

Algeria

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

For Foreign Citizens (Private Individuals / Expatriates)

For Returning Algerian Citizens

For Algerian Diplomats

For Foreign Diplomats

Specific Information

Inventory value limits: Duty and tax exemption for non-diplomatic shipments is only granted if the valued inventory is less than 20,000 EUR. For returning Algerian citizens, the combined CIF value of goods and vehicle must not exceed 3,000,000 DZD. For Algerian diplomats, the total inventory value must not exceed 2,000,000 DZD.

One shipment only: Only one shipment is authorised duty-free — maximum one sea and one air shipment.

Document language: All documents must be in French.

Consulate stamping: The Change of Residence certificate and the valued inventory must both be stamped by the Algerian Consulate in the country of origin. This is a critical requirement.

Customer presence: The owner must be present for customs purposes. The shipment will be physically inspected (except for ambassadors) and the client's presence or their proxy's is required.

Customs inspection: Customs authorities inspect all containers and parcels. The contents inspected must match the packing list and inventory. If goods are not listed on the inventory, customs will charge an Extra Legal Tax (TEL), the amount of which is at the customs officer's discretion, or the unlisted goods will be seized.

Customs tax: 2% of the total inventory value is charged as a customs processing tax.

Appliances and electronics: Only one item of each type is permitted duty-free. Invoices and receipts stating make, model, and serial numbers are required on the detailed inventory.

ISPM 15 (wood packaging): Confirm with the destination agent whether ISPM 15-compliant wood packaging is required.

Duties & Taxes

Duty-free conditions — Foreign citizens: Personal effects are admitted into Algeria under the Temporary Admission Regulations, not as a permanent duty-free import. Once obtained, temporary admission may be extended several times by the moving agent or clearing agent for a maximum of 3 years. After 3 years, the goods will be taxed as an import, at which point the client is no longer obliged to re-export. The extension of temporary admission is the client's responsibility. Failure to extend results in penalties. Imported household goods must be re-exported when the non-Algerian owner leaves the country, unless the 3-year period has expired

and duties have been paid.

Duty-free conditions — Returning Algerian citizens: To import personal effects, the Algerian citizen must have resided outside Algeria for at least 3 years. The dates on the consular card are used to determine eligibility. The combined CIF value of goods and vehicle must not exceed 3,000,000 DZD.

Duty-free conditions — Foreign diplomats: Diplomats may import one or more air and/or sea shipments duty-free, provided they arrange diplomatic exemption for each shipment. The diplomat must have already started duties in Algeria and have had their diplomatic card issued (usually delivered within 5–10 days). The exemption process takes approximately 5 weeks after the diplomatic card is issued.

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

Inventory requirements: A detailed, valued inventory must be prepared in French, signed by the owner, and stamped by the Algerian Consulate in the country of origin. Items should be listed by category. Electrical appliances must include make, model, and serial number.

Inspection: All containers and parcels are physically inspected by customs authorities (except for ambassadors). Contents must match the packing list and inventory exactly. Unlisted items may be seized or subject to Extra Legal Tax (TEL).

Owner presence: The owner or their authorised proxy must be present during customs inspection.

Timing / shipment arrival: Goods may remain at port/airport for 21 days. The customs declaration must be filed within 21 days of unloading. If not filed, goods are placed under deposit regime for 2 months. After this period, goods are seized and acquired by the public treasury. Goods may be sold at auction after 4 months.

Penalties for delays: A customs fine of €500 is levied from day 22 after arrival at port/airport. An additional €500 is charged from day 31, and a further €500 per month thereafter. Example: 2 months of fines = €1,500.

Average clearance timelines (from vessel docking, all documents received):

- Diplomats / Algerian nationals: 12 working days for personal effects; 15 days for vehicles
- Diplomatic air shipments: 10 working days
- Expatriates: 30+ working days (depending on time required for customs officer to process the temporary admission)

Port/airport storage and demurrage: Systematic (always incurred) for both air and sea shipments in Algeria.

Port of entry: Port of Algiers for sea freight. Houari Boumediene Airport (Algiers) for air freight. Other ports include Oran, Annaba, and Béjaïa for sea freight.

Special note — deceased persons' effects: When importing personal effects of a deceased person, specific documentation is required: copy of passport, original Change of Residence certificate, original valued inventory, deregistration certificate, copy of consular card, death certificate from the origin country, a locally prepared "FREDA" (notarial deed of succession), and a power of attorney issued by the notary appointing a representative.

Special territories: Algeria has no overseas territories with separate customs regimes, though the Saharan southern regions may have different practical logistics considerations.

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- 2024–2025: Algeria continued to apply the DAPs (Droit Additionnel Provisoire de Sauvegarde) — temporary additional safeguard duties of up to 60% on certain processed and high-value imported products (mainly food products). These primarily affect commercial imports but movers should be aware of potential impact on items within household shipments.
 - 2025: Customs tariff nomenclature updated for electronics and battery-related HS codes, with tighter classifications for electronic goods.