

# Argentina

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

Updated 2026-09-05

## Documents

Documents required for importing used household goods, personal effects, and related shipments.

### For Returning Argentine Citizens

- Complete copies of passport including blank pages, certified by public notary and legalised by the Argentine Public Notaries Association
- Complete copies of Argentine ID (DNI), certified by public notary and legalised by Argentine Public Notaries Association
- Argentine ID (DNI) updated with current address in Argentina
- Certificate of Migratory Movements (must show entries and departures for the previous 24 months; obtainable at <https://www.migraciones.gov.ar/transitos/> — TLS certificate issue as of June 2026, verify in browser)
- Clave Unica de Identificacion Laboral (CUIL) certificate / Argentine Tax ID
- Residence Certificate issued by the Argentine Consulate at origin, certified in Argentina by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)
- Bill of lading (OBL) / air waybill (AWB) / CRT
- Typed packing list in Spanish (handwritten lists are not accepted; must be a detailed inventory)
- Letter authorising the moving company to perform import clearance on the shipper's behalf, with signature certified by public notary and legalised (the moving company can provide the form locally)
- Import permit for artwork, if applicable (declaration of all pieces in a special form with photographs, filed online at the Secretaria de Cultura prior to customs clearance)

### For Foreigners Holding a Temporary Visa (Non-Tourist)

- All of the above, plus:
- Copy of Visa or Residencia Precaria (temporary visa) if DNI is unavailable
- Insurance bond (Poliza de Caucion) issued by a local insurance company

### For Diplomats

- Diplomatic franchise from the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Full copy of passport
- Bill of lading (OBL) / AWB / CRT
- Typed packing list in Spanish
- Letter authorising the moving company (with certified/legalised signature)
- Import permit for artwork, if applicable

## Specific Information

Passport declaration requirement: Owners must declare to customs officers upon entry that a shipment is expected. A stamp ("Manifiesta Esperar Equipaje No Acompañado") must be placed

in the passport. Diplomats are excluded from this requirement.

**Origin of move:** The origin of the move must be the last place of residence of the owner. If the passport was issued within the last 12 months, the previous passport must also be presented. For multiple citizenships, all passports must be presented.

**Shipment arrival deadline:** Shipments must arrive within 6 months of the owner's stamped date of entry into Argentina.

**Owner presence:** The shipper should be in Argentina at the time of shipment arrival. Customs may require the owner to be present for physical inspection.

**Document submission deadline:** Documents must be received by the agent at least 7 days or 48 hours prior to the arrival of the shipment. Use the more conservative 7-day lead time.

**Tourist visas:** Shipments of foreigners holding a tourist visa cannot be imported.

**Temporary visa holders — bond/guarantee system:** Foreigners with a temporary resident visa must import under temporary admission. The items must be bonded (guaranteed) for the duration of the visa. The bond must be renewed before the expiration date. The goods are guaranteed by a local insurance company through a Poliza de Caucion (insurance bond). If the visa is not renewed by the guarantee's expiration, the goods must be re-exported. If a permanent residence visa is later obtained, the goods are "nationalised" and the guarantee is cancelled without paying taxes or duties. The bond system applies for all moves arriving by sea, land, or air.

**Physical inspection:** All shipments are subject to physical inspection (diplomats may be inspected only under special customs requirement). Since mid-2016, mandatory anti-narcotics dog team inspections apply to all import and export shipments. Clearance depends on the availability of these dog brigades.

**Physical inspection handling charges (non-diplomatic):**

- LCL: USD 600
- 20ft container: USD 800
- 40ft container: USD 1,000
- 40HC container: USD 1,200

**Translation requirements:** All documents not written in Spanish must be translated by an official translator and certified by the Colegio Argentino de Traductores. All documents must be certified and legalised by the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**Artwork:** Requires an import permit. A declaration of all pieces in a special form must be filed, with photographs submitted online to the Secretaria de Cultura prior to customs clearance.

## Duties & Taxes

---

**Duty-free conditions — lived abroad more than 1 year:** If the owner has lived abroad for more than 12 months and has not re-entered Argentina for more than 60 cumulative days during the 12 months prior to re-entry, the shipment can be imported duty-free. One duty-free shipment is allowed every 3 years (for Argentine citizens and foreigners with a permanent visa).

**Duty-free conditions — lived abroad more than 2 years:** If the owner has lived abroad for more than 2 years, the shipment can be imported duty-free. Customs will not count how many days the owner accumulated in Argentina during the 12 months prior to re-entry. One duty-free shipment is allowed every 7 years (for Argentine citizens and foreigners with a permanent visa).

