

Equatorial Guinea

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

Required Documents

Specific Information

Shipper presence not required: The shipper's attendance is not required for import customs clearance.

Diplomatic franchise timeline: It takes approximately 8 days to obtain the franchise. Demurrage and storage charges may accrue during this period.

Inventory requirements: Must be valued and in French or Spanish. Electrical items require purchase invoices clearly identifying the item, date, year, and place of purchase. Items less than 6 months old require invoices.

Duties & Taxes

Household goods are NOT duty-free for most importers. Used household goods are not duty-free for returning residents, returning diplomats, or people coming to work in Equatorial Guinea, except for those working for companies that have a protocol agreement with the government in which an exemption of duties is clearly stipulated. This is a critical distinction: unless the employer has a government protocol agreement, duties will be charged.

Tax schedule:

- Diplomats: no duties or taxes
- Used household goods: 10% on declared value per the valued inventory list
- New car: 51.9%
- Appliances: 38%
- Food: 30% (no tax if reasonable quantity)
- Alcohol or tobacco: 110% (no tax if reasonable quantity)

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

Pre-authorization for vehicles is mandatory. Authorization from the Ministry of Transportation and Port Authorities must be obtained before shipping from the origin port. Failure to obtain this will prevent clearance.

Valued inventory required: The inventory must be valued, in French or Spanish, and include full details for electrical items.

Protocol agreements: Confirm with the employer whether a government protocol agreement exists that grants duty exemption. Without one, all household goods are subject to 10% duty.

Franchise processing (diplomats): Allow approximately 8 days for the franchise to be processed. Demurrage and storage charges may accrue during this time.

Ports of entry: Malabo (Bioko Island) and Bata (mainland/Río Muni) are the two primary ports. Confirm which port will receive the shipment with the destination agent.

CEMAC membership: Equatorial Guinea is a member of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC). The currency is the Central African CFA franc (XAF), pegged to the euro.