

Aruba

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.

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Documents

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

Required Documents

- Certificate from last place of residence confirming the applicant lived there for at least 6 months prior to the move (1 year if importing a motor vehicle, boat, or airplane and seeking duty exemption)
- Completed customs form (provided by the destination agent)
- Certificate of residence in Aruba
- Original invoices for all new items
- Bill of lading (OBL) / air waybill (AWB)
- Inventory list
- Copy of passport
- Certificate of registration (title) of any motorised vehicles
- Insurance certificate of insured period of vehicle with start and termination date (if importing a vehicle)

Specific Information

Residence permit prerequisite: Prior to moving, the shipper must ensure that a residence permit will be granted. Without a valid residence permit, the duty-free exemption cannot be applied.

Ownership duration: The applicant must have been in possession of the goods for at least 6 months prior to arrival in Aruba. For motor vehicles, boats, and airplanes, the ownership and use period must be at least 6 months prior to the shipping date to obtain exemption.

Personal appearance required: The applicant must appear personally at the destination agent's office immediately upon arrival in Aruba to sign the necessary customs forms. The client must be on the island during the entire customs clearance procedure.

Original documents: Original documents are needed for customs clearance. Copies may be sent by fax or email to start the process, with originals sent by courier service.

Traveller duty-free allowances (per Departamento di Aduana): For goods brought in personal luggage, a maximum value of Afl. 900 per person is exempt from duty. Goods must be personal and not intended for trade.

Customs declaration system: Aruba uses the ASYCUDA World system for written declarations.

Duties & Taxes

Duty-free conditions: Confirmed by the Aruba government (gobierno.aw), immigrants moving to Aruba with the intention of establishing residence may import household goods and personal effects duty-free, provided the goods were owned and used by the applicant in their former

country of residence. Vehicles, motorcycles, and pets are also included in the duty-free exemption.

Import duties (non-exempt goods): Per the Government of Aruba, import duties for basic goods range from 0% to 12%. Luxury goods are subject to higher rates. Raw materials for manufacturing are duty-free. Alcohol, tobacco, and products thereof are subject to excise duties in addition to import duties.

Prohibited & Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

- Drugs and narcotics — Strictly prohibited; customs checks flights from known risk areas
- Firearms, explosives, and ammunition without licence — Prohibited
- Counterfeit currency and goods — Prohibited
- Endangered species and their products CITES — Prohibited without CITES permit (conch shells, sea turtles, parrots, iguanas, sea stars, coral)
- Pets from high-rabies-risk countries — Prohibited
- Pets from South and Central America — Prohibited unless part of household effects with Veterinary Service approval

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Duty-Free Traveller Allowances

Per the Departamento di Aduana, the following may be brought to Aruba in personal luggage without duty:

- Personal goods up to a maximum value of Afl. 900 (approximately USD 500) per person
- Goods must be for personal use, not for trade

Restricted Items (per Departamento di Aduana — douane.aw)

- Meat and meat products PERMIT REQUIRED — Must be declared and presented to the Veterinary Service with health certificates, invoice, and cargo bill. Only from approved slaughterhouses in approved countries. 5% import quality fee on customs value.
- Plants PERMIT REQUIRED — Must be declared with health certificates and related documentation.
- Telecommunications equipment PERMIT REQUIRED — Import licence required from the Department of Telecommunications Business. Exceptions: household phones (not wireless), modems (not wireless), and fax machines do not require a licence.
- Medicines PERMIT REQUIRED — Licence from the Inspection for Medicinal Products required. Carry a medical passport or doctor's note for personal medications.
- Firearms and ammunition PERMIT REQUIRED — Import, export, and transit prohibited unless licensed.
- Precious jewellery, cameras, laptops — Customs may request proof of prior ownership (receipts, guarantee certificates) for luxury/expensive items.

ISPM 15 (Wood Packaging)

Shipments in wood packing material must have a seal certifying required treatment: either Heat Treatment (HT — minimum wood core temperature of 56°C for minimum 30 minutes) or Methyl Bromide Treatment (minimum temperature 10°C, minimum exposure 16 hours). The mark must be in a visible location on each article, on at least two opposite sides, in black ink (labels and adhesives are not allowed). The mark must show: country code, producer number, treatment type, and inspection agency logo.

Consignment Instructions

Recommended: Contact the destination agent to ensure all requirements have been met prior

to import, especially for differences regarding air / sea shipments.

Personal appearance: The owner must appear personally at the destination agent's office immediately upon arrival and must be on the island during the entire customs procedure. This is a strict requirement.

Original documents: Required for clearance. Send copies in advance to start the process; originals must follow by courier.

Routing / port of entry: Aruba is a small Caribbean island approximately 15 miles north of Venezuela. Queen Beatrix International Airport (Oranjestad) for air freight. Barcadera port for sea freight. Aruba has direct flights from the US, Europe, and the Caribbean.

Currency: The Aruban florin (AWG/Afl.) is the official currency. Exchange rate: approximately Afl. 1.80 = USD 1.00. US dollars are widely accepted. Cash declarations required for amounts exceeding USD 10,000 or equivalent.

Kingdom of the Netherlands: Aruba is a constituent country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, with its own customs authority (Departamento di Aduana). It is NOT part of the European Union and EU customs rules do not apply. Aruba has its own import duty structure separate from the Netherlands and the other Dutch Caribbean islands (Bonaire, Curacao, Sint Maarten).

Regulatory Updates

- August 2025: The customs procedure for digital submission of objections to customs decisions went into effect.
- 2023: ISPM 15 requirements and pet import details updated.
- Ongoing: The Veterinary Service continues to update pet import requirements; the electronic pre-notification system (email PDF documents to vetservice@dvg.aw) is the current standard process.