder the clearance process. Port storage charges and demurrages will apply and be invoiced to the shipper /agent.

Returning Nationals: must present their original passport that shows their duration of expatriation abroad.

*All markings must correspond exactly to documents, to avoid delay and extra charges.

****A new Customs System is being implemented called Pre-Arrival Documentation (PAD).**

This system is not fully operational; as a result clearance time has increased to 4 weeks (including air shipments) resulting in storage and demurrage charges. To minimize charges the destination Agent can start the process prior to arrival of the shipment with copies of the below documents:

AWB with AWB number, copies of the C-41 form, TIN/EIN certificate and pack list.

NOTE: The Tanzanian Surface and Marine Transport Regulatory Authority (SUMATRA) has implemented new regulations for wood items. Upon export from Tanzania duties will be incurred on all wood items based on weight, whether imported from outside Tanzania or purchased while in Tanzania. I complete list of wood items, weight and where acquired must be attached to the inventory. This includes, all wood furniture, statues, chests, etc.

Required Documents:

- ✓Passport - original & International Health Certificate
- ✓Residence Visa & Immigration Permit
- ✓Work Permit- original
- ✓Certificate of Change of Residence – obtained from city hall or police station at origin
- ✓“Attestation Reservation de cale”
- ✓C-41 Form – signed by client
- ✓Bill of Lading/Air Waybill – original, Express Release not allowed ✓Comprehensive Valued Inventory – in English, 3 copies, dated & signed by owner ✓Pack list
- ✓Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
- ✓Customs Declaration

Diplomat Status:

Foreign diplomats and members of government are granted duty free entry of their personal effects and household goods. Taxes/Duties apply on shipments imported by NGOs or by companies if they do not qualify for exemption. Wharfage tax of **1.6%** applies on diplomatic shipments and is based on the Custom Valued declared on the PRO-6.

Note that the validity of the PRO-6 lasts from 2 to 3 weeks. One is advised to hold the shipment at origin if the transit time is shorter. Otherwise, if the shipment arrives before securing the PRO-6 form port storage charges and demurrages will apply.

Required Documents:

- ✓ PRO-6 – obtained from Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 - ✓ Diplomatic Passport - original
 - ✓ Comprehensive inventory – in English, dated & signed by owner
 - ✓ Power of Attorney – giving authority for Destination Agent to arrange customs clearance
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- ✓ Appliances/Electronics – must have invoices/receipts to indicate older than 6 months old
 - ✓ New Appliances/Electronics & Furniture – subject to tax and duties of up to 25% + VAT
 - ✓ Personal computers – not considered HHG thus subject to tax and duties
 - ✓ Audio, video & photographic equipment
 - ✓ New musical instruments – subject to tax and duties
 - ✓ Cosmetics, toiletries & perfumes
 - ✓ Bicycles, fabrics & provisions
 - ✓ Firearms & ammunition- requires a permit from local Mozambican police
 - ✓ New items – (less than 6 months) must have receipts, incur tax and duties of up to 25% + VAT
 - ✓ Tobacco – 200 cigarettes or 250 grams of loose tobacco, in excess of these amounts incurs duty
 - ✓ Food & beverages - incur tax and duties between 50 - 100% ; requires a Health Certificate
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- ✓ Narcotics/illegal drugs of any kind, medicines
 - ✓ Pornography and subversive material
 - ✓ Firearms, explosives, ammunitions and other weapons including toy replicas
 - ✓ Alcohol – prohibited, must be sent separately
 - ✓ Telecommunication devices
 - ✓ Gambling equipment & telecommunications equipment
 - ✓ Currency and securities
 - ✓ Insect, beeswax & condensed milk
 - ✓ Plants, seeds, seedlings, bulbs & grains
 - ✓ Birds, fish, animal trophies, including skins & ivory
 - ✓ Unwrought precious metals & stones

Required Documents:

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

The OBL must show Chassis Number, Engine number, Cubic Capacity, year of manufacture, brand and model. The vehicle must have been owned and used by the shipper for at least 12 months in the country of origin. The vehicle must be under the name of the client. Left hand vehicles are prohibited

Port storage charges and demurrages will apply: \$650USD for a 20 feet container to \$1,350USD for a 40 feet container and more.

Required Documents:

- ✓Certificate of Title and Registration - must be original
- ✓Commercial/Purchase Invoice –original or copy
- ✓Drivers License & International Insurance Policy (green card)
- ✓OBL
- ✓PRO-6 – for diplomats
- ✓Interpol Certificate - if vehicle is coming from another African country
- ✓Exemption Certificate – applies to certain NGO's and missions

NOTES:

Entry & Exit Requirements: U.S. passports should be valid for a minimum of six months beyond the date the visa is obtained. Tanzanian law is very strict on visa categories. A recurring problem encountered by U.S. citizens in Tanzania for volunteering purposes. U.S. citizens who are traveling to Tanzania for short or long term volunteer projects should review their status with the sponsoring organization before entering the country. U.S. citizens should carry a copy of their U.S. passport with them at all times, so that, if questioned by local officials, they have readily available proof of identity and U.S. citizenship. U.S. citizens resident in Tanzania are strongly urged to maintain legal immigration status while in Tanzania to avoid difficulties with local immigration authorities.

Safety & Security: Terrorist incidents in the recent past highlight the continuing threat posed by terrorism in East Africa. In response to the recent bus bombing in Nairobi, Kenya, the Tanzanian Police issued a general terror alert on December 22, 2010. U.S. citizens are advised to dress modestly and to refrain from intemperate public behavior. U.S. officials, in keeping with UN security procedures, request police escorts on parts of the Rusomo to Kahama road near the Rwandan border because of an increase in armed bandit attacks. U.S. citizens on long-haul bus routes in Tanzania have been victims of “druggings” in which drug-laced food and drink are used to sedate unsuspecting passengers so their belongings can be stolen easily. Travelers are cautioned not to accept food or beverages from fellow passengers.

Crime: Street crime in Dar es Salaam is common and includes mugging, vehicle theft, "smash and grab" attacks on vehicles, armed robbery, and burglary. Thieves and pickpockets on buses and trains steal from inattentive passengers. Pedestrians on beaches and footpaths, both in isolated areas and in popular tourist venues, are often targeted for robbery or assault. US government personnel are expressly advised to avoid



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walking or running along Tourè Drive.

Health: Yellow fever vaccination is encouraged or required of one had visited a country where yellow fever is present. Cholera is a serious risk and pre-cautions are essentials. Immunization against polio and typhoid is often recommended. Malaria exits year round particularly in the Northern region. Hepatitis A, B and E are present. Meningococcal meningitis may occur. There is a high level of HIV/AIDs reported; thus one should take all necessary precautions. Rabies is present and vaccination should be considered.

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

AGS Frasers: Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Embassy of Tanzania: <http://www.tanzaniaembassy-us.org/index.html>

Department of State: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1038.html

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

USDA: www.aphis.usda.gov

The information presented herein his 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.