

MALAWI

This guide is compiled from the FIDI Customs Guide for reference only. Customs regulations change frequently; please consult your Seapoe relocation consultant for the latest requirements before shipping.

Updated 2024

Diplomats removals – New resident

Documents Required

- Copy of passport showing their nationality and date of arrival.
- Copy of diplomatic card from the organization and its colour are required by Customs.
- Notification of arrival issued by the Treasury department.
- Inventory with serial numbers for electrical appliances.
- Bill of Lading or Airway bill.
- Duty waiver.

Customs Prescriptions

- The consignee must have arrived in the country before the goods arrive. He/she will be required to be physically present at customs to sign for duty free forms.

Remarks

- Goods must be imported within six months after the returning resident's time of arrival or after the time the work or resident permit has been granted to an immigrant.
- Goods must have been used for more than six months.
- New furniture and household goods are dutiable and invoices are required.
- Non-household items e.g. building materials are dutiable.
- Alcoholic beverages may be imported up to a maximum of 5 litres of which not more than 2 litres may be spirits. Otherwise duty is payable.
- The Consignee should be same as the Consignor.

Non-Diplomats removals – New resident

Documents Required

- Copy of passport showing their nationality and date of arrival.
- Resident/Temporary Employment Permit.
- Letter of employment from the employer.
- Inventory with serial numbers for electrical appliances.
- Bill of Lading or Airway bill.
- Duty waiver.

Customs Prescriptions

- The consignee must have arrived in the country before the goods arrive. He/she will be required to be physically present at customs to sign for duty free forms.

Remarks

- Goods must be imported within six months after the returning resident's time of arrival or after the time the work or resident permit has been granted to an immigrant.
- Goods must have been used for more than six months.

- The consignee should be same as the Consignor.
- New furniture and household goods are dutiable and invoices are required.
- Non-household items e.g. Building materials are dutiable.
- Alcoholic beverages may be imported up to
- a maximum of 1 litre. For the excess, duties and taxes will be applied.

Returning Residents

Documents Required

- Copy of passport showing the nationality.
- Proof from passport that they have been out of the country for more than one year.
- Inventory with serial numbers for electrical appliances.
- Bill of Lading or Airway bill.
- Duty waiver.
- The following documents are required for returning residents after an absence of less than one year; they will be paying duty:
 - Copy of passport showing their nationality.
 - Invoice/receipts of goods being imported.
 - Certificate of origin.
 - Bill of lading or airway bill.
 - Inventory /packing list for the goods.

Customs Prescriptions

- The consignee must have arrived in the country before the goods arrive. He/she will be required to be physically present at customs to sign for duty free forms.

Remarks

- The consignee should be same as the Consignor.
- Goods must be imported within six months after arrival or after Duty Waiver has been granted.
- Goods must have been used for more than six months.
- For returning residents who have been working / studying, proof of termination of employment / completion of studies is required.
- Returning Malawi Diplomats: obtain letter from Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- New furniture and household goods are dutiable and invoices are required.
- Non-household items e.g. building materials are dutiable.
- Alcoholic beverages may be imported up to a maximum of 5 litres of which not more than 2 litres may be spirits. Otherwise duty is payable

Deceased Estate

Documents Required

- Certified copy of the will
- Statement of the value of the goods by the executor of the estate.
- Written undertaking not to sell or dispose of the goods by the executor of the estate.
- Copy of the death certificate.
- Inventory list.
- Bill of lading or airway Bill.

Customs Prescriptions

- Duty-free.

Remarks

- These documents are required for estates from the deceased (goods forwarded to beneficiaries in Malawi not for sale).

Prohibited/Restricted Articles

Customs Prescriptions

- Prohibited:
 - Drugs, narcotics
 - Pornographic materials
 - Offensive weapons
 - Forged documents
 - Counterfeit money
- Restricted:
 - Firearms may be imported with a special permit from the Ministry of Home Affairs.
 - Citrus fruits, seeds, and deciduous plants may not be imported unless an import licence has been obtained in advance from the competent agricultural authorities.

Remarks

Customs Prescriptions

- Duties are required to be paid on office equipment e.g. computers, cash registers and telefax machines.
- Duty is assessed according to the value including freight of the item.

Remarks

- The best port into Malawi is Beira but shipment should be through 'Bill of Lading' to arrival Blantyre or Lilongwe Terminals.
- Major Shipping lines operating in Malawi are Mediterranean Shipping line, CMA-CGM and Maersk
- The best Airports of entry into Malawi are through Kamuzu International Airport (LLW) or Chileka International Airport (BLZ).
- Major airlines operating in Malawi are Air Malawi, South Africa Airways, Kenya Airways and Ethiopian Airlines.
- Shipments are cleared within three days from the time of shipment arrival in either Blantyre or Lilongwe.
- Customs officials may demand physical examination on household effects.