

# Djibouti

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

Requirements differ by importer category:

#### For all importers (used personal effects)

- Copy of passport
- Detailed inventory, dated and signed, valued in EUR or USD

#### For new personal effects (additional)

- Original invoices less than 6 months old showing the destination address (handwritten invoices are rejected by customs)
- New personal effects form
- Tax-refund request form, dated and signed

#### For private individuals (additional)

- Certificate of change of residence
- Certification concerning prohibited and dangerous objects or items

#### For military personnel (additional)

- Transfer letter
- Certification concerning prohibited and dangerous items

### Additional documents also referenced by a prior baseline source

- Passport
- Visa
- Residency permit (if applicable)
- Evidence of yellow fever vaccination
- Original bill of lading (OBL) / sea waybill / air waybill (AWB)
- Packing list
- Letter of transfer / letter of employment
- Letter of change of residence (returning citizens)
- Diplomatic franchise (diplomats)

## Specific Information

Customs inspection: Local customs inspect imported shipments. The inventory must show a destination address.

Customs discretion: Customs officials make the final decision on the application of duties and taxes. This decision also depends on the client's ability to provide original purchase invoices.

Invoice requirements: Customs do not accept export sales slips, sales receipts, or purchase orders. Only original invoices are accepted for new items.

Separate inventories for new and used goods: If the move contains both used and new personal effects, submit one inventory for used items and a separate inventory for new items.

Visa note: Visas may be obtained after entering the country, but obtaining one prior to entry is strongly recommended. The time on the Djiboutian visa is the permitted stay duration without a residency permit. Overstaying incurs an exit tax of approximately USD 60.00 (generally added to airline ticket cost). All fees must be paid in cash.

Yellow fever vaccination: Evidence of yellow fever vaccination is required for entry.

Security considerations: Persons traveling to Djibouti are encouraged to research and consider travel warnings regarding safety and security.

## Duties & Taxes

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Duties and taxes on imported goods: Imported goods are liable for taxes and surcharges of 23% (calculated on the value of goods) plus 10% VAT. These taxes may apply to both new and used goods depending on the type of product and whether the goods are used in local business. For example, household products such as diapers, laundry powder, and soap are not considered used household goods and their import can lead to customs holds and extra charges.

## Prohibited & Restricted Items

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### Prohibited Items

The prohibited items list includes:

- Weapons and ammunition — strictly prohibited
- Drugs and narcotics — strictly prohibited
- Counterfeits — prohibited
- Drones — prohibited
- Cigarettes within shipments — prohibited (only traveler allowances permitted)
- Airsoft and paintball equipment — recently classified as dangerous; now prohibited
- Pornographic or subversive materials — prohibited
- Ivory — prohibited
- Ostrich eggs — prohibited
- Turtle shell — prohibited
- Coral — prohibited
- Shells — prohibited
- Stuffed animals — prohibited
- Animal skins — prohibited
- Any other species covered by the Washington Convention (CITES) CITES
- Knives and other deadly weapons — prohibited
- Photographic equipment — an older source notes this may lead to confiscation or arrest; confirm current status with destination agent

### Restricted / Dutiable Items

#### Traveler Allowances (17 years and older)

Per VisaHQ:

- 200 cigarettes, or 50 cigars, or 100 cigarillos, or 250g tobacco
- 1 litre of spirits over 22%, or 2 litres of alcoholic beverages up to 22%, or 2 litres of wine
- 50g perfume
- 250ml eau de toilette

## Alcohol

Alcohol import is not prohibited but is discouraged through prohibitive taxes: 33%-147% (depending on alcohol strength) plus 10% VAT. For wine and all other alcohol, a detailed and separate inventory from personal effects must be submitted.

## Restricted Items

- Cigarettes — prohibited within shipments; allowed only within traveler allowances
- Alcohol — not prohibited but subject to prohibitive taxes (33%-147% plus 10% VAT); requires separate detailed inventory
- Household products (washing powder, diapers, soap, etc.) — not considered used household goods; import can lead to customs holds and extra charges
- Medications — for personal use only

## Consignment Instructions

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

Customs inspection is standard: All imported shipments are inspected by local customs. Factor in additional time for clearance.

Inventory requirements: Inventories must be detailed, dated, signed, and valued in EUR or USD. The inventory must show a destination address. Separate inventories are required for new vs. used items, and for alcohol vs. personal effects.

Cash payments: All government fees must be paid in cash.

Handwritten invoices rejected: Original invoices for new items cannot be handwritten.

Household products caution: Items like laundry powder, diapers, and soap are not classified as household goods and will attract duties and potential customs holds. Advise customers not to include bulk quantities of consumable household products.

Port of entry: The Port of Djibouti is the country's primary port and one of the busiest in East Africa, serving as a major transit point for landlocked Ethiopia.

Military presence: Djibouti hosts several foreign military bases (U.S., French, Chinese, Japanese, Italian). Military personnel relocations are common and follow specific procedures with transfer letters.