

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

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 2025

Household goods

Documents Required

- Valid passport.
- Work permit (non-resident).
- Inventory.
- Tax ID.
- Original B/L or express release.
- Import Licence for refrigerator, freezer, air condition unit and motor vehicle to importation (to be obtained from Ministry of Trade & Industry).
- Importer Registration Number.
- Two passport pictures.
- Travel pattern from Immigration Dept Trinidad & Tobago (resident).
- Affidavit from local Commissioner of Affidavit (resident).
- Proof of address: Lease Agreement with ID copies of all signatories to the lease (nonresident) / Utility bill (resident).

Customs Prescriptions

- A customer interview is required, followed by customs examination at the container examination station situated at the ports.
- Shipper's presence is needed at the customs interview and examination.
- Used household goods and personal effects can be imported duty-free, provided the items are used and in possession for at least one year.
- Returning nationals must provide supporting evidence for the time lived overseas, such as: Payslips, Rental/Lease agreements, work visas, employment letters, Tax return, Letter from Landlord, etc.

Remarks

- Shipper needs to be present for Customs interview and examination.
- For shipments to Tobago it is recommended that the port of Spain should be the port of entry.
- The bill of Lading must include final destination Tobago.
- Shipper must contact agent to apply for Importer Registration Number before the shipment arrives.

Diplomatic removals

Documents Required

- Bill of Lading.
- Inventory.

Remarks

- Documents are required prior to arrival of the shipment so diplomatic agencies can apply for the exemption certificate required for customs clearance.

Used motor vehicles and motorcycles

Documents Required

- To benefit from the tax concessions, the returning national must provide:
- Proof of residence aboard, e.g. passport, employment records.
- Proof of ownership of vehicle, e.g. registration certificate, insurance certification of vehicle in country aboard, purchase bill of sale and/or official certificate of title.
- Affidavit sworn before a local Commissioner.
- Two (2) passport size photos.

Customs Prescriptions

- Returning nationals importing left hand drive vehicles should reside abroad for a period of five years or more and must own the vehicle for at least six (6) months prior to shipping. Vehicles are allowed entry by qualified returning national and diplomats only.
- Right hand drive, returning nationals importing vehicles should reside abroad for a period of one year or more and must own the vehicle for at least three (3) months prior to shipping. The vehicle should not be more than four (4) years old.
- Returning Nationals who resided aboard for a continuous period of at least five (5) years immediately prior to his return, and intends to reside in Trinidad & Tobago permanently, would qualify for a 100% relief from Customs Duty and Motor Vehicle Tax only. Full VAT is applicable. Failing that full duty and taxes are applicable.
- With regards to household effects a full relief of duty and tax on household items to the amount of TT\$250,000.00.

Remarks

- Persons importing vehicles should reside abroad for a period of five years or more and must own the vehicle for the last six months prior to shipping.
- The vehicle should not be more than four (4) years old. Left hand drive vehicles are allowed entry by qualified returning nationals and diplomats only.

Prohibited Articles

Customs Prescriptions

- Firearms and Ammunition.
- Narcotics

Fumigation of Imported and Exported Wooden Crates

Customs Prescriptions

- The government has been established the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures - NIMF N° 15, with the purpose of almost eliminating in its totality the risk of entrance of most of pests that are in quarantine and considerably reducing the risk of other pests.
- The phytosanitary measure approved for the treatment of wood packing should be treated as follows: a) Heat Treatment (HT) to a minimum wood core temperature of 56°C for a minimum of 30 minutes, or b) Fumigation with Methyl Bromide (MT). The minimum temperature should not be less than 10°C and the minimum exposure time should be 16 hours.
- The wood packing material must be marked in a visible location on each article, on at least

two opposite sides of the article, with a legible and permanent mark.

- The mark can be painted with permanent black painting.
- The colours red and orange do not have to be used as colour of the mark.
- Labels or adhesive are not allowed.
- The approved format for the mark is as follows, where XX would be replaced by the country code, 000 by the producer number, YY by the treatment type (HT or MB) and AAA by the inspection agency logo.
- The treatments established in the present regulation that have the intention to reduce the introduction and/or dissemination of
- quarantine plagues associated to the wood packing.

Remarks

- This regulation DOES NOT apply to the wood packing materials manufactured of:
- Raw wood of 6mm thickness or less.
- Processed wood produced by glue, heat
- and pressure, or a combination thereof.