Country Guide (IAM)

Azerbaijan

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

- Copy of passport with valid visa
- Bill of lading (OBL) / air waybill (AWB)
- Detailed valued inventory (separate valid inventory lists required for different categories of goods)
- Customs/shipping invoice describing main items (strictly required)
- Packing list
- Letter of employment from the registered company in Azerbaijan
- Power of attorney (if applicable)

Specific Information

Electrical appliances: Expatriates may import electrical appliances duty- and tax-free on a temporary basis. All electronic and electrical appliances must be clearly marked on the packing list with serial numbers. Only customs procedure fees of 0.3% plus 18% VAT on that amount apply.

Consumable goods: Import of all consumable goods (clothing, cosmetics, foodstuff, beverages, etc.) is subject to full customs duties and VAT. These items are not eligible for the temporary import exemption.

Azerbaijani citizens: Citizens are NOT permitted to import household goods on a temporary basis. They are liable for full taxes and duties of approximately 36% of CIF value, unless they hold a duty exemption certificate.

Customs declarations: A separate customs declaration must be issued for each group of goods. Cost: USD 150 per main page and USD 100 per additional page. The number of declarations depends on the variety of goods in the shipment. This can add significant cost.

Valued inventory critical: A valued inventory is strictly required. Documents showing the true value of goods should not be sent with the shipment, as this may trigger reassessment. The customs/shipping invoice must describe the main items and include the CIF value.

Consignee presence: The consignee must be present at the destination and must have a valid visa.

Employment requirement: The consignee must be employed by a registered company in Azerbaijan.

Tariff rates: Azerbaijan simplified its tariff regime in 2018 to three rates: 0%, 5%, or 15%. Raw materials and machinery are generally 0%. Finished products and agricultural goods are typically 15%. VAT is 18%.

Duties & Taxes

Temporary import for expatriates (duty-free): Expatriates with a valid 12-month multiple-entry visa may import used household goods and personal effects duty- and tax-free on a temporary basis. The temporary import is valid until the visa expires. Only customs levy charges of 0.18%–0.30% of the invoice value apply. The temporary import declaration must be extended or the goods re-exported before the visa expires. Extension or renewal of temporary import is only allowed once. Customs may reject the temporary importation application.

Prohibited & Restricted Items

Prohibited Items

- Service and civilian weapons whose circulation is prohibited by law — Prohibited
- Military items and equipment — Prohibited
- Explosives — Prohibited
- Radioactive substances — Prohibited
- Narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, and their precursors — Strictly prohibited, including tools for their production
- Materials propagating immorality, violence, or terrorism — Prohibited
- Materials related to production of narcotics, psychotropic, poisonous, or explosive substances — Prohibited
- Right-hand drive vehicles — Prohibited
- Vehicles with tinted glass — Prohibited
- Pigeons — Prohibited

Restricted / Dutiable Items

Duty-Free Traveller Allowances (per State Customs Committee)

- 1.5 litres of alcoholic beverages
- 200 cigarettes
- 20 grams of gold jewellery
- 0.5 carat diamonds
- Up to 30 kg of various food products
- 2 goods of the same type per individual per month, with total customs value not exceeding USD 800

Restricted Items

- Precious jewellery, stones, and currency — May only be imported as accompanied baggage; must be declared
- Artwork, antiques, and artefacts — Must be registered with Customs prior to importation; registration must be checked by the Customs Committee before import is allowed
- Wine and spirits — Subject to restrictions beyond the 1.5L allowance
- Cash exceeding USD 10,000 — Must be declared; amounts up to USD 50,000 require a written declaration; amounts exceeding USD 50,000 are subject to additional controls
- Sturgeon and caviar for export — Up to 5 kg of sturgeon and 125 grams of caviar per person

Consignment Instructions

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

Inventory: A detailed valued inventory is strictly required. Separate inventory lists should be prepared for different categories of goods.

Customs declarations: Issued per group of goods at USD 150/main page + USD 100/additional page. The number of declarations varies based on the shipment contents. This cost structure means movers should consolidate similar items where possible.

Routing / port of entry: Baku is the primary entry point for both sea freight (via the Port of Baku / Alat International Sea Trade Port on the Caspian Sea) and air freight (Heydar Aliyev International Airport). Azerbaijan is landlocked from the perspective of ocean shipping — sea freight from outside the Caspian region must arrive overland (typically through Georgia) or by air.

Currency: Azerbaijani manat (AZN). Cash over USD 10,000 must be declared.

Temporary import monitoring: Goods imported on a temporary basis are tracked by customs. Failure to re-export before visa/declaration expiry results in full duties being assessed retroactively.

Regulatory Updates

- 2018: Azerbaijan simplified tariffs to three rates (0%, 5%, 15%), replacing a more complex regime.
- 2016: Higher tariffs imposed on certain imported goods to promote domestic production through import substitution.
- Ongoing: The State Customs Committee (customs.gov.az) maintains updated information for individuals including duty-free allowances.