## Prohibited & Restricted Items

---

### Prohibited Items

- Items compromising public, animal, and agricultural health — Prohibited
- Organic products (soil, firewood, wood, animal parts, dried insects) — Prohibited
- Narcotics and illegal drugs — Strictly prohibited
- Pornographic material — Prohibited

- Dangerous, toxic, or flammable items — Prohibited
- Stolen or smuggled items — Prohibited
- Currency (actual or counterfeit) — Prohibited in shipments
- Food — Prohibited in household goods shipments
- Alcoholic beverages — Prohibited beyond the allowed limits (see Restricted Items)
- Spare parts or parts of any vehicle — Prohibited in household goods
- Items with internal combustion or outboard engines — Prohibited in household goods
- Hoverboards — Prohibited
- Items not considered part of a move by Argentine Customs — Prohibited
- Meat or meat products — Prohibited
- Milk and dairy products — Prohibited
- Fresh fruit and vegetables — Prohibited
- Trees, plants, and plant products — Prohibited
- New computers — Prohibited (per VisaHQ; confirm with agent)
- New colour TVs — Prohibited (per VisaHQ; confirm with agent)
- Counterfeit goods — Prohibited

## Restricted / Dutiable Items

### Duty-Free Traveller Allowances

From neighbouring countries (Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Chile, Bolivia):

- 1 litre of alcoholic beverages
- 200 cigarettes and 25 cigars
- 2kg of food products

From all other countries:

- 2 litres of alcoholic beverages
- 400 cigarettes and 50 cigars
- 5kg of food

### Restricted Items

- Alcoholic beverages within shipments: Up to 30 litres of wine plus up to 30 litres of any other alcohol may be included. Sealed bottles are subject to duty payment. For foreign diplomats, alcohol is allowed up to the annual limit imposed by the MFA and the Embassy's own limit.
- Archaeological or palaeontological patrimony (fossils, human remains, geological collections and sediment) — Once admitted, export is not permitted
- Works of art and monuments of recent antiquity PERMIT REQUIRED — Authorisation required; import permit and photographs must be filed with the Secretaria de Cultura
- Original paintings and works of art — Specialised form required; check with agent
- Wood and wood items — Must be treated specifically for pests (ISPM 15 or equivalent)
- Weapons PERMIT REQUIRED — Must be declared and authorised by the Registro Nacional de Armas (RENAR)
- Items considered commercial — Determined by quantity, quality, or type; subject to duties
- Hoverboards — Prohibited in shipments

### Trade Regime Changes (Milei Administration)

As of April 2025, Argentina has fully eliminated its import licensing system (SEDI). The former SIRA regime was replaced by SEDI in December 2023, and SEDI was itself eliminated in February 2025 via ARCA General Resolution No. 5651/2025. The PAIS tax on foreign currency transactions was also eliminated in December 2024. These changes generally liberalise trade but primarily affect commercial imports; household goods import procedures remain largely unchanged.

## Consignment Instructions

---

Recommended: Contact the destination agent to ensure all requirements have been met prior to import, especially for differences regarding air / sea / land shipments.

Inventory requirements: A typed packing list in Spanish is required. Handwritten lists are not accepted. Must be a detailed inventory.

Translation and legalisation: All documents not in Spanish must be translated by an official translator and certified by the Colegio Argentino de Traductores. All documents must be certified and legalised by the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Inspection: All shipments subject to physical inspection. Mandatory anti-narcotics dog team inspections since mid-2016. Clearance depends on dog brigade availability. Inspection handling charges of USD 600–1,200 apply for non-diplomatic shipments.

Owner presence: The shipper should be in Argentina at the time of shipment arrival. Customs may require the owner to be present for physical inspection.

Fines for late documentation: Fines apply if shipping documents are not presented for customs clearance within 15 days of shipment arrival.

Routing / port of entry: Buenos Aires is the primary port of entry (Puerto Nuevo / Dock Sud for sea freight; Ezeiza International Airport for air freight). Land crossings from neighbouring countries are also used.

Bill of lading requirements: The consignee's CUIT number (unique tax identification code) must appear on all bills of lading. If the party to be notified differs from the consignee, their CUIT must also be provided. If the individual is not a resident and has no tax ID, the passport number must be used. Cargo will be blocked if this information is missing.

ARCA (formerly AFIP): In 2024, the Argentine Revenue Service Agency (AFIP) was replaced by ARCA (Customs Collection and Control Agency) under Decree 953/2024. The customs bureau (DGA) operates under ARCA.

Currency: The Argentine peso (ARS) is the official currency. The economy has experienced significant inflation and currency controls. Cash is required for many services. Credit cards are accepted in urban areas.

## Regulatory Updates

---

- February 2025: Argentina eliminated the SEDI import licensing system entirely (ARCA General Resolution No. 5651/2025), further liberalising trade.
- December 2024: PAIS tax on foreign currency transactions eliminated.
- 2024: AFIP replaced by ARCA (Agencia de Recaudacion y Control Aduanero) under Decree 953/2024. The customs bureau (DGA) now operates under ARCA.
- July 2025: Presidential Decree 513/2025 updated tariffs and the Common External Tariff (AEC) under Mercosur, effective July 30, 2025. Simplified regime for importing historic and collector vehicles.
- 2016–present: Mandatory anti-narcotics dog team inspections on all import/export moves in Buenos Aires